Subsidiary Group on Management Plans Report of activities during the intersessional period 2022-2023

Subsidiary Group on Management Plans

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Working Paper submitted by India on behalf of the SGMP

Summary

The Subsidiary Group on Management Plan (SGMP) reviewed two draft Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) Management Plans referred by the Committee for intersessional review, during the 2022-23 intersessional period, in accordance with its Terms of Reference 1 to 3. The SGMP recommends that the Committee adopts the attached revised management plans (1) merger of  Antarctic Specially Protected Areas No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay, and (2) a new Management Plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic

Also, under its Terms of Reference (ToR) 4 and 6, the the SGMP initiated a pre-meeting review of submitted reviewed and revised management plans, starting immediately after working paper deadline and reporting separately to CEP .

During CEP XXIV meeting, it is considered to include the task of SGCCR within the purview of SGMP mandate under ToR 4&6 which is reflected in paragraph 168, CEP XXIV Final report. SGMP, initiated discussion under Terms of Reference 6, review and revise where necessary existing management tools according to provisions of Climate Change Work Response (CCRWP) action 2(e).

Tasks agreed by CEP XXIV for the work of the SGMP during the intersessional period

For the intersessional period 2022-23 the SGMP had been commissioned to work under the Terms of Reference (ToR) agreed by CEP XIV (Appendix A) and in relation to the tasks incorporated in the Work Plan of the Group, which is presented below, as reflected in paragraph 168, CEP XXIV Final Report:

| Terms of Reference | Suggested tasks |
| --- | --- |
| ToRs 1 to 3 | Review draft management plans referred by CEP for intersessional review and provide advice to proponents (including the three pending plans from the previous intersessional period) |
| Submit Working Paper to CEP XXV on SGMP ToR 1 to 3 |
| ToRs 4 to 6 | Work with relevant Parties to ensure progress on the review of management plans overdue for five-year review |
| Pre-meeting review of all Management Plans with minor changes and submit a summary of recommendations to CEP during the discussion of revised Management Plans |
| Review and update the SGMP work plan (Additional task of SGMP considering SGCCR Report):  To implement CCRWP action 2(e) "Review and revise where necessary existing management tools for protection and subsequent management of environments and habitats at risk from climate change," consider if and how they effectively take climate change issues into consideration and submit progress report to CEP XXV |

The SGMP was convened by the CEP Vice-Chair from India. SGMP members (CEP Members and Observers) participated in the intersessional work, noting that the draft management plans for merger of ASPA 152 and 153 as well as new proposed ASPA, in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, was available for comment from any CEP member during the SGMP process. Discussions took place using the CEP Discussion Forum, may be accessed for further information.

Task under Terms of Reference 1 to 3

1. **Revision and merger of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay**

At CEP XXIV (2022), Unites States submitted WP 6 *Revision and merger of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay*. Concerning ASPA 152 and ASPA 153 (WP 6), the United States reported that the comprehensive review of these sites had identified that there would be considerable benefit to merging the two ASPAs into a single plan covering both areas. The United States noted that the merger would maintain the same level of protection as before while simplifying the Plan and eliminating needless duplication associated with the common purposes, aims, objectives, and management policies shared by ASPA 152 and ASPA 153. The United States considered that the revisions were major and thus, recommended intersessional review by the SGMP and that the Management Plan would be submitted to CCAMLR for approval in accordance with Decision 9 (2005). Noting the major changes, including the proposed merger of two sites, the Committee agreed with the proponents’ recommendation to refer the draft revised management plan to the SGMP for review in the intersessional period (CEP XXIV Final report, para. 102). The SGMP’s review of the management plan was coordinated by the SGMP member from Argentina (Martín Andrés Díaz).

In October 2022, the SGMP convener issued an invitation to all CEP contact points to submit comments on the draft management plan.

In November 2022 the SGMP provided its initial advice to the proponents, stating that the draft Management Plan provided by the United States is well written and, with some minor modification as suggested, is likely to be effective in achieving the stated aims and objectives. The SGMP’s full advice is available on the Discussion Forum. In particular, the group suggested that the proponents:

* should include a principal reason or direct statement of the purpose of the designation;
* provide clarity that the Management Plan explicitly states that commercial fishing is prohibited within the area, and it would be useful to consider and, if appropriate, add some specific measures for underwater;
* should modify their boundaries to simplify the management of both ASPAs and thus be more effective in meeting the objectives;
* to add information about the important features of the site and the scientific research and other activities taking place there as well as to include in the introduction in summary form the activities that take place in or near the area (e.g., research, boating, fishing, tourism),
* may consider necessity to include areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals;
* to include the impacts and threats of climate change on the values ​​to be protected were included in the ASPA; and
* to consider whether the details of maps should be presented in color, incase photocopies are used.

The SGMP advised that, with these and other minor modifications, the plan was likely to be effective in achieving the stated objectives for management of the Area.

In January 2023, United States provided an updated draft management plan as well as three maps and a separate document explaining its responses to the SGMP’s advice. The SGMP reviewed the updated draft, further provided comments in first week of February 2023.

In second week of March 2023, SGMP submitted checklist endorsing coordinator’s comments concurrent to the response received from the proponent, however no further comments received from the members.

The SGMP concluded that the updated draft management plan was well written, of high quality, and proponents have closely considered the SGMP's advice and have addressed the large majority of the SGMP's suggestions. Therefore, the revised draft management plan is improved and likely to be effective in achieving the management objectives for the Area. The resulting revised draft management plan and updated maps are presented in Attachment A to this Working Paper. Introductory comments and a coversheet prepared by United States are presented at Appendix B.

