Review of the Management Plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands, Danco Coast, Antarctic Peninsula

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**Working Paper submitted by Argentina**

***Summary***

Argentina has carried out a review of the Management Plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands, Danco Coast, Antarctic Peninsula, and has determined that only minor amendments are required. Argentina recommends that the CEP approve the attached revised Management Plan.

***Background***

ASPA 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands off the Danco Coast on the west coast of the north of the Antarctic Peninsula. The Area was originally designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) No 15 (ATCM Recommendation XIII-8, ATCM XIII, Brussels, 1985), after a proposal by Argentina, due to its great plant diversity and the fact that it has breeding colonies of at least ten species of birds.

Argentina has carried out a review of the Management Plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands, Danco Coast, Antarctic Peninsula, in accordance with Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and the *Revised* *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* attached to Resolution 2 (2011).

During this new review process, which responds to the provisions of Article 6.3 of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, the values present in the Area were updated in detail based on the latest scientific findings and the validity of the measures necessary to protect it were revised in consultation with the main researchers who carry out tasks in this Area and in light of an analysis of the corresponding Visit Reports.

### *Summary of changes*

A revised Management Plan for ASPA 134 is provided in Annex A. There are no major changes in the Management Plan. The minor amendments are summarized as follows:

* Information has been updated within the *Introduction, Description of the values to be protected, and Description of the Area.*
* The *Aims and objectives* have been reworded without changes in meaning to bring them into line with the writing standards used in the latest management plans presented.
* Some management guidelines have been incorporated in accordance with standards adopted in the Antarctic Treaty in recent years.
* The following text has been added pursuant to section ii) of Article *7, Access to, and movement within or over the Area:* "*The use of RPAs (unmanned aircraft or drones) will not be allowed within the limits of the ASPA, unless previously analysed case by case during the environmental impact assessment process. They may only be used when stated in the entry permit and under the conditions established therein. During the analysis and authorisation process, all Antarctic Treaty directives in force will be taken into account."*
* The maps from the previous version have been updated and redesigned using new cartographical techniques the legends have been adapted and a map showing the location of the bird colonies has been added.
* The supporting bibliographical information has also been updated.
* A series of editorial changes have been made throughout the process, largely in the interests of consistency with the provisions of other ASPA Management Plans and with the "*Revised* *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas".*

Recommendation

Argentina recommends that the CEP approve the attached revised Management Plan for ASPA 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands, Danco Coast, Antarctic Peninsula (Annex A).

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| ASPA 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands, Danco Coast, Antarctic Peninsula | |
| 1. Is a new ASPA proposed? | No. |
| 2. Is a new ASMA proposed? | No. |
| 3. Does the proposal refer to an existing ASPA or ASMA? | Yes. ASPA 134 |
| First designation: | ATCM Recommendation XIII-8, ATCM XIII, Brussels, 1985 |
| First adoption of the management plan: | Measure 3 (1997) ATCM XXI, Christchurch |
| Management plan reviews: | Measure 1 (2006) ATCM XXIX -  CEP IX, Edinburgh |
| Current management plan: | Measure 5 (2013) ATCM XXXVI - CEP XVI, Brussels. |
| Any extension of the expiration dates of the management plan: | No. |
| Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as: | ASPA 134, Cierva Point and Offshore Islands, Costa Danco, Antarctic Peninsula. |
| 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 coordinates? | No. |
| (iii) Any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics? | Yes. Map 1: The cartographic image of two of the three maps and all subtitles and references have been updated. A map 4 was also added. |
| Are there any changes to the description of the Area that are relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries? | No. |
| (v) Any changes that affect any other ASPA, ASMA or HSM within or adjacent to it? In particular, please explain any merger with, incorporation 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 where these are to be found. | * The *introduction* has been updated. * The goals and objectives have been rewritten in accordance with the current standards of the latest management plans. * The *description of the values to be protected* has been updated. * Management guidelines have been incorporated in accordance with standards adopted in the Antarctic treaty. * The *Description of the area* has been updated. * The supporting *bibliographical* information has also been updated. * The following text has been added pursuant to section ii) of Article *7, Access to, and movement within or over the Area: “The use of RPAs (unmanned aircraft or drones) will not be allowed within the limits of the ASPA, unless previously analysed case by case during the environmental impact assessment process. They may only be used when stated in the entry permit and under the conditions established therein. During the analysis and authorisation process, all Antarctic Treaty directives in force will be taken into account."*. * A series of editorial changes have been made throughout the process, largely in the interests of consistency with the provisions of other ASPA Management Plans and with the "Revised *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas".* |
| 5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain a marine area? | N/A |
| 6. If so, does the proposal require the prior approval of the CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)? | N/A |
| 7. If so, has the prior approval of the CCAMLR been obtained? If yes, please indicate 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 of paragraph 2 under Article 3 of Annex V)? | Article 3.2.  (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems and marine ecosystems;  (e) areas of particular interest to ongoing or planned scientific research;  (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 B - "Antarctic Peninsula mid-northern latitudes 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/No (If yes, the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region should be noted here). | Region "North-west Antarctic Peninsula" |
| 11. If relevant, have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas (Resolution 5 (2015)) represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Summary: Important Bird Areas in Antarctica 2015’ appended to ATCM XXXVIII - IP 27 and the full report available at: http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)? Yes/No (If yes, the Important Bird Area(s) should be noted here). | Yes, IBA ANT081. |