Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 170 Marion Nunataks, Charcot Island, Antarctic Peninsula

**Revision of the Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) No. 170, Marion Nunataks, Charcot Island, Antarctic Peninsula**

**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. 170 Marion Nunataks, Charcot Island, Antarctic Peninsula, 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. 170, Marion Nunataks, Charcot Island, Antarctic Peninsula, 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. 170, Marion Nunataks (69o45’S, 75o15’W) is located in the northwest corner of Charcot Island, to the west of Alexander Island, Antarctic Peninsula. The Area was designated as ASPA No. 170 under Measure 4 (2008), following a proposal by the United Kingdom, primarily to protect environmental values, and, in particular, the terrestrial flora and fauna within the Area. The terrestrial fauna is unique for the maritime Antarctic in that it appears to contain neither predatory arthropods nor Collembola (springtails), which are otherwise ubiquitous and important members of the terrestrial fauna of the zone.

A revised Management Plan for ASPA No. 170 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 text has been updated to record the discovery of a new species of tardigrade, *Hebesuncus mollispinus*, identified from samples taken from the Area.
* The following text has been added under section *7(ii) Access to and movement within or over the Area*: ‘Overflight of bird colonies within the Area by Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) shall not be permitted unless for compelling scientific or operational purposes, and in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority. Furthermore, 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. 170, Marion Nunataks, Charcot Island, Antarctic Peninsula (Attachment A).

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| ASPA No. 170, Marion Nunataks, Charcot Island, Antarctic Peninsula | |
| 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. 170 |
| First designation: | Measure 4 (2008) |
| First adoption of management plan: | Measure 4 (2008) |
| Any revisions to management plan: | Measure 16 (2013)  Measure 5 (2018) |
| Current management plan: | Measure 5 (2018) |
| Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan: | No |
| Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as: | N/A |
| 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? | 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. | * The Supporting Documentation has been updated. * The text has been updated to record the discovery of a new species of tardigrade, *Hebesuncus mollispinus*, identified from samples taken from the Area. * The following text has been added under section *7(ii) Access to and movement within or over the Area*: ‘Overflight of bird colonies within the Area by Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) shall not be permitted unless for compelling scientific or operational purposes, and in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority. Furthermore, 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  (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals |
| 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 |