

## Protection for a pristine area in the Southern Ocean - The Weddell Sea Marine Protected Area project -

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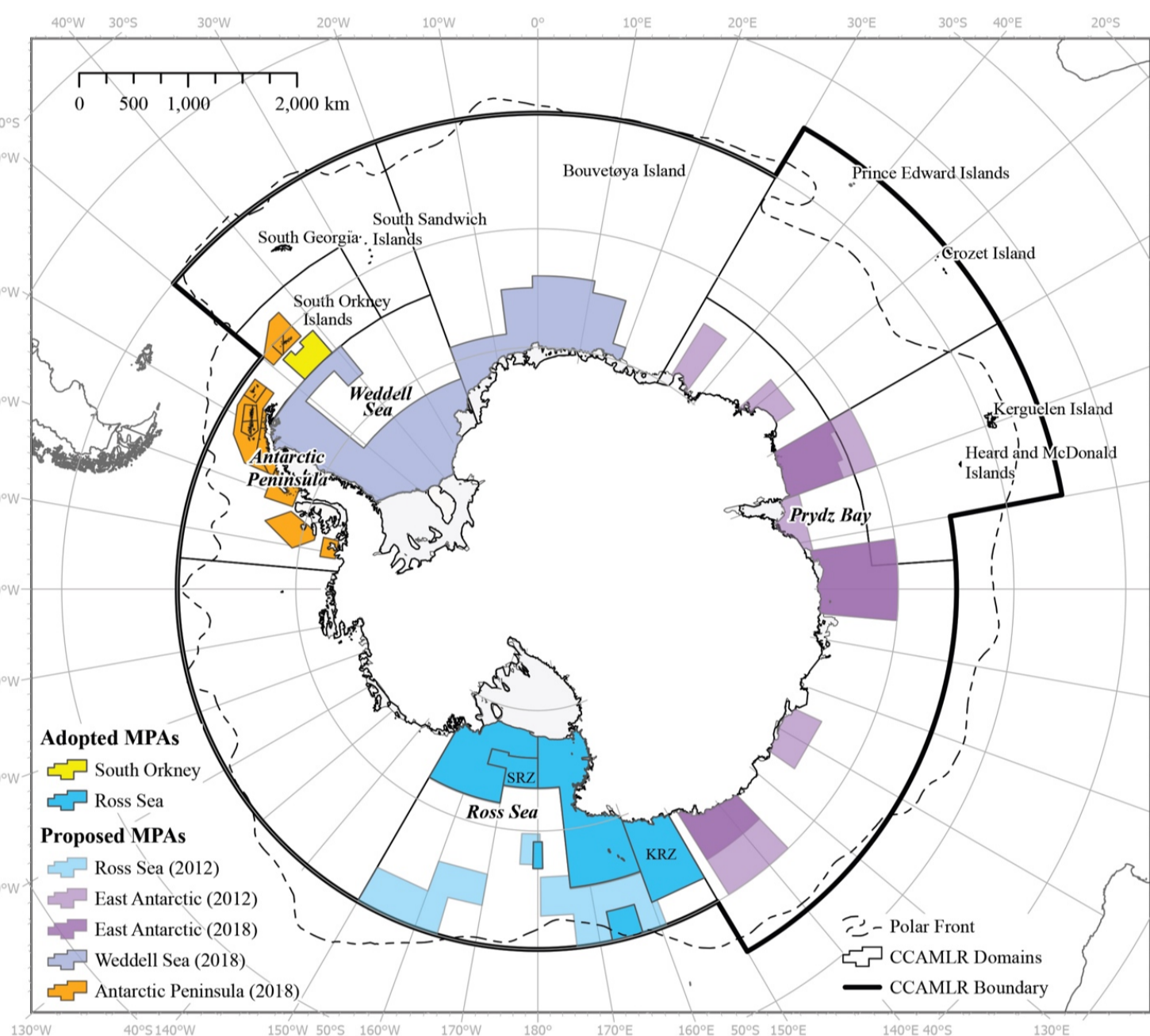
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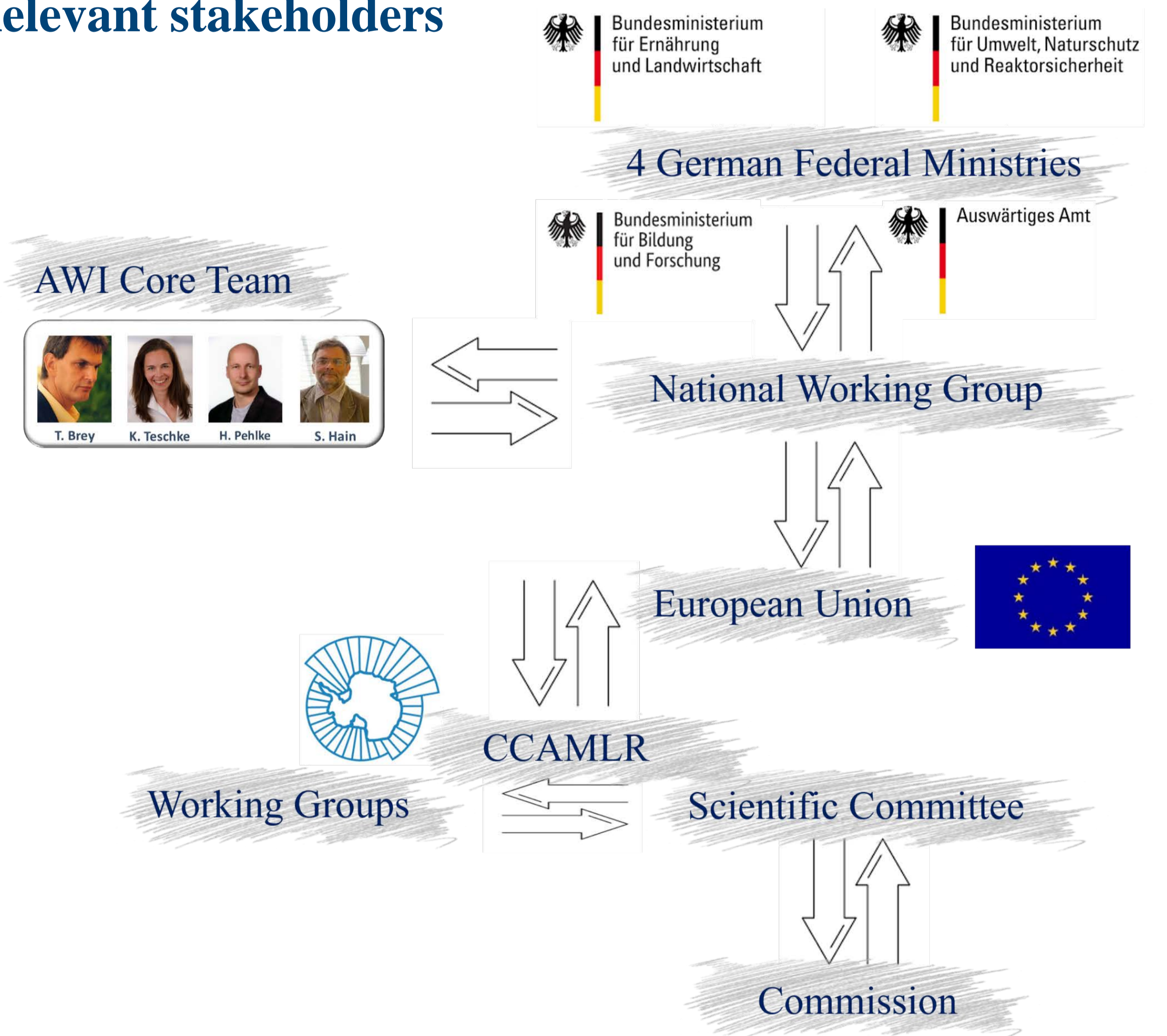
### Background information

