

Exploring linkages between environmental management and value systems – the case of Antarctica

– 25th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2011) –

When? 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on 5 December 2011
Where? University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand
What? Full-day interdisciplinary workshop
For whom? Scholars of any discipline interested in value systems, environmental management, societal and political responsibilities for and engagement with wilderness areas, Antarctica

This workshop focuses on the connection between the values attributed to a certain environment and its management. Using the case of Antarctica, a continent without an indigenous human population, we will discuss how the human impressions of and engagement with Antarctica inform environmental management decisions. These impressions and opinions might influence decisions that, collectively, can affect entire global systems, primarily through their impacts on climate, natural resources, and international policy.

Media coverage has brought information about the Antarctic to millions of people around the world and has prompted them to consider the benefits that humankind receives from the time, effort, and money invested in Antarctica. As a result, society engages increasingly with Antarctica and has been given reasons to consider the value of Antarctica. So far, policy-making and public opinion, as represented in the media, has reflected a conservationist approach, but it is unclear for how much longer the benefits of conservation will outweigh its costs, including foregone economic profits.

Understanding the nature of the values that humans attribute to Antarctica has large-scale and serious implications. So far, no substantial body of research exists that assesses the range of values placed on Antarctica and their implications for environmental management. This workshop represents one step towards addressing this important gap in the literature and bringing together scholars and practitioners to facilitate an informed discussion on this topic.

We invite a broad spectrum of contributions on topics ranging from value frameworks and the conceptualisation of values to value-based management and conservation with a special focus on the Antarctic. Contributions from scholars of all disciplines are welcome as we want to encourage an interdisciplinary discussion.

Anticipated outcomes of the workshop:

Joint discussion paper with the workshop participants or conference proceedings as an edited volume.

Please email Daniela Liggett (daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz) or Gary Steel (gary.steel@lincoln.ac.nz) if you are interested in participating in this workshop.