Delineating Dronning Maud Land Based on Biotic and Abiotic Factors

1\textsuperscript{ST} International ANTPAS Workshop
Varese, Italy
4 & 5 October 2017

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Antarctica can be divided / defined by broad geographic zones. Dronning Maud Land (Queen Maud Land) is one of these.
Dronning Maud Land (DML) covers an extensive geographic area. Examples are provided here. Such a big area requires the extent to be delineated further into smaller and manageable geographic areas. However, this is not currently the case for DML. Literature shows authors choose areas within DML as they see fit. Where one author might refer to western DML, another might simply refer to DML, or central DML. As such, naming conventions lack consistency. Furthermore, divisions are based on various parameters, such as geographical location, geological descriptors, ground thermal properties, even biological and ecological parameters.
Another issue is that authors are not consistent in using the Norwegian or English name for the area. The Norwegian name is ‘Dronning Maud Land’; the English name is ‘Queen Maud Land’. As such, academic publications refer to one or the other. This, added to an already-existing inconsistency in terms of where a study is located within the large extent of DML, has the potential to confuse the reader. Furthermore, research can easily be missed (omitted) from new investigations, if researchers are not aware of these issues. It is, therefore, paramount that authors and researchers strive for consistency in both naming conventions for the area, as well as geographical delineations based on clearly-defined environmental and locational parameters.
Articles using ‘Dronning Maud Land’ and ‘Queen Maud Land’ as a descriptor are presented here. All articles, from the time period 1990-2017, are extracted from *Antarctic Science*.

It is clear that there is a lack of consistency, although the naming convention based on the Norwegian name (Dronning Maud Land) has become dominant.

Authors have published in multiple disciplines, ranging from geology to biology.

The increasing amount of work conducted in the area now necessitates a more formal delineation of DML into various geographic zones, as well as an agreement of using DML or Queen Maud Land.

This shows that DML should be more formally delineated, using the various disciplines and fields as a guideline. Such delineation will greatly enhance sharing of knowledge and planning new projects for the area.

### As an Example: *Antarctic Science*

- **Dronning Maud Land:**
  - 1990-2017: 38
  - 2000s: 18
  - 2010s: 10

- **Queen Maud Land:** 2

- **wDML:**
  - Geological: 3
  - Geomorphological: 1
  - Climatological: 3

- **CDML:** 2 (geological)
  - EDML: 0

- **1990-2017**
  - 1990s: 12