Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 122 Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross Island

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| **ASPA No.122 Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross Island** | |
| **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:* | Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) SSSI No. 2 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) SSSI No. 2 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2004), Measure 3 (2011), Measure 3 (2016), Measure 8 (2022) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 8 (2022) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | Recommendation X-6 (1979), Recommendation XII-5 (1983), Recommendation XIII-7 (1985), Recommendation XIV-4 (1987), Resolution 3 (1996), Measure 2 (2000) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 122, Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross Island |
| *Other relevant measures:* | SCAR Recommendation XXIII-6 (1994), Resolution 1 (1998) |
| **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. Map 1 incorrectly labelled an area of the McMurdo Ice Shelf as the Ross Ice Shelf and this has been corrected. |
| *(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 6(v) Special Zones within the Area. Paragraph (4) listed under *Geomagnetic Observatory Restricted Zone: boundary extent and conditions for access and installations* has been replaced by wording to facilitate safe access to the Geomagnetic Observatory during the winter months. |
| **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 |
| *If yes, please list 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)?** | The primary reason for designation is the scientific value of the Area as an electromagnetically ‘quiet’ site for study of the upper atmosphere. Under Article 3.2 of Annex V the main reason for special protection is:  (e) areas of particular interest to on-going or planned scientific research.  While the Area is not intended to be kept inviolate, compared to the surrounding area it has remained relatively undisturbed and thus has value for ecological comparisons. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment S – McMurdo – South Victoria Land Geologic. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. ACBR9 – South Victoria Land. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | No. |

ASPA No. 122 Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross Island

1. The Management Plan for ASPA No. 122 Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross Island was last reviewed in 2022. Changes were made in particular because of construction of a new Geomagnetic Observatory within the Area, which required special access provisions. As a result, a new Restricted Zone applying to the Geomagnetic Observatory was adopted.
2. In light of practical experience over the winter following adoption of the new plan, scientists raised concerns about the new access provisions for the Restricted Zone, and in particular implications for safe access and operations at the Geomagnetic Observatory in the dark and cold winter months.
3. Scientists working within the Area recommended that provisions for access to the Geomagnetic Observatory be changed so vehicles could approach closer to the facility in winter months.
4. New Zealand and the United States consulted together and with scientists working within the Area to agree a revised provision for winter access to the Restricted Zone.
5. The proposed change to the existing Management Plan is:
   1. **Section 6(v) Special zones within the Area.** Under *Geomagnetic Observatory Restricted Zone: boundary extent and conditions for access and installations* Paragraph (4):
      1. **Existing wording - to be deleted –** 4) Vehicles and machinery are prohibited within the inner part of the Restricted Zone, except as required for essential scientific or maintenance purposes specified by a permit. Access into the inner part of the Restricted Zone shall generally be on foot.
      2. **Revised wording - to replace existing wording** – 4) Vehicles and machinery are generally prohibited within the inner part of the Restricted Zone, except as required for essential scientific or maintenance purposes specified by a permit. Access into the inner part of the Restricted Zone shall thus generally be on foot. However, in winter (01 Mar – 31 Oct) vehicles may approach the Observatory along the designated foot access route (Map 2) to within 50 m of the huts to facilitate safe access. Winter visitors should observe all restrictions on use of headlights and radios as specified in other sections of the Management Plan.

Recommendation

The revised Management Plan is attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.