Revised Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 138 Linnaeus Terrace, Asgard Range, Victoria Land

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| ASPA No. 138 Linnaeus Terrace, Asgard Range, 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?** | Yes |
| *First designation:* | Recommendation XIII-8 (1985) SSSI No. 19 |
| *First adoption of management plan:* | Recommendation XIII-8 (1985) SSSI No. 19 |
| *Any revisions to management plan:* | Measure 1 (1996), Measure 10 (2008), Measure 8 (2013). |
| *Current management plan:* | Measure 8 (2013). |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan:* | Resolution 7 (1995), A 0 (2018) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 138 Linnaeus Terrace, Asgard Range, Victoria Land. |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Resolution 2 (2011). Measure 18 (2015). The ASPA lies within ASMA No. 2 McMurdo Dry Valleys. |
| **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 The maps have been replaced by new versions prepared in color to improve the clarity of site features and ASPA boundaries. |
| *(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.* | Dr Laura Selbmann (University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy) contributed new information that the first endolithic fungal endemic species *Cryomyces antarcticus* and *Friedmanniomyces endolithicus* were described at Linnaeus Terrace. This has been added to Section 1 Values and Section 6 Description of the Area. Dr Selbmann also noted recent research showing a strong genetic divergence and diversity of microbial species in the Area, which remain largely undescribed. References were added in support of these observations.  A new provision on use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems has been added (Section 7(ii) Access).  Updates are made to reference the latest ATCM Resolutions on Non-native species and the Environmental Code of Conduct in Section 7(vi).  The first bullet Section 7(viii) has been expanded to be more specific about procedures for sampling.  Minor editorial changes have been implemented in the plan, and the reference list has been updated. |
| **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)?** | Article 3.2 (c) an area with important or unusual assemblages of species; (d) a type locality for original detailed Antarctic cryptoendolithic descriptions and several endemic algal species; (e) an area of particular scientific interest; and (f) an area of outstanding geological, glaciological and geomorphological features. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | Environment S – McMurdo – South Victoria Land Geologic. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | ACBR 9 South Victoria Land. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | No. |

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1. The ATCM approved in 2018 continuance of the ASPA No.138 Linnaeus Terrace management plan which was adopted in 2013, and the five-year period until the next review was then reset to fall due in 2023.
2. Accordingly, the United States has updated the management plan in light of recent research and scientific observations at the site, and has taken into account agreements reached by the Antarctic Treaty Parties since the last plan was adopted.
3. The review has identified an important new value of the Area: the first endolithic fungal endemic species *Cryomyces antarcticus* and *Friedmanniomyces endolithicus* were described at Linnaeus Terrace. This reinforces the value of Linnaeus Terrace as a type locality.
4. New research since the previous review has also revealed a strong genetic divergence and diversity of microbial species in the Area. These remain largely undescribed, which emphasises the need to continue to protect the Area while so much remains unknown about the microbial ecosystem.
5. Permits issued for visits to the Area since the previous revision of the management plan were reviewed, with few visits made, and no significant changes to management policies were required.
6. The maps have been replaced by new versions prepared in color to improve the clarity of site features, policies and ASPA boundaries.
7. The amendments to the management plan are considered minor in nature.
8. The exceptional values of the Area remain valid, and the management plan continues to protect those values.

Recommendation

The revised management plan and maps are attached for consideration by the Committee for Environmental Protection for recommendation for adoption by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.