**Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP): summary of activities during the 2022/23 intersessional period**

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Information Paper submitted by the CEP Chair

Summary

The 24th meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP XXIV) was held in a hybrid format in Berlin, Germany, from 23 to 27 May 2022. This paper presents a summary of deliveries to CEP XXV against the intersessional activities arising from CEP XXIV, as identified in CEP Circular: 1 / CEP XXV. Where appropriate, the details of related papers submitted to CEP XXV are provided.

| **Priority\*** | **Action** | **Report Para #** | **CEP Member/Observer** | **Related papers to CEP XXV / comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Agenda Item 3: Strategic Discussions on the Future Work of the CEP*** | | | | |
| 2: Operation of the CEP and Strategic Planning | Intersessional discussions and informal workshop on revisiting CEP strategic priorities and the CEP Five-year Work Plan. | 9, 12  5YWP | All Members, facilitated by CEP Bureau in collaboration with Finland | Two rounds of intersessional discussions have been held in the CEP Forum so far, and the CEP Bureau, in cooperation with the Host Country, has invited to and planned for an informal workshop in advance of the CEP in Helsinki. |
| ***Agenda Item 4: Operation of the CEP*** | | | | |
| 2: Operation of the CEP and Strategic Planning | Further consider SGCCR and SGMP webpage content and report back to CEP XXV. | 18 | SGMP, SGCCR |  |
| ***Agenda Item 5: Cooperation with other Organisations*** | | | | |
|  | Dr Yan Ropert-Coudert (France), Dr Polly Penhale (United States) and Ms Birgit Njåstad (Norway) to represent the CEP at SCAR 2022, SC-CAMLR 41 and COMNAP 34 respectively. | 27 | France, United States and Norway | The CEP was represented in meetings of other organisations as follows:  COMNAP 34 (virtual) – Ms Birgit Njåstad (Norway); SCAR XXXVII – Dr Yan Ropert-Coudert (France); SC-CAMLR 41 – Dr Penhale (United States).  *IP001 Report by the CEP Observer to the XXXVII SCAR Delegates’ Meeting* (France) – submitted to CEP 5. |
| ***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 |  |
| ***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. | 49, 50  5YWP | SGCCR | *WP048 Report of the CEP Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (SGCCR) 2022-2023* (Germany) – submitted under CEP 7b |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | Informal discussion group to facilitate the development of a Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop to take place at the latest in 2024, including development of Terms of Reference | 55, 57  5YWP | All Members | *WP012 Preparation of the next Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop* (France) – submitted under CEP 7b |
| 1: Climate change implications for the environment | Engage in the work to progress the development of a climate change risk assessment tool for Antarctic heritage. | 59 | All Members, SCAR | IP102 *Assessing the risk of climate change impacts on Antarctic heritage values: an update on progress* (Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, SCAR) submitted under CEP 9b |
| ***Agenda Item 8a: Draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations*** | | | | |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Work on further guidance with regard to commenting processes related to CEEs. | 5YWP | All Members | *WP021 Update to the Procedure for CEP consideration of draft CEEs* (Norway, Germany, India) – submitted under CEP 4 |
| ***Agenda Item 8b: Other EIA Matters*** | | | | |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Review and progress recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Antarctic EIA system: Better defining the preliminary stage assessment in Antarctic settings. | 72, 73  5YWP | All Members | *WP040 Improving the Effectiveness of Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment* (United Kingdom)– submitted under CEP 8b |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Review and progress recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Antarctic EIA system: Requirement for mitigation measures for Preliminary Assessment and IEE level assessments. | 72, 73  5YWP | All Members | *WP040 Improving the Effectiveness of Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment* (United Kingdom)– submitted under CEP 8b |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Review and progress recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Antarctic EIA system: Development of more comprehensive guidance on cumulative impact assessments, taking into account the best practice approaches elsewhere. | 72, 73, 218  5YWP | All Members | *WP040 Improving the Effectiveness of Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment* (United Kingdom)– submitted under CEP 8b |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Review and progress recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Antarctic EIA system: Further discussions on how to take forward other actions for improving effectiveness of the Antarctic EIA system. | 72, 73  5YWP | All Members | *WP040 Improving the Effectiveness of Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment* (United Kingdom)– submitted under CEP 8b |
| 2: Implementing and improving the EIAprovisionsof Annex I | Consider any changes required to EIA database to improve its utility. | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 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. | 5YWP | UK, interested Members and Observers |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9a: Area Protection and Management Plans: Management Plans*** | | | | |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | The CEP Observer to SC-CAMLR to draw the issue discussed with respect to the trigger criteria in Decision 9 (2005) to the attention of SC-CAMLR. | 92 | United States | The United States presented Decision 9 (2005) to SC-CAMLR, which describes the criteria of ASPA management plans that contain marine areas which require a prior approval of CCAMLR. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | SGMP to continue its intersessional review of the management plans for ASPA 125, ASPA 146, and ASPA 150. | 93 | SGMP, Chile, interested Members and Observers | *WP047 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2022-2023* (India) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | SGMP to review the draft management plan for ASPA 152/153 and new proposed area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica. | 102, 109 | SGMP, interested Members and Observers | *WP047 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2022-2023* (India) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | Work with the proponents towards a management plan for a proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area at Otto-von-Gruber-Gebirge (Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica). | 113 | Interested Members, Germany and the United States | *IP060 Elaboration of an ASPA Draft Management Plan for Otto-von-Gruber-Gebirge, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica* (Germany, United States) – submitted to CEP 9a |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | Work with the proponents towards a management plan for a proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area at a Danger Islands Archipelago (North-eastern Antarctic Peninsula). | 115 | Interested Members, Germany and the United States | *WP011 Report on the informal ICG to develop an ASPA Draft Management Plan for Danger Islands Archipelago (North-eastern Antarctic Peninsula)* (Germany, United States) – submitted to CEP 9a. |