**Advice to the CEP**

The SGMP recommends that the CEP approves the “Revision and merger of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay” (Attachment A).

1. **Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic**

At CEP XXIV (2022), Belgium submitted WP 15 *Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic*. Belgium explained that the primary reason for designating several sites of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains as an ASPA was to protect the Area's unique terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems. It also noted that this Area was the subject of scientific research on the biodiversity and impact of climate change. Highlighting the sites as representative of the natural terrestrial biological communities typical for Antarctic mountainous regions, Belgium further noted that the ASPA would increase the representation of mountainous habitats in the Antarctic protected area system and enhance the representation of ASPAs in the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region (ACBR) 6. The site also contained important scientific, wilderness, and aesthetic values. Belgium added that the proposed management plan was built on the prior assessment presented in CEP XX - WP 42 and referred to CEP XXI - IP 42.

Belgium recommended that the Committee forward the proposal to the SGMP for review in the intersessional period. The Committee reaffirmed that it recognised that the outstanding values of the Sør Rondane Mountains site warranted protection. The Committee agreed to advise the ATCM that it had decided to forward the draft management plan for a new protected area to the SGMP for review (CEP XXIV Final report, para. 109). The SGMP’s review of the management plan was coordinated by the SGMP member from Norway (Astrid Høgestø).

In October 2022, the SGMP convener issued an invitation to all CEP contact points to submit comments on the draft management plan.

In December 2022 the SGMP provided its initial advice to the proponents, providing sufficient time to the proponent to consider in updating the Management Plan. In turn proponent submitted revised document including response to the advice of SGMP as well as commitment to improve the maps according to the SGMP advice.

The SGMP’s full advice is available on the Discussion Forum. In particular, the group suggested that the proponents:

* should improve the maps, and that the significance of the unique terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem could be expanded on to cover the flora and fauna at these sites;
* should explain the actual or potential risks of values from human activities and other pressures such as climate change;
* should include some further information on the different species that are present in the different nunataks;
* should add more description of why the aesthetic values are considered outstanding. Specific questions to consider were if there have been artistic photographs or paintings of the area, or other evidence of its aesthetic values;
* should set up a restricted zone near Princess Elisabeth Station, so that cumulative levels of air borne contamination in the vicinity of the station could be measured and compared with the more pristine sites protected in the proposed ASPA

The SGMP advised that, with these and other minor modifications, the plan was likely to be effective in achieving the stated objectives for management of the Area.

In second week of March 2023, SGMP submitted checklist endorsing coordinator’s comments stating that proponents have considered the SGMPs advice, and revised the draft management plan in accordance with the advice given. However proponents were not able to provide the updated maps and figures together with their revised plan, but committed to provide maps and figures, considering the commitment the revised draft management plan is likely to be effective in achieving the management objectives for the Area.

In first week of April 2023, Belgium provided an updated draft management plan and other suggested documents as advised by SGMP, explaining its responses to the SGMP’s advice.

The SGMP concluded that the updated draft management plan was well written, of high quality, and proponents have closely considered the SGMP's advice and have addressed the large majority of the SGMP's suggestions. Therefore, the revised draft management plan is improved and likely to be effective in achieving the management objectives for the Area. The resulting revised draft management plan and updated figures are presented in Attachment B to this Working Paper. Introductory comments and a coversheet prepared by Belgium are presented at Appendix C.

**Advice to the CEP**

The SGMP recommends that the CEP approves the “Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic” (Attachment B).

1. **Review of other draft Management Plans under ToRs 1 to 3**

At CEP XV (2012) the Committee considered draft revised management plans prepared by Chile for ASPA 144 'Chile Bay' (Discovery Bay), Greenwich Island, South Shetland Islands and ASPA 146 South Bay, Doumer Island, Palmer Archipelago, and decided to refer these management plans to the SGMP for intersessional review (CEP XV Final Report para. 92). At CEP XVII (2014) the Committee considered further draft revised management plans prepared by Chile for ASPA 125 Fildes Peninsula, King George (25 de Mayo) Island and ASPA 150 Ardley Island (Ardley Peninsula), Maxwell Bay, King George (25 de Mayo) Island, and decided to refer these management plans to the SGMP for intersessional review (CEP XXVII Final Report para. 153).

At CEP XXIV (2022), Chile submitted IP 128 Analysis of the current status of the Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 144, Chile Bay (Discovery Bay), Greenwich Island. Chile informed the Committee of a review taking place on the de-designation of ASPA No. 144. It noted that analysis was being carried out according to the CEP’s Guidelines for de-designation of ASPAs, and that its full analysis was presented in IP 128. Chile noted that it intended to submit a Working Paper with a final conclusion related to revision of the ASPA for Members’ consideration at CEP XXV.

The SGMP has reported during CEP XXIV that Chile intended to submit; draft management plans for ASPA 125 Fildes Peninsula, ASPA 146 South Bay and ASPA 150 Ardley Island before next CEP meeting to SGMP for review. The management plans are still under review by the proponent (Chile), so there is no progress to report at the time of the presentation of this paper.

