

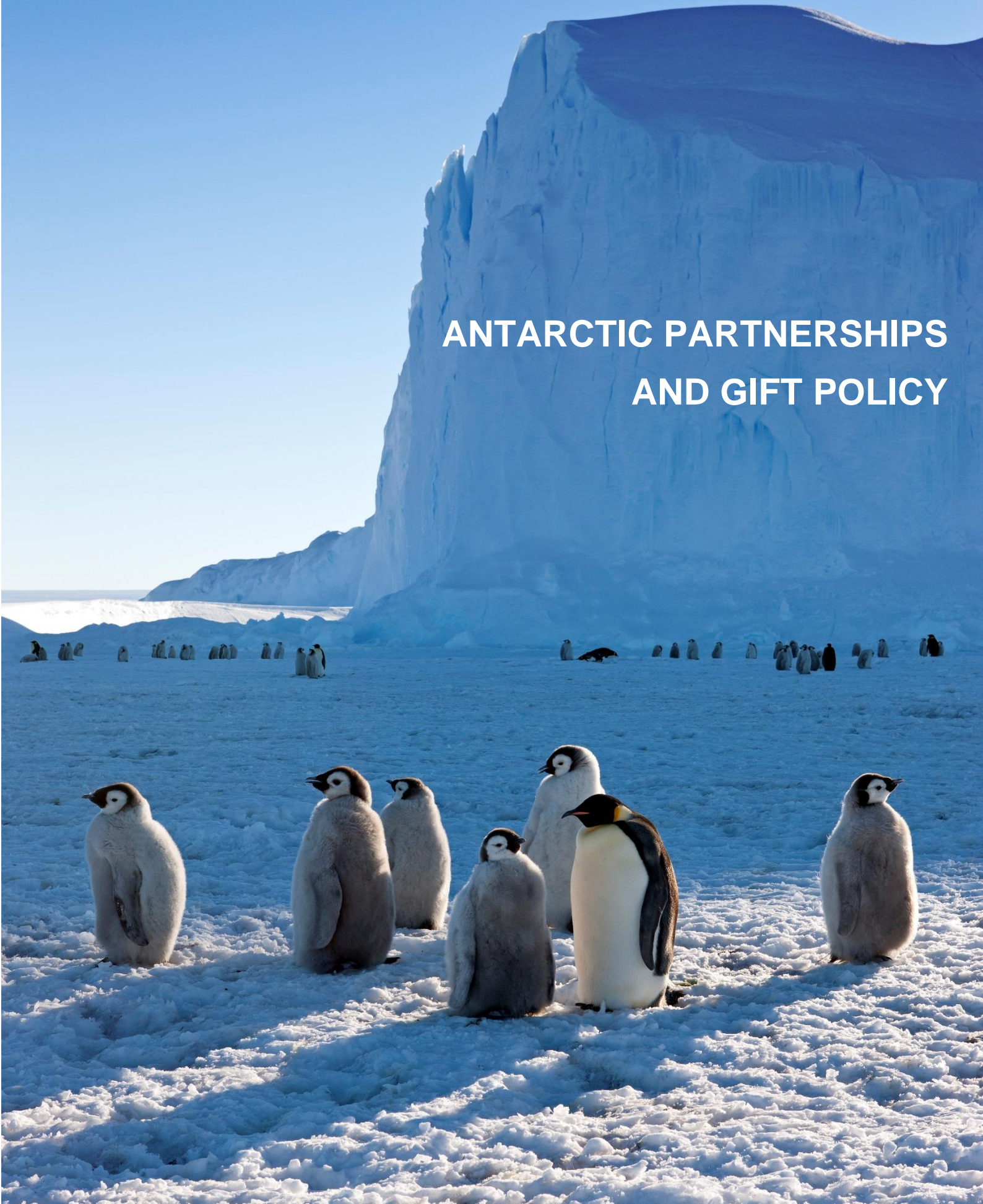


**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment and Energy**

Australian Antarctic Division

# ANTARCTIC PARTNERSHIPS AND GIFT POLICY



## Australia in Antarctica

Antarctica is an extraordinary place. It is a vast, awe inspiring and unique wilderness. The efforts of Australian scientists and expeditioners over the past 100 years, and their stories of triumph and hardship, have been admired universally.

The Antarctic Treaty system establishes Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science and puts in place principles for the governance of the region. Australia is strongly committed to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and other Antarctic Treaty system principles.

Antarctica is of great importance to Australians, particularly as we turn to Antarctica for answers to one of the greatest challenges of our time – understanding and adapting to shifts in our oceans and ecosystems as a result of a changing climate. Antarctic science will continue to be one of our national priorities with a focus on the role of Antarctica in the global climate system, the need to understand and conserve Antarctica's unique life forms, and to protect the Antarctic environment and support sound environmental stewardship in the region, with a particular focus on ecologically sustainable fisheries.

