

**THE LATITUDINAL GRADIENT PROJECT (LGP) CONTRIBUTING TO EVOLUTION AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE ANTARCTIC (EBA)**

S. Gordon

*Antarctica New Zealand, Christchurch, New Zealand*

The Latitudinal Gradient Project (LGP) is a multinational, interdisciplinary framework aimed at increasing our understanding of the complex ecosystems that exist along the Victoria Land coast and determining the effects of environmental change on these ecosystems.

The development of this framework has been prompted by Antarctic scientists who identified the need for coordinated research along the latitudinal gradient.

Antarctica New Zealand is the project facilitator for the New Zealand portion of the LGP and is providing the logistical capabilities for research camps to be located at specific sites along the Victoria Land coast. This has provided the opportunity to work at particular locations in collaboration with other scientists from various disciplines and national Antarctic programmes.

To date, a camp at the northernmost site, Cape Hallett has operated for three seasons supporting NZ and US scientists. The US and Italian Antarctic programmes have also been supporting discrete projects that work towards the goals of the LGP.

Further information on the LGP can be found at [www.lgp.aq](http://www.lgp.aq)