



SAVE ANTARCTICA



The object of this pamphlet is to awaken your awareness to impending threats to Antarctica. Mainly, there are two:

- 1) The over-exploitation of *Krill*, on which, directly or indirectly, all other species depend: fish, cephalopods, birds, seals, dolphins and whales.
- 2) The industrial development of the area's mineral and oil resources with inevitable harm to the environment and high risks of dangerous pollution to what are the very fragile ecosystems of the Antarctic.

Over-exploitation of seals and penguins in the sub-Antarctic occurred several times in the last century. On each occasion remnants of these animals survived only because it became unprofitable to search for them, and they recovered because their food supplies were then abundant.

In the first 60 years of this century, the profitable whaling industry reduced the world's whale populations by over 85%. Within 17 years of the signing of the WHALING CONVENTION in 1946, whaling interests and governments concerned had ignored scientific advice and violated it by reducing right, blue and humpback whales to Endangered Species, while reducing others to Protected Status.

At present 25 of the world's most productive fishing areas have been over-exploited. In a few decades, over-exploitation, reduced food supplies and pollution have brought South Africa's penguins to the status of threatened species.

Krill, a group of tiny shrimp-like species, are the foundation of Antarctica's ecosystems. Whales, seals, penguins and seabirds are dependent on krill. Russian and Japanese fleets are catching hundreds of thousands of tons of krill, while others are testing the possibilities of doing so. There is no regulation of catching at present. There is no scientific basis for stating safe catch levels as yet. Severe damage may be done before controls become effective. Over-exploitation of krill will threaten the existence of whales, seals, penguins, and sea birds on a colossal scale, as will the effects of industrial pollution to which cold Antarctic ecosystems are far more highly sensitive than warmer seas. If Antarctica is damaged, the effects on the world's ocean currents and climate may be far reaching and potentially catastrophic.

The seriousness of the threats posed by exploitation to Antarctica have been recognised by conservationists and scientists for many years.

