

Foreword

The Kerguelen Plateau, located in the Indian Ocean sector of the Southern Ocean, is the second-largest submarine plateau in the world. Since its discovery in the 18th century, it has attracted the interest of international fleets seeking to know more about the natural resources, both in the interest of science and commerce. More recently, the intrinsic natural value of the region has been explored more broadly. Both France and Australia have made substantial efforts to better understand the ecosystem, the oceanography and the geology of the region, with a primary focus on sustainable natural resource management and conservation.

In 2010, the first symposium about the Kerguelen Plateau marine ecosystem was held in Concarneau, France, where Australian and French researchers, fishery professionals, environmental and resource managers, policy officials, administrators, students and the public all contributed and further developed the collaborative relationship that continues to this day. The proceedings that followed provided the first general overview of the science and history of the region. The second symposium on Kerguelen Plateau Marine Ecosystem and Fisheries was held in Hobart, Australia, and was conducted in the same spirit as the first, attracting 75 attendees with research and/or stakeholder interest in the Australian and French regions of the Kerguelen Plateau and surrounding ocean. The material presented focused on the research and management that had been completed since the first symposium seven years prior. With the symposium being hosted at the CCAMLR Secretariat in Hobart, a centre of Southern Ocean and marine studies, the program attracted additional interest from scientists with expertise in the Southern Ocean, with more than 25 attendees joining the gallery at certain times throughout the meeting.

The three-day symposium comprised 10 sessions, a poster evening and synthesis workshop. In total, there were 45 presentations and 10 posters focused on:

- (i) advances in marine ecosystem knowledge (5)
- (ii) marine geomorphology, oceanography and biogeochemistry (10)
- (iii) developments in fisheries resource assessment, by-catch mitigation and resource management (9)
- (iv) marine policy and bioregionalisation in the region (4)
- (v) biology, biodiversity and conservation (7).

The symposium closed with a synthesis session where a common theme was realised; the importance of the Kerguelen Plateau as a natural laboratory in the face of a changing climate. A more detailed summary of the synthesis session is included in these proceedings.

The proceedings of the second symposium contain contributions that build upon the knowledge presented in the first edition and will further broaden and deepen the scientific community's understanding of the Kerguelen Plateau. The provision of an online versions of the proceedings from both symposia will also facilitate access of a broader audience, who will no doubt be enlightened on the unique nature of this region and the value in the continued research and management of the Kerguelen Plateau and associated systems, particularly in the context of a changing climate.

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