Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No.103 Ardery Island and Odbert Island, Budd Coast, Wilkes Land, East Antarctica

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**Working Paper submitted by Australia**

Summary

In accordance with Article 6.3 of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Australia has undertaken a five-yearly review of the management plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) 103 Ardery Island and Odbert Island. The review was conducted with reference to Annex V and the *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* (the Guide) appended to Resolution 2 (2011). The following sections briefly describe the Area, and describe the proposed minor amendments to the management plan. Australia recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised management plan.

Background

Ardery Island and Odbert Island (66°22’20”S; 110°29’10”E, Map A) were originally designated as Specially Protected Area No. 3, through Recommendation IV-III (1966), after a proposal by Australia. A management plan for the Area was adopted under Recommendation XVII-2 (1992). In accordance with Decision 1 (2002), the site was redesignated and renumbered as Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 103. Revised management plans for the ASPA were adopted under Measure 2 (2005), Measure 3 (2010) and Measure 3 (2015). The Area is primarily designated to protect the unusual assemblage of breeding colonies of several species of petrel. The Antarctic petrel (*Thalassoica antarctic*a) and the southern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialoides*) are of particular scientific interest.

***Review of management plan***

The review of the management plan involved a literature review, and consultation with personnel permitted to enter the Area during the past five years and ornithologists who are familiar with the Area. The revisions to the management plan seek to afford enhanced protection of the values that the Area was designated to protect.

Summary of amendments to the management plan for ASPA 103

A revised management plan for ASPA 103 is presented at Attachment A. No major changes are proposed, and there are no changes to the Area boundary. Proposed minor amendments are summarised as follows:

* Section 6(i) revised to update climate data to reflect the period 1989 to 2021.
* Section 6(i) revised to add details of related Important Bird Areas.
* Section 6(i) revised to present an updated population estimate for Adélie penguins on Odbert Island.
* Section 6(i) revised to remove references to non-breeding bird species that are not relevant to ASPA 103.
* Section 7(ii) revised to include conditions regarding the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), stating that overflights of bird colonies are prohibited except where essential for compelling scientific or management purposes, noting that such overflights shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica.*
* Section 8 revised to update supporting documentation including addition of recent publications.
* Map B revised to include the location of one new automated camera.
* Editorial amendments have been made throughout the document.

***Recommendation***

Australia recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised management plan for ASPA 103 Ardery Island and Odbert Island.

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| ASPA No. 103, Ardery Island and Odbert Island, Budd Coast, Wilkes Land, East Antarctica. | |
| **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:* | Rec. IV-III (1966) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Rec. XVII-2 (1992) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2005)  Measure 3 (2010)  Measure 3 (2015) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 3 (2015) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA 103 |
| *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 co-ordinates?* | No. |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes. (Minor changes to graphics in Map C to show the location of one new automated cameras). |
| *(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(i) revised to update climate data to reflect the period 1989 to 2021. * Section 6(i) revised to add details of related Important Bird Areas. * Section 6(i) revised population estimate for Adélie penguins on Odbert Island. * Section 6(i) revised to remove reference to non-breeding bird species that are not relevant to ASPA 103. * Section 7(ii) revised to include conditions regarding the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), stating that overflights of bird colonies are prohibited except where essential for compelling scientific or management purposes, noting that such overflights shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica.* * Section 8 revised to update supporting documentation including addition of recent publications. * Map B revised to include the location of one new automated cameras. * Editorial amendments have been made throughout the document. |
| **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 |
| **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)?** | Article 3.2(c) – areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals. |
| **9. 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. Environment L Continental coastal-zone ice sheet. |
| **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. ACBR 7 East Antarctica. |
| **11. If relevant, have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas (Resolution 5 (2015)) represented by the ASPA/ASMA (refer to the ‘Important Bird Areas in Antarctica 2015 Summary’ appended to ATCMXXXVIII IP27 and the full report available at: http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)?** | Yes. ANT 145 Ardery Island / Odbert Island. |