Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 167 Hawker Island, Princess Elizabeth 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) 167 Hawker Island. 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

Hawker Island (the Area) (68°38’S, 77°51’E) is located 7 km south-west from Davis station off the Vestfold Hills on the Ingrid Christensen Coast, Princess Elizabeth Land, East Antarctica. The island was designated as Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 167 under Measure 1 (2006), following a proposal by Australia, primarily to protect the southernmost breeding colony of southern giant petrels (*Macronectes giganteus*). The Area is one of only four known breeding locations for southern giant petrels in East Antarctica, all of which are ASPAs: ASPA 102, Rookery Islands, Holme Bay, Mac.Robertson Land (67º36’S, 62º53’E) – near Mawson Station; ASPA 160, Frazier Islands, Wilkes Land (66°13’S, 110°11’E) – near Casey station; and ASPA 120, Pointe Géologie, Terre Adélie (66º40’S, 140º01’E) – near Dumont d’Urville. Hawker Island also supports breeding colonies of Adélie penguins (*Pygocelis adeliae*), south polar skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*), and Cape petrels (*Daption capense*). Occasionally Southern elephant seal (*Nirounga leonine*) haul out on the southern beaches and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) pup on the sea ice nearby.

***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 167

A revised management plan for ASPA 167 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:

* The Introduction has been modified to more accurately describe areas used by seals within and near the Area.
* Section 2 has been revised for consistency with other management plans, to reflect that management of the Area aims to allow visits for management purposes in support of the aims of the management plan and to protect the values of the Area as a reference area for future comparative studies with other breeding populations of southern giant petrels.
* Section 6(i) has been revised to:
  + Note that the Area is located in Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region 7 East Antarctica, and is not identified as an Antarctic Important Bird Area.
  + Include updated counts for southern giant petrel chicks (2020).
  + Update the number of offshore islands where Adelie penguins breed.
  + Update the number of Adelie penguin pairs that breed in the Vestfold Hills (2009/10).
  + Remove a sentence that did not have any management implications.
  + Include the number of Cape petrel pairs (2017/18).
  + Note that South polar skuas may breed near the penguin colony.
  + Mention additional southern elephant seal haul out locations in the Vestfold Hills.
* Section 6(ii) has been revised to include additional information on preferred landing sites for boats accessing the Area.
* Section 7(ii) has been 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 (iv) has been revised to state that structure installation, modification and removal, should, if possible, be carried out during the non-breeding period for SGP.
* Section 7(vii) has been revised to state that, where feasible, preference should be given to activities and methodologies that minimise disturbance to breeding birds.
* Section 8 has been revised to update with relevant, recent publications, and minor corrections.
* Map B has been revised to include location of small Cape petrel colony.
* Editorial amendments have been made throughout.

***Recommendation***

Australia recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised management plan for ASPA 167 Hawker Island, Princess Elizabeth Land.

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| ASPA No. 167, Hawker Island, Princess Elizabeth 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:* | Measure 1 (2006) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Measure 1 (2006) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 9 (2011)  Measure 8 (2016) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 8 (2016) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | N/A |
| *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. Minor changes to Map B to include location of Cape Petrel. |
| *(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.* | * Section 2 revised for consistency with other management plans, to reflect that management of the Area aims to allow visits for management purposes in support of the aims of the management plan and to protect the values of the Area as a reference area for future comparative studies with other breeding populations of southern giant petrels. * Section 6(i) revised to:   + Note that the Area is located in Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region 7 East Antarctica, and is not identified as an Antarctic Important Bird Area.   + Include updated counts for southern giant petrel chicks (2020).   + Update the number of offshore islands where Adelie penguins breed.   + Update the number of Adelie penguin pairs that breed in the Vestfold Hills (2009/10).   + Remove a sentence that did not have any management implications.   + Include the number of Cape petrel pairs (2017/18).   + Note that South polar skuas may breed near the penguin colony.   + Mention additional southern elephant seal haul out locations in the Vestfold Hills. * Section 6(ii) has been revised to include additional information on preferred landing sites for boats accessing the Area. * Section 7(ii) has been 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 (iv) has been revised to state that structure installation, modification and removal, should, if possible, be carried out during the non-breeding period for SGP. * Section 7(vii) has been revised to state that, where feasible, preference should be given to activities and methodologies that minimise disturbance to breeding birds. * Section 8 has been revised to update with relevant, recent publications, and minor corrections. * Map B has been revised to include location of small Cape petrel colony. * Editorial amendments have been made throughout. |
| **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 Antarctica 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 7 East Antarctica. |
| **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/)?** | n/a. |