Modern and effective Antarctic operations and logistics capabilities will continue to be critical in supporting our science program and the lifeline of Australia's activities and presence in Antarctica. Australia's future in Antarctica will be defined by further evolution of our capabilities in shipping, aviation and overland traverse capabilities as well as efficient and flexible research station infrastructure.

We are determined to meet these challenges. Australia's Antarctic program is one of our most iconic and enduring national endeavours, conducting and supporting world-class science of critical national importance and global significance.

The Australian Antarctic Division, of the Department of the Environment and Energy, leads this program on behalf of the Australian Government. The Division is also responsible for administering the Australian Antarctic Territory, and in the sub-Antarctic, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands. The Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan sets out our national Antarctic interests and our actions to achieve them, including a new world-class icebreaker and overland traverse capabilities. Our priorities for Antarctic science are set out in the Australian Antarctic Science Strategic Plan. To conduct this science, we cross thousands of kilometres of the world's stormiest seas, navigate through Antarctica's formidable sea ice barrier, and live and work for extended periods on the coldest, driest and windiest continent on earth. We want to work more closely with all sectors of the community who share our goals, to deliver our mission in Antarctica.



## How we partner

The private sector has a wealth of knowledge, capabilities and resources that can improve and extend the Australian Antarctic program: to conduct new and iconic scientific research, and build greater public understanding of Antarctica. This policy sets out how we work with others to achieve this.

Collaboration is key to Australia's engagement in Antarctica. The Australian Antarctic program has partnerships across government and with more than 150 national and international research institutions. As part of the Antarctic Treaty system, we work with other countries to build coalitions for conservation, share our logistics and strengthen the science behind our decision-making. In Australia, we work with schools nationwide through Classroom Antarctica.

The Australian Government has committed to advance Australia's role as a leader in Antarctica. In addition to the landmark public investment set out in the Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan, the Australian Government has also committed to build public-private partnerships in Antarctic science. We are seeking partners from all sectors to work with us to advance our interests in Antarctica. We are open to collaboration across the full scope of our Antarctic business, ranging from technological development, field operations, and delivery of services, education and outreach noting however that the greatest need is for investment in pioneering science. Working together in Antarctica, through agreed protocols, will enable the private sector and the Australian Antarctic Division to leverage each other's assets, creativity and expertise to achieve shared goals and achieve scientific excellence.

One example of the way we work with others in Antarctica is the Australian Government's collaboration with a new independent charitable organisation, the Antarctic Science Foundation. The Foundation has been established as a vehicle for driving private partnerships and philanthropy in Antarctic science with the primary purpose of raising funds and awareness to support world-class scientific research that enhances the understanding and protection of the Antarctic, Southern Ocean and sub-Antarctic environments. Based in Hobart and led by a group of highly experienced and committed leaders in science, business and philanthropy, it is uniquely positioned to attract and grow donations, collaborations, and innovative proposals to dramatically extend the reach of Australian Antarctic science.

We encourage all those interested in giving, regardless of the shape or size, to contact the Foundation in the first instance.

The Australian Antarctic Division will also partner directly with other individual organisations where this is most effective and appropriate.

## Principles of Engagement

The relationships we develop with all private sector and philanthropic partners to advance our Antarctic science are guided by the following principles:

1. Our core goal is that Antarctica is valued, protected and understood.
2. The first priority of the AAD is advancing Australia's national interests in Antarctica, through the Australia's Antarctic Strategy and Action Plan and delivery of the Australian Antarctic program.
  - i. We want to build the scope and effectiveness of the Australian Antarctic program.
3. We welcome co-investment and partnerships that support this mission and align with our interests.
4. As Government, we must
  - i. consider the potential impact of any partnership on the public interest, including Australia's national Antarctic interests;
  - ii. not explicitly endorse private products, services or companies;
  - iii. uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethical behaviour. We expect that the organisations and individuals with which we do business will apply similar standards; and
  - iv. reserve the right not to accept proposals that may impair, in any way, our public standing, our independence or our capacity to carry out our functions fully and impartially.
5. We expect that the benefits of partnering will be greater than the costs for both parties. We will share risk with our partners where this appropriate.
6. As Australia's authority on Antarctica, we invite our partners to share and to grow our premier scientific expertise, our logistics capabilities and our passion for Antarctica.

All proposals for partnerships and investments will be measured against these central tenets. We stand ready to work with all organisations and individuals who share our standards and our vision for Antarctica.

### Further Information:

The Australian Antarctic Division: <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/>

Telephone: (+61) 03 6232 3209

Email: [Partnering@aad.gov.au](mailto:Partnering@aad.gov.au)

The Antarctic Science Foundation: [antarcticssciencefoundation.org](http://antarcticssciencefoundation.org)

Cover image > Emperor penguin and fledglings at Auster Rookery (R7404), Chris Wilson

Internal image > Pancake Ice (R41331), Dr Adam Steer

Back image > Grounded iceberg (R12131), Chris Wilson

