Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP): summary of activities during the 2019/21 intersessional period

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**Information Paper submitted by the CEP Chair**

Summary

The 22nd meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP XXII) was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 1 to 5 July 2019. This paper presents a summary of intersessional activities arising from CEP XXII, as identified in CEP Circular: 1 / CEP XXIII. Where appropriate, the details of related papers submitted to CEP XXIII are provided. It should be noted that i) the global covid-19 pandemic has impacted work and progress on some tasks and ii) Members have been encouraged to show restraint in submitting papers and proposals on lower priority issues at CEP XXIII.

| **Priority\*** | | | **Action** | **Report Para #** | **CEP Member/Observer** | **Related papers to CEP XXII / comments** |
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| ***Agenda Item 5: Cooperation with other Organisations*** | | | | | | |
|  | | | Dr Antonio Quesada (Spain), Dr Polly Penhale (United States) to represent the CEP at COMNAP XXXI and SC-CAMLR XXXVIII respectively. | 29 | Spain and United Sates | The CEP was represented in meetings of other organisations as follows: COMNAP XXXI – Dr Quesada (Spain); SC-CAMLR XXXVIII – Dr Penhale (United States).  Note that COMNAP XXXII and CAMLR XXXIV were held virtually in 2020 without nominated CEP representation present. |
| ***Agenda Item 6. Repair and Remediation of Environmental Damage*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Repair or remediation of environmental damage | | | Continued work on development of new techniques or guidelines for repair and remediation in context of Clean-Up manual. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 2: Repair or remediation of environmental damage | | | Brazil to provide an update of the incident with a Brazilian container (cf. IP 118 [2019]) at CEP XXIII. | 35 | Brazil |  |
| ***Agenda Item 7: Climate Change Implications for the Environment: Implementation and Review of the CCRWP*** | | | | | | |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | | | The SGCCR to continue work in accordance with its Terms of Reference, as well as applying the updated format for the CCRWP to relevant climate issues within the Climate Change Response Work Program (CCRWP). | 52-53  5YWP | SGCCR | *WP014 Report of the Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (SGCCR) 2019-2021* (United Kingdom)– submitted under CEP 7b |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | | | Consider status of implementation of actions arising from 2016 joint CEP/SC-CAMLR workshop. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | | | SCAR to update ACCE report, with input as appropriate from WMO, ICED and SOOS | 5YWP | SCAR |  |
| ***Agenda Item 8a: Draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Consider any changes required to EIA database to improve its utility. | | | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Work on further guidance with regards to commenting processes related to CEEs. | | | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Initiate thinking around work required to ensure EIA Guidelines are consistent, fit-for-purpose and regularly reviewed to ensure that environmental assessments of coming modernisation projects reach high standards. | | | 59, 65 | All Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 8b: Other EIA Matters*** | | | | | | |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | | Work on developing a framework for conducting pre-assessments relating to new, novel or particularly concerning activities, focusing on the environmental aspects. | | 14, 17  5YWP | Members and Observers | *IP096* *Framework for assessing ‘New, Novel or Particularly Concerning Activities’* (United Kingdom) – submitted to CEP 8b |
| ***Agenda Item 9a: Area Protection and Management Plans: Management Plans*** | | | | | | |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | | SGMP to continue its intersessional review of the management plans for ASPA 125, ASPA 145, ASPA 146, and ASPA 150. | | 78, 161 | SGMP, Chile, interested Members and Observers | *WP062 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2019-2021* (Argentina) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | | SGMP to review the draft management plan for the three new proposed ASPAs: Rosenthal Islands, Léonie Islands & south-east Adelaide Island and Inexpressible Island and Seaview Bay. | | 110, 161 | SGMP, interested Members and Observers | *WP062 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2019-2021* (Argentina)– submitted to CEP 9a |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | | SGMP to conduct work under its terms of reference 4 & 5, including further considerations of options for supporting proponents to conclude revisions of management plans that remain for several intersessional periods under the scope of SGMP. | | 161 | SGMP | *WP062 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2019-2021* (Argentina)– submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | | Norway to lead further work on guidance / criteria for delisting of ASPAs. | | 164  5YWP | Norway, interested Members | *WP005 Suggested guidelines for the de-designation of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA)* (Norway, Australia, China, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States) – submitted to CEP 9e |
| ***Agenda Item 9b: Area Protection and Management Plans: Historic Sites and Monuments*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Designation and management of Historic Sites and Monuments | United Kingdom to lead informal discussions relating to guidance material in relation to conservation management plans as tools to protect Antarctic heritage. | | | 125  5YWP | United Kingdom, interested Members |  |
| 2: Designation and management of Historic Sites and Monuments | Members to provide information relevant to HSMs they have information about, interest in or responsibility for, to facilitate the drafting of a list of HSMs (current and the newly approved listings) in the adopted new format for HSMs. | | | 127  5YWP | All Members | *WP060 Rev1 Reformatting of the list of Historic Sites and Monuments in line with Decision 1 (2019)* (Argentina, Norway, United Kingdom) – submitted to CEP 9b |
