Review of Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No 163: Dakshin Gangotri Glacier, Dronning Maud Land

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Summary

India has conducted review of Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No 163, Dakshin Gangotri glacier, Droning Maud Land. With minor amendments and improve quality of maps, India recommends that CEP approves the attached Management Plan.

Background

India introduced a Working Paper at XXV ATCM (WP47) on a draft management plan for a proposed site of Special Scientific Interest for Dakshin Gangotri Glacier Snout, Schirmacher Hills, Dronning Maud Land. The Committee noted that this should be termed an ASPA rather than SSSI. Accordingly, during XXVI ATCM India submitted a draft management plan for Antarctica Specially Protected Area (XXVI ATCM/WP-38) and thereafter resubmitted revised management plan during XXVII-ATCM (WP 33). The management plan was adopted by Measure 2 (2005) and designated ASPA 163 during XXVIII ATCM (WP 25). This Management Plan was further reviewed after five years with minor changes, while submitted to XXXIII-ATCM (WP055 rev1.) and adopted under Measure 12 (2010). Thereafter Management Plan reviewed after five years and with minor changes submitted to XXXVIII-ATCM (WP 42) and then adopted under Measure 15 (2015).

ASPA-163 is situated west of Maitri station in Shirmacher Hills, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica. In accordance with Annex V to the Madrid Protocol and the “Revised Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas “appended to Resolution 2 (2011), Management Plan is further reviewed and being submitted. Each year, observational visits have been made to the area since 2015. No significant changes to the plan have been made, boundaries of the plan are not changed. Minor changes to the existing management plan include:

* 6(i) Description of the Area: Recent observations on Glacier retreat have been introduced.
* 7(v) Restrictions on materials and organisms, which can be brought into the Area: Text added on use of Non-native Species manual
* Map 2, Map 3, Map4 and Map 5: Replaced with better resolution and colour enhanced map
* Map 6: Updated with latest image and named as Figure 2

Recommendation

The revised Management Plan is attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection and further to be adopted by ATCM.

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| ASPA No. 163 : Dakshin Gangotri Glacier, Dronning Maud Land | |
| 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. ASPA No. 163 |
| First designation: | Measure 3 (2005) |
| First adoption of management plan: | Measure 3 (2005) |
| Any revisions to management plan: | Measure 12 (2010)  Measure 15 (2015) |
| Current management plan: | Measure 15 (2015). |
| Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan: | No |
| Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as: | ASPA No 163: Dakshin Gangotri Glacier, Dronning Maud Land |
| Other relevant measures: | N/A |
| 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, in graphics (Map2, Map3, Map 4 and Map 5) and Map 6 is replaced with name Figure 2 |
| (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. | No |
| (vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located. | The *Supporting Information* has been updated.  The following text has been added under section  *7(i) Access to and movement within or over the Area*: ‘Overflight of bird colonies within the Area by RPAS shall not be permitted unless for scientific or operational purposes, and in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority’.  6(i) Description of the Area: Recent observations on Glacier retreat have been introduced |
| 5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain any marine area? Yes/No | N/A |
| 6. If yes, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)? Yes/No | N/A |
| 7. If yes, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained? Yes/No (If yes, the reference to the relevant paragraph of the relevant CCAMLR Final Report should be given) | 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)? | Article 3.2  (f) examples of outstanding geological, glaciological or geomorphological features |
| 9. If relevant, have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Environmental Domains Analysis for the Antarctic Continent’ appended to Resolution 3 [2008])? Yes/No (If yes, the main Environmental Domain should be noted here). | Domain I and Domain L |
| 10. If relevant, have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Antarctic Conservation  Biogeographic Regions’ appended to Resolution 6 [2012])? Yes/No (If yes, the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region should be noted here). | ACBR 6 Dronning Maud Land |
| 11. If relevant, have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas (Resolution 5 [2015]) represented by the ASPA? Yes/No (If yes, the Important Bird Area[s] should be noted here.) | N/A |