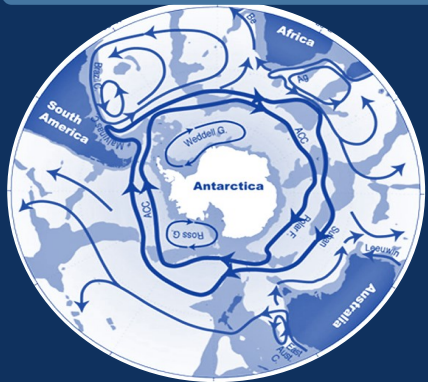


# — RESEARCH —

- 1932** International polar Year establish Magnetic Observatory in Cape Town
- 1944** 1st South African Antarctic Research Committee (SAARC)
- 1955** Gough Island Scientific Survey
- 1957** International Geophysical Year
- 1958** Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) created
- 1965** 1st Biological and Geological Expedition to Marion Island
- 2003** National Research Foundation (NRF) funding for the Department of Science and Technology (now DSI)
- 2014** Antarctic And Southern Ocean Research
- 2016** Marine and Antarctic Research Strategy



**2021** South Africa Polar Research Infrastructure (SAPRI) hosted by SAEON

South Africa, a founding member of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), has a long-term track record of, and commitment to undertaking oceanic, terrestrial and atmospheric research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. This includes work at its sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands, in collaboration with the United Kingdom at Gough Island, where it has a weather station, and at the Tristan islands. South Africa is also a party to several treaties that relate to the conservation of biodiversity in the Southern Ocean, including the conservation of species that occur at the PEIs. In response to its obligations to treaties, South Africa has established permanent bases in Antarctica, currently the South African National Antarctic Expedition (SANAE) IV in Dronning Maud Land and at Marion Island, one of the Prince Edward Islands.

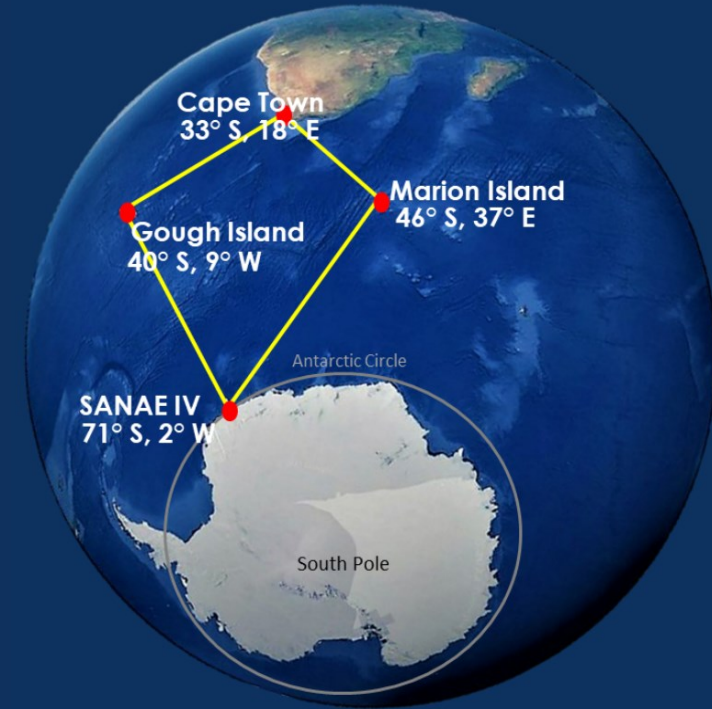
South Africa has a comparative geographic advantage for conducting research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. It is the closest African nation to the Austral Polar region, separated from the continent of Antarctica by approximately 4000 km of Open Ocean that contains a regionally unique configuration of ocean circulation, making the region key to understanding past, present and future evolution of global climate

Within a reconstructed Gondwana Supercontinent, southern Africa shares a common geological history and continental boundary with Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica. Consequently an understanding of the geological evolution of that sector of Antarctica provides insights into the evolution of southern Africa and vice versa. South Africa therefore bears a regional responsibility and serves as a springboard for broader African scientific research interests in the Antarctic region.

(From Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research Plan)



## SOUTH AFRICA'S POLAR HERITAGE



[www.antarcticlegacy.org](http://www.antarcticlegacy.org)





— STATIONS —

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION STATIONS



1959

- SANAE I
  - First expedition team took over the Norwegian (wooden) base in Dronning Maud Land becoming SANAE I

1962

- SANAE I
  - prefabricated panels erected in Dronning Maud Land

1971

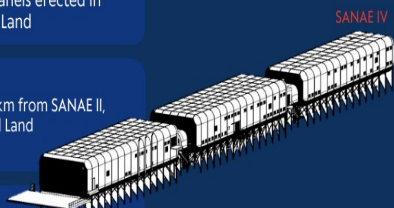
- SANAE II
  - prefabricated panels erected in Dronning Maud Land

1979

- SANAE III
  - New base built, 2km from SANAE II, in Dronning Maud Land

1997

- SANAE IV
  - New base built on the Nunatak Vesleskarvet
  - Base inaugurated in January 1997



— STATIONS —

PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS  
MARION ISLAND | PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



1947

- Annexation of Marion Island by South Africa on 29 December 1947

1948

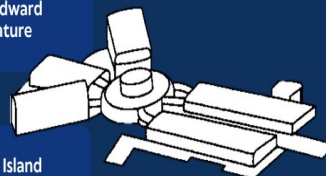
- Annexation of Prince Edward Island by South Africa on 4 January 1948

1995

- Marion Island and Prince Edward Islands declared Special Nature Reserves

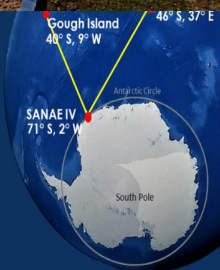
2008

- New Base open on Marion Island



— STATIONS —

GOUGH ISLAND



1505

- Gough Island discovered by Goncalo Alvarez

1955

- Gough Island Scientific Survey

1956

- First weather service team on Gough

1995

- Gough Island declared World Heritage Site



— VESSELS —



1739

- *Agile*
  - 1st Antarctic Expedition from Cape Town
  - Thereafter many expeditions followed

1959

- *Polarbjørn*
  - Transported the 1st South African Team to Antarctica

1961

- *R.S.A.*
  - Operated as South Africa's supply and research vessel

1978

- *S.A. Agulhas*
  - 1st dedicated polar research vessel of SA
  - Maiden voyage from Cape Town to Marion Island

2012

- *S.A. Agulhas II*
  - New South African research and supply vessel arriving from Finland
  - Maiden Voyage from Cape Town to Antarctica