| 1: Processing new and revised protected / managed area management plans | Work with the proponents towards a management plan for a proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area on Farrier Col, Horseshoe Island, Marguerite Bay. | 118 | Interested Members, United Kingdom, Belgium and Turkey | *WP060 Draft Antarctic Specially Protected Area Management Plan for Farrier Col, Horseshoe Island, Marguerite Bay* (Belgium, Türkiye, United Kingdom) – 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 pre-meeting review of all submitted Management Plans with minor changes and consider the implementation of CCRWP action 2(e). | 168 | SGMP | *WP047 Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2022-2023* (India) – submitted to CEP 9a.  A pre-meeting review process has been initiated on the CEP Forum following the deadline for submission of Working Papers. |
| ***Agenda Item 9b: Area Protection and Management Plans: Historic Sites and Monuments*** | | | | |
| 2: Designation and management of Historic Sites and Monuments | Prepare for further discussions on HSMs with unknown locations | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 2: Designation and management of Historic Sites and Monuments | Consider how environmental impact assessments can form a part of Historic Site and Monument assessment | 5YWP | Interested Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9c: Area Protection and Management Plans: Site Guidelines*** | | | | |
| 2: Site specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Consider developing guidelines for short overnight stays to ensure consistent application of best practices and minimise impacts to the Antarctic environment | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| 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). | 5YWP | Australia, interested Members and IAATO |  |
| 2: Site-specific guidelines for tourist-visited sites | Consider a new layout template for Visitor Site Guidelines | 5YWP | Germany, interested Members, the Secretariat, IAATO |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9d: Area Protection and Management Plans: Marine Spatial Protection and Management*** | | | | |
| 2: Marine spatial protection and management | Prepared for continued consideration of advice relating to Resolution 5 (2017) | 5YWP | All Members |  |
| ***Agenda Item 9f: Other Annex V Matters*** | | | | |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | Undertake work to advance actions agreed by the Committee from discussions on the protected areas workshop. | 5YWP | All Members, Observers |  |
| 2: Overview of the protected areas system | SCAR to provide advice on selection criteria that might be applied to identified IBAs or other bird areas when considering ASPA designation | 5YWP | SCAR |  |
| ***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 | Relevant to the issue is WP003 *Surveillance and coordination for the prevention and detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Antarctica* (United States) – submitted to CEP 10a, as well as related information papers. |
| 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 10b: Specially Protected Species*** | | | | |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Continue informal discussions on the recommendations in CEP XXIV WP 34 | 5YWP | Interested Members | *WP009 The United States Recognizes the Emperor Penguin as Threatened Species and Provides Additional Protection for Emperor Penguins* (United States) and *WP052 A five-year assessment of the impacts on emperor penguins of low sea-ice extent* (United Kingdom, France, Germany, United States) – both submitted to CEP 10b. |
| ***Agenda Item 10c: Other Annex II matters*** | | | | |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Further discussions considering the need for a structural and substantive revision of the RPAS Guidelines. | 202 | Germany, interested Members |  |
| 2: Biodiversity knowledge | Informal intersessional discussions relating to assessing the protection of Antarctic seals. | 5YWP | Interested Members |  |
| ***Item 11: Environmental Monitoring and Reporting*** | | | | |
| 2: Monitoring and state of the environment reporting | Suggested approaches to delivering of a more systematic sampling and data collection of chemical contamination in the Antarctic. | 212, 216 | SCAR | Relevant to the issue isIP061 *Current initiatives for a structured sample and data collection of environmental contamination in the Antarctic* (Germany, Australia, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States) submitted to CEP 11. |
| 1: Tourism and NGO activities | SCAR to design an environmental monitoring programme to assess the impacts of tourism, which includes a scoping assessment. | 218  5YWP | SCAR (COMNAP, IAATO, ASOC) and interested Members | Relevant to the issue is WP017 *Environmental monitoring: an international framework* (Netherlands, France, Belgium) and WP041 *Environmental Monitoring the impacts of human activity in Antarctica* (United Kingdom) submitted to CEP 11 |
| ***Item 13: General matters*** | | | | |
|  | Initiate a process to consider how the list of CEP science needs for Antarctic management in the CEP Five-Year Work Plan can be further developed to clarify research needs in a way that can be more easily understood and actioned by researchers and funding agencies. | 212, 216 | Interested Members,  SCAR |  |
|  | Share further information the Ice Memory programme and to collaborate with Members on identified issues. | 253 | Interested Members, France, Italy | Relevant to the issue is IP074 *The Ice Memory Programme* (France, Italy) submitted to CEP 13 |
|  | Share relevant information on waste management plans and contingency plans through the EIES tool. | 255 | All Members |  |