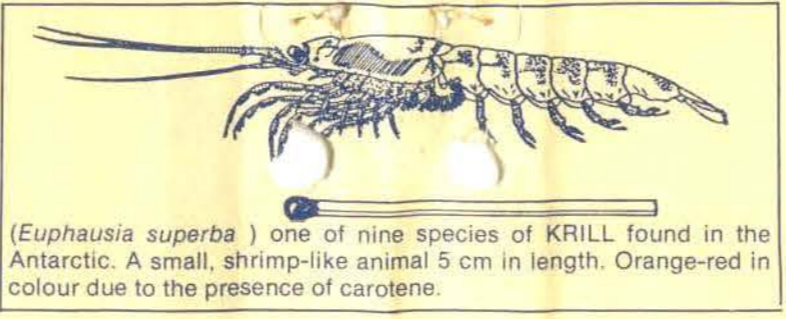
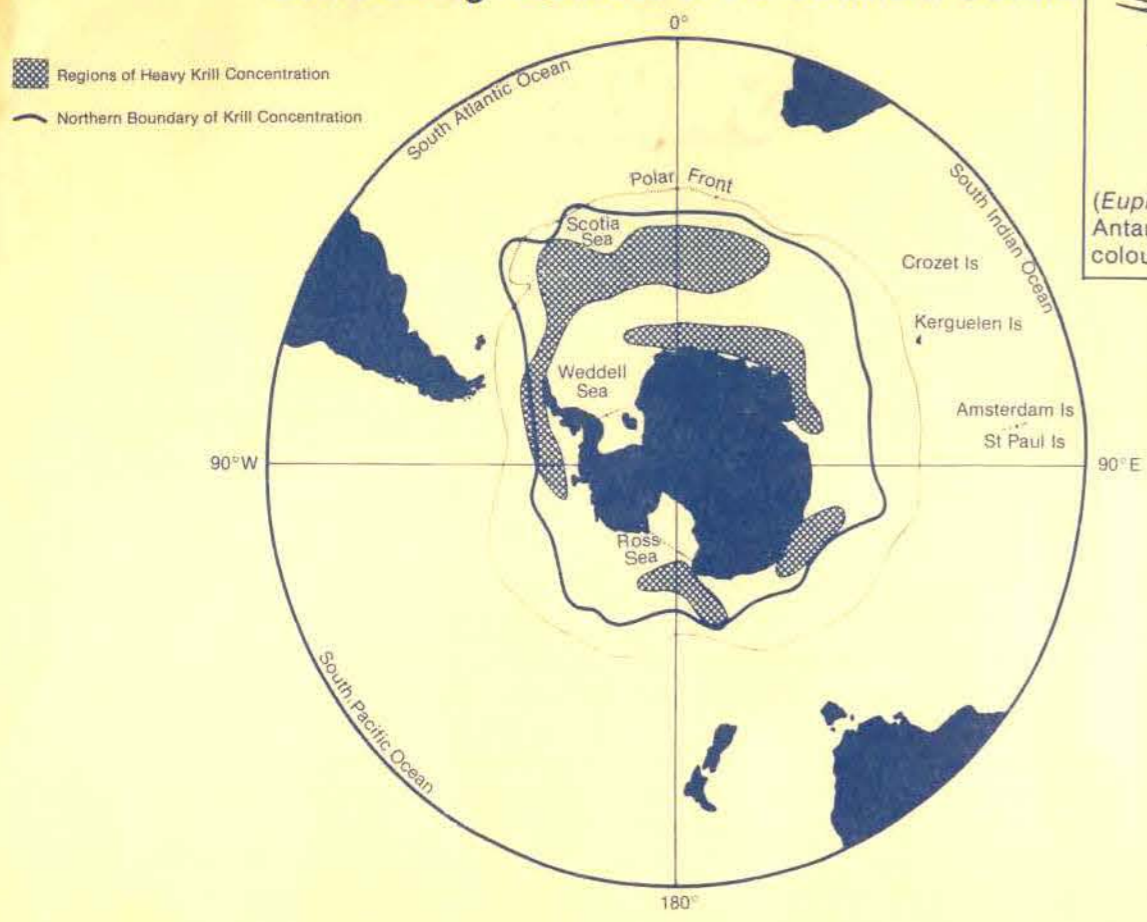
In 1972 the SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS recommended that ANTARCTIC TREATY NATIONS*, including South Africa, should establish the Antarctic Continent and surrounding seas as the first World Park.

In 1980, sixteen developed countries, including South Africa, signed the CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)**. A Commission to implement this Convention was instituted and held its first meeting in 1982. Briefly, the CCAMLR says that all harvesting decisions on krill and fin fish must consider the "ecosystem as a whole" and that potential impacts on endangered or threatened species must be especially scrutinised. However, unlike similar international Commission meetings, non-governmental observers were *excluded*, which raises suspicions about the intentions of, at least, some of the member countries. At present, this Commission is unable to regulate exploitation of krill.

