



CESAB
CENTRE DE SYNTHÈSE ET D'ANALYSE
SUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ

RAATD

Retrospective analysis of vertebrates' tracking data in Antarctica to identify ecologically significant areas

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The overall objective of the project **Raatd** is to assess habitat use by several predator species at the top of Southern Ocean food chains from existing spatial monitoring data sets of these animals. This approach will identify ecologically important areas for predators, i.e. ocean regions that serve as preferred sites for food exploration for several predator species simultaneously, and therefore that have high biodiversity.

The project:

- Will provide a better understanding of the fundamental ecosystem processes in the Southern Ocean;
- Facilitate projections of future distributions of predators under different climatic regimes;
- Will provide useful information for land and resource managers, such as the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

The multi-predator monitoring dataset will also highlight possible gaps in data coverage for regions or seasons that are biologically important but under-sampled, due in particular to a low human presence in these areas of the Southern Ocean.

Over the past 4 years, the **Raatd** expert group has gathered all available monitoring data collected by research groups that have worked in Antarctica since the 1990s. They have set up a preliminary repository of these data that is accessible to the public. The final repository will contain the data of more than 40 contributors working in 12 national Antarctic programmes who have agreed to freely share their data. The current database contains data on 15 predator species, with 3,447 individuals and more than 2.4 million entries.

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CESAB (Centre for the Synthesis and Analysis of Biodiversity) is FRB's flagship program and an internationally renowned research center whose objective is to implement innovative work to synthesize and analyze existing data sets in biodiversity research.

