



# SECIRM 35 YEARS



The year was 1974 when the Inter-ministerial Commission for Sea Resources - CIRM was created, a multidisciplinary collegiate devoted to the governance of our ocean, to meet the requirements of the scientific community in order to develop policies and plans for the marine and coastal environment.

After 5 years, it became necessary to create a body to implement the decisions of the CIRM. So, 35 years ago, the Secretariat of the Inter-ministerial Commission for Sea Resources - SECIRM was launched.

Since its inception on December 19, 1979, SECIRM was structured to articulate and implement the plans and actions of CIRM, a preview of the potential resources of the Blue Amazon for Brazil's development.

CIRM observed the political developments of the 1970s and, more than that, has anticipated the events and initiated the Survey of the Brazilian Continental Shelf - LEPLAC; the Sustainable Potential Assessment Program of Living Resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone-REVI-ZEE; the Mineral Potential Assessment Program

of the Brazilian Legal Continental Shelf-REM-PLAC; and the Global Ocean Observing System/Brasil - GOOS/Brasil.

It was a period of heightened strategic vision. Among the many and important matters, it also dedicated special attention to Antarctica. The task of implementing the Brazilian Antarctic Program - PROANTAR Was attributed to SECIRM in 1982. That same year, the first Antarctic Operation was carried out. In 1983, the country was elevated to the consultative membership of the Antarctic Treaty. The challenge was to plan, build, launch and operate a Scientific Research Station.

On February 6, 1984, the Comandante Ferraz Antarctic Station was inaugurated, a political step with significant repercussions. That same year, in recognition of research conducted, Brazil became a member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research - SCAR.

Today, on the southern portion of our planet, PROANTAR is doing the OPERANTAR XXXIII, which is in its final phase, with the full employment of our temporary station, the camping sites, the two red ships and their aircraft that have

supported about 330 researchers and climbers, a number thirty percent higher than in previous years. It should be noted that the Emergency Antarctic Modules - MAE are fully attending to the support of research and, as a temporary installation for the base-group, ensuring a permanent Brazilian presence on the frozen continent.

Expectations for the near future in the region are positive, as we approach the outcome of the contest for the building of the New Brazilian station in Antarctica, which will provide modern and comfortable facilities.

The winning project possesses simplicity in architectural feature and incorporates technical innovations: security in the systems; the inclusion of renewable natural energy sources - solar and wind; cogeneration of energy using the heat from generators as a heat source; reusable water; and efficient management of energy between production and consumption.

In relation to the activities in the northern hemisphere, the Program for Scientific Research in the Arquipélago de São Pedro e São Paulo - PROARQUIPÉLAGO turned 16 years, marking



the presence of the Brazilian state in those abyssal waters and making habitability in Belmonte Island viable. It should be pointed out that SECIRM recently received a plot of about 600m<sup>2</sup>, in Fernando de Noronha, for the installation of a future Research Station and expanding the opportunities for research in the scientific community.

In the far eastern Brazil, the Trindade Island Research Station is fully operational, built in 2010, continuing the PROTRINDADE program's actions and also ensuring the preservation of that peculiar ecosystem. In regards to the South, the Subcommittee for LEPLAC received a technical report in October this year containing the proposed outer limits of the Brazilian continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, in that

region, which was submitted to the United Nations, which will legitimize our maritime border with the international community.

Off the Brazilian coast, SECIRM continues to support the actions of other ongoing programs such as REMPLAC, the Program of Human Resources Training in Marine Sciences - PPGMAR, the Program for Marine Biotechnology - BIOMAR and the Program of Prospecting and Exploration of Mineral Resources of the international area of the South and Equatorial Atlantic - PROAREA. These last two ensure a priority for Brazil in the exploration of mineral resources within the seabed of the Atlantic Ocean.

Aware of the importance of strengthening the maritime mentality in the Brazilian population, particularly among young people, SECIRM

through the Maritime Mentality Program - PROMAR released the concept of the Blue Amazon and the Brazilian Antarctic Program, seeking to raise awareness in society about the sustainable use of marine resources in all dimensions, with emphasis on scientific, environmental, economic aspects and sovereignty and geopolitical importance of the Brazilian presence in the Antarctic Continent.

Throughout its existence numerous challenges were surpassed by SECIRM, consolidating not only its commitment to assist the CIRM, but to promote a permanent forum for discussion on the shared use of the oceans and Antarctica.