Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 120 – Pointe Géologie

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| ASPA 120 - Pointe Géologie | |
| **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:* | Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA 24) by Measure XIX-3 (Seoul 1995) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Measure 3 (1995) |
| *Revisions to the management plan:* | Measure 2 (2005)  Measure 2 (2011) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 2 (2016) |
| *Extension of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA 120, Pointe-Géologie Archipelago, Adélie Land |
| *Other relevant measures:* | None |
| **4. If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment made to it:** | |
| *(i) Major or minor?* | Minor |
| *(ii) Any changes to boundaries or coordinates?* | None |
| *(iii) Any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Map 1 has not been changed.  Map 2 and its legend have been updated. |
| *(iv) Any changes to the description of the Area relevant to identifying its location or boundaries?* | No |
| *(v) Any changes that affect any other ASPA, ASMA or HSM located 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 they are located.* | See the main working document for a description of the changes made. |
| **5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain a 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?**  *If yes, please provide the reference to the relevant paragraph of the CCAMLR Final Report here.* | N/A |
| **8. If the proposal relates to an ASPA, what is the primary reason for the new designation (i.e., which section under Article 3.2 of Annex V)?** | This is not a new designation.  The ASPA constitutes a representative area of considerable biological, geological and aesthetic value, contains a great diversity of plants and animals, is an important area for scientific research, and research programmes and long-term monitoring on the bird colonies and geology have been performed in the area since 1952. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the document Environmental Domains Analysis for the Antarctic Continent appended to Resolution 3 [2008])?**  *If yes, specify the main Environmental Domain here.* | ASPA 120 falls under Environmental Domain L (continental coastal-zone ice sheet) |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions document appended to Resolution 6 [2012])?**  *If yes, specify the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region here.* | The Pointe-Géologie archipelago is linked to the Antarctic Biogeographic Conservation Region No. 13 “Adélie Land” (Terauds et al. 2016). |
| **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 ATCM XXXVIII - IP 27 and the full report available at:** [**http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/**](http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)**)?**  *If yes, specify the Important Bird Area(s) here.* | The Pointe-Géologie sector has been identified as an important area for bird conservation (IBA 150) under criteria A1 (presence of a globally threatened species) and A4iii (the site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, at least 10 000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species) (Harris et al. 2015). |

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***Summary***

In accordance with Article 6.3 of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, France carried out a five-year review of the management plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 120, Pointe-Géologie Archipelago, in Adélie Land. The revisions were carried out in accordance with Annex V and the *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* appended to Resolution 2 (2011). The changes made mainly concern the updating of scientific data. France recommends that the CEP approve the revised management plan for this area, which is appended to this document.

***Introduction***

Four islands, a nunatak and the emperor penguin breeding site were classified in 1995 (Measure 3 - ATCM XIX, Seoul) as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area on the basis that they constituted a biologically, geologically and aesthetically representative example of terrestrial Antarctic ecosystems. Therefore, this area also has exceptional intrinsic scientific value. The management plan was revised in 2005 (Measure 2 - RCTA XXVIII, Stockholm), in 2011 (Measure 2 - RCTA XXXIV, Buenos Aires), and in 2016 (Measure 2 (2016) - RCTA XXXIX - CEP XIX, Santiago). This revision clarifies certain aspects, specifies access conditions and updates the data on animal populations present in the area.

The following section briefly describes the changes other than simple editorial changes (spelling corrections, rephrasing) resulting from the proposed review of the management plan.

***Summary of proposed amendments***

**Introduction**

Addition of a reference to the status of the ASPA as an Important Bird Area.

**1. Description of values to be protected**

Updating of information regarding scientific monitoring undertaken in the ASPA.

**2. Aims and objectives**

Clarifications and reorganization of the objectives of the ASPA for better readability. No substantial changes have been made.

**3. Management activities**

The following additions have been made:

* Reflections on establishing a biodiversity monitoring database for the ASPA.
* Clarification that access to the ASPA is subject to authorization throughout the year.
* Mention of objectives in terms of awareness of biosafety issues.
* Details on the need for activities undertaken on the margins of the ASPA (Dumont d'Urville scientific station) to take into account the species present in the Area as far as possible.

**5. Maps**

Map 2 has been updated (scientific data updated, formatting clarified).

**6. Description of the Area and identification of the sectors**

The following additions have been made:

* Clarification of the system of access to the emperor penguin colony.
* Description of the climatic and meteorological context.
* Mention of species that do not breed in the Area but that may visit it.
* Substantial development of the paragraph "Threats and pressures".

Tables 1 to 3 have been updated based on the most recent scientific data.

The system of “Special zones within the ASPA” has been revised and clarified for Antarctic giant petrels and emperor penguins.

**7. Terms and conditions for entry permits**

The following clarifications have been made:

* Regime for the use of drones.
* Regime for the installation, modification or removal of structures.

Rules relating to biosecurity (restrictions on materials or organisms that may be brought into the Area) have been developed in order to prevent such introductions.

The methods for notifying visit reports have been specified in order to facilitate monitoring and management of biodiversity in the Area.

**8. Reference documents**

The bibliography has been updated

***Conclusion and proposal***

No substantive changes of the text on the Management Plan for ASPA 120 - Pointe Géologie have been proposed. The changes made will nevertheless make the management plan easier to read, thus facilitating its implementation in the field. The measures related to the sharing of scientific information and data will ultimately facilitate management of the site.

France recommends that CEP XXIII approves the attached revised management plan for ASPA 120 Pointe Géologie and submits it to ATCM XLIII for adoption.