

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS
OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

XVIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

11.1 The XVIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) took place in Kyoto, Japan, from 11 to 22 April 1994. CCAMLR had been invited to attend the meeting as an observer and was represented by the Executive Secretary, Mr E. de Salas (CCAMLR-XII, paragraph 10.24). The report of the Executive Secretary on his participation at the ATCM meeting was circulated at the meeting as CCAMLR-XIII/BG/4.

11.2 The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the CCAMLR report to the ATCM meeting was well received. The XVIII ATCM report draws attention to 'the important accomplishments of CCAMLR in the field of conservation and ecosystem management'.

11.3 In presenting his report the Executive Secretary summarised several aspects of the ATCM meeting which might be of direct interest to CCAMLR.

11.4 There was general agreement that the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty should be implemented as soon as possible. In particular, the Protocol provides for the establishment of a Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) to which CCAMLR will be an observer. In the interim, ahead of entry into force of the Protocol, the Treaty Parties established a Transitional Environmental Working Group (TEWG). This transitional group will address those agenda items which will in future be dealt with by the Committee on Environmental Protection (Items under Article 12 of the Protocol).

11.5 The ATCM decided that representatives of CCAMLR, as well as of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) and other such specialist bodies as may be invited, should participate in the work of TEWG which will begin its work at XIX ATCM.

11.6 The Commission noted the complementary nature of the objectives of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCP) and CCAMLR in protecting the marine environment. This has been enhanced by the adoption of the Protocol on Environmental Protection. This requires further strengthening the links between CCAMLR and the ATCP and SCAR's group GOSEAC. The Executive Secretary was asked to work further in this direction.

11.7 In concluding the presentation of his report, the Executive Secretary suggested that CCAMLR reports to future ATCM meetings might be extended by including details of specific and innovative approaches to the management of resources as well as matters related to the future CEP. The report of the Executive Secretary was endorsed by the Commission.

11.8 The XIX ATCM will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 8 to 19 May 1995. The Government of the Republic of Korea, as the host country, officially invited CCAMLR to be represented as an observer at the XIX ATCM. The Delegation of the Republic of Korea to CCAMLR informed the Commission of arrangements for this meeting.

11.9 In accordance with agreed procedure, CCAMLR will be represented at the XIX ATCM by the Executive Secretary.

11.10 As is the usual practice under this agenda item, the Chairman invited the CCAMLR Observer to SCAR, Dr J. Croxall (UK) to outline those parts of his report which are of direct relevance to the work of the Commission (CCAMLR-XIII/BG/18). Other parts of the report had already been discussed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraphs 14.5 to 14.15).

11.11 During the intersessional period there were numerous meetings of SCAR and its subsidiary bodies. CCAMLR representation at these meetings was shared by Drs Croxall and I. Everson (UK).

11.12 In their reports, Drs Croxall and Everson noted that additional areas of interest to CCAMLR included the Coastal Zone part of the Program on the Ecology of the Antarctic Sea-Ice Zone (CS-EASIZ). This program, developed by the Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecology (GOSSOE), is the main marine ecological input to the SCAR Group of Specialists on Global Change in Antarctica (GLOCHANT) which is coordinating the SCAR-IGBP Program and whose Secretariat has been established in Hobart. This should greatly facilitate further liaison between CCAMLR and SCAR.

11.13 The Commission endorsed nominations by the Scientific Committee of observers and liaison officers to SCAR and its various committees and working groups (CCAMLR-XIII, paragraphs 14.8 to 14.14). The Commission also strongly associated itself with the Scientific Committee's belief that close liaison between SCAR and CCAMLR was of great benefit to both organisations (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 14.15).

11.14 The Commission also endorsed the Scientific Committee's decision to lodge a directory entry to the Antarctic Master Directory of SCAR/COMNAP describing some of CCAMLR's data holdings and data access rules (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 14.14).

Coordination of CEMP Site Protection within the Antarctic Treaty System

11.15 Last year the Commission requested that the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups review - and provide advice on - the draft management plan for the Admiralty Bay Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA), submitted jointly by the Delegations of Brazil and Poland (CCAMLR-XIII/BG/21) in accordance with Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

11.16 In regard to the assessment by the Scientific Committee of the proposal for the Admiralty Bay ASMA and any future proposals for ASMAs or Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs), the Commission endorsed the criteria established by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 6.11). Any future assessment should include an evaluation of whether the proposals adequately:

- (i) describe the breeding distribution of seabirds and seals in the area and, at least for colonially breeding species, include points of their entry and departure from the sea;
- (ii) note the location of sites where monitoring studies for purposes of direct relevance to CEMP are being undertaken. This is irrespective of whether or not the sites have been formally protected under Conservation Measure 18/XIII;
- (iii) ensure protection to research which contributes to the objectives of CCAMLR;
- (iv) describe areas in which birds and seals, associated with or breeding in the proposed management area, are known to forage; and
- (v) draw to the attention of CCAMLR any other matters which may be relevant to the implementation of Article II of the Convention.

11.17 In regard to the request by the Scientific Committee that the Commission develop a formal procedure for considering proposals for ASMAs and ASPAs (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 6.12), the Commission agreed that Articles 5 and 6, Annex V to the Protocol on

Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, already elaborated such a procedure. This should be followed by CCAMLR.

11.18 The Commission further agreed that there should be some flexibility in the deadlines for receiving ASMA and ASPA proposals, and that the most important consideration was that they should be available for review by the Scientific Committee and its appropriate Working Groups at the earliest opportunity.

11.19 The Delegation of the UK advised the Commission that the appropriateness of mandatory prohibitions within Management Plans for ASMAs has been discussed at the XVIII ATCM. Such prohibitions may cover various activities, e.g. commercial fishing in marine ASMAs. The ATCM had yet to clarify this situation in the light of distinctions made in Articles 4 and 5 of Annex V to the Protocol. In particular, this clarification would be needed to finalise the management plan for the Admiralty Bay ASMA.

11.20 The Commission commended Brazil and Poland for their effort in preparing the ASMA proposal for Admiralty Bay, the first proposal made under Annex V to the Protocol. The Commission also noted the Scientific Committee's findings that certain information is still missing from the proposal and that there was no report on consultations with other parties which are known to be conducting research in the area. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific Committee that the proposal should be revised accordingly and resubmitted for consideration (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraphs 6.13 and 6.14).

11.21 Brazil informed the Commission of developments after the Commission endorsed the criteria and recommendations of the Scientific Committee. The two Delegations of Brazil and Poland had met and coordinated the appropriate actions to fulfil the criteria and recommendations of the Scientific Committee. Brazil and Poland wished to go on record as expressing appreciation of the work done by the Scientific Committee on the first ASMA plan proposed, as well as to the Commission for defining the guidelines for approval. To the extent that the criteria and recommendations of the Scientific Committee endorsed by the Commission are complied with, Brazil looked forward with anticipation to the approval of the joint proposal for an ASMA plan for Admiralty Bay.

11.22 At the last meeting of the Commission, Members were also asked to consider to what extent it may be appropriate to revise the provisions of Conservation Measure 18/IX, since revised as 18/XIII, 'Procedure for According Protection to CEMP Sites', so that they correspond to the provisions of Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection (CCAMLR-XII, paragraph 10.15).

11.23 No proposals had been received from Members on the subject and the Commission decided to postpone its consideration to the next meeting. Members were requested to submit their proposals to the Secretariat during the intersessional period.