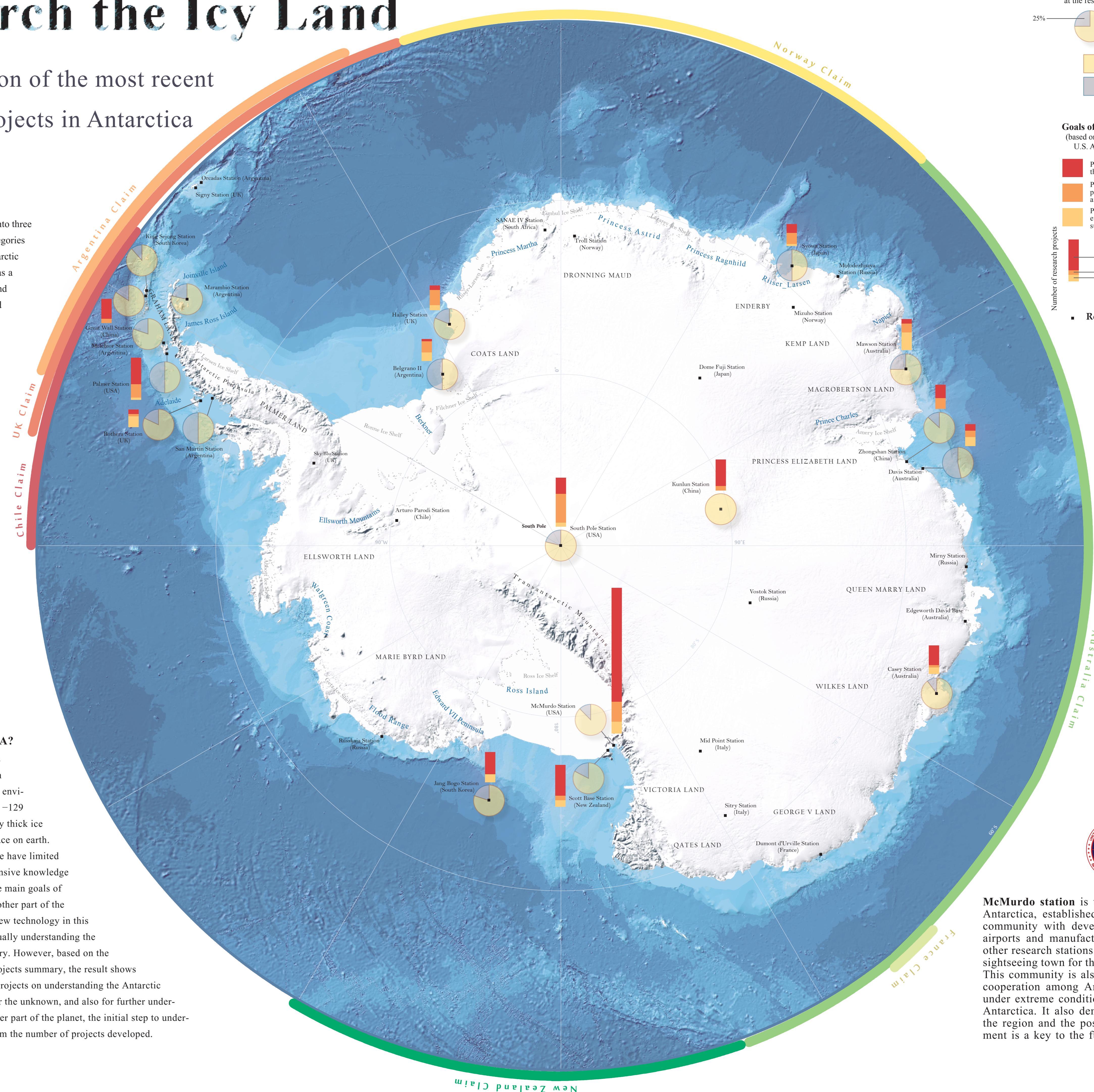


Research the Icy Land

A categorization of the most recent research projects in Antarctica

BASIS OF THE CATEGORIZATION

This map categorizes the most recent research projects into three groups based on the goals of the projects. The three categories are: projects that are developing to understand the Antarctic region and its ecosystems, projects that use the region as a platform to study the upper atmosphere and space, and projects that are uncovering Antarctica's effects on (and responses to) global processes such as climate. The goals are based on National Science Foundation's explanation about the United States Antarctic Program. Information about the projects and population at the research station are found on each country's Antarctic program website. The categorization is based on the reviewing the title and overview of the projects listed.



WHY RESEARCHING THE ANTARCTICA?

Antarctica has only been discovered around 200 years ago, but this continent has been formed in 250 million years ago. This region has the almost the most hostile environment on the planet: its lowest temperature reached -129°F , and approximately 98% of the region is covered by thick ice sheet. On average, it's also the windiest and driest place on earth. But with less than 150 years of exploration history, we have limited understanding of this continent comparing to the extensive knowledge we have on other continents. Some people say that the main goals of conducting in this hostile environment are to benefit other part of the regions by monitoring the climate change or testing new technology in this extreme environment, since no one will live here, actually understanding the geography, geology, or ecosystem is not very necessary. However, based on the literature review of 12 Antarctic research stations' projects summary, the result shows that the most stations still have the most amounts of projects on understanding the Antarctic region. Because, driven by strong curiosity to uncover the unknown, and also for further understanding of the role Antarctica plays in relation to other part of the planet, the initial step to understand the region is still the main trend as reflected from the number of projects developed.