The *strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020* of the Convention on Biological Diversity provides for the designation of at least 10% of coastal and offshore marine areas as MPAs worldwide by 2020 (CBD, 2010). Currently, the ocean covered by protected areas is almost 8%, but many MPAs are relatively small. The Weddell Sea MPA (WSMPA) project offers the opportunity to contribute a large MPA to the global network, and the unspoiled state of the Weddell Sea makes its conservation all the more urgent.



Proposed and adopted marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean (Map: Courtesy of C. Brooks, 2019).

### Relevant stakeholders

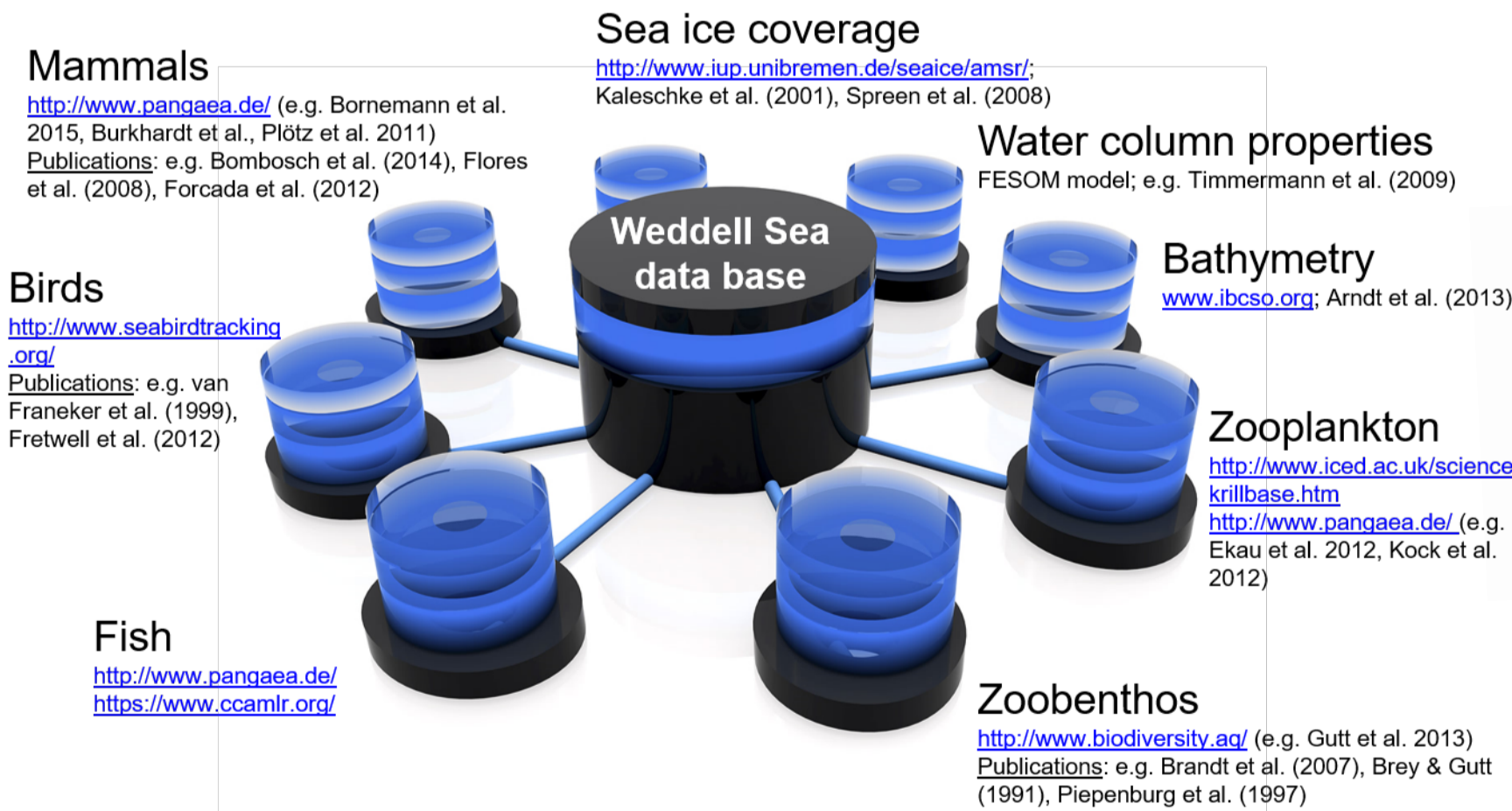


### WSMPA conservation planning steps

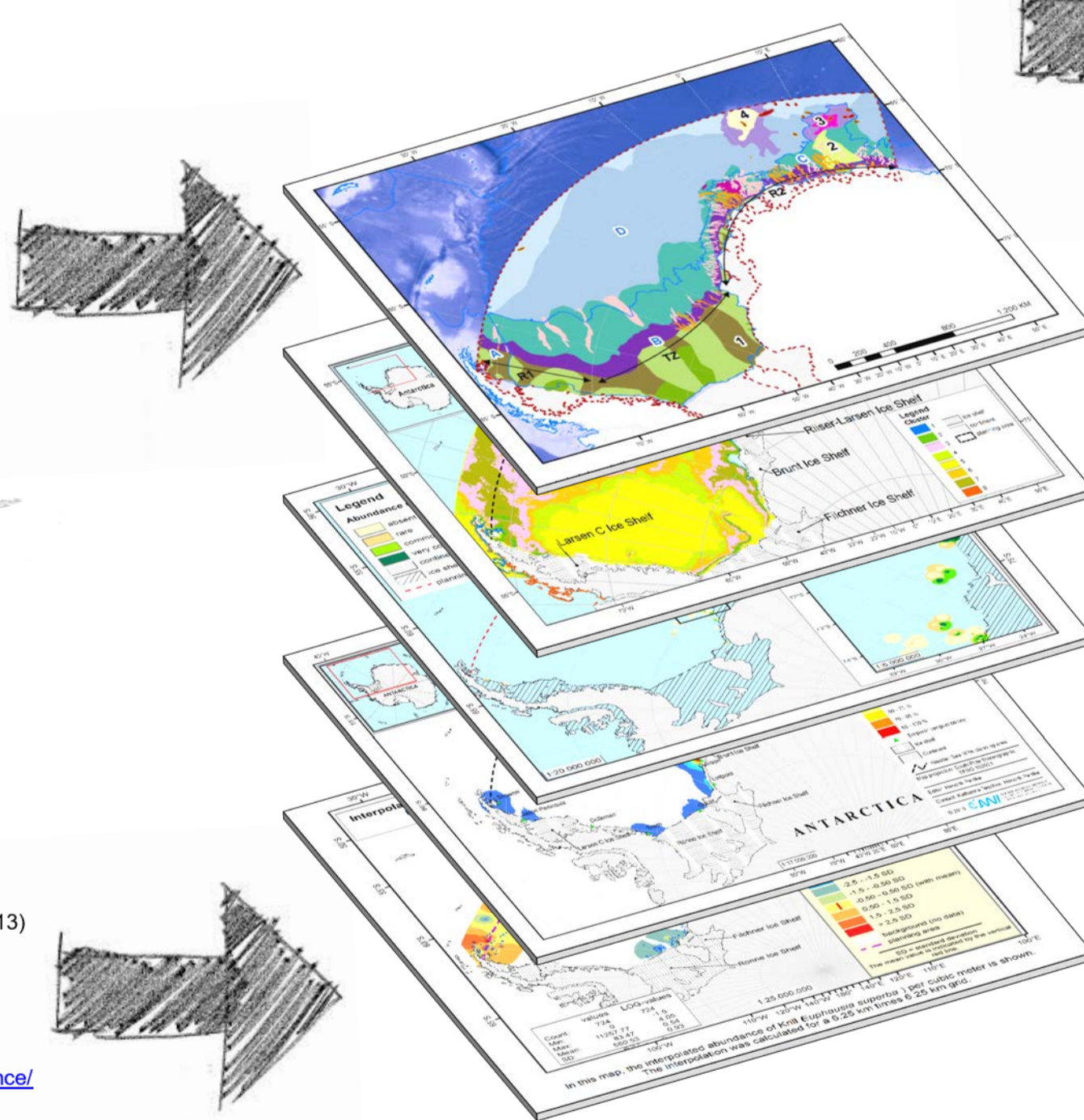
according to Margules & Pressey (2000)

