

Chris Johnson

Senior Manager, WWF Antarctic Program

WWF Australia

Chris Johnson leads the WWF Antarctic Conservation Program based in Melbourne, Australia. WWF works with governments, industry, researchers and partners as a voice of credible science, monitoring and reporting on the state of species, ecosystems and human impacts communicating innovative solutions to achieve conservation impact in the region. Chris coordinates WWF's global efforts to connect Antarctic science to international policy outcomes such as establishing marine protected areas at the yearly Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) meeting.



Chris is a marine scientist specialising in technology and science communication. Over twenty years, he has worked with a variety of international non-profit and government organizations including WWF-International, Luc Hoffmann Institute, CSIRO, Oxfam, NOAA, American Museum of Natural History, National Geographic, BBC and PBS Television.

In over 25 countries, Chris has studied whales, their habitat and the impacts on them, such as ocean pollution, climate change, entanglements and ship strikes. Chris' aim is to creatively communicate science-based solutions to the general public and policy-makers to achieve impact. He has a MSc in Environmental Science from Murdoch University and has authored publications on cetacean ecology, habitat modelling and bioacoustics. He is currently undertaking a PhD part-time at Curtin University's Centre for Marine Science and Technology.

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Can civil society be an enabler of science and an effective knowledge broker for policy outcomes?

Chris Johnson, Rod Downie, Sarah Davie

The oceans around Antarctica are some of the most pristine in the world. However, parts of the Antarctic are among the fastest warming places on the planet. The habitat and biodiversity are under increasing pressure from climate change and human activity.

WWF works in over 100 countries and has over 5 million supporters globally. WWF supports a precautionary and science-based approach to identify the pressures and threats to the planet's largest wilderness and works with the science community to identify, promote and scale solutions to business and Governments.

In our Antarctic conservation work, we participate in the Antarctic Treaty (ATCM) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) meetings through the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition – a network of environmental NGOs that share information and coordinate campaigns. At these fora, WWF attempts to amplify the voice of science partners while identifying gaps in scientific knowledge. We highlight two strategies:

Enabling science through funding conservation research for policy outcomes.

WWF co-funds research project work that has the opportunity to engage the public and has targeted conservation outcomes for policy-makers. We highlight recent examples of co-funded projects and collaborations with the British Antarctic Survey, France's CNRS, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, University of Santa Cruz and the International Whaling Commission: Southern Ocean Research Partnerships.

Being a trusted knowledge broker and a science-based 'voice' for Antarctic species and habitats.

At October 2016, WWF launched the first of a new biennial report at CCAMLR entitled - Tracking Antarctica. It highlighted key conservation issues and solutions buried deep in reports and scientific journals in an accessible way. The report was co-produced with reputable experts from a variety of scientific fields. We reflect on its impact and our learnings to help broker critical knowledge for CCAMLR to make future policy decisions.



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