Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 102 Rookery Islands, Holme Bay, Mac.Robertson Land

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**Working Paper submitted by Australia**

Summary

In accordance with Article 6.3 of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Australia has undertaken a five-yearly review of the management plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) 102 Rookery Islands. The review was conducted with reference to Annex V and the *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* (the Guide) appended to Resolution 2 (2011). The following sections briefly describe the Area, and describe the proposed minor amendments to the management plan. Australia recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised management plan.

Background

The Rookery Islands are a group of small islands and rocks in the western part of Holme Bay, north of the Masson and David ranges in Mac.Robertson Land, East Antarctica (67°36'36" S, 62°32'01" E, Map A and Map B). The Rookery Islands were originally designated as Specially Protected Area No. 2 through Recommendation IV-II (1966), after a proposal by Australia. A management plan for the Area was adopted under Recommendation XVII-2 (1992). In accordance with Decision 1 (2002), the site was redesignated and renumbered as Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 102. Revised ASPA management plans were adopted under Measure 2 (2005), Measure 2 (2010) and Measure 2 (2015). The Area is designated to protect breeding colonies of the six bird species known to breed in the region, including the southern giant petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) and the Cape petrel (*Daption capensis*); these species are not known to occur elsewhere in the region. The Area is one of only four known breeding colonies of southern giant petrels in East Antarctica.

***Review of management plan***

The review of the management plan involved a literature review, and consultation with personnel permitted to enter the Area during the past five years and ornithologists who are familiar with the Area. The revisions to the management plan seek to afford enhanced protection of the values that the Area was designated to protect.

Summary of amendments to the management plan for ASPA 102

A revised management plan for ASPA 102 is presented at Attachment A. No major changes are proposed, and there are no changes to the Area boundary. Proposed minor amendments are summarised as follows:

* Section 1 (and throughout the document) has been revised to include Wilsons storm petrel as one of the species that breeds in the Area.
* Section 1 revised to include additional information on southern giant petrel trends in East Antarctica.
* Section 6(i) revised to provide a clearer description of the Area boundary.
* Section 6(i) revised to note that the Area is identified as Antarctic Important Bird Area 121 on the basis of the Adélie penguin colony.
* Section 6(i) revised to include more recent survey data for Cape petrels.
* Section 6(iii) has been revised to include the coordinates of three additional cameras.
* Section 7(ii) revised to include conditions regarding the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), stating that overflights of bird colonies are prohibited except where essential for compelling scientific or management purposes, noting that such overflights shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica.*
* Section 8 has been revised to include the addition of two more recently published papers.
* Editorial amendments have been made throughout the document.
* Map B has been updated to identify three new camera locations.

***Recommendation***

Australia recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised management plan for ASPA 102 Rookery Islands, Holme Bay, Mac.Robertson Land.

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| ASPA No. 102, Rookery Islands, Holme Bay, Mac.Robertson 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 |
| *First designation:* | Recommendation IV-II (1966) as ASPA No.2 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation XVII-2 (1992) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2005)  Measure 2 (2010)  Measure 2 (2015) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 2 (2015) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA 102 |
| *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. Section 6(i) clarifies that the marine environment below the low water mark is excluded from the Area. |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes. (Minor changes to Map B to identify the location of three new cameras). |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | Section 6(i) revised to provide a clearer description of the Area boundary. |
| *(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.* | * Section 1 (and throughout the document) has been revised to include Wilsons storm petrel as one of the species that breeds in the Area. * Section 1 revised to include additional information on southern giant petrel trends in the East Antarctica. * Section 6(i) revised to note that the Area is identified as Antarctic Important Bird Area 121 on the basis of the Adélie penguin colony. * Section 6(i) revised to include more recent survey data for Cape petrels. * Section 6(iii) has been revised to include the coordinates of three additional cameras. * Section 7(ii) revised to include conditions regarding the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), stating that overflights of bird colonies are prohibited except where essential for compelling scientific or management purposes, noting that such overflights shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica.* * Section 8 has been revised to include the addition of more recently published papers. * Editorial amendments have been made throughout the document. * Map B updated to identify three new camera locations. |
| **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 |
| **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(c) – areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals. |
| **9. 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. Environment D East Antarctic coastal geologic. |
| **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. ACBR 16 Prince Charles Mountains. |
| **11. If relevant, have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas (Resolution 5 (2015)) represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Important Bird Areas in Antarctica 2015 Summary’ appended to ATCMXXXVIII IP27 and the full report available at: http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)?** | Yes. ANT 119 Rookery Islands. |