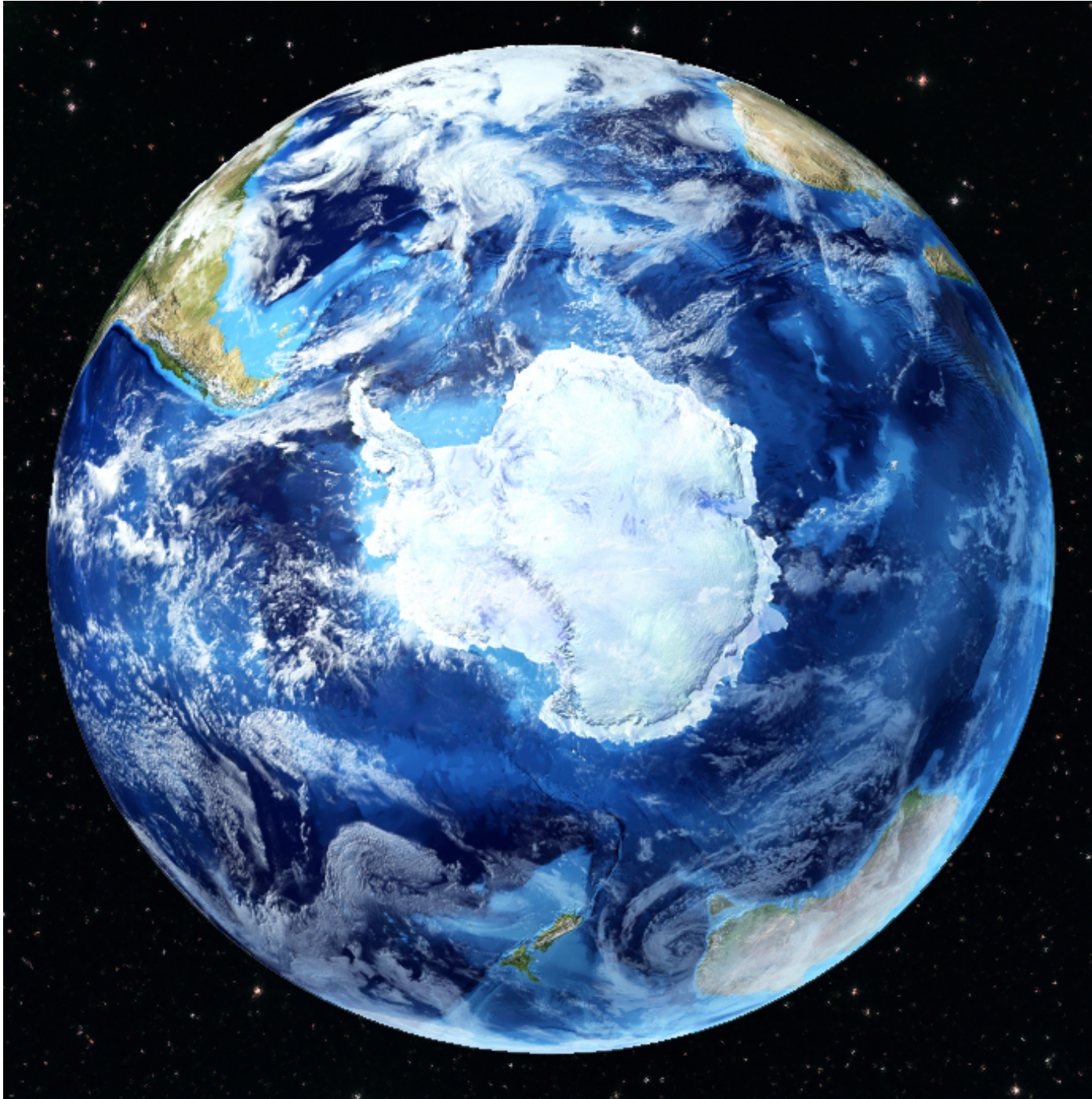


How are People Protecting The Antarctic Environment?



