

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

Twenty-sixth Treaty Consultative Party Meeting

13.1 The Executive Secretary reported on his participation at ATCM-XXVI (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/5, CCAMLR-XXII/14). In accordance with Article 9 of the Antarctic Treaty, a report on CCAMLR activities in 2002/03 was tabled.

13.2 The main points of direct relevance to CCAMLR-XXII discussed at ATCM-XXVI were:

- (i) Decision 2, identifying a role for the CCAMLR Secretariat in providing assistance, on behalf of Consultative Parties, by establishing a temporary interest-bearing account for voluntary contributions for the Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty;
- (ii) Resolution 2 in support of the ATCM for the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/08;
- (iii) Resolution 4 in support of the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels which urges Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, in particular, to ratify ACAP;
- (iv) Measure 2 on 'Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas' which contains revised management plans for protected areas including areas with marine components approved by CCAMLR;
- (v) further work considered by CEP on the revision of Annex II to the Environmental Protocol, including a proposal for the revision of its old title 'Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna' to 'Conservation of Antarctic Living Organisms';
- (vi) work of CEP on Specially Protected Species, including the development of procedures and guidelines for designating such species which could require input from CCAMLR on the same basis as established under Annex V of the Environmental Protocol;
- (vii) establishment of a CEP intersessional group to further consider preparation of the State of Antarctic Environment Report (SAER);
- (viii) the issue of biological prospecting in Antarctica.

13.3 The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented a report on his attendance at CEP-VI, which is also reflected in the report of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraphs 9.2 and 9.3).

13.4 The Chair of the Scientific Committee noted that in addition to the report of the Executive Secretary, he would like to focus on the following two points:

- (i) CEP again addressed the issue of establishing 'Specially Protected Species' and agreed to take early steps to seek, *inter alia*, the agreement of CCAMLR. However, CEP has not yet agreed on the procedures to be used. CCAMLR would need to keep this development under review.
- (ii) CEP's Intersessional Contact Group (ICG) on the State of Antarctic Environment was asked to continue its work, in particular, in developing a pilot project on selecting indicators of human impact. The Chair of the Scientific Committee was invited to take part in the ICG work. Consequently, the Scientific Committee approved his participation in this ICG.

13.5 In discussing both reports, the UK noted that the report of the Executive Secretary was well received at ATCM-XXVI. In particular, general appreciation was expressed for the input of CCAMLR's Executive Secretary and the Administration/Finance Officer on CCAMLR's financial and operational matters relating to the establishment of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat in Buenos Aires. With reference to the procedure for designating protected areas with marine components agreed by ATCM, which required prior consideration by CCAMLR, the UK believed that a procedure for designating Specially Protected Species should be based on the same principles.

13.6 Dr A. Press (Australia), the CEP Chair and the CEP Observer to SC-CAMLR, noted the high level of cooperation being developed between the CEP and the CCAMLR Scientific Committee. He also welcomed the input of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee into the CEP deliberations and noted the UK comments on developing rules of procedure for designating Specially Protected Species similar to procedures adopted for ASPAs and ASMAs with marine components.

13.7 Norway shared the UK comments and highlighted, in particular, the input of the Executive Secretary and Administration/Finance Officer to the establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty. Norway also supported the participation of the Scientific Committee Chair in the ICG on the State of Antarctic Environment. In respect to biological prospecting, Norway noted that it would involve complex political and diplomatic issues. The conduct of an International Polar Year in 2007/08 should be kept under review by CCAMLR with possible inclusion of an appropriate agenda item to deal with it at future meetings. Norway also drew the attention of the Commission to the need of CCAMLR to be involved in the development by ATCM and IMO of a code for shipping in Antarctic waters. Norway also advised the Commission that a Meeting of Experts on Tourism will be held in Norway from 22 to 26 March 2004.

13.8 Spain supported the views of previous delegations and stressed, in particular, the ATCM resolution in support of ACAP. Spain has recently ratified ACAP, thus requiring only one more country to ratify the Agreement in order for it to come into force. Spain urged CCAMLR Members who have signed but not yet ratified the Agreement to do so soon.

13.9 The South African Delegation was pleased to announce that it will be the fifth country to sign and ratify ACAP on 6 November 2003. The Agreement will thus enter into force three months hereafter.

