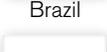




COMNAP is an international association of the 30 national Antarctic programs from the following countries:

- | | | |
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| 
Argentina | 
France | 
Republic of Belarus |
| 
Australia | 
Germany | 
Republic of Korea |
| 
Belgium | 
India | 
Russian Federation |
| 
Brazil | 
Italy | 
South Africa |
| 
Bulgaria | 
Japan | 
Spain |
| 
Chile | 
Netherlands | 
Sweden |
| 
China | 
New Zealand | 
Ukraine |
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Czech Republic | 
Norway | 
United Kingdom |
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Ecuador | 
Peru | 
United States |
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Finland | 
Poland | 
Uruguay |

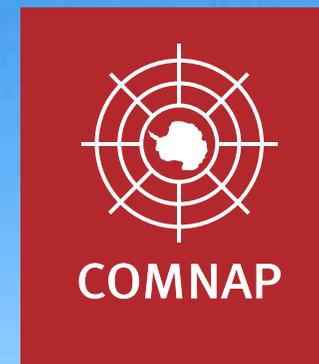


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**COUNCIL OF MANAGERS
OF NATIONAL ANTARCTIC
PROGRAMS**

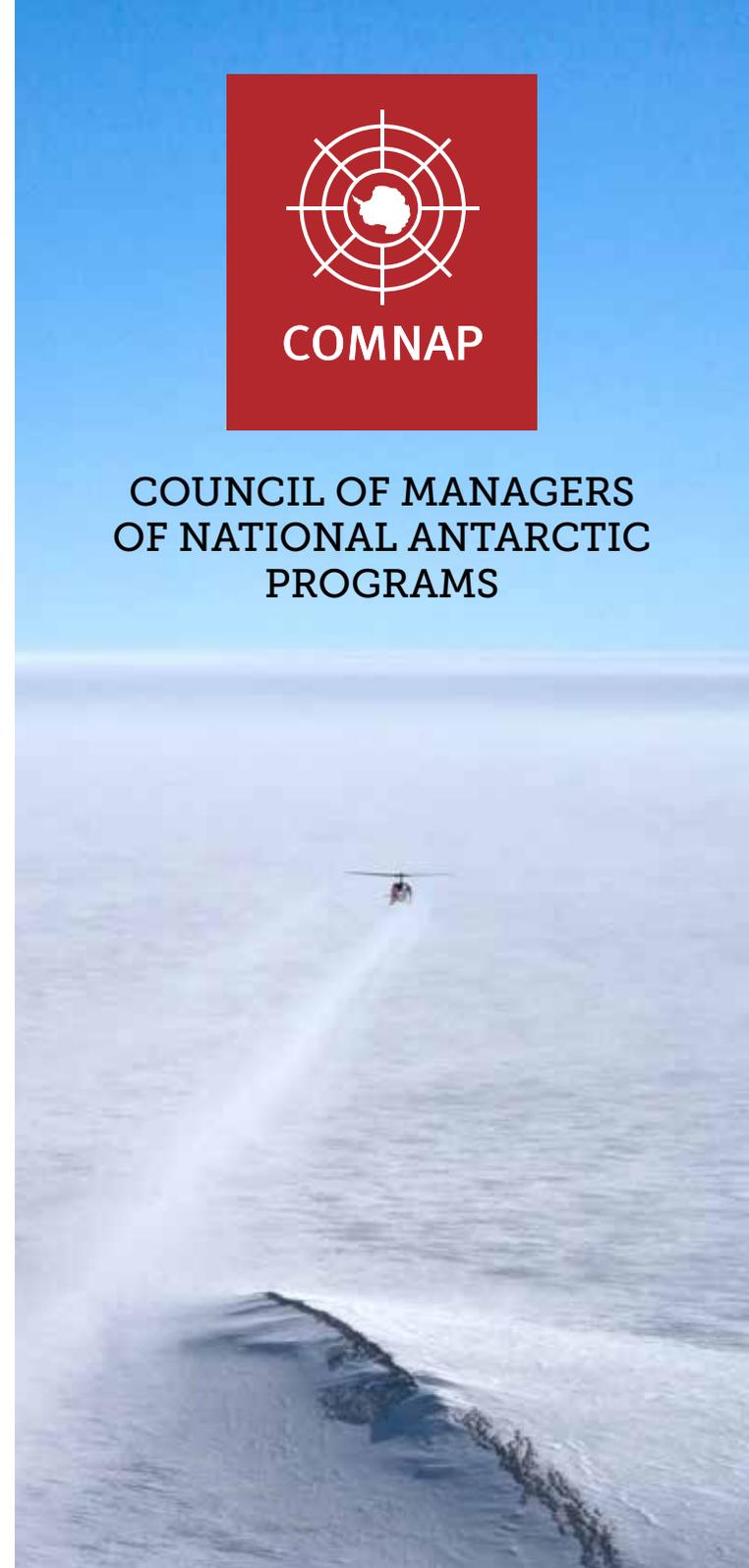




Photo: E. Barilovic, INMCH

Cristian Rodrigo analysing glacial marine environments to understand the evolution of the Antarctic Peninsula's climate



Photo: E. Bonbusa, IPEV/PNRA

The French-Italian Concordia Station during the polar night



Photo: KOPRI

Vegetation research near King Sejong Station

HOW WE BEGAN

During the mid-1980s, directors of several national Antarctic programs saw a need for an international organisation to enhance international collaboration between programs worldwide. The idea gained momentum and in 1988 the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) was established.

Countries engaging in Antarctic research, which are also signatories to the Antarctic Treaty and the Environmental Protocol may participate in COMNAP. Membership is open to those countries' national agencies responsible for planning and conducting Antarctic operations in support of science. The managers of these agencies become the national COMNAP representative.

COMNAP representatives do a range of projects and participate in expert group activities including symposiums and workshops throughout the year. They also meet annually to discuss cooperative logistics and scientific programs, develop standard operational procedures based on best practice, and formulate technical, practical and non-political advice to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCMs) and the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP).

Cover image: Bell 212 helicopter Mistake Peak area, A. Apse, Antarctica New Zealand Pictorial Collection K414 0708