**1 Identify conservation objectives & formulate conservation targets**

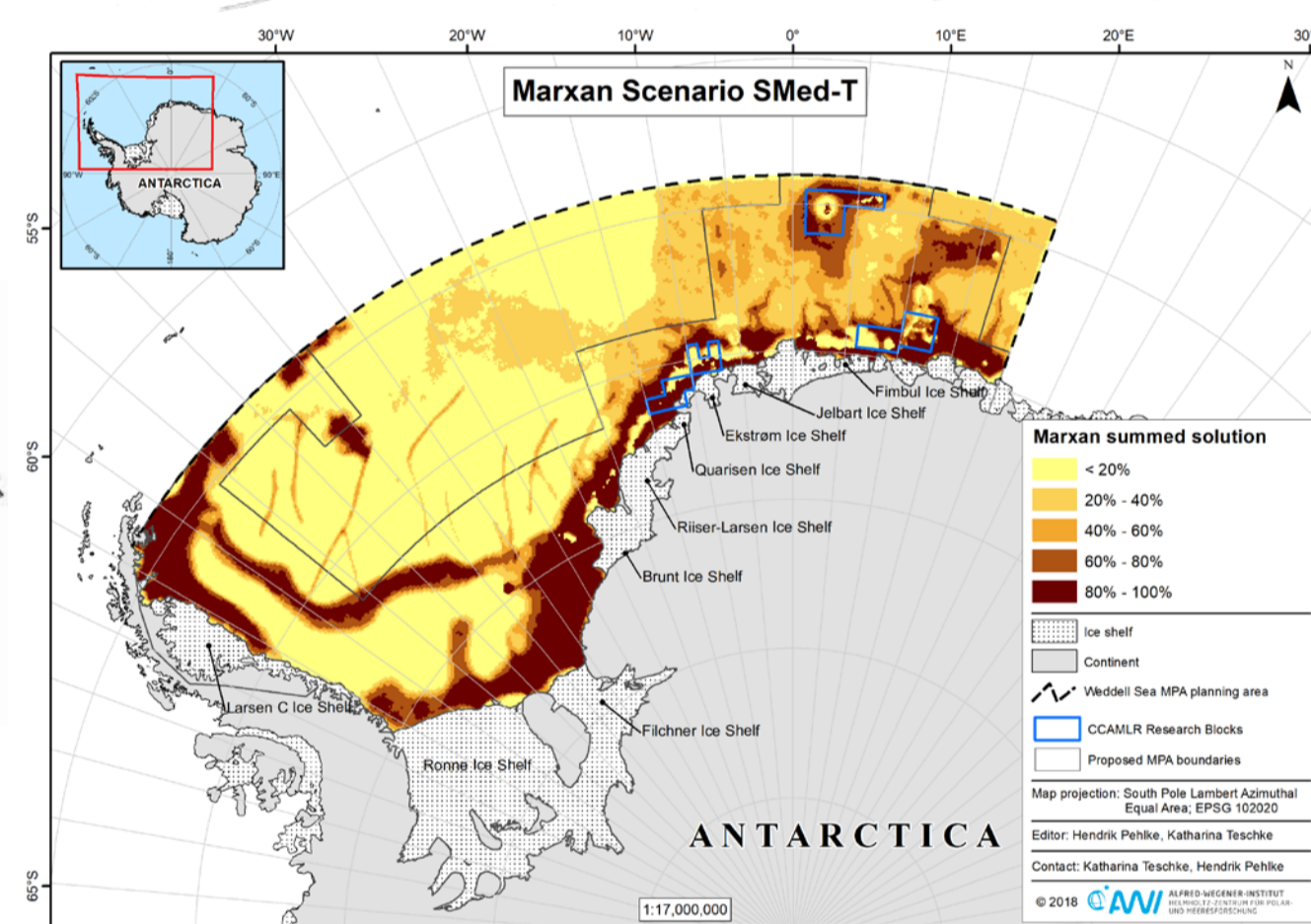
**2 Compile relevant data**



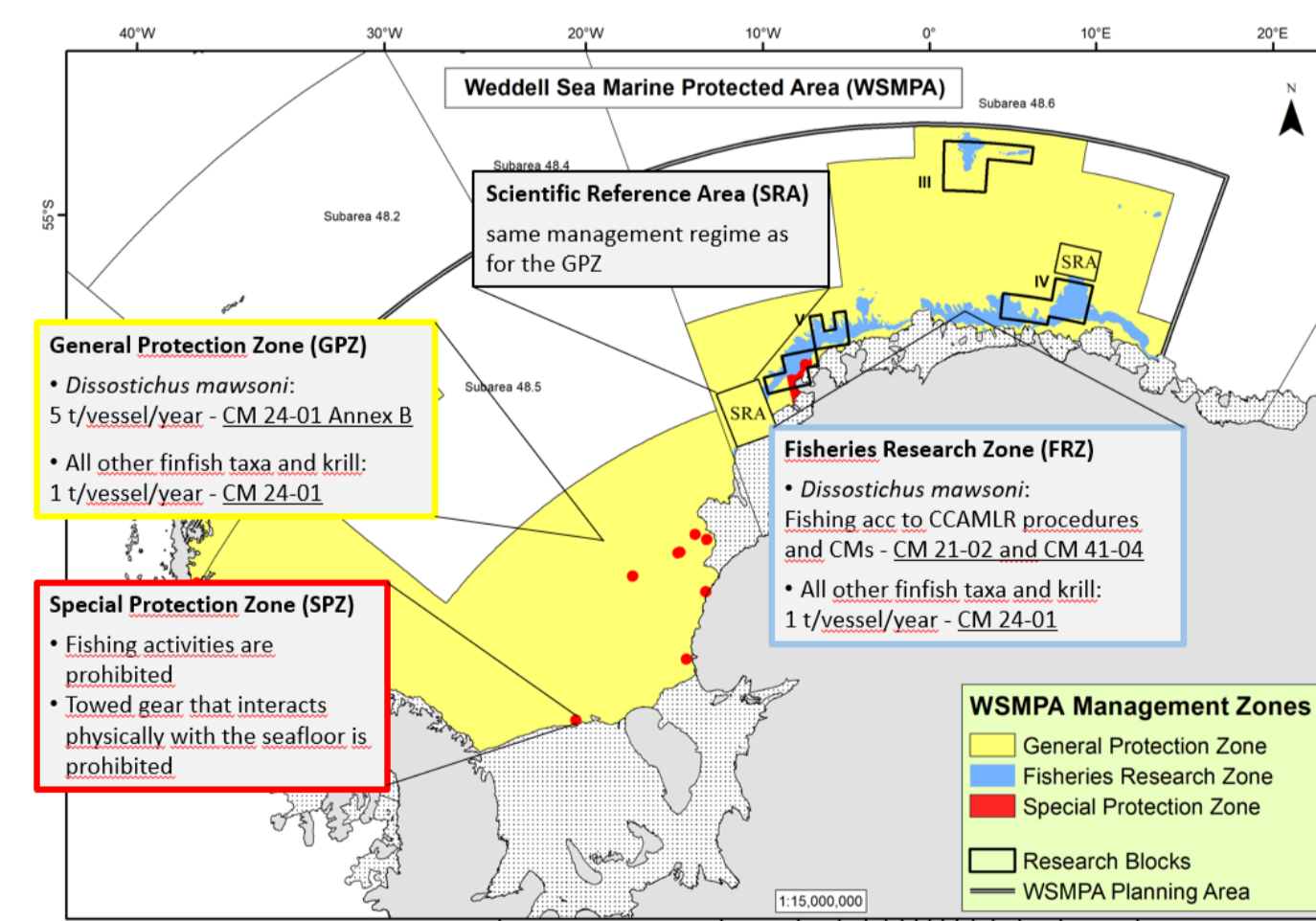
**3 Analyses & mapping**



**4 Identify priority areas for protection**



**5 Develop management measures**



**6 Proposal submission**



### Perspectives

There is currently no consensus in the CAMLR Commission on the WSMPA proposal.

Some CCAMLR members feel threatened by the establishment of the WSMPA in their fishing activities.

For the future, it is to be hoped that a scientifically sound and politically coordinated WSMPA proposal will be finally adopted by CCAMLR.

Literature: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): CBD, COP 10 Decision X/2, <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>, 2010. Margules & Pressey (2000): Systematic Conservation Planning. *Nature*, 405, 243-253.