Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP): summary of activities during the 2021/22 intersessional period

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**Information Paper submitted by the CEP Chair**

Summary

The 23rd meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP XXIII) was held virtually in Paris, France, from 14 to 18 June 2021. This paper presents a summary of deliveries to CEP XXIV against the intersessional activities arising from CEP XXIII, as identified in CEP Circular: 1 / CEP XXIII. Where appropriate, the details of related papers submitted to CEP XXIV are provided.

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| **Priority\*** | **Action** | **Report Para #** | **CEP Member/Observer** | **Related papers to CEP XXIV / comments** |
| ***Agenda Item 5: Cooperation with other Organisations*** | | | | |
|  | Dr Antonio Quesada (Spain), Dr Polly Penhale (United States) to represent the CEP at COMNAP 33 and SC-CAMLR 40 respectively. | 20 | Spain and United Sates | The CEP was represented in meetings of other organisations as follows: COMNAP 33 – Dr Quesada (Spain); SC-CAMLR 40 – Dr Penhale (United States). Note that both meetings were held virtually. |
| ***Agenda Item 6. Repair and Remediation of Environmental Damage*** | | | | |
| 2: Repair or remediation of environmental damage | Continued work on development of new techniques or guidelines for repair and remediation in context of Clean-Up manual. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 7: Climate Change Implications for the Environment: Implementation and Review of the CCRWP*** | | | | |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | The SGCCR to continue work in accordance with its Terms of Reference, in particular to continue its work in updating the Climate Change Response Work Program (CCRWP). | 40  5YWP | SGCCR | *WP037 Report of the Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (SGCCR) 2021-2022* (United Kingdom)– submitted under CEP 7b |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | Prepare for discussions planning for five-yearly joint SC-CAMLR/CEP workshop | 5YWP | All Members | Note the relevance of *WP016* |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | Consider status of implementation of actions arising from 2016 joint CEP/SC-CAMLR workshop. | 5YWP | All Members | *WP016 Review of progress in the implementation of the recommendations identified at the Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop on Climate Change and Monitoring (2016)* (Argentina, Australia, France, Untied States) – submitted under CEP 7b |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | SCAR to present decadal ACCE report | 24  5YWP | SCAR | *IP072 Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment: A Decadal Synopsis and Recommendations for Action* (SCAR), *WP030* *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment: A Decadal Synopsis. Findings and Policy Recommendations* (SCAR) and *WP031* *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment: A Decadal Synopsis. Research Imperatives* (SCAR) – all submitted under CEP 7a |
| ***Agenda Item 8a: Draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations*** | | | | |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Consider any changes required to EIA database to improve its utility. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Work on further guidance with regards to commenting processes related to CEEs. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 8b: Other EIA Matters*** | | | | |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | Work on developing a framework for conducting pre-assessments relating to new, novel or particularly concerning activities, focusing on the environmental aspects. | 5YWP | UK, interested Members and Observers |  |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Work to progress and coordinate information that will assist development | 5YWP | All Members and Observers | *WP033 Report on Effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessment in Antarctica* (United Kingdom, Netherlands) – submitted under CEP 8b |
| ***Agenda Item 9a: Area Protection and Management Plans: Management Plans*** | | | | |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | SGMP to continue its intersessional review of the management plans for ASPA 125, ASPA 146, and ASPA 150. | 72-73 | SGMP, Chile, interested Members and Observers | *WP008 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2021-2022* (India) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | SGMP to review the draft management plan for ASPA 145. | 82, 88 | SGMP, interested Members and Observers | *WP008 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2021-2022* (India) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | USA to submit revised management plans for ASPAs 113, 119, 124 and 139 | 84 | USA | *WP005 Review of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) No. 113 Litchfield Island, Arthur Harbor, Palmer Archipelago, No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond, Dufek Massif, and No. 139 Biscoe Point, Palmer Archipelago* (United States) – submitted to CEP 9a |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | SGMP to conduct work under its terms of reference 4 & 5, including considering options for efficient pre-meeting review of revised management plans. | 14, 153 | SGMP | *WP008 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2021-2022* (India) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| ***Agenda Item 9b: Area Protection and Management Plans: Historic Sites and Monuments*** | | | | |