Task under ToRs 4 and 6

1. **“Work with relevant Parties to ensure progress on review of management plans overdue for five-year review”**

Through the SGMP forum, Parties were invited to contact the SGMP if they so wished. No requests were received from Parties that may need advice to initiate the five-year review of Management Plans, but we should recall that the SGMP is available to advise, facilitate or guide the review tasks when necessary. A list of the Management Plan of ASPA and Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA) due for review during ATCM XLV is attached at Appendix D.

1. **Pre-meeting review of all Management Plans with minor changes and submit a summary of recommendations to CEP**

Based on experiences from the pre-meeting subforum review of revised management plans to CEP XXIII, consider options for efficient pre-meeting review of revised management plans submitted to the CEP for consideration and adoption.

The establishment of the pre-meeting discussions on management plans was a response to the shortened, virtual meeting in 2021. At CEP XXIV, members supported the idea of a pre-meeting review of revised management plans to guide and streamline the revision process, noting that early reviews could help save valuable time during the meeting. Some Members also emphasised that all CEP Members may become active members of the SGMP and that broad participation in 2021 proved effective (CEP XXIV report para 166). The Committee agreed to add a new SGMP Term of Reference to reflect the new regular task of pre-meeting review of Management Plans. To initiate this task, a separate sub-forum created, posting relevant documents in the forum by the moderator, Polly Penhale (USA).

Since the pre meeting review of the Management can only be started after the due date of submission of the WP to the XLV-ATCM, following timeline and action adopted to achieve the objective:

* March 1, 2023: (Optional) Proponents of management plans may contact the moderator to make plans for submission known, such as ASPA/ASMA number or name of proposed ASPA/ASMA
* April 14, 2023: Working Paper deadline
* April 16, 2023: Moderator begins to review management plans submitted as Working Papers to ATCM/CEP and may contact the proponent directly before the posting, to identify apparent issues
* April 30, 2023 (or earlier if possible): Initial Posting of the Opening message, accompanied by the individual management plans under review by the moderator, and members will be encouraged to post comments
* May 7, 2023: Moderator begins to assemble a spreadsheet of issues raised and outcomes of the discussion
* May 19, 2023: Closing date of comments by the members on the management plans
* May 22, 2023: Summary of Discussions shall be submitted to the SGMP Convener

1. **Review and update SGMP work plan**

To implement CCRWP action 2(e) "Review and revise where necessary existing management tools for protection and subsequent management of environments and habitats at risk from climate change," consider if and how they effectively take climate change issues into consideration.

The SGMP in the 2022/23 intersessional period had as a task under its ToR 6 to ‘Review and revise where necessary existing management tools for protection and subsequent management of environments and habitats at risk from climate change,’ and ‘consider if and how they effectively consider climate change issues. A discussion among the CEP/SGMP members/Observers initiated in a separate sub-forum under the SGMP workplan to effectively define the roadmap and implementation of the CCRWP task.

Members discussed this task through two rounds of discussions. A full record of this discussion is retained on the CEP Discussion Forum. As a conclusion, however, it was widely accepted the need to review and revise where necessary existing management tools for protection and subsequent management of environments and habitats at risk from climate change,’ and ‘consider if and how they effectively consider climate change issues.  The SGMP members discussed whether it would be best to either (a) update existing management tools documents, or (b) develop a new guidance document.  Currently it is considered that the best way forward will be to carefully chose the document which needs urgent attention and subsequently revised them one after one.

Discussions so far indicate that it may be appropriate to prioritize in the first-round review of the Guidelines for implementation of the Framework for Protected Areas set forth in Article 3, Annex V of the Environmental Protocol. Annex to Resolution 1 (2000) and the (Revised) Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas. The SGMP will initiate this work in the next intersessional period, and report back to CEP XXVI on progress.

Proposed Work Plan for the SGMP, for the intersessional period 2023-24

The SGMP proposes the following Work Plan, to which other actions that CEP XXV may consider appropriate may be added.

| Terms of Reference | Suggested tasks |
| --- | --- |
| ToRs 1 to 3 | Review draft management plans referred by CEP for intersessional review and provide advice to proponents (including the three pending plans from the previous intersessional period) |
| Submit Working Paper to CEP XXV on SGMP ToR 1 to 3 |
| ToRs 4 to 6 | Work with relevant Parties to ensure progress on the review of management plans overdue for five-year review |
| Pre-meeting review of all Management Plans with minor changes and submit a summary of recommendations to CEP during the discussion of revised Management Plans |
| Review and update the SGMP work plan (Additional task of SGMP considering SGCCR Report):  To continue work on CCRWP action 2(e) "Review and revise where necessary existing management tools for protection and subsequent management of environments and habitats at risk from climate change," consider if and how they effectively take climate change issues into consideration and submit progress report to CEP XXVI |

Other issues: Operational matters, SGMP Members

The current list of members of the SGMP is as follows:

* Anna Maria Fioretti (Itali) - anna.fioretti@igg.cnr.it
* Anoop Kumar Tiwari (India) – [anooptiwari.ncpor@nic.in](mailto:anooptiwari.ncpor@nic.in)
* Astrid Høgestøl (Norway) –[astrid.hogestol@npolar.no](mailto:astrid.hogestol@npolar.no)
* Ceisha Poirot (New Zealand) – [c.poirot@antarcticanz.govt.nz](mailto:c.poirot@antarcticanz.govt.nz)
* Ewan McIvor (Australia) - [Ewan.McIvor@aad.gov.au](mailto:Ewan.McIvor@aad.gov.au)
* Heike Herata (Germany) - [heike.herata@uba.de](mailto:heike.herata@uba.de)
* Katarzyna Tołkacz (Poland)- [k.tolkacz@ibb.waw.pl](mailto:k.tolkacz@ibb.waw.pl)
* Kevin Hughes (the United Kingdom) – [kehu@bas.ac.uk](mailto:kehu@bas.ac.uk)
* Martín Andrés Díaz (Argentina) - [ydz@mrecic.gov.ar](mailto:ydz@mrecic.gov.ar)
* Polly Penhale (the United States) – [ppenhale@nsf.gov](mailto:ppenhale@nsf.gov)
* Verónica Vallejos (Chile) – [vvallejos@inach.cl](mailto:vvallejos@inach.cl)

