Review of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) No. 113 Litchfield Island, Arthur Harbor, Palmer Archipelago, No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond, Dufek Massif, and No. 139 Biscoe Point, Palmer Archipelago

Review of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) No. 113 Litchfield Island, Arthur Harbor, Palmer Archipelago, No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond, Dufek Massif, and No. 139 Biscoe Point, Palmer Archipelago

1. The Management Plans for ASPAs No. 113 Litchfield Island and No. 139 Biscoe Point were last reviewed in 2014, and review of these sites under Annex V thus fell due in 2019. The Management Plan for ASPA No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond was last reviewed in 2015 and review of this site under Annex V fell due in 2020.
2. Accordingly, the United States reviewed permits issued for visits to these Areas since the previous reviews undertaken, and has also reviewed the Management Plans.
3. No visits to ASPA No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond have been made since the last management plan update, and no changes to the description of the Area or policies in the management plans were required. Minor updates to the plan were made to maintain consistency with other management plans recently adopted and the latest agreements by Antarctic Treaty Parties.
4. Visits continue to be made to ASPAs No. 113 Litchfield Island and No. 139 Biscoe Point as part of on-going research programs being conducted out of Palmer Station (US). Minor updates to the management plans were made taking into account recent information on the status of the features within the Areas, and to maintain consistency with other management plans recently adopted and the latest agreements by Antarctic Treaty Parties. For example, the policy on waste disposal at ASPA No.113 Litchfield Island was amended to require all wastes, including all human wastes, to be removed from the Area, maintaining consistency with other ASPAs in the region (Section 7(ix)).
5. Scientific names for South polar skua (*Stercorarius* *maccormicki*) and Brown skua (*Stercorarius lonnbergi*) recently changed to *Catharacta* *maccormicki* and *Catharacta* *antarctica* respectively (see BirdLife International Data Zone: [http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search Accessed Jan 2021](http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search%20Accessed%20Jan%202021)). The Chinstrap penguin has been renamed from *Pygoscelis antarctica* to *Pygoscelis antarcticus* (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/chinstrap-penguin-pygoscelis-antarcticus>). The management plans have been amended as appropriate.
6. At ASPA No.139 Biscoe Point the policy on restricted materials (Section 7(vi)) was clarified to prohibit raw poultry, reducing the risk of inadvertent import of viruses or other avian diseases.
7. The exceptional values of these Areas remain valid, and the management plans continue to protect these values at the sites.
8. The standard checklist for consideration and review of ASPAs has been completed for each site, and these are presented in the following pages.
9. As such, the United States recommends that special protection of ASPAs No. 113 Litchfield Island, No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond, and No. 139 Biscoe Point continues, and that the Management Plans for these sites continue to remain in force with the minor updates and changes included in the plans as attached.

Recommendation

The revised Management Plans are attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

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| ASPA No. 113 Litchfield Island, Arthur Harbor, Anvers Island, Palmer Archipelago | |
| **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:* | Specially Protected Area (SPA) through Recommendation VIII-1 (1975, SPA No. 17) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Measure 2 (2004) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 4 (2009), Measure 1 (2014) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 1 (2014) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 113 Litchfield Island, Arthur Harbor, Anvers Island, Palmer Archipelago |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Designation of Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA) No. 7 Southwest Anvers Island and Palmer Basin through Measure 1 (2008); Measure 2 (2009); Measure 14 (2010); Measure 11 (2019). |
| **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?* | IBA No.86 added to Map 2. |
| *(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.* | N/A. |
| **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)?** | (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems and marine ecosystems;  (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals;  (e) areas of particular interest to ongoing or planned scientific research. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment E – Antarctic Peninsula. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. Region 3 – Northwest Antarctic Peninsula. |
| **11) Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | Litchfield Island is identified as IBA No.86. |

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| ASPA No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond, Dufek Massif | |
| **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:* | Specially Protected Area (SPA) through Recommendation XVI-9 (1991, SPA No. 23) |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation XVI-9 (1991) |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2005), Measure 6 (2010), Measure 7 (2015) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 7 (2015) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | N/A |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 119 Davis Valley and Forlidas Pond, Dufek Massif |
| *Other relevant measures:* |  |
| **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?* | No. |
| *(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.* | N/A |
| **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)?** | (a) areas kept inviolate from human interference so that future comparisons may be possible with localities that have been affected by human activities;  (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems;  (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species;  (f) examples of outstanding geological, glaciological or geomorphological features;  (g) areas of outstanding aesthetic and wilderness value. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment R – Transantarctic Mountains. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. ACBR10 – Transantarctic Mountains. |
| **11) Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | No. |

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| ASPA No. 139 Biscoe Point, Anvers Island, Palmer Archipelago | |
| **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:* | Recommendation XIII-8 (1985) SSSI No. 20 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation XIII-8 (1985) SSSI No. 20 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 2 (2004), Measure 7 (2010), Measure 6 (2014) |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 6 (2014) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | Resolution 3 (1996), Measure 2 (2000) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 139 Biscoe Point, Anvers Island, Palmer Archipelago |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Decision 4 (1998), Resolution 3 (1996) Designation of Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA) No. 7 Southwest Anvers Island and Palmer Basin through Measure 1 (2008); Measure 2 (2009); Measure 14 (2010); Measure 11 (2019). |
| **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. |
| *(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.* | See below for summary of changes. |
| **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)?** | (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems and marine ecosystems;  (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals;  (e) areas of particular interest to ongoing or planned scientific research. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Yes. Environment E – Antarctic Peninsula. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | Yes. Region 3 – Northwest Antarctic Peninsula. |
| **11) Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | Biscoe Point has not, under the criteria used, been identified as an IBA. |