| 2: Designation and management of Historic Sites and Monuments | United Kingdom to lead informal discussions relating to guidance material in relation to conservation management plans as tools to protect Antarctic heritage. | 5YWP | United Kingdom, interested Members | *WP028 Guidance for Conservation Management Planning for Historic Sites and Monuments in Antarctica* (United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, United States) – submitted under CEP 9b |
| 2: Designation and management of Historic Sites and Monuments | Prepare for further discussions on HSMs with unknown locations | 96  5YWP | All Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9c: Area Protection and Management Plans: Site Guidelines*** | | | | |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Consider a new layout template for Visitor Site Guidelines | 116 | Germany, interested Members, the Secretariat, IAATO |  |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Further improving the proposed Visitor Site Guidelines for Argentine Islands | 126-129 | Ukraine | *WP049 Revised Visitor Site Guidelines for Site No. 22 Wordie House, Winter Island* (Ukraine, United Kingdom) – submitted under CEP 9c |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Consider developing guidelines for short overnight stays to ensure consistent application of best practices and minimise impacts to the Antarctic environment | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | Continued work on methodology to assess the relative sensitivity of sites to visits by tourists, including trial of methodology (cf. IP 100). | 5YWP | Australia, interested Members and IAATO |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9d: Area Protection and Management Plans: Marine Spatial Protection and Management*** | | | | |
| 2: Marine spatial protection and management | Prepared for continued consideration of advice relating to Resolution 5 (2017) | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9f: Other Annex V Matters*** | | | | |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | Undertake work to advance actions agreed by the Committee from discussions on the protected areas workshop. | 5YWP | All Members, Observers | Relevant for the issue: WP020 *Type localities in Antarctica* (Australia) – submitted to CEP 7e |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | Further work on the issue of systematic identification of globally important geological sites in Antarctica | 168-169 | SCAR, interested Members |  |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | SCAR to provide advice on selection criteria that might be applied to identified IBAs or other bird areas when considering ASPA designation | 5YWP | SCAR |  |
| ***Agenda Item 10a: Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna: Quarantine and Non-Native Species*** | | | | |
| 1: Introduction of non-native species | Initiate work to develop a non-native species response strategy, including appropriate responses to diseases of wildlife. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 1: Introduction of non-native species | COMNAP to prepare a report on the implementation of quarantine and biosecurity measures by its members as input to assessing the effectiveness of the NNS Manual. | 5YWP | COMNAP |  |
| 1: Introduction of non-native species | SCAR to prepare information on existing mechanism to assist with the identification of non-native species. | 5YWP | SCAR |  |
| ***Agenda Item 10b: Specially Protected Species*** | | | | |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Participate in ICG to prepare a revised draft action plan for the emperor penguin as basis for consideration of listing as Specially Protected Species | 193-197 | Interested Members and Observers | *WP034 Report of the CEP Intersessional Contact Group established to develop a Specially Protected Species Action Plan for the emperor penguin* (United Kingdom) – submitted under CEP 10b |
| ***Agenda Item 10c: Other Annex II matters*** | | | | |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Informal intersessional discussions relating to assessing the protection of Antarctic seals. | 5YWP | Interested Members |  |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Further considerations of Areas of Ecological Significance | 199-203 | All Members |  |

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| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Prepare for continued discussions on Important Marine Mammal Areas | 208-213 | All Members | *WP025 Important Marine Mammals Areas (IMMAs)* (France, United Kingdom, Chile, Germany, Monaco, South Africa) – submitted under CEP 10c |
| ***Item 11: Environmental Monitoring and Reporting*** | | | | |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | SCAR to design an environmental monitoring programme to assess the impacts of tourism, which includes a scoping assessment. | 5YWP | SCAR (COMNAP, IAATO, ASOC) and interested Members | Relevant for the issue: *WP022 Towards adaptive and sustainable management of Antarctic tourism: Monitoring as a key tool for decision-making* (Ecuador, Spain, United States) – submitted under CEP 11 |