Observes:

* Amanda Lynnes (IAATO) - [alynnes@iaato.org](mailto:alynnes@iaato.org)
* Claire Christian (ASOC) - [claire.christian@asoc.org](mailto:claire.christian@asoc.org)

Parties are invited to propose more members to the Group. Nonetheless, we should recall that all CEP members are invited to participate in the discussions or intersessional tasks that are established.

Advice to the CEP

The SGMP provides the following advice to CEP:

* that the three management plans pending in the previous periods continue to be within the scope of the SGMP, in order to provide advice once the proposing country has made the revised versions available to the Group and that the CEP endorses the proposal to explore mechanisms and additional tools to facilitate the review of pending plans;
* that the CEP approves the management plan; ASPA 152 “Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay”;
* that the CEP approves the new management plan; “Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic”;
* that the CEP consider under ToR 5, pre-meeting review of revised Management Plans, such as the approach in advance of CEP, as a standing practice;
* that the CEP consider to under ToR 6 to continue the discussion under the action plan of SGCCR to develop guidance for addressing climate change in the process of identifying and managing protected areas;
* that the CEP consider the Work Plan and suggests appropriate modifications if needed, based on the deliberations during CEP XXV.

*Appendix A* Revised Terms of Reference for the Subsidiary Group on Management Plans. (CEP XIV, Final Report. Appendix 4)

The original four Terms of Reference for the SGMP were defined in Appendix 3 of the CEP XI (2008) report. Following a review of the effectiveness of the SGMP at CEP XIII (2010), a fifth Term of Reference was added. In 2022, an additional Term of Reference was introduced to reflect the new regular task of pre-meeting review of Management Plans. The current Terms of Reference are presented in Appendix 4 to the CEP XXIV report:

1. Examine any draft new or revised Management Plan recommended by the Committee for intersessional review to consider, in consultation with relevant experts if appropriate:

* whether it is consistent with the provisions of Annex V to the Protocol, particularly, Articles 3, 4 and 51, and with relevant CEP guidelines2;
* its content, clarity, consistency and likely effectiveness3;
* whether it clearly states the primary reason for designation4; and
* whether it clearly states how the proposed Area complements the Antarctic protected
* areas system as a whole5.

1. Advise proponents of suggested amendments to the draft Management Plan to address issues in relation to 1) above.
2. Submit a Working Paper to the CEP with recommendations for the adoption or otherwise of each new or revised draft Management Plan, identifying where the Plan reflects comments received by Members, and where they have not been, the reasons for not doing so. The Working Paper is to include all revised Management Plans and the information required by the ATCM's Legal and Institutional Working Group.
3. Operate a pre-meeting subforum on the review of all revised Management Plans with minor changes, irrespective of whether or not they have been submitted to the SGMP, and provide a summary of the recommendations arising from the pre-meeting review for consideration by the CEP during the discussion of revised management plans.
4. Provide advice to the CEP as necessary for the purpose of improving Management Plans and the process for their intersessional review.
5. Develop and suggest procedures that would assist in achieving a long-term goal aiming at ensuring that all ASPA and ASMA management plans contain adequate content, and are clear, consistent and likely to be effective6

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Modified from "Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Contact Group to Consider draft Management Plans" ToR #2 (CEP VII Report, Annex 4).

2 Currently including – for ASPAs – Resolution 2 (1998) Guide for the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, Resolution 1 (2000) Guidelines for Implementation of the Framework for Protected Areas set forth in Article 3, Annex V of the Environmental Protocol and Resolution 2 (2021) Revised Guide to the presentation of Working Papers containing proposals for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, Antarctic Specially Managed Areas or Historic Sites and Monuments

3 From "Guidelines for CEP Consideration of New and Revised Draft ASPA and ASMA Management Plans" paragraph 8 (CEP VI Report, Annex 4), and "Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Contact Group to Consider draft Management Plans" ToR #2 (CEP VII Report, Annex 4).

