

# Antarctic ecosystems - environmental contamination, climate change, and human impact

Springer - Climate Change and the Antarctic



Description: -

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Antarctica -- Environmental conditions  
Climatic changes -- Environmental aspects -- Antarctica  
Pollution -- Environmental aspects -- Antarctica  
Biotic communities -- Antarctica  
Nature -- Effect of human beings on -- Antarctica  
Ecology -- Antarctica  
Antarctic ecosystems - environmental contamination, climate change, and human impact  
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## 7. Impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Adélie penguin populations have been declining in recent years due to reductions in krill populations and changing weather conditions in their traditional nesting areas. A summary of sample sizes and biological parameters monitored annually is presented in Table.

### Climate Change Impact on Arctic Ecosystems

There are indications that whale populations are beginning to recover.

### Arctic climate change and pollution impact little auk foraging and fitness across a decade

They cite evidence that declining seawater pH will particularly affect organisms with calcified shells and skeletal elements, such as molluscs, seastars, sea urchins, coralline algae and cold-water corals. They also highlight evidence suggesting that ocean acidification could profoundly alter the structure and functioning of the planktonic food web, with unknown consequences for animals further up the food chain, including commercially exploited fish. Another key planning area involves prioritizing research as a means of filling in knowledge gaps and facilitating the adoption of effective adaptation responses.

### Climate Change and the Antarctic

While little auks foraged in the same areas at the shelf break with or without sea-ice, we found that diving behaviour changed with SIC: Birds performed shallower and shorter dives when SIC was the highest Fig. Aquatic freshwater habitats and wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs, arctic and alpine ecosystems, and cloud forests are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

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