

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

Cooperation with Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties

13.1 The Executive Secretary reported on his attendance at ATCM-XXVII (CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/6). In accordance with Article 9 of the Antarctic Treaty, a report of CCAMLR activities in 2003/04 was tabled.

13.2 The main points of direct relevance to CCAMLR-XXIII discussed at ATCM-XXVII were as follows:

- (i) The CCAMLR Secretariat continues to provide advice on the development of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- (ii) Subject to the ATCM's 2003 decision, the CCAMLR Secretariat awaits instructions from the Antarctic Treaty Depositary (USA) to release funds being held by the CCAMLR Secretariat in a temporary interest-bearing account for voluntary contributions for the Treaty Secretariat.
- (iii) The newly elected Executive Secretary for the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, Mr J. Huber (Netherlands) will be attending CCAMLR-XXIII in order to gain a personal insight into the organisation of CCAMLR meetings.
- (iv) The ATCM continues to revise Annex II (Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora) to the Environmental Protocol. Issues of particular interest to CCAMLR, which are receiving further attention are:
 - amendment of the annex title reflecting changes to its scope
 - modification of definitions in Article I
 - expansion of the definition of Specially Protected Species to include marine species.
- (v) Resolution 1 adopted at ATCM-XXVII on prevention of marine pollution by fishing vessels, indicated support of CCAMLR Resolution 20/XXII relating to vessel ice-strengthening standards in high-latitude areas.
- (vi) Planned consultations with CCAMLR by CEP's Intersessional Contact Group (CEP/ICG) relating to reporting on the state of the Antarctic environment.
- (vii) Further development of proposals relating to a Circum-Antarctic CoML during IPY 2007/08.
- (viii) Consideration of bioprospecting in Antarctica.

13.3 The Chair of the Scientific Committee presented a report on his attendance at CEP-VII (CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/7). He noted that, in addition to the report of the Executive Secretary, he would like to focus on the following points:

- (i) CEP again addressed the issue of establishing a category of Specially Protected Species and continued to develop the required procedures and methods (there was no agreement on the technical and legal aspects of the text).
- (ii) CEP reviewed progress of the Antarctic Site Inventory (ASI) to monitor and assess visitor sites in the Antarctic Peninsula. The ASI has collected biological data and site-descriptive information for the Antarctic Peninsula since 1994.

13.4 Dr A. Press (Australia), the CEP Chair and the CEP Observer to SC-CAMLR, noted the increasing cooperation between CEP and the CCAMLR Scientific Committee. He added that a number of issues discussed at ATCM-XXVII, and reflected in the reports of the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Scientific Committee, would lead to much stronger ties between CEP and SC-CAMLR.

13.5 With reference to paragraph 12 of the CCAMLR report to ATCM-XXVII, as presented in CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/6, Argentina noted that it had not ratified the 1995 Fish Stock Agreement.

13.6 South Africa reminded Members of its intervention regarding the acceptance at ATCM-XXVII of Ukraine as a full Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty and the statement made by the Delegation of Ukraine at ATCM-XXVII (paragraph 8.6).

13.7 Ukraine responded that it fully supported the objectives of the Antarctic Treaty and is prepared to cooperate on all matters of concern in an efficient and transparent way. With respect to undertakings made by the Delegation of Ukraine at ATCM-XXVII, Ukraine believed that it fulfilled these undertakings by conducting the required investigation and submitting the results to SCIC. However, if any issues remained unclear to some Members, Ukraine was prepared to cooperate with these Members in order to resolve them.

13.8 The UK referred to the ASI (paragraph 13.3) and the potential utility to the work of CCAMLR of data collected at visitor sites in the Antarctic Peninsula. The UK proposed that the CCAMLR Secretariat discuss with CEP the nature of available data and invite consideration by appropriate CCAMLR working groups of whether the data would be of value to CCAMLR.

13.9 The CEP Chair welcomed the proposal and advised that the matter would be discussed further directly with the CCAMLR Executive Secretary.

13.10 Chile supported the proposal and also noted other matters requiring close contact with the CCAMLR Secretariat such as MPAs, CEMP, Status of the Antarctic Environment Report and CoML. Activities undertaken in the context of the IPY will reflect on the relationships within the Antarctic Treaty System and, in parallel, on the success of CCAMLR.

Cooperation with SCAR

13.11 The SCAR/CCAMLR Observer, Dr Fanta, presented her report and focused on intersessional activities of SCAR of direct relevance to the work of CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/37). She advised that the full report had been submitted to, and discussed by, the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 9.4 to 9.15).