Antarctic Claims And Agreements

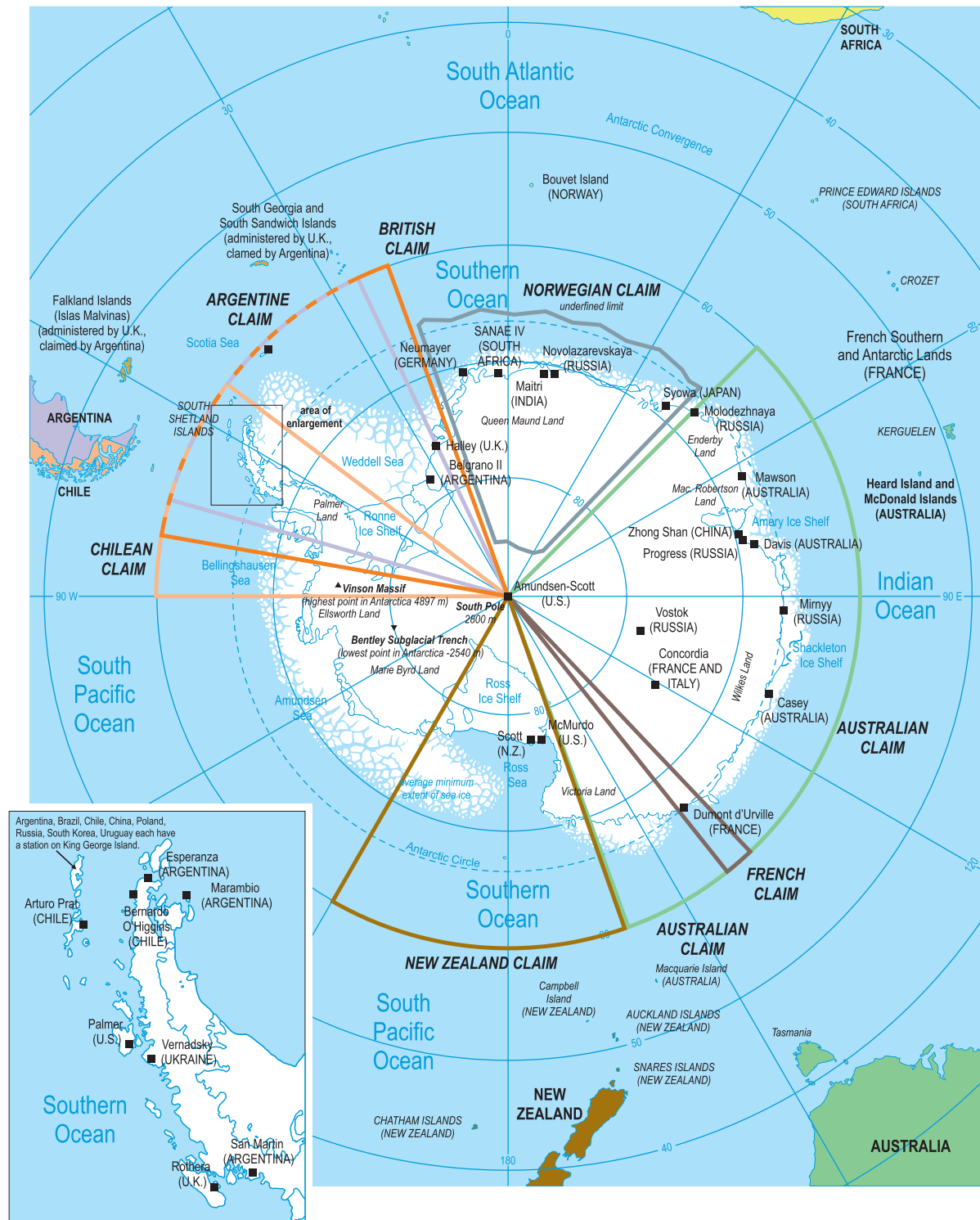
There were many disagreements about entitlements to Antarctic land claims and disputes over borders prior to 1945. Eventually seven nations claimed territory in Antarctica: Australia, Chile, Great Britain, France, New Zealand and Norway.

Thirty countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty. Many of these countries have permanent research stations on the Antarctic continent or the surrounding Antarctic Islands.

The first Antarctic Treaty was signed on the 1st of December 1959 and officially came into force on the 23rd of June 1961. It was signed by the twelve countries that were active in Antarctica at the time: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The treaty rules were set out to regulate the types of activities that could take place in Antarctica:

- * It ensured that the area was used for peaceful purposes.
- * It prohibited nuclear explosions and disposal of nuclear waste.
- * It encouraged scientific investigation and cooperation between countries.
- * It encouraged cooperation between countries and the United Nations.



A photograph of an Antarctic landscape. In the foreground, three seals are resting on a rocky shore. One seal is on the left, looking towards the camera. Two other seals are on the right, looking towards the right. The background features large, white icebergs floating in the water under a clear sky.

The following protocols were signed in order to support the Antarctic Treaty and ensure that Antarctica remains a natural reserve devoted to peace and science.

* Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora (signed 1964, enforced 1982)

*The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1982)

* The Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (signed in 1988, not in force)

The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

A large colony of penguins, likely King penguins, is gathered on a rocky beach. The penguins are densely packed in some areas, particularly on the left side of the image. The beach is composed of grey and brown pebbles. In the background, there is a body of water and a hillside with sparse vegetation. The sky is overcast.

This treaty was signed on the 4th of October 1991 and became enforced on the 14th of January 1998.

This agreement:

- * protects the flora and fauna of Antarctica and prevents marine pollution.
- * prevents all activities related to mineral resources, except scientific study.

What recommendations would you make to the following committees?



- The International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- The Committee For Environmental Protection (CEP)
- The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)