

## PLANS FOR ANTARCTIC SANCTUARY BLOCKED

Relevant for: Environment & Disaster Management | Topic: Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development & EIA

Adélie penguins leaping off an iceberg at Danger Islands, Antarctica. File | Photo Credit: [AFP](#)

A plan to create the world's largest marine sanctuary in Antarctic waters was shot down when a key conservation summit failed to reach a consensus, with environmentalists on Saturday decrying a lack of scientific foresight.

Member states of the organisation tasked with overseeing the sustainable exploitation of the Southern Ocean failed at an annual meeting on Friday to agree over the a 1.8 million sq km maritime protection zone.

The proposed sanctuary — some five times the size of Germany — would ban fishing in a vast area in the Weddell sea, protecting key species including seals, penguins and whales.

Consensus is needed from all 24 members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the European Union.

But environment groups say members such as Russia, China, Norway rejected the plan.

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