13.12 The main intersessional activities of SCAR were:

- (i) SCAR presented a six-year strategic plan, including activities to be established for IPY.
- (ii) SCAR-XXVIII was held in Bremen, Germany, from 25 to 29 July 2004.
- (iii) The Life Science Standing Scientific Group (LSSSG) discussed a number of topics of interest to CCAMLR including, in particular:
 - application of marine acoustics technology and the Antarctic environment;
 - criteria for the identification of species to be especially protected under the Antarctic Treaty;
 - definition of terms related to studies on biological monitoring and human impacts in the Antarctic;
 - bioprospecting in Antarctica;
 - appropriateness for SCAR to review CCAMLR proposals on MPAs.
- (iv) The following science programs of LSSSG were active during 2003/04:
 - Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organism (EVOLANTA)
 - Ecology of the Sea-Ice Zone (EASIZ).
- (v) A new LSSSG program Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic, is planned to be conducted for the next 10 years. It includes a Circum-Antarctic CoML, to be conducted during IPY 2007/08 providing data for the Information Net on Marine Biodiversity.
- (vi) The Expert Group on Seals and the Expert Group on Birds are prepared to provide reports on the status and trends of populations to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.
- (vii) The following action groups were active during 2003/04:
 - Biological Monitoring
 - Best Practices for Conservation
 - Global International Water Assessment (GIWA).

13.13 The IXth SCAR International Biology Symposium will be held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 25 to 29 July 2005, and the scientific community of CCAMLR is invited to participate.

13.14 SCAR will play a major role in the 2007/08 IPY. It encouraged its members to join the international effort in the conduct of a Circum-Antarctic CoML and in survey transects planned to be carried out from the Antarctic continent to the Polar Front.

13.15 Dr Fanta noted that SCAR and CCAMLR share many areas of common interest. The IPY could be an excellent opportunity for joint complementary activities carried out in a coordinated manner.

13.16 Chile noted that recent interests of commercial companies in other parts of the world to patent genomes of biological organisms for the purpose of medicinal and other related research did not appear to be compatible with the aims of the Antarctic Treaty System. This could represent a challenge to the system in considering matters of bioprospecting in the Antarctic.

13.17 In respect to the appropriateness of the reviewing by SCAR of CCAMLR proposals for MPAs, the UK noted that Annex V to the Environmental Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty contained a mechanism for reviewing CCAMLR proposals, but such reviewing should be done collectively within the ATCM mechanism and not in isolation by SCAR.

13.18 The UK further noted that SCAR LSSSG should consider closer and more timely cooperation with the work of CCAMLR, especially in relation to the proposed SCAR workshops and initiatives on monitoring and MPAs. The UK suggested that CEP, SCAR and CCAMLR should consider holding intersessional discussions on how best to coordinate, and cooperate on, various topics of priority mutual interest, especially those relating to monitoring and species and habitat protection. They should try to ensure that SCAR and CCAMLR have the opportunity to review documents and proposals relating to workshops and similar initiatives prior to their implementation.

13.19 Dr Fanta advised that details of the proposed SCAR workshop would be placed on the CCAMLR website when they become available.

Assessment of proposals for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Specially Managed Areas, which include marine areas

13.20 The Commission noted its deliberations on this matter and that it had endorsed approval of the management plans for transmission to the ATCM (paragraphs 4.14 to 4.16).

13.21 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's consideration of a proposed new ASPA at Edmonson Point, Woods Bay, Ross Sea (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.58 to 3.65; CCAMLR-XXIII/41). The management plan, which requires approval by CCAMLR due to the inclusion of a marine area in the site, was received too late for consideration by WG-EMM.

13.22 However, WG-EMM's Subgroup on Protected Areas had reviewed the plan intersessionally, and had agreed that the plan was well written and scientifically sound, with a clear description of the values to be protected. The Scientific Committee had noted this review. Members had generally provided strong support for the plan. There was some concern that a delay could have negative implications, if increasing pressures to the site were to emerge. The Scientific Committee agreed that the inclusion of the small marine component would not affect the goals of CCAMLR, as it was extremely unlikely that any fishing activities could be conducted within the site.

13.23 While recognising that the normal course of action is for the Subgroup on Protected Areas to report to WG-EMM, and for WG-EMM to report to the Scientific Committee, the Commission agreed that the general view expressed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, section 3) should be forwarded to the 2005 ATCM. The Commission agreed that the interim nature of these views should also be conveyed to ATCM, and that a final recommendation would be made by the Commission in 2005, based on the advice from the Scientific Committee.

13.24 The UK noted that improvements to the procedures for the review of management plans containing marine areas that are submitted to CCAMLR for approval should be considered in order to avoid delays in the process.