4 Agreement at CEP VIII (Report paragraph 187).

5 Agreement at CEP VIII (Report paragraph 187).

6 Term of Reference added at CEP XIII (Report paragraph162)

Appendix B: Introductory Comments by United States

Revision and merger of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay

1. The management plans for ASPA No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and ASPA No.153 Eastern Dallmann Bay were last reviewed in 2015, and review therefore fell due in 2020. Accordingly, the United States has undertaken a comprehensive review of these sites in close consultation with scientists working in the Area. The review verified that the values under special protection at these sites are still valid and that measures for protection of those values are sufficient.
2. The review identified that ASPA No.152 and ASPA No.153 share common purposes, aims, objectives and management policies, and scientific activities within these areas are also similar. As such, the United States proposed a merger of the two ASPAs into a single plan covering both sites. The United States considered the modifications proposed to the management plan were major, and therefore the plan was referred for consideration intersessionally by the SGMP.
3. In November 2022 the SGMP provided its advice to the United States recommending consideration of changes to the revised management plan. The United States thanks the SGMP for advice provided, and as a result made a range of modifications and updates to the management plan and maps.
4. In January 2023, the United States provided an updated draft management plan and maps and a separate document explaining its responses to the SGMP’s advice for consideration by the SGMP.
5. The United States welcomes the advice of the SGMP that the revised management plan, with the modifications made as a result of the SGMP advice, be recommended by the CEP for adoption by the ATCM.
6. As per Decision 9 (2005), the management plan was submitted to CCAMLR for consideration of whether the provisions in the plan might prevent or restrict CCAMLR related activities.
7. The Commission did not reach consensus to approve the revised management plan for merging ASPAs Nos 152 and 153; thus, the ATCM may not adopt the revised management plan at this time.
8. The United States plans to resubmit the current draft of the management plan for merging ASPAs Nos 152 and 153 to CCAMLR in 2023.

Cover page :

Revision and merger of the Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **ASPA No. XXX Western Bransfield Strait and Eastern Dallmann Bay** | |
| **1. Is a new ASPA proposed?** | Yes, based on a merger of ASPA No.152 Western Bransfield Strait and ASPA No.153 Eastern Dallmann Bay. |
| **2. Is a new ASMA proposed?** | No |
| **3. Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA?** | Yes |
| *First designation:* | Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) No. 35 and No.36 through Recommendation XVI-3 (1991) |
| *First adoption of management plans:* | Recommendation XVI-3 (1991) |
| *Any revisions to management plans:* | Measure 2 (2003), Measure 10 (2009), Measure 11 (2009), Measure 9 (2015), Measure 10 (2015) |
| *Current management plans:* | Measure 9 (2015), Measure 10 (2015) |
| *Any extensions of expiry dates of management plans:* | Measure 3 (2001) |
| *Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as:* | ASPA No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait, off Low Island, South Shetland Islands and ASPA No. 153 Eastern Dallmann Bay off Brabant Island, Palmer Archipelago |
| *Other relevant measures:* | Resolution 1 (1998), Decision 4 (1998), Decision 9 (2005) |
| **4. If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment:** | |
| *(i) major or minor?* | Major. Merger of two ASPAs into one. |
| *(ii) any changes to the boundaries or co-ordinates?* | Yes. Boundaries generally follow those of ASPAs 152 & 153 but have been updated to reflect improved data on the extent of the shallow marine shelves of scientific interest. |
| *(iii) any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics?* | Yes. New maps have been made for the Area. |
| *(iv) any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries?* | The merger of the two ASPAs has changed the boundaries of the Area. However, Site A and Site B occupy the same general locations as the boundaries of the existing ASPAs. |
| *(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.* | Yes. ASPA No.152 Western Bransfield Strait and ASPA No.153 Eastern Dallmann Bay will be merged into a single new ASPA with two spatially separate components: Site A and Site B which are in the same location as the existing ASPAs. |
| *(vi) Other - brief summary of other types of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located.* | The description of the Area merges the text in the existing management plans into a single narrative. The scientific description of the Area has been updated to reflect recent information and results. |
| **5. If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain any marine area?** | Yes, the merged ASPA contains the marine areas of ASPAs No.152 and No.153. |
| **6. If yes, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)?** | ASPAs No.152 and No.153 are already approved by CCAMLR in accordance with ATCM Decision 9 (2005) and are listed in the CCAMLR Schedule of Conservation Measures in Force 2022/23 (Annex 91-02/A). |
| **7. If yes, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained?** | Approval exists for the existing ASPAs. |
| *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)?** | The primary reason for designation is to protect the shallow shelves in the marine region in western Bransfield Strait and eastern Dallmann Bay which are used for scientific studies of the composition, structure and dynamics of marine communities. Under Article 3.2 of Annex V the main reason for special protection is:  (e) areas of particular interest to on-going or planned scientific research. |
| **9. Have you identified the main Environmental Domain represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2008))?** | N/A. The EDA classification is based on terrestrial criteria, and therefore has limited applicability in the marine environment. |
| **10. Have you identified the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 3 (2017))?** | N/A. The ACBR classification is based on terrestrial criteria, and therefore has limited applicability in the marine environment. |
| **11. Have you identified any Antarctic Important Bird Areas represented by the ASPA/ASMA (Resolution 5 (2015))?** | There are no IBAs within the Area, although IBAs 057, 058, 059 and 060 are located on Low Island near the boundary of Site A. There are no IBAs near Site B. |

Appendix C: Introductory Comments by Belgium

Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic

The Sør Rondane Mountains are located approximately 200 km inland (71°–72° S/20°–30° E), in the Eastern part of Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica, and form a typical coastal margin mountainous area, composed of a series of nunataks. The proposed multi-site ASPA in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains (71°50’-72°S; 22°50’-23°50’E) includes seven ice-free areas: Tanngarden Nunatak and Ridge, Petrellnuten Nunatak, range of seven Pingvinane Nunataks, two Nunataks of the Perlebandet range, a small part of the Teltet Nunatak, the Yuboku Valley. The proposed management plan includes the designation of two Pingvinane Nunataks as prohibited zones in order to allow future research to compare these inviolate reference sites with similar localities that have been affected by human activities.

