Objectives

The polar regions play a major role in the climate and the Earth system. Serious changes can be observed, with this attracting worldwide attention. In Germany, the coordinated polar research is conducted through the priority program 1158 of the German Research Foundation (DFG), benefiting German polar researchers from universities and research institutes. It provides researchers with external funding and facilitates resources required for expeditions from the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven (AWI), the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hannover (BGR) and the German Aerospace Center in Cologne (DLR).

Research Topics

The priority program uses a multidisciplinary approach to study the complex interactions in the Earth system, to contribute significant insights to understanding the changes in the past, present and future. This is achieved by focusing on four interdisciplinary major research topics: “Linkages with Lower Latitudes”, “Dynamics of Climate System Components”, “Response to Environmental Change” and “Improved Understanding of Polar Processes and Mechanisms”.

Application

All scientists from German universities and research institutes, who wish to conduct research in Antarctica, are eligible to apply. A cooperation of university and non-university research is intended. Applications for research funding are open once a year. The closing date for applications is 1st November. Every year there is a coordination workshop end of September / early October, which serves to present new and ongoing projects, and allows for the consultation between the applicants and coordinators. Funding for participation in the coordination workshop, which is mandatory for applicants, is provided by the priority program.
The office of the priority program is situated at the Institute of Biological Science, University of Rostock, Albert-Einstein-Str. 21, 18059 Rostock. Prof. Dr. Ulf Karsten is the head of the coordination team, assisted by Dr. Angelika Graiff and Dr. Svenja Heesch.

If you have subject-specific questions, please contact the sub-coordinators for Biology (Prof. Dr. Petra Quillfeldt, Justus Liebig University Gießen), Physics/Chemistry (Prof. Dr. Tilmann Harder, University of Bremen), and Remote Sensing & Geology (Prof. Dr. Matthias H. Braun, Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuernberg), who welcome any queries.

More Information:
www.spp-antarktisforschung.de

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