Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands

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**Working Paper submitted by Argentina and Chile**

***Summary***

Argentina and Chile have carried out a review of the Management Plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No .133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands, and they have determined that only minor amendments are required. Argentina and Chile recommend that the CEP approve the attached revised Management Plan.

***Background***

ASPA No. 133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands was originally designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 14 under ATCM Recommendation XIII-8 (1985), following a proposal by Argentina, because the Area constitutes an excellent example of the bird communities and terrestrial ecosystems of the maritime Antarctic in the South Shetland Islands region, and allows for long-term research without harm or interference.

Argentina has carried out a review of the Management Plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands, 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 in 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 No. 133 is provided in Annex A. There are no major changes in the Management Plan. The minor amendments are summarised 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, "Movement of land vehicles in the Area is forbidden."*
* 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 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, changing the maps used and their legends, and maps with more precise information about the ASPA have been added.
* The supporting documentation section 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 and Chile recommend that the CEP approve the attached revised Management Plan for ASPA 133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands (Attachment A).

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| ASPA 133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands | |
| 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 No. 133 |
| 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 2 (2005) ATCM XXVIII -  CEP VIII, Stockholm |
| Current management plan: | Measure 7 (2012) ATCM XXXV - CEP XV, Hobart. |
| Any extension of the expiration dates of the management plan: | No. |
| Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as: | ASPA No. 133, Harmony Point, Nelson Island, South Shetland Islands. |
| 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. Four maps have been added. A new Map 1 with the location of the ASPA in the South Shetland Islands, Map 2 with the location on Nelson Island, Map 3 is the previous Map 1, Map 4 with the Gurruchaga Shelter area and Map 5 with the Finger Point area. |
| (iv) 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 aims and objectives have been rewritten in accordance with the current standards for 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 bibliography that makes up the support *documentation* has been updated. * The following text has been added pursuant to section iii) of article *7, Access to, and movement within or over the Area: “The use of RPAs 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 E - “Main ice fields of the Antarctic Peninsula and Alexander Island” |
| 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 ANT049. |