13.10 The Commission welcomed these announcements from Spain and South Africa.

1311 New Zealand shared the views of previous speakers on CCAMLR's input to the establishment of the ATCM Secretariat, on designation of ASMAs and ASPAs with marine components and the call for ratification of ACAP, and also stressed the importance of cooperation between CCAMLR and ATCM on the State of Antarctic Environment Report.

13.12 Sweden referred to its interventions made last year (CCAMLR-XXI, paragraphs 13.7 to 13.11), echoed comments by Norway and expressed great satisfaction for the ongoing and steadily increasing cooperation between CCAMLR, ATCM and CEP.

13.13 Argentina thanked the CCAMLR Secretariat for its support and input on the establishment of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat in Buenos Aires. It also expressed its appreciation for the support and help provided by Australia in transferring its experience as the host country for CCAMLR. With regard to the procedure for establishing Specially Protected Species, Argentina noted that the requirement of prior approval by CCAMLR will not be appropriate due to a number of political reasons, taking into account the objectives and membership of CCAMLR.

13.14 South Africa thanked Spain for its hosting of and hospitality in supporting ATCM-XXVI. It informed the Commission that ATCM-XXVII will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 24 May to 4 June 2004. The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat's website would be updated to include detailed information on the venue and other arrangements for ATCM-XXVII.

13.15 The Commission approved CCAMLR's representation at ATCM-XXVII by the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Scientific Committee at the meeting of Consultative Parties and CEP-VII respectively.

Cooperation with SCAR

13.16 The SCAR/CCAMLR Observer, Dr E. Fanta (Brazil) presented a summary of intersessional activities of SCAR (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/32), noting that detailed advice had also been provided to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/32; SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 9.4).

13.17 Dr Fanta reported that the reorganisation of SCAR will continue into 2004, with the XXVIII SCAR Meeting to be held in two sections: (i) Science Week in Bremen, Germany, 25 to 31 July 2004; and (ii) Delegates Meeting in Bremerhaven, Germany, 3 to 9 October 2004. In particular, Dr Fanta noted that one of the proposals of the reorganisation plan was to establish closer links between SCAR and other organisations such as CCAMLR and noted that both CCAMLR and SCAR could benefit from joint participation in surveys, scientific expeditions, research, workshops and symposia.

13.18 During the intersessional period, SCAR had conducted the following activities of interest to CCAMLR:

- (i) The SCAR Life Sciences Standing Scientific Group (LSSSG) on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms workshop on 'Evolutionary Adaptation of Antarctic Marine Organisms' was held in December 2002. The outcome of the workshop will be published in *Antarctic Science* in 2004.

- (ii) Three Scientific Program Groups are currently in progress ('Ecology of the Antarctic Sea-Ice Zone' (EASIZ), 'Antarctic Pack-Ice Seals' (APIS) and Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms (EVOLANTA)) which share some of the interests of CCAMLR. EVOLANTA science can be integrated with CCAMLR groups undertaking research on stock identity.
- (iii) The Scientific Program Planning Group on Evolutionary Biology in Antarctica held a workshop in Cambridge, UK, in February 2003 to establish the terms of reference of an integrated SCAR-LSSSG program on 'Evolution and biodiversity in Antarctica: the response of life to change', merging the existing scientific programs.
- (iv) The Expert Groups on Seals, Birds and Human Biology and Medicine have continued their intersessional work in order to provide scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty System on Specially Protected Species. CCAMLR has traditionally received data and information from the seal and bird groups.
- (v) The Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine held a workshop in Plymouth, UK, in May 2003 to develop its terms of reference. This was followed by a symposium on 'Extreme Medicine in Antarctica'.
- (vi) SCAR was represented at ATCM-XXVI in Madrid, Spain, in June 2003. SCAR had contributed comments on several scientific aspects of Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations and draft management plans for ASPAs. This work could be of particular interest to WG-EMM.
- (vii) Five young scientists were selected to receive financial support to undertake a research project in a SCAR country other than their own. This aims to attract young scientists to conduct research in Antarctica. Young scientists from CCAMLR Members which are also SCAR members could apply for these projects in future.
- (viii) The new proposal for the establishment of a Marine Biodiversity Information Network which aims to contribute to the compilation, dissemination and integration of fundamental biodiversity information on the Antarctic marine biodiversity for scientific, monitoring management and conservation purposes. This can, in future, be useful for CCAMLR's monitoring and management programs within the ecosystem approach.

13.19 The Commission welcomed this report. It drew the attention of SCAR to the advice of the Scientific Committee in respect of the development of marine biodiversity information networks (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 9.5).