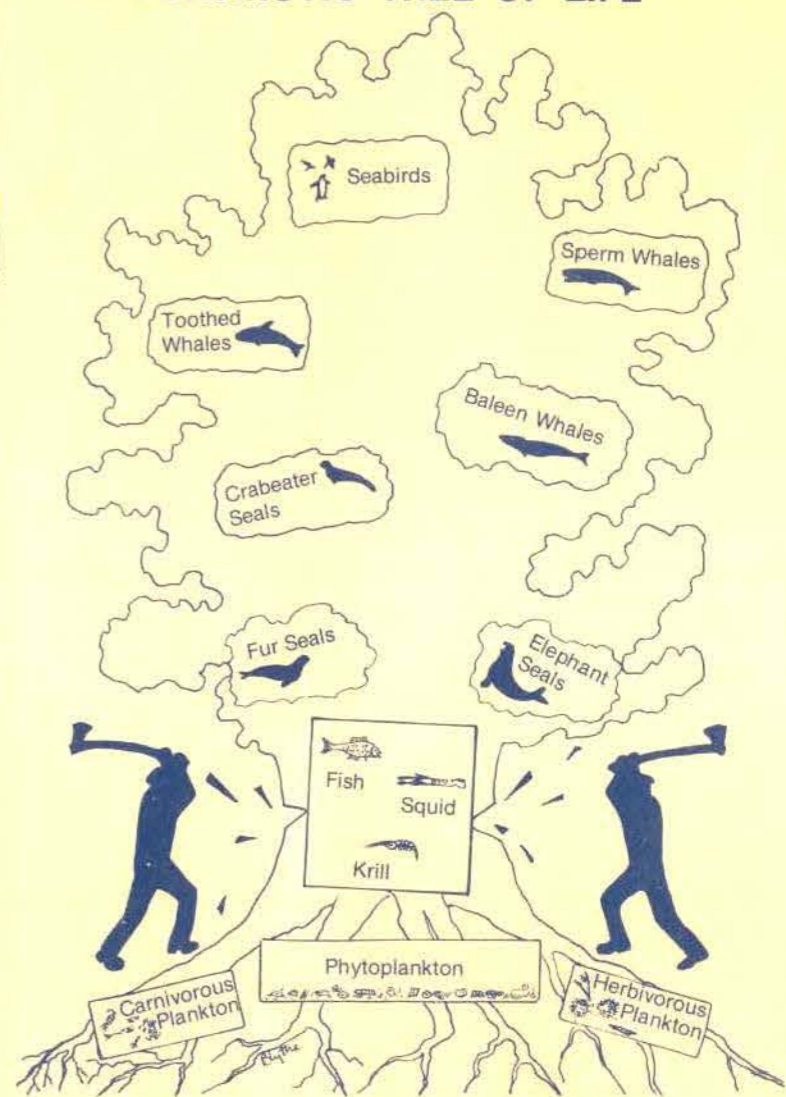
*ANTARCTIC TREATY OF 1959 (Consultative Parties): Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, USSR. (16)

**CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES SIGNED 20 MAY 1980: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, USSR, European Economic Community. (16)

Some Living resources of the Southern Ocean.

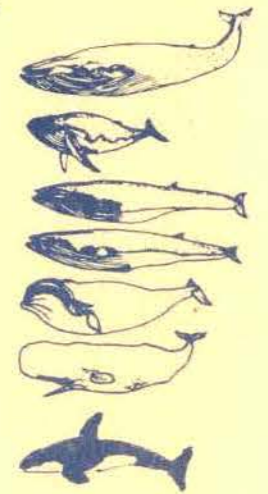


ANTARCTIC TREE OF LIFE



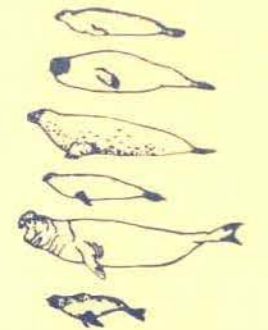
Marine Mammals

- **Whales**
 - Blue
 - Humpback
 - Sei
 - Minke
 - Southern right
 - Sperm
 - Orca / other small toothed whales



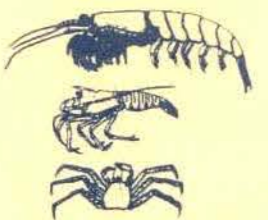
Seals

- **Seals**
 - Crabeater
 - Weddell
 - Leopard
 - Ross
 - Elephant
 - Fur



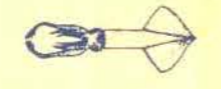
Crustaceans

- **Crustaceans**
 - Krill
 - Spiny lobster
 - King crab



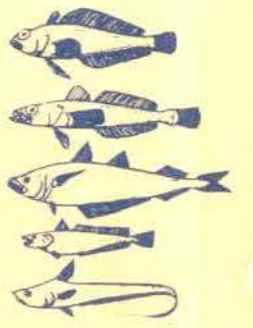
Cephalopods

- **Cephalopods**
 - Squid



Fishes

- **Fishes**
 - Nototheniids
 - Antarctic cod
 - Pollack
 - Hake
 - Rat tail



Plants

- **Plants**
 - Seaweeds



Plankton



Birds

- **Birds**
 - Penguins
 - Emperor
 - Adélie
 - Chinstrap
 - Gentoo
 - King
 - Marcaroni
 - Rock-hopper
 - At least 31 other bird species including Albatrosses, Petrels, Prions, Cormorants, Fulmars, Cape Pigeon, Skuas, Gulls and Terns.