The objective of the proposed ASPA is to protect scientific, environmental, aesthetic and wilderness values. The primary reason for designating several sites of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains as an ASPA is to protect the unique terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem features of the area that are also the subject of scientific research on the biodiversity, evolution and function of the biological communities, including their (micro)organisms, and the impact of climate change on these values. The selected sites are representative of the natural terrestrial biological communities typical for inland Antarctic mountainous regions. Therefore, the proposed ASPA would increase the representation of mountainous habitats in the Antarctic protected areas system.

Belgium presented a prior assessment for the proposed ASPA at CEP XX (WP42 *Prior assessment of a proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) in the Sør Rondane Mountains*). Belgium responded to questions raised by several Members of the Committee with regard to the prior assessment in CEP XXI IP 42 *Update on the proposed Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) in the Western Sør Rondane Mountains*. At CEP XXIV, Belgium presented a revised version of the proposed Management Plan in WP 15 *Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic*. During this meeting, the CEP reaffirmed that it had recognised that the outstanding values of the site warranted protection and had forwarded the draft management plan for the area to the SGMP for review.

In response to comments received from the SGMP, Belgium revised the proposed management plan. The most notable revisions were the following: changes to and improvement of the maps provided in line with the comments by the SGMP; the addition of information on the presence of birds in the general area and on the different sites; the addition of information on the potential impact of climate change; the addition of information on the aesthetic and wilderness values of the Area, including an Appendix with pictures; the inclusion of 500m buffer zones around each site to protect the microbial life against potential pollution from motorized vehicles; the addition of information on the lakes present in Yûboku-dani Valley (site F) as well as the enlargement of the surface area of this site in order to capture as best as possible the catchment area for these lakes; the addition of an aim to ‘minimise the possibility of the introduction of pathogens which may cause disease in fauna populations within the Area’; the addition of measures to protect from transfer of species from site to site within the Area; the addition of references to relevant SCAR and COMNAP guidelines and codes of conduct.

The revised management plan is presented to the CEP for approval.

**Cover page:**

**Proposal for a new Antarctic Specially Protected Area in parts of the Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***ASPA No. XXX Parts of Western Sør Rondane Mountains, Dronning Maud Land, East Antarctica*** | |
| 1. **Is a new ASPA proposed?** | Yes. |
| 1. **Is a new ASMA proposed?** | No. |
| 1. **Does the proposal relate to an existing ASPA or ASMA?** | No. |
| First designation: | N/A |
| First adoption of management plan: | N/A |
| Any revisions to management plan | N/A |
| Current management plan | N/A |
| Any extensions of expiry dates of management plan: | N/A |
| Renamed and renumbered by Decision 1 (2002) as: | N/A |
| Other relevant measures: | N/A |
| 1. **If the proposal contains a revision of an existing management plan, please indicate the types of amendment:** | |
| 1. major or minor? | N/A |
| 1. any changes to the boundaries or coordinates? | N/A |
| 1. any changes to the maps? If yes, are the changes in the captions only or also in the graphics? | N/A |
| 1. any change to the description of the area that is relevant to identifying its location or its boundaries? | N/A |
| 1. 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. | N/A |
| 1. Other – brief summary of other kinds of changes, indicating the paragraphs of the management plan in which these are located   (especially helpful if the plan is long). | N/A |
| 1. **If a new ASPA or ASMA is proposed, does it contain a marine area?** | No. |
| 1. **If yes, does the proposal require the prior approval of CCAMLR in accordance with Decision 9 (2005)?** | N/A |
| 1. **If yes, has the prior approval of CCAMLR been obtained?** | N/A |
| If yes, please provide the CCAMLR Final Report and Paragraph No. | N/A |
| 1. **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 and marine ecosystems;  (e) areas of particular interest to ongoing or planned scientific research;  (g) areas of outstanding aesthetic and wilderness value. |
| 1. **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 on Resolution 3 (2008).)**   **If yes, the main Environmental Domain should be noted here.** | Yes, Environment T – Inland continental geologic |
| 1. **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).)**   **If yes, the main Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region should be noted here.** | Yes, ACBR6 – Dronning Maud Land. |
| 1. **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 ATCM XXXVIII - IP 27 and the full report available at:** [**http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/**](http://www.era.gs/resources/iba/)**)**   **If yes, the Important Bird Area(s) should be noted here** | No. |

Appendix D : Status of Antarctic Specially Protected Area and Antarctic Specially Managed Area Management Plans

At the 8th meeting of the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) in 2005 the Committee agreed to establish on the websites of the CEP and the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty a register of the status of the protected area management plans.

The following tables indicate the status of the Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

The tables present the following information:

* The protected/managed areas are listed according to the official numbers given to the ASPAs/ASMAs;
* The names are those agreed in Decision 1 (2002) and further Measures adopted by the ATCM;
* The Recommendation (or Measure) through which the area was designated is shown in one column while other Recommendations, Measures, Decisions and Resolutions that relate to updating the management plan, extending the expiry date, etc, are listed as a separate column;
* The Recommendation (or Measure) through which the first management plan for the area was adopted is marked with an asterisk (\*);
* Recommendations through which management plan expiry dates have been extended are marked (E);
* “Annex V format adoption” refers to the year of adoption of the management plan according to the Protocol;
* “Next review” informs the deadline for five yearly review of the management plan, as required by Article 6.3 of Annex V;
* Additionally, information is provided on the Environmental Domain, Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Region and Important Bird Areas associated with any ASPA or ASMA

