Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 121 Cape Royds, Ross Island

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| ASPA No. 121 Cape Royds, Ross Island | |
| **1. Is a new ASPA proposed?** | No |
| **2. Is a new ASMA proposed?** | No |
| **3. Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA?** | Yes |
| *First designation:* | Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) SSSI No. 1 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) SSSI No. 1 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Rec. XIII-9 (1985), Measure 1 (2002), Measure 5 (2009), Measure 2 (2014). |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 2 (2014). |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | Recommendation X-6 (1979),  Recommendation XII-5 (1983),  Resolution 7 (1995), Measure 2 (2000) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 121 Cape Royds, Ross Island |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Decision 4 (1998), Decision 1 (2002), Decision 9 (2005), Resolution 4 (2009), Resolution 2 (2011) |
| **4. If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment:** | |
| *(i) major or minor?* | Minor. |
| *(ii) any changes to the boundaries or co-ordinates?* | No. |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes. Changes to graphics and new map added for guidance on aircraft access. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | No. |
| *(v) any changes that affect any other ASPA, ASMA or HSM within this area or adjacent to it? In particular, please explain any merger with, incorporation of or abolition of any existing area or site.* | Yes. The air access provisions have been clarified to be consistent with ASPA No. 157, which is adjacent. |
| *(vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located.* | See below for summary of changes. |
| **5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain any marine area?** | N/A |
| **6. If yes, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)?** | N/A |
| **7. If yes, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained?** | N/A |
| *If yes, please list the CCAMLR Final Report and Paragraph No.* | N/A |
| **8. If the proposal relates to an ASPA, what is the primary reason for designation (*i.e.*, which part under Article 3.2 of Annex V)?** | (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems and marine ecosystems;  (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals;  (e) areas of particular interest to ongoing or planned scientific research. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment P – Ross and Ronne-Filchner ice shelves. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. Region 9 – South Victoria Land. |
| **11) Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | Cape Royds has not, under the criteria used, been identified as an IBA. |

ASPA No. 121 Cape Royds, Ross Island

1. The Management Plan for ASPA No. 121 Cape Royds was last revised in 2014, and review thus fell due in 2019. Accordingly, the United States has made a number of revisions to the Management Plan, both as a result of a detailed review of the scientific knowledge of the Area by Dr D. Ainley, a leading scientific authority on the Area, and in light of agreements reached by the Antarctic Treaty Parties since the last plan was adopted.
2. Cape Royds was originally designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) No. 1 through Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) for its value as the most southerly Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) colony known. A marine component was included in 1985 to protect seaward access and feeding grounds of the Adélie penguin and to allow research on Nototheniid fish. The marine component was reduced in 2009, although the marine area surrounding the colony was retained to protect the primary access route to the colony by penguins. The current Management Plan reaffirms the values of the Area.
3. While revisions to the scientific description of the Area have been detailed, and a new map has been added, substantive changes to the values of the Area, its boundaries, or to the overall management policies have not been made. Therefore the revisions have been classified as ‘minor’ in nature and in effect.
4. The principal changes to the provisions of the existing Management Plan include:
   1. Revisions to the scientific description of the Area, including updates on the number of breeding penguins within the Area;
   2. The Latin name for South polar skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*) recently changed to *Catharacta maccormicki* (see BirdLife International Data Zone: http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search Accessed Jan 2021). The management plan has been amended as appropriate.
   3. Revisions to take account of new agreements and guidance reached by the ATCM since the previous Management Plan was adopted, and with other management plans recently adopted by the ATCM;
   4. Section 5 Maps. A new Map 2 covering air access has been added and the previous Map 2 has been renamed as Map 3. Map graphics have been improved, including an update to show the extent of breeding penguin sub-colonies in 2019.
   5. Section 7(ii) Aircraft access and overflight. Aircraft access provisions have been clarified and updated, and made consistent with ASPA No. 157. The recommendation was added that: “overflight / landings of all aircraft within ½ nautical mile (~930 m) of ASPA No. 121 are strongly discouraged, except for scientific or management purposes (Map 2)”. This recommendation is consistent with Resolution 2 (2004), the ‘Guidelines for the Operation of Aircraft Near Concentrations of Birds in Antarctica’, and aims to raise pilot awareness of the need to follow these guidelines when operating in the region.
   6. Section 8 - Supporting documentation. The reference list has been updated.

Recommendation

The revised Management Plan is attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.