Back image: Lowering the ice core drill into the EPICA DML hole at Kohnen Station, S. Kipfstuhl, AWI

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

COMNAP's purpose which can be found in its constitution is to "develop and promote best practice in managing the support of scientific research in Antarctica". It does this by:

- Serving as a forum to develop practices that improve effectiveness of activities in an environmentally responsible manner;
- Facilitating and promoting international partnerships;
- Providing opportunities and systems for information exchange; and
- Providing the Antarctic Treaty System with objective and practical, technical and non-political advice drawn from the National Antarctic Programs' pool of expertise.

HOW WE WORK

COMNAP is a member-focused organisation which is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected Chair, five elected Vice Chairs and an appointed Executive Secretary. A Secretariat directed by the Executive Secretary is the organisation's headquarters and assists member national programs. The Secretariat has been located in Christchurch, New Zealand since October 2009, but was first based in Washington, DC, USA (1988–1997), and in Hobart, Australia (1997–2009).

WHAT WE DO

COMNAP has developed comprehensive guidelines on a range of topics in support of science in Antarctica. These include air safety, managing waste, preventing oil spills, contingency planning and reducing impact on the Antarctic environment. It has established working groups and networks addressing such issues as shipping and air operations, energy management, training and environmental issues. COMNAP also publishes and maintains the Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM) that provides detailed information on air facilities in Antarctica, the Antarctic Telecommunications Operators Manual (ATOM) and a Search and Rescue website for COMNAP members and Rescue Coordination Centres.

COMNAP is an active player in the international Antarctic community. Antarctic science is expensive and some major projects would never begin without the operational and financial support of many nations. COMNAP's work to improve international cooperation has helped make Antarctic operations substantially more economic and efficient, and delivered scientific results not obtainable by any one national Antarctic program alone.

In 2013, COMNAP celebrated its 25th anniversary. The book *A Story of Antarctic Cooperation: 25 Years of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs* by Gillian Wratt was published and is available by order through the COMNAP website.