Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic

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| ASPA No. YYY in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica | |
| **1. Is a new ASPA proposed?** | Yes |
| **2. Is a new ASMA proposed?** | No |
| **3. Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA?**  (If so, list all Recommendations, Measures, Resolutions and Decisions pertaining to this ASPA/ASMA, including any previous designations of this area as an SPA, SSSI or other type of protected area. In particular, please include the date and relevant Recommendation/Measure for the following: | No |
| First designation: | N/A |
| First adoption of management plan: | N/A |
| Any revisions to management plan: | N/A |
| Current management plan: | N/A |
| 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:** | N/A |
| (i) major or minor? | N/A |
| (ii) any changes to the boundaries or co-ordinates? | N/A |
| (iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics? | N/A |
| (iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries? | N/A |
| (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. | N/A |
| (vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located (especially helpful if the plan is long). | N/A |
| **5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain any marine area?** | No |
| **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 |
| If yes, please provide the 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 under Article 3.2 of Annex V)?** | (a) areas kept inviolate from human interference so that future comparisons may be possible with localities that have been affected by human activities;  (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;  (g) areas of outstanding aesthetic and wilderness value. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment T – Inland continental geologic |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 6 (2012))?** | Yes. ACBR6 – Dronning Maud Land. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | No, but further study of the petrel colonies is ongoing. |

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The Sør Rondane Mountains are located approximately 200 km inland (71°–72° S/20°–30° E), in the Eastern part of Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica, and form a typical coastal margin mountainous area, composed of a series of nunataks. The proposed multi-site ASPA in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains (71°50’-72°S; 22°50’-23°50’E) includes seven ice-free areas: Tanngarden Nunatak and Ridge, Petrellnuten Nunatak, range of seven Pingvinane Nunataks, two Nunataks of the Perlebandet range, a small part of the Teltet Nunatak and the Yuboku Valley. The proposed management plan includes the designation of two Pingvinane Nunataks as prohibited zones in order to allow future research to compare these inviolate reference sites with similar localities that have been affected by human activities. The ice sheets and glaciers separating the seven ice-free areas are not included in the proposed ASPA.

The objective of the proposed ASPA is to protect scientific, environmental, aesthetic and wilderness values. The primary reason for designating several sites of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains as an ASPA is to protect the unique terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem features of the area that are also the subject of scientific research on the biodiversity, evolution and function of the biological communities, including their (micro)organisms, and the impact of climate change on these values. The selected sites are representative of the natural terrestrial biological communities typical for inland Antarctic mountainous regions. Therefore, the proposed ASPA would increase the representation of mountainous habitats in the Antarctic protected areas system.

The proposed management plan builds on the prior assessment which Belgium presented at CEP XX (WP42 *Prior assessment of a proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) in the Sør Rondane Mountains*). Belgium responded to questions raised by several Members of the Committee with regard to the prior assessment in CEP XXI IP 42 *Update on the proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) in the Western Sør Rondane Mountains*. The proposed management plan takes the questions and comments raised by the Members of the Committee into account.

**Proposal**

The proposed Management Plan and maps are attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection.