Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 101 Taylor Rookery, Mac.Robertson Land

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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) 101 Taylor Rookery. 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

Taylor Rookery is an emperor penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) colony located on the east side of Taylor Glacier, Mac.Robertson Land (67°27’S; 60°51’E, Map A). The site was originally designated as Specially Protected Area No. 1, through Recommendation IV-I (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. 101. Revised ASPA management plans were adopted under Measure 2 (2005), Measure 1 (2010) and Measure 1 (2015). Taylor Rookery is designated as an ASPA to protect the largest known colony of emperor penguins located entirely on land.

***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 101

A revised management plan for ASPA 101 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 1 revised to include updated population trends for emperor penguin colony at Taylor Glaciers.
* Section 6(i) revised to add details of related Important Bird Areas and Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions and to reference more recent observations of emperor penguin behaviour.
* Section 6(i) revised to update the list of plants recorded in the area (Table 1), and Figure 1 to include data up to 2019.
* Section 6(ii) revised to account for a change in accessibility in recent years, due to changing sea ice conditions.
* 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 correct the location of both automated cameras.
* Editorial amendments have been made throughout the document.

***Recommendation***

Australia recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised management plan for ASPA 101 Taylor Rookery, Mac.Robertson Land.

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| ASPA No. 101, Taylor Rookery, Mac.Robertson 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:* | Rec. IV-I (1966) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Rec. XVII-2 (1992) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2005)  Measure 1 (2010)  Measure 1 (2015) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 1 (2015) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA 101 |
| *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 B to show the correct location of 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 1 revised to include updated population trends for emperor penguin colony at Taylor Glaciers. * Section 6(i) revised to add details of related Important Bird Areas and Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions and to reference more recent observations of emperor penguin behaviour. * Section 6(i) revised to update the list of plants recorded in the area (Table 1), and Figure 1 to include data up to 2019. * Section 6(ii) updated to account for a change in accessibility in recent years, due to changing sea ice conditions. * 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 updated to correct the location of both 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 D East Antarctic coastal 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. ACBR 16 Prince Charles Mountains. |
| **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 119 Taylor Rookery. |