*Note: Those ASPAs or ASMAs whose management plans were revoked are shown in italics.*

| SPECIALLYPROTECTED AREAS | | | | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Name | Former Number | Proponent | Designation | Modification / Review | Annex V format adoption | Next reviewto begin by | Environment Domain | ACBR | IBA |
| ASPA 107 | [Emperor Island, Dion Islands, Marguerite Bay](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/12), [Antarctic Peninsula](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/12) | SPA 8 | United Kingdom | RE IV-8 | RE IV-8  RE XVI-6 (\*) M 1 (2002) | 2002 | Due for review: 2007 | B | 3 | 97 |
| ASPA 112 | [Coppermine Peninsula, Robert Island, South Shetland Islands](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/17) | SPA 16 | Chile | M 4 (2012) | RE VI-10  RE XVI-6 (\*) R 1 (1998)  M 4 (2012) | 2012 | 2016 | G | 1 |  |
| ASPA 116 | [New College Valley, Caughley Beach, Cape Bird, Ross Island](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/21) | SSSI 10 -  SPA 20 | New Zealand | RE XIII-12 | RE XIII-12 RE XVII-2 (\*) M 1 (2000)  M 1 (2006)  M 1 (2011)  M 1 (2016) | 2000 | 2021 | S | 9 | 186 |
| ASPA 125 | [Fildes Peninsula, King George Island (25 de Mayo)](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/30) | SPA 12 -  SSSI 5 | Chile | RE IV-12 | RE IV-12 RE V-5 RE VIII-2  RE VIII-4 (\*) RE X-6  RE XII-5 RE XIII-7 RE XVI-7 R 1 (1998)  M 3 (2001)  M 4 (2005)  M 6 (2009) | 2009 | 2014 | G |  |  |
| ASPA 128 | [Western shore of Admiralty Bay, King George Island, South Shetland Islands](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/33) | SSSI 8 | Poland | RE X-5 | RE X-5 (\*) RE XII-5 RE XIII-7 R 7 (1995)  R 1 (1998)  M 1 (2000)  M 2 (2006)  M 4 (2014)  M 2 (2019) | 2000 | 2024 | A, E, G | 3 | 46 |
| ASPA 132 | [Potter Peninsula, King George Island (Isla 25 de Mayo), South Shetland Islands](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/37) | SSSI 13 | Argentina | RE XIII-8 | RE XIII-8 (\*) R 3 (1996)  M 3 (1997)  M 2 (2005)  M 4 (2013)  M 3 (2018) | 1997 | 2023 | G | 3 | 47 |
| ASPA 135 | [North-east Bailey Peninsula, Budd Coast, Wilkes Land](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/40) | SSSI 16 | Australia | RE XIII-8 | RE XIII-8 (\*) R 7 (1995)  R 1 (1998)  M 2 (2000)  M 2 (2003)  M 8 (2008)  M 6 (2013)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2003 | 2024 | D | 7 |  |
| ASPA 136 | [Clark Peninsula, Budd Coast, Wilkes Land, East Antarctica](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/41) | SSSI 17 | Australia | RE XIII-8 | RE XIII-8 (\*) A XVI-0  R 7 (1995)  R 1 (1998)  M 1 (2000)  M 1 (2006)  M 7 (2009)  M 5 (2014)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2000 | 2024 | D | 7 | 147 |
| ASPA 138 | [Linnaeus Terrace, Asgard Range, Victoria Land](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/43) | SSSI 19 | United States | RE XIII-8 | RE XIII-8 (\*) R 7 (1995)  M 1 (1996)  M 10 (2008)  M 8 (2013)  A 0 (2018) (E) | 1996 | 2023 | S | 9 |  |
| ASPA 141 | [Yukidori Valley, Langhovde, Lützow-Holm Bay](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/46) | SSSI 22 | Japan | RE XIV-5 | RE XIV-5 (\*) RE XVI-7  R 1 (1998)  M 1 (2000)  Rec 0 (2008)  M 7 (2014)  M 3 (2019) | 2000 | 2024 | D | 5 |  |
| ASPA 142 | [Svarthamaren](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/2) | SSSI 23 | Norway | RE XIV-5 | RE XIV-5 (\*) R 3 (1996)  R 1 (1998)  M 1 (1999)  M 2 (2004)  M 8 (2009)  M 8 (2014)  M 4 (2019) | 1999 | 2024 | T, U | 6 | 112 |
| ASPA 143 | [Marine Plain, Mule Peninsula, Vestfold Hills, Princess Elizabeth Land](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/47) | SSSI 25 | Australia | RE XIV-5 | RE XIV-5 (\*) R 3 (1996)  R 1 (1998)  M 2 (2000)  M 2 (2003)  Rec 0 (2008)  M 9 (2013)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2003 | 2024 | D | 7 |  |
| ASPA 144 | [Chile Bay (Discovery Bay), Greenwich Island, South Shetland Islands](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/48) | SSSI 26 | Chile | RE XIV-5 | RE XIV-5 (\*) R 3 (1996)  D 4 (1998)  R 1 (1998)  M 2 (2000)  M 4 (2005) (E) | Pending | 2010 |  |  |  |
| ASPA 145 | [Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/49) | SSSI 27 | Chile | RE XIV-5 | RE XIII-8 RE XIV-5 (\*) R 3 (1996)  D 4 (1998)  R 1 (1998)  M 2 (2000)  M 3 (2005) | 2005 | 2010 |  |  |  |
| ASPA 146 | [South Bay, Doumer Island, Palmer Archipelago](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/50) | SSSI 28 | Chile | RE XIV-5 | RE XIV-5 (\*) R 3 (1996)  D 4 (1998)  R 1 (1998)  M 2 (2000)  M 4 (2005) (E) | Pending | 2010 |  | 3 |  |
