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I am responsible of the Argentinean penguin monitoring program. My research focuses on various aspects of penguin population dynamics, particularly in the context of the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources. Currently, I am working in the development of an MPA proposal for the Antarctic Peninsula. I am a member of the Argentine delegation to CCAMLR and represents Argentina at the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.

Designing field research to understand change: CCAMLR Domain 1 MPA planning process and its challenges for the future

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In the 2017 annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Argentina and Chile introduced a preliminary proposal for a MPA in the West Antarctic Peninsula and the southern Scotia Arc (Domain 1). The Domain 1 MPA (D1MPA) planning process is an integrative analysis of a significant amount of information through a multinational approach in all stages of the decision-making process. Based on 143 spatial data layers, that include benthic and pelagic habitats, processes and life cycles of key species, a series of Priority Areas for Conservation were identified. Taking into account potential threats posed by climate change and krill fishery in Domain 1, preliminary boundaries for the D1MPA model were introduced, in order to assist with the planning process and future management of the area.

The D1MPA process is the result of the revision of different levels of information, that it is not only based in scientific knowledge but also incorporates provisional services. As a result, it provides a more general overview that could both benefit from accurate quantifications of the responses of the biota to changing habitats and be of benefit to other scientific initiatives as it incorporates the management of human activities.

The aims of this presentation are to introduce the D1MPA to a wider scientific community, and to look for synergies amongst different actors/stakeholders involved in the Antarctic Treaty System. General questions such as how to develop a research and monitoring plan that properly identifies the causes of the response of biota, or how we develop an even more integrative effort by incorporating the work of other initiatives such as ICED and SOOS (among others) hence creating synergies without interfering or delaying processes, might be of common interest and are now ready to be addressed.

