Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 147 Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island

**Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island**

**Working Paper submitted by the United Kingdom**

***Summary***

The United Kingdom has conducted a review of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA) No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island, and has determined that only minor amendments are required. The United Kingdom recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised Management Plan.

***Background***

The United Kingdom has conducted a review of the Management Plan for ASPA No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island, in accordance with Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and the ‘*Revised Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas*’ appended to Resolution 2 (2011)*.*

ASPA No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island (70°48’S, 68°30’W, approximately 180 km2) was designated originally in 1989 as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) No. 29 Ablation Point – Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island, through Recommendation XV-6, after a proposal by the United Kingdom.

The primary reason for the designation of Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights as ASPA No. 147 is to protect scientific values, relating particularly to the geology, geomorphology and ecology of this extensive ablation area. The Area contains exposed rocks spanning the Jurassic – Cretaceous boundary, an exceptional and unique contiguous geomorphological record of glacier and ice-shelf fluctuations extending over several thousand years, two perennially frozen freshwater lakes, which have the unusual property of contact with the saline waters of George VI Sound, and exceptional communities of terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna.

A revised Management Plan for ASPA No. 147 is provided at Attachment A. There are no major changes to the Management Plan. Minor amendments are summarised as follows:

* The *Supporting Documentation* has been updated.
* The following text has been added under section *7(ii) Access to and movement within or over the Area*: ‘Operation of RPAS within or over the Area shall be in accordance with the ‘Environmental guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica’ (Resolution 4 (2018)) (available at: <https://documents.ats.aq/recatt/att645_e.pdf>)’.
* A range of editorial amendments have been made throughout, including for consistency with the provisions of other ASPA Management Plans and with the ‘*Revised Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas’*.

Recommendation

The United Kingdom recommends that the CEP approves the attached revised Management Plan for ASPA No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island (Attachment A).

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| ASPA No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island | |
| 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. ASPA No. 147 |
| First designation: | Rec. XV-6 (1989) |
| First adoption of management plan: | SSSI: Rec. XV-6 (1989)  ASPA: Measure 1 (2002) |
| Any revisions to management plan: | Measure 10 (2013)  Measure 4 (2018) |
| Current management plan: | Measure 4 (2018) |
| Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan: | No |
| Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as: | ASPA No. 147, Ablation Valley and Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island. |
| 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. Map 2 has been amended with new labels showing the location of ASPA No. 177 and the newly constructed Turkish Scientific Research Camp. |
| (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. | * The *Supporting Documentation* has been updated. * The following text has been added under section *7(ii) Access to and movement within or over the Area*: ‘Operation of RPAS within or over the Area shall be in accordance with the ‘Environmental guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica’ (Resolution 4 (2018)) (available at: <https://documents.ats.aq/recatt/att645_e.pdf>). * A range of editorial amendments have been made throughout, including for consistency with the provisions of other ASPA Management Plans and with the ‘*Revised Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas’*. |
| 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? 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)? | Article 3.2  (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems and marine ecosystems  (f) examples of outstanding geological, glaciological or geomorphological features |
| 9. If relevant, 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/No (If yes, the main Environmental Domain should be noted here). | Domain C and Domain E |
| 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/No (If yes, the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region should be noted here). | ACBR 4 Central South Antarctic Peninsula |
| 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/No (If yes, the Important Bird Area(s) should be noted here). | No |