| ASPA 150 | [Ardley Island, Maxwell Bay, King George Island (25 de Mayo)](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/54) | SSSI 33 | Chile | RE XVI-2 | RE XVI-2 (\*) R 1 (1998)  M 3 (2001)  M 4 (2005)  M 9 (2009) | 2009 | 2014 | G | 1 | 48 |
| ASPA 151 | [Lions Rump, King George Island, South Shetland Islands](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/55) | SSSI 34 | Poland | RE XVI-2 | RE XVI-2 (\*) D 4 (1998)  R 1 (1998)  M 1 (2000)  M 11 (2013)  M 5 (2019) | 2000 | 2024 | A | 1 |  |
| ASPA 152 | [Western Bransfield Strait](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/56) | SSSI 35 | United States | RE XVI-3 | RE XVI-3 (\*) D 4 (1998)  R 1 (1998)  M 3 (2001)  M 2 (2003)  M 10 (2009)  M 9 (2015) | 2003 | 2020 |  |  |  |
| ASPA 153 | [Eastern Dallmann Bay](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/57) | SSSI 36 | United States | RE XVI-3 | RE XVI-3 (\*) D 4 (1998)  R 1 (1998)  M 3 (2001)  M 2 (2003)  M 11 (2009)  M 10 (2015) | 2003 | 2020 |  |  |  |
| ASPA 154 | [Botany Bay, Cape Geology, Victoria Land](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/58) | SSSI 37 | New Zealand | M 3 (1997) | M 3 (1997) (\*)  M 2 (2003)  M 11 (2008)  M 12 (2013)  M 6 (2019) | 1997 | 2024 | S | 9 |  |
| ASPA 156 | [Lewis Bay, Mount Erebus, Ross Island](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/60) | SPA 26 | New Zealand | M 2 (1997) | M 2 (1997) (\*)  M 2 (2003)  Rec 0 (2008)  M 13 (2013)  A 0 (2018) (E) | 1997 | 2023 | O | 9 |  |
| ASPA 160 | [Frazier Islands, Windmill Islands, Wilkes Land, East Antarctica](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/64) |  | Australia | M 2 (2003) | M 2 (2003) (\*)  M 13 (2008)  M 14 (2013)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2003 | 2024 |  | 7 |  |
| ASPA 161 | [Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/65) |  | Italy | M 2 (2003) | M 2 (2003) (\*)  M 14 (2008)  M 15 (2013)  M 7 (2019) | 2003 | 2024 |  |  |  |
| ASPA 162 | [Mawson’s Huts, Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/66), [George VLand, East Antarctica](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/66) |  | Australia | M 2 (2004) | M 2 (2004) (\*)  M 3 (2004)  M 12 (2009)  M 9 (2014)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2004 | 2024 | L |  | 157 |
| ASPA 168 | [Mount Harding, Grove Mountains, East Antarctica](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/72) |  | China | M 2 (2008) | M 2 (2008) (\*)  M 17 (2015) | 2008 | 2020 | T | 16 |  |
| ASPA 169 | [Amanda Bay, Ingrid Christensen Coast, Princess Elizabeth Land, East Antarctica](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/73) |  | Australia, China | M 3 (2008) | M 3 (2008) (\*)  M 10 (2014)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2008 | 2024 |  | 7 | 128 |
| ASPA 171 | [Narebski Point, Barton Peninsula, King George Island](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/157) |  | Korea (ROK) | M 13 (2009) | M 13 (2009) (\*)  M 11 (2014)  M 8 (2019) | 2009 | 2024 | A | 3 |  |
| ASPA 173 | [Cape Washington and Silverfish Bay, Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/175) |  | Italy, United States | M 17 (2013) | M 17 (2013) (\*)  M 9 (2019) | 2013 | 2024 | U | 8 | 176 |
| ASPA 175 | [High Altitude Geothermal sites of the Ross Sea region](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/177) |  | United States | M 13 (2014) | M 13 (2014) (\*)  A 0 (2019) (E) | 2014 | 2024 | U | 8 |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SPECIALLYMANAGED AREAS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Number** | **Name** | **Proponent** | **Designation** | **Modification / Review** | **Annex V format adoption** | **Next reviewto begin by** | **Environment Domain** | **ACBR** | **IBA** |
| ASMA 1 | [Admiralty Bay, King George Islan](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/3)d | Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Poland, United States | M 2 (2006) | M 2 (2006)  M 14 (2014) | 2006 | 2019 | A | 3 | 45, 46 |
| ASMA 2 | [McMurdo Dry Valleys, Southern Victoria Land](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/75) | New Zealand, United States | M 1 (2004) | M 1 (2004)  M 10 (2011)  M 18 (2015) | 2004 | 2020 | S | 9 | 182 |
| ASMA 4 | [Deception Islan](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/77)d | Argentina, Chile, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, United States | M 3 (2005) | M 3 (2005)  M 10 (2012)  M 10 (2019) | 2005 | 2024 | G | 3 | 55, 56 |
| ASMA 5 | [Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Sout](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/78)h [Pole](https://www.ats.aq/devph/en/apa-database/78) | United States | M 2 (2007) | M 2 (2007)  M 8 (2017) | 2007 | 2022 | Q |  |  |