Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 123 Barwick and Balham Valleys, Southern Victoria Land

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| ASPA No. 123 Barwick and Balham Valleys, Southern Victoria Land | |
| **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. 3 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) SSSI No. 3 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 1 (2002), Measure 6 (2008), Measure 3 (2013), Measure 1 (2019) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 1 (2019) |
| *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 7 (1995), Measure 2 (2000) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 123 Barwick and Balham Valleys, Southern Victoria Land |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Resolution 2 (2011). Measure 18 (2015). The ASPA lies within ASMA No. 2 McMurdo Dry Valleys. |
| **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. The map has been replaced by a new version prepared in color to improve the clarity of site features and ASPA boundary. |
| *(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.* | A new objective to “preserve the almost pristine ecosystem as a biological reference area” has been added to Section 2.  Section 6 Description of the Area notes soil samples were collected in 2019 for a new soil map of the McMurdo Dry Valleys in preparation.  A new provision on helicopter access has been added to Section 7(ii), specifying that “Helicopter landings should avoid frozen lakes and stream beds. By preference, and where safe and practical, landings should be made on snow surfaces to minimize dust and soil disturbance.”  The latest ATCM Resolution on Non-native species is referenced in Section 7(vi).  Section 7(viii) has been revised to be more specific about sampling procedures.  Minor editorial changes have been implemented in the plan, and the reference list has been updated. |
| **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)?** | (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;  (f) examples of outstanding geological, glaciological or geomorphological features;  (g) areas of outstanding aesthetic and wilderness value. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | 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))?** | ACBR 9 South Victoria Land. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | No. |

ASPA No. 123 Barwick and Balham Valleys, Southern Victoria Land

1. The management plan for ASPA No. 123 Barwick and Balham Valleys was last reviewed in 2018/2019 and adopted through Measure 3 (2019); review thus falls due in 2024.
2. The review was initiated one year in advance to enable all ASPAs in the McMurdo Dry Valleys for which the United States is responsible to be reviewed synchronously going forward. This helps to simplify the review process where common issues arise in the region (e.g. updates to policies on non-native species). Moreover, this also helps to ensure the plans remain consistent with each other and with the management plan for ASMA No.2 McMurdo Dry Valleys more generally.
3. The United States consulted with scientists working within the Area and made minor updates to the management plan, taking into account agreements reached by the Antarctic Treaty Parties since the last plan was adopted. Permits issued for visits to the Area since the previous revision of the management plan were reviewed, with few visits made, and no significant changes to management policies were required.
4. A new objective to “preserve the almost pristine ecosystem as a biological reference area” has been added to Section 2
5. As a result of comments received from scientists in the review additional guidance on helicopter access has been given in Section 7(ii), specifying: “Helicopter landings should avoid frozen lakes and stream beds. By preference, and where safe and practical, landings should be made on snow surfaces to minimize dust and soil disturbance.”
6. Section 7(viii) has been revised to provide more specific guidance on sampling procedures.
7. A range of minor editorial changes have been implemented and the reference list has been updated.
8. The map has been replaced by a new version prepared in color to improve the clarity of site features, policies and the ASPA boundary.
9. The exceptional values of the Area remain valid and the management plan continues to protect those values.

Recommendation

The revised management plan and map are attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.