

What is the French Southern Territories nature reserve?

In 2006, the French Southern Territories Nature Reserve was created around the Crozet archipelago and the Kerguelen, Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands. This reserve, which by 2022 will cover an area of 1.6 million km², is one of the largest marine protected areas in the world and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2019.

Why are the French Southern & Antarctic Lands subject to an original form of governance?

These characteristics explain why these territories are subject to an original form of governance. The French Southern and Antarctic Lands include uninhabited territories in the Indian and Southern Oceans. Image: TAAF

What is the French Southern Territories?

The territory is sometimes referred to as the French Southern Lands (French: Terres australes françaises) or the French Southern Territories, usually to emphasize non-recognition of French sovereignty over Adélie Land as part of the Antarctic Treaty System. The entire territory has no known permanently settled inhabitants.

Does France have territorial sovereignty over the Éparses Islands?

Although France's claim to the three austral lands (Kerguelen, Saint-Paul and Amsterdam and Crozet) is no longer contested, it is facing two major challenges to its claim to territorial sovereignty over the Éparses islands.

Are there trees in the French Southern Lands?

Because of their isolation and subpolar location, the French Southern Lands are relatively depauperate of vegetation, with both Saint-Paul and Crozet having no native tree or shrub species. However, eight of the 36 higher plant species are endemic.

This extension of nearly one million km² is one of the key measures of the French National Strategy for Protected Areas 2030, and allows France to exceed the target of 30% of French maritime and terrestrial areas in protected areas.

Officially, Adélie also belongs to this overseas territory as a French territorial claim over Antarctica, but due to the Antarctic Treaty, all those territorial claims are frozen. Since 2007, the Îles Éparses, some islands scattered throughout the Indian Ocean, have been incorporated into the French Southern and Antarctic Territories.

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Mapping has been carried out by the French Institut Géographique National (IGN), and the islands are covered by photogrammetric maps at a number of different scales dating from the late 1960s, with some more recent activity. Île Amsterdam and St. Paul have been mapped to French Série bleue specifications at 1:25,000 scale, the latest edition ...

Background. In February 2007, the Iles Eparses became an integral part of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF). The Southern Lands are now divided into five administrative districts, two of which are archipelagos, Iles Crozet and Iles Kerguelen; the third is a district composed of two volcanic islands, Ile Saint-Paul and Ile Amsterdam; the fourth, Iles ...

The TAAF are a French overseas territory with the administrative and economic autonomy. The TAAF are under the authority of a prefect who is at the same time the representative of the French State and the person responsible for the territory. Since 2000, the head office is located in Reunion island, where it employs nearly 65 people.

The French Southern Territories are not typically known for their biological diversity compared to global biodiversity hotspots. However, they host a range of unique ecosystems, primarily due to their isolation and the variety of sub-Antarctic climates they cover.

The French Southern and Antarctic Lands (French: Terres australes et antarctiques françaises, TAAF) is an overseas territory (French: Territoire d'outre-mer or TOM) of France consists of: Adélie Land (Terre Adélie), the French claim on the continent of Antarctica.; Crozet Islands (Îles Crozet), a group in the southern Indian Ocean, south of Madagascar.

While traditional telecom infrastructure is minimal due to the region's isolated nature, satellite communication systems are in place to cater for the limited inhabitants. Given the remote and ...

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Map of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands. Adélie Land (in Antarctica) and Banc du Geyser and Bassas da India (in the Îles Éparses district) are not shown. Kerguelen cabbages on Île Mayès, Kerguelen. The territory includes the Crozet Islands, the Kerguelen Islands, and the Saint Paul and Amsterdam Islands in the southern Indian Ocean near 43°S, ...

While traditional telecom infrastructure is minimal due to the region's isolated nature, satellite communication systems are in place to cater for the limited inhabitants. Given the remote and harsh conditions, renewable energy, particularly wind ...

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