SOME FACTS ABOUT ANTARCTICA

- The Antarctic is a continent. All but the barest edge of the entire land mass is covered by an icesheet with an average thickness of more than 2 km. In some places this glaciation extends beyond the coastline to form giant floating ice shelves. At its heart, the Antarctic is a vast dome of ice formed by snows of ages past. Near the 362 metre top of this dome, it is so high and so cold that air simply cannot hold much water vapour and snowfall is light.
- The Antarctic is essentially a desert area which has an annual rainfall of only 127mm in the form of snow. Even during mid-summer, the mean temperature rarely rises above freezing. At the centre of the continent temperatures of -88,3°C (-126,9°F) have been recorded.
- Although the Antarctic is hostile to most kinds of life, its seas and shores support sizeable populations of warmblooded animals: 18 species of baleen and toothed whales and dolphins; 8 species of seals; 7 species of penguins; 3 albatross species plus at least 28 other species of birds which include petrels, fulmars, cormorants, terns and gulls. Numerous species of fish and cephalopods also abound. All these creatures are directly or indirectly related to each other through their dependence on *krill*.
- Every year, whales migrate from their northerly breeding grounds to the Antarctic waters primarily to feed on krill, zooplankton, fish and cephalopods. Whale concentrations feed in a narrow circumpolar band along the pack ice edge as it moves south in the summer. As the pack ice begins to move north in the autumn, the whales return north to their tropical and subtropical breeding grounds.
- Movements of the Southern Ocean baleen whales are staggered and some whale species travel farther south to feed than others. For example: blue and minke whales concentrate between 60° and 70°S; fin whales are most highly concentrated while feeding from 50° - 60°S; sei whales are mostly found from 40° - 50°S, pygmy whales are rarely found south of 54°S and southern right whales inhabit sub-antarctic waters between 30° and 50°S year-around. In addition to partitioning feeding grounds by species, whales also demonstrate latitudinal and longitudinal segregation within species between age classes and sexes.
- Most toothed whales, other than sperm and orca, go no farther south than 60°S. Orca around Antarctica may take whales, seals and birds but feed mainly on fish and squid.

In 1981 THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) recognised the importance of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean for the world as a whole, particularly in maintaining the stability of the global marine environment and atmosphere. It urged the area should be protected from harmful interference.

More recently, developed countries have intensified secretive negotiations to conclude a treaty on the exploitation of Antarctica's mineral and oil resources, anticipating the matter was to be debated at the UN in 1983 and that the UN Secretary General would need to conduct a comprehensive factual study of Antarctica and its future. Reportedly, dozens of multi-national companies are applying for licences to explore and exploit these resources. Geophysical searches have already begun.

THE THREATS TO ANTARCTICA ARE REAL: The past record of exploitation justifies little confidence that international conservation conventions will be kept in practice without vigorous action by conservation organisations and the public. Without your awareness, concern and support the threats to Antarctica may become reality. For this reason THE DOLPHIN ACTION & PROTECTION GROUP has joined the international ANTARCTIC & SOUTHERN OCEAN COALITION (ASOC) and is associated with the US ANTARCTIC PROJECT and GREENPEACE in a joint effort to alert people worldwide to the dangers of exploitation in Antarctica, some areas of which may have been overfished already.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES ARE:

- Longterm moratorium on all mineral/oil negotiations and activities.
- Suspension of krill and fin fisheries.
- Participation in decision-making by environmental organisations.
- No resumption of sealing/penguin killing.
- Creation of Antarctic Environmental Protection Administration.
- Enforcement of moratorium on whaling.
- Establishment of World Park Areas.

We need one place on Earth where all nations can co-operate on peaceful scientific research. Antarctica World Park could be one such large sanctuary for wildlife and science undisrupted by exploitation and unpolluted by politico-economic self interest.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE ANTARCTICA PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL TO STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION INFLUENCE AT BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

HELP US BY

DISPLAYING & SELLING
STICKERS

DISTRIBUTING OUR
LITERATURE

SENDING US
DONATIONS.



— STICKERS 50c EACH.

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