| ***Agenda Item 9c: Area Protection and Management Plans: Site Guidelines*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | All Parties to engage in the development of additional site-specific visitor guidelines and in the regular review of existing ones, with further consideration given to elaborating seasonal considerations in site guidelines. | | | 14 | All Members | *WP007 Revised Visitor Site Guidelines for Site No. 28 Seabee Hook, Cape Hallett, Northern Victoria Land, Ross Sea* (United States)  *WP044 Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guides for important historic sites in the Ross Sea region* (New Zealand and United States)  *WP056 Proposed Visitor Site Guidelines for Argentine Islands, Wilhelm Archipelago* (Ukraine)  - all submitted to CEP 9c |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Participate in ICG to address the existing guidance for visitors to the continent, with a view to strengthen that guidance and ensure that activities from visitors, including from tourism and non-governmental activities, singularly and cumulatively, have less than a minor or transitory impact (lead by Germany) | | | 15-16  5YWP | Germany, interested Members and Observers | *WP011 Report from the Intersessional Contact Group (ICG) on strengthening the existing guidance for visitors to Antarctica – Proposal to adopt updated General Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic* (Germany) – submitted to CEP 9c |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | IAATO to review the list of current camping locations, as reported in IP 98 (2013) and update the committee as appropriate. | | | 171 | IAATO |  |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Work toward developing guidelines for short overnight stays to ensure consistent application of best practices and minimise impacts to the Antarctic environment. | | | 5YWP | All Members | *IP104 Guidance on Short Overnight Stays: Consistency and Coordination through Knowledge Sharing* (United States, Canada) submitted to CEP 9e |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Spain to work with IAATO to prepare site guidelines for Elephant Point | | | 146 | Spain, IAATO |  |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | SCAR to work on developing criteria, with reference to IAATO’s camp site selection criteria, that can be used in considering new camping areas. | | | 171 | SCAR, relevant experts |  |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | Continued work on methodology to assess the relative sensitivity of sites to visits by tourists, including trial of methodology (cf. IP 100 [2019]). | | | 230  5YWP | Australia, interested Members and IAATO |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9d: Area Protection and Management Plans: Marine Spatial Protection and Management*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Marine spatial protection and management | New Zealand to lead informal intersessional work on ATCM Resolution 5 (2017) and CEP Five-Year Work Plan action “to consider connectivity between land and ocean, and complementary measures that could be undertaken by Parties with respect to MPAs” | | | 153 | New Zealand, interested Members | *WP021 Report on informal discussions on marine protection measures* (New Zealand) – submitted to CEP 9d |
| ***Agenda Item 9f: Other Annex V Matters*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | United Kingdom to lead discussion with interested Members and Observers, on Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Important Bird Areas. | | | 5YWP | United Kingdom, interested Members and Observers | *WP043* and *IP023,* both entitled *Important Bird Areas and Antarctic Specially Protected Areas: Toward the development of selection criteria* (Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, United States) and IP – submitted to CEP 9e |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | Undertake work to advance actions agreed by the Committee from discussions on the protected areas workshop. | | | 183  5YWP | All Members, Observers |  |
| ***Agenda Item 10a: Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna: Quarantine and Non-Native Species*** | | | | | | |
| 1: Introduction of non-native species | Initiate work to develop a non-native species response strategy, including appropriate responses to diseases of wildlife. | | | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 1: Introduction of non-native species | COMNAP to prepare a report on the implementation of quarantine and biosecurity measures by its members as input to assessing the effectiveness of the NNS Manual. | | | 5YWP | COMNAP |  |
| 1: Introduction of non-native species | SCAR to prepare information on existing mechanism to assist with the identification of non-native species. | | | 5YWP | SCAR |  |
| ***Agenda Item 10c: Other Annex II matters*** | | | | | | |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Informal intersessional discussions relating to assessing the protection of Antarctic seals. | | | 227  5YWP | Interested Members |  |
| ***Item 11: Environmental Monitoring and Reporting*** | | | | | | |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | SCAR to design an environmental monitoring programme to assess the impacts of tourism, which includes a scoping assessment. | | | 14  5YWP | SCAR (COMNAP, IAATO, ASOC) and interested Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 13: General Matters*** | | | | | | |
|  | Interested Members to contribute to and interact with France and Italy on providing input on environmental aspects in the further planning process of the Ice Memory project. | | | 247 | France, Italy and interested Members | * Note that *IP106* *The Ice Memory Programme* (France, Italy) – submitted to CEP 13 * has relevance to the issue |
|  | Interested Members to contribute to the further consideration by China on developing a Code of Conduct for the exploration and research in Dome A area. | | | 254 | China, interested Members |  |
| 3. Protection of outstanding geological values | SCAR to present Code of Conduct on Geosciences Field Research Activities in Antarctica.  . | | | 67-68  5YWP | SCAR with contribution from interested Members | *WP033 SCAR Environmental Code of Conduct for Geosciences Field Research Activities in Antarctica* (SCAR) – submitted to CEP 8b |
| 3. Outreach and education | Bulgaria to consider any outcomes from the ICG on Education and Outreach of direct relevance to the work of the CEP. | | | 5YWP | Bulgaria |  |