

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

12.1 The Chairman of the Commission presented a report on his participation as observer on behalf of CCAMLR at the XIth Special Consultative Meeting held in Viña del Mar (Chile) in November-December 1990 and Madrid (Spain) in April, June and October 1991, and at the XVIth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) held in Bonn in October 1991 (CCAMLR-X/BG/22). A copy of the CCAMLR observer statement at the XVIth ATCM was submitted in document CCAMLR-X/BG/3.

12.2 A major development related to the protection of the Antarctic environment is the adoption at the XIth Special ATCM of the Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection and four annexes. The Protocol establishes a Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and specifies that the Chairman of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee will be invited to participate in the work of this Committee as an observer.

12.3 Further annexes to the Protocol are envisaged to deal with particular aspects of environmental protection. The preparation of one such additional annex establishing a protected area system was completed at the XVIth ATCM and contains provision for consultation with CCAMLR, including the prior agreement by CCAMLR to the designation of any marine area as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area or an Antarctic Specially Managed Area.

12.4 The Commission noted that the Protocol required decisions to be taken on the basis of the best scientific information available and in matters affecting the marine living resources of the Antarctic, CCAMLR would be the best source of this information.

12.5 The Commission recalled that Article XXIII of the Convention required the Commission to cooperate with the Antarctic Treaty Parties in matters falling within their competence. The Protocol introduces a new element in this cooperation and the Commission agreed to authorise the Chairman of the Scientific Committee to accept the invitation of the Consultative Parties to participate in the work of CEP. It was agreed that on occasions when special expertise is required or because of unavailability, the Chairman should be able to nominate an alternate representative, a suggestion that could be considered by CEP when adopting its Rules of Procedure.

12.6 The Commission acknowledged that as far as the CEP is concerned the participation of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR would be governed by its rules of

procedure, but in repressing CCAMLR the Chairman would have the full confidence of the Commission. In addition, the Commission would continue to attend the consultative meetings as an observer by invitation of the Antarctic Treaty Parties.

12.7 In his report the observer from SCAR, Dr J. Croxall (UK), drew the attention of the Commission to initiatives undertaken within SCAR during the last year, of relevance to the Commission. In accordance with established practice this report had already been presented to and discussed by the Scientific Committee. Accordingly, the SCAR observer reported briefly on the Workshop on Southern Elephant Seals sponsored jointly by SCAR and CCAMLR, on the involvement of SCAR in the sponsorship of major research programs in the Southern Ocean and on the BIOMASS Colloquium. Full details of the discussions of these topics can be found in paragraphs 7.4 to 7.9 and 11.4 to 11.10 of the Scientific Committee report. (SC-CAMLR-X).

12.8 It was noted that SCAR, through the BIOMASS Executive, had offered to provide CCAMLR, free of charge, with a copy of the data held in the BIOMASS Data Centre. This was welcomed by the Commission. It was recalled that the BIOMASS Program had been a most successful example of international cooperation in science that had yielded a valuable set of primary data on the Antarctic marine ecosystem. The UK Delegation pointed out that such an offer should be seen as an expression of confidence in the ability of CCAMLR to use this data in the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.

12.9 The Commission noted with satisfaction the productive co-operation that has been developed between SCAR and CCAMLR and looked forward to the further development of this relationship.