

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

Cooperation with Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties

15.1 The Executive Secretary represented the Commission at the 31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM XXXI) in Kyiv, Ukraine. In the absence of the Scientific Committee Chair, the Executive Secretary also observed the Eleventh Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP XI) supported by the Science Officer. For completeness and convenience, outcomes from ATCM XXXI and CEP XI of interest to CCAMLR were presented by the Executive Secretary in one report (CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/5).

15.2 The Commission noted that there were no decisions or resolutions of direct relevance to CCAMLR-XXVII arising from ATCM XXXI and CEP XI.

15.3 The Commission noted that a presentation on the work of CCAMLR given to the CEP was well received (CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/5, paragraph 32). There was also considerable interest from the CEP in the outcomes of the CCAMLR Performance Review (CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/5, paragraphs 46 and 47).

15.4 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee deliberations on a Joint SC-CAMLR–CEP Workshop. These included draft terms of reference (SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraphs 9.9 to 9.17) and a work plan for a Joint SC-CAMLR–CEP Workshop Steering Committee. The Commission agreed that the workshop will be held in early April 2009, immediately prior to CEP XII in Baltimore, USA (SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraph 9.18).

15.5 The UK welcomed such increased cooperation and dialogue between CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and looked forward to the outcomes of the Joint SC-CAMLR–CEP Workshop.

15.6 Australia endorsed the comments of the UK and noted that the Joint SC-CAMLR–CEP Workshop represented a landmark in relations between CCAMLR and other elements of the ATS. Australia also noted that it was essential that the Commission does not forget that CCAMLR originated in, and is part of, the ATS.

15.7 New Zealand welcomed the proposed joint workshop, while expressing its appreciation for the Executive Secretary's report, and recalled ATCM Resolution 1 (2006) which encouraged increased cooperation between the ATCM and CCAMLR. New Zealand also noted that CCAMLR was an integral part of the ATS.

15.8 Argentina wondered about the real need for the Executive Secretary to attend the full ATCM meeting, noting that this was spread over a two-week period and that the costs of such extended participation should be reviewed in the light of other budgetary constraints. However, it noted that next year is the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty and it would be important for CCAMLR to be well represented at both CEP XII and ATCM XXXII.

15.9 The Commission agreed that CCAMLR should be represented at ATCM XXXII by the Executive Secretary. The Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Science Officer will also attend CEP XII and the Joint SC-CAMLR–CEP Workshop (CCAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 15.14).

Bioprospecting

15.10 IUCN introduced CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/36. It noted that 56% of the records in the current IUCN Antarctic Bioprospecting Database are from the marine environment and include marine species, such as krill, in which CCAMLR has an interest. IUCN noted the international discussions on regulation of bioprospecting are also evolving, particularly in ATCM and the UN Ad Hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction, and that these discussions may have implications for CCAMLR. IUCN encouraged CCAMLR to actively engage in these discussions.

15.11 Belgium strongly supported the IUCN proposal and noted that the issue of bioprospecting was an area of potential collaboration between CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty. It also offers an opportunity to reinforce links between CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty, as recommended at ATCM XXIX in 2006.

15.12 Belgium informed the Commission of an international meeting on bioprospecting to be held in the Netherlands from 3 to 5 February 2009, co-sponsored by Belgium, Finland and the Netherlands, and organised by the Netherlands in collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies.

15.13 Sweden supported Belgium and noted that bioprospecting activity targets marine living resources, some of them indicator species for VMEs. In Sweden's view, bioprospecting represents rational use of marine resources and CCAMLR Members should report bioprospecting activity in the CAMLR Convention Area to the Commission.

Ballast water

15.14 The UK noted that ATCM Resolution 3 (2006) on Ballast Water Exchange in the Antarctic Treaty Area had now been adopted by the IMO as Resolution MEPC.163(56). It proposed that a CCAMLR resolution should extend application of this IMO resolution to the Convention Area north of 60°S (CCAMLR-XXVII/29).

15.15 The Commission welcomed the UK proposal for application of the IMO resolution to the entire Convention Area and adopted Resolution 28/XXVII (paragraphs 13.66 and 13.67).

Cooperation with SCAR

15.16 Dr G. Hosie (SCAR Observer) drew the Commission's attention to a message from the new SCAR President, Prof. M. 'Chuck' Kennicutt II (USA) (CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/42). Prof. Kennicutt was committed to working closer with CCAMLR during his four-year term as SCAR President to collectively address the growing demand for sound scientific advice relating to a broad spectrum of Antarctic issues. He plans to visit CCAMLR at the earliest opportunity in 2009 to discuss future collaboration, and will attempt to attend CCAMLR-XXVIII.

15.17 The Commission noted that SCAR's major marine programs (CAML, SCAR-MarBIN and SO-CPR Survey) have made significant contributions in the past year. In particular, data collected by CAML will be stored in SCAR-MarBIN (a facility that includes nearly 1 million georeferenced records, for 90 interlinked databases).

15.18 The Commission also noted that SCAR has created three new Action Groups (SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraph 9.25):

- (i) Antarctic Fuel Spills – created in response to the sinking of the *MS Explorer* and is designed to respond quickly if a similar event occurs again.
- (ii) Cold Seeps and Hydrothermal Vents in Antarctica – to identify and study areas likely to contain VMEs. Results will be provided to CCAMLR in reports and the Geographic Information System (GIS).
- (iii) Prediction on Changes in the Physical and Biological Environment of the Antarctic – the terms of reference are listed in CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/42, paragraph 49. This Action Group will be useful to CCAMLR in understanding the effects of global warming, as well as ocean acidification.

15.19 Belgium indicated that SCAR-MarBIN has been funded to date by the Belgian Government, but that its financial future is only secure until the end of 2009. Belgium requested Members to give serious consideration to securing long-term funding for SCAR-MarBIN.

15.20 Australia welcomed the SCAR Observer's report and noted:

- (i) CAML had been the biggest single internationally coordinated research project conducted in the Southern Ocean and the outputs were essential to the work of CCAMLR;
- (ii) the body of IPY science had now established that the Southern Ocean is being impacted by increased levels of atmospheric CO₂ and that the resulting increased acidity will have impacts on the marine ecosystem including krill;
- (iii) discussions among climate scientists working in the polar regions have consistently indicated that various scenarios predict climate impacts in the polar regions to be at the upper end of the range of scenarios provided in the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

15.21 The UK recalled that it was an advocate of the Commission examining climate change as part of its agenda (CCAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 15.16 and 15.17) and requested an update from SCAR on the Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) report (SC CIRC 08/41).

15.22 SCAR indicated that the first ACCE report on the physical environment (CCAMLR-XXVI/BG/42) had been published and that the second part, on the biological environment, was currently in an advanced draft that had been circulated for consultation. However, SCAR recognised that there has been a rather short period for such consultation and that this has impeded the ability for organisations like CCAMLR to provide a response.

15.23 Norway recalled that it was also an advocate of the Commission examining climate change as part of its agenda and suggested that CCAMLR might look at the benefits of cooperation with the Arctic Council on this issue, given the extensive areas of common interest, particularly in respect to climate change in the polar regions.

15.24 The Commission noted that collaboration between the Arctic Council and CCAMLR, possibly also involving the ATCM, may be useful.

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

15.25 The Commission noted that no proposals had been received during 2008 in relation to Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Specially Managed Areas that include marine areas under ATCM Resolution 9 (2005).