



# ANTARCTICA AND CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

**Despite the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) voting nations committing themselves to the environmental protection of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, the ecosystem is completely unprotected from the climate crisis within the ATS framework, even though this poses the gravest threat to the future of the ecosystem.**

The 29 ATS voting nations emit 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions currently and as much as 90% historically. Still, the ATS does not regulate domestic emissions, they only regulate south of the Antarctic circle.

All 29 ATS voting nations signed the Paris agreement, however absolutely none of them keep to it. A rise in global temperature by two degrees will mean a high chance of collapse for the West Antarctic ice shield and will result in unstoppable sea level rise.

This warming will have alarming effects on Antarctic wildlife, with an estimated hatch rate reduction of juvenile krill of 50% by 2100 due to acidification, warming and oxygen loss. This will have devastating effects on the whales, penguins and food web that depends on them.

In addition, the melting of the ice will impact the Antarctic overturning of the thermohaline ocean circulation with large consequences for global ocean currents and in turn the weather and ocean wildlife and in fact, the whole planet.

The 29 ATS voting nations supposedly "managing" the ecosystems of Antarctica are failing not only to provide for the direct impacts of climate on the Antarctic, but also the destruction of coastal communities and the natural world around the globe. After all, what happens in Antarctica affects all life on Earth.

