

## Risk assessment matrix for the area south of latitude 60°S

Issue/disruption	A Negligible (no disruptive effects; 'business as usual')	B Minor (regional tensions increase temporarily; situation is manageable within existing processes)	C Significant (conflict is temporary and generally constrained by existing arrangements)	D Major (significant disruption; limited to areas)	E Catastrophic (significant widespread disruptions)
<b>1 Rare</b> (most unlikely but might occur in exceptional circumstances)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whaling in the Southern Ocean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iceberg harvesting</li> </ul>			
<b>2 Unlikely</b> (unlikely to occur without significant change in current circumstances)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offshore drilling and mining</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict or war due to occupation of Antarctic territory and increasing militarisation</li> </ul>
<b>3 Possible</b> (can occur in most circumstances in the foreseeable future)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geoengineering in the Southern Ocean</li> <li>Extreme atmospheric changes (human induced through geoeengineering)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats to the Antarctic Treaty System</li> <li>Displacement of fishing fleets</li> <li>Krill exploitation</li> </ul>	
<b>4 Likely</b> (will occur in current circumstances)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to Antarctic tourism</li> <li>Pressures from new treaty members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased danger and frequency of search and rescue operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distant-water fishing fleets</li> </ul>	
<b>5 Almost certain</b> (already occurs regularly)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ocean acidification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change impacts on Antarctic infrastructure and accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change related marine ecosystem change</li> <li>Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing</li> </ul>

Three broad major needs to mitigate the consequences of these threats and challenges stand out: developing greater trust between states active in the region; enhanced environmental cooperation; and more effective management of environmental and related security concerns.

Risk mitigation in the Antarctic region requires more attention to measures that build confidence among countries active in the region, including greater efforts in such areas as search and rescue (SAR), expanded tourism, fisheries, cooperative scientific efforts and the impacts of climate change on environmental management.

Australia and France both have a strong commitment to scientific research and environmental protection in Antarctica. Both states have maintained a consistent engagement within the ATS.