Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) 131: Canada Glacier, Lake Fryxell, Taylor Valley, Victoria Land

Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 131: Canada Glacier, Lake Fryxell, Taylor Valley, Victoria Land

**Working Paper submitted by New Zealand**

Summary

In accordance with the Article 6.3 of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, New Zealand has conducted a review of the Management Plan for ASPA 131: Canada Glacier, Lake Fryxell, Taylor Valley, Victoria Land.

The review was conducted through a field campaign to capture vegetation data and a desktop exercise, with reference to Annex V of the Protocol and the *Revised* *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* appended to Resolution 2 (2011).

The management plan was circulated for comment to scientists and environmental managers of National Antarctic Programmes working within the Ross Sea region, who conduct research activities in the Area.

The revisions are minor and outlined in the table below.

Recommendations

New Zealand recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised Management Plan for ASPA 131: Canada Glacier, Lake Fryxell, Taylor Valley, Victoria Land.

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| ASPA 131: Canada Glacier, Lake Fryxell, Taylor Valley, 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?** | ASPA |
| *First designation:* | Site of Special Scientific Interest 12 by Recommendation XIII-8 (1985) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation XIII-8 (1985) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 3 (1997), Measure 1 (2006), Measure 6 (2011) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 6 (2016) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | No |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA 131: Canada Glacier, Lake Fryxell, Taylor Valley, Victoria Land |
| *Other relevant measures:* | No |
| **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 two previous maps are replaced with three new maps, numbered 1 to 3 (previously A and B). There are no changes to the map specifications. The main changes for each map are:  Map 1: Data sources are updated, including the lake shoreline, showing water level rise.  Map 2: New map showing the Helicopter access zone, using the same base map as Map 3.  Map 3: Updated vegetation density data, showing finer resolution than the previous map. Updated data for the locations and numbers of mummified seals. The campsite is removed and the location labelled “former hut/camp site”. Updated lake shoreline data is used. Removal of the “overflight” line. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | No  The description of the area has minor information and editorial updates that do not relate to identifying the location or boundary of the Area. |
| *(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 (especially helpful if the plan is long).* | Minor editorial and formatting updates throughout.  The main change to the management plan is the removal of the camp site and the subsequent prohibition of camping within the Area, in favour of the Facilities Zones found at Lake Fryxell and Lake Hoare. The helicopter landing site is retained but landings must be specifically authorised by Permit and for essential scientific or management reasons only. This change is proposed to strengthen the protection of the ecological and scientific values of the Area.  Section 1: Editorial updates to better define the values of the Area.  Section 2: Deletion of one management aim and rewording on two management aims. The changes retain the original meaning but simplify the text.  Section 6(i): Addition of information on a green alga species and minor updates to the description of the area. Removal of information about the camp site and updated information for the helicopter landing site.  Section 7: Updates on access provisions to vegetated areas and stream margins, for increased protection of the Area values and for consistency with Map B.  Section 7(i): Updates to the access and camping information in line with the removal of the camp site and change to helicopter overflight and landing conditions inside the Area. Deletion of ‘and/or the Taylor Valley Visitor Zone” from the landing site options.  Section 7(ii): Update to the scientific activities that may be conducted in the Area with the addition of “cannot be elsewhere”. Addition of Resolution 4 (2018) for the operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.  Section 7(iv): Addition of “Camping within the Area is prohibited”. Removal of “Camping at the designated campsite (Map B) may be permitted to meet specific essential scientific or management needs”.  Sections 7(v) and 7(ix): Deletion of information related to camping within the Area.  Section 8: Addition of one reference: Levy, J.L., Cary, S.C., Joy, K. and Lee, C.K. 2020 Detection and community-level identification of microbial mats in the McMurdo Dry Valleys using drone-based hyperspectral reflectance imaging. Antarctic Science 32(5): 361-381.  Replacement of the maps. |
| **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 of the Area is that it contains important ecological and scientific research values, notably rich assemblages of biological communities. |
| **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 |
| *If Yes, the main Environmental Domain should be noted here.* | S - McMurdo - South Victoria Land geologic |
| **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 |
| *If yes, the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region should be noted here.* | 9 - South Victoria Land |
| **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 ATCM XXXVIII - IP 27 and the full report available at:** [**http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/**](http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)**)?** | N/A |
| *If yes, the Important Bird Area(s) should be noted here.)* | N/A |