



Requests for scientists seeking logistical support to Antarctica's deep field

White Desert has been operating in Antarctica since 2005 providing logistical support to scientists and National Programmes. Departing from Cape Town, we fly an A340 to Wolf's Fang runway and then further into the Dronning Maud Land region of the continent, using Twin Otter and Basler aircraft. As a company we are committed to the importance of science and research in Antarctica and as such our Foundation is offering its assistance to the scientific community.

We are offering logistical support to a scientific research project in the 2026/27 season and are open to applications to secure this support. (We would also consider applications for the 2027/28 should a longer lead time be required.)

We are seeking research that is directly about or related to climate change and/or its impacts on the Antarctic environment. The research should be innovative and capable of delivering outcomes directly from this support.

Applications will not be considered that concern research that is currently being supported by any National Antarctic Program, that provides incremental improvement or contributions to an existing or recently completed project, and/or that is about marine systems or penguins.

The value of the support is valued at a maximum of US\$ 200,000 and specifically includes:

- Logistical support for 2-3 scientists (a team of 4 will be considered providing one member acts as team leader and field guide, and has the ability/qualifications to do so)
- Flights Cape Town – Wolf's Fang – Cape Town
- 100kg science cargo
- Date TBC between November 2026 and February 2027 with approximate duration of 21 days in Antarctica
- Accommodation at Wolf's Fang camp
- Onward internal flight within radius of 250 nautical miles from Wolf's Fang Runway to a field camp can be reviewed

What applying scientists will need:

- An understanding of the harsh environment and operating conditions in Antarctica
- Adequate cold weather kit
- Medical approval for Antarctic travel in compliance with White Desert requirements, and a self-declaration of field fitness
- Self-reliance, survival knowledge and harsh environment experience - specifically glacial travel and crevasse rescue knowledge
- Medical training and supplies (advice can be provided) – wilderness first aid training is a requirement
- All science research related equipment (consultation required regarding types of materials and equipment to be transported)
- Valid environmental research permit for entry into Antarctica from their own country as required by the Antarctic Treaty
- Proof of funding (for the completion of and delivery of outcomes from the project)
- Proof of insurance

- Commitment to self-funded travel to and for accommodation for a least 6 days (4 in advance and 2 in return) in the departure city of Cape Town, South Africa

Applications will be considered by an internal panel advising the White Desert Foundation. Decisions by the White Desert Foundation are final. Applications will be advised of the outcome within 6 weeks of the application closing date.

To apply please provide us with a synopsis of the project explaining why you should be awarded the Foundation's Antarctic support grant. Please complete the following and submit the answers in a Word or equivalent document, along with a one page CV (including top 5 peer-reviewed publications and a link to a Google Scholar or equivalent open access scholarly profile) for each of the investigators:

1. Principle Investigator and Institution
2. Executive Summary outlining the key points of the research (250 words)
3. Project researchers coming to Antarctica. Name/Nationality/Country of residence
4. Describe the project idea – define the problem to be addressed, the aim/purpose of the work, and the key questions to be addressed (300 words max)
5. Set out how the work is innovative and how it relates to previous science, including distinction between previously funded work undertaken by the proponents (300 words max)
6. Describe the project activity and how it addresses the following criteria (1500 words max)
 - a. Relation to climate change or climate change impact research
 - b. What methods will be used in the field, where and for how long
 - c. What outputs are expected in what timeframe
 - d. What benefits will come from the research
 - e. How will data be made available and research open access in keeping with Antarctic Treaty requirements
7. Set out the outcome ready capability of the investigators (250 words max)
8. Describe the field experience/capability of the investigators (300 words max)
9. In a brief statement indicate why you should be funded (300 words max)
10. Provide a brief outline of what environmental impact might be expected by answering these yes/no questions:
 - a. Will any Antarctic specially Protected Area to accessed?
 - b. Will drones will used?
 - c. Will any large equipment (such as ApRES or automatic weather stations) be deployed either just for the period in the field or with a longer-term horizon?
 - d. Will any soil be collected?
 - e. Will any animals be handled (e.g. tagging or measuring)
11. Provide an indication of where your current funding for completion of the work proposed here comes from and its end date

12. Indicate who your National Antarctic authority is that will issue the permit for your work and that you know how to go about obtaining the authorization (if you are unaware of this include a statement that you do not know)

Please email applications, including attachments of the applicants' one page CVs and the application document by the closing date of 31st July 2026, with the heading "Name: Science Field Support Application" to: applications@white-desert.foundation

Addendum:

Equipment & Supplies available for use from White Desert:

- Tents, sleeping mats and sleeping bags
- Heated tents for working/cooking areas
- Cooking gas and stoves
- Communications equipment: radios, satellite phones & in reach devices
- Skidoo and sleds
- Outer clothing layers and Baffin boots
- Fuel for heaters and vehicles
- Limited glacial travel equipment
- Food in the form of dry goods and dehydrated meals

Services offered

- Weather forecasting included in the daily check in
- Telemetric doctor advice (including required medical supply list pre-departure)
- SAR and recovery team

For more information on White Desert Foundation, please visit www.white-desert.foundation

More about White Desert Antarctica

Each year we have the privilege of taking just 400 guests and scientists to the interior of Antarctica. Founded by Polar Explorers in 2005, we fly from Cape Town to our privately managed blue ice runway, Wolf's Fang.

White Desert supports the Antarctic community providing logistical support to National Antarctic Programmes as well as non-governmental research and science programmes, including projects which support the positive communication of Antarctic science to a non-scientific audience.

Support for over seven of the National Antarctic Programmes has grown and we currently transport personnel, scientific equipment and supplies throughout the Antarctic season. Wherever possible, we ensure logistics are provided through shared routes or return journeys, helping to reduce fuel demand associated with standalone journeys. Moreover, we uphold environmentally sustainable practices like trialling Sustainable Aviation Fuel, utilising stringent waste and water protocols and building camps designed to leave no trace.

For more information on White Desert please visit www.white-desert.com