

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS
OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

XXI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

11.1 The Executive Secretary, Mr E. de Salas, represented CCAMLR at the XXI Antarctic Treaty Meeting (ATCM), which was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 9 to 21 May 1997. The statement of the Executive Secretary at the ATCM was tabled as CCAMLR-XVI/BG/3.

11.2 The Executive Secretary drew to the attention of the Commission a number of issues that were noted in the report on his attendance at the ATCM (CCAMLR-XVI/5). In particular, he pointed out that the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty requires that no marine area may be designated an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) or Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA) without the prior approval of CCAMLR. The ATCM had also provided a definition of 'marine area', for consideration by CCAMLR, as follows:

'... draft management plans requiring the endorsement of CCAMLR are those that include marine areas in which:

- there is actual harvesting or potential capability for harvesting of marine living resources which might be affected by site designation; or
- there are provisions specified in a draft management plan that might prohibit or restrict CCAMLR-related activities.'

This definition was endorsed by the Commission.

11.3 The ATCM referred to the Commission the following list of nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which include such marine areas:

SSSI 1:	Cape Royds, Ross Island
SSSI 20:	Biscoe Point, Anvers Island
SSSI 26:	'Chile Bay' (Discovery Bay), Greenwich Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI 27:	Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI 28:	South Bay, Doumer Island, Palmer Archipelago
SSSI 32:	Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI 34:	Lions Rump, King George Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI 35:	Western Bransfield Strait off Low Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI 36:	Eastern Dallmann Bay off Brabant Island, Palmer Archipelago.

In due course the draft Management Plans for these areas will be submitted to the Scientific Committee and WG-EMM for the provision of appropriate scientific advice.

11.4 The ATCM had discussed the issue of marine debris and its effects on wildlife and the environment, and the possibility that part of the marine debris found in the Convention Area might emanate from adjacent areas. It had taken note of CCAMLR's activities in this area and requested that CCAMLR report to ATCM on its assessments of the problem and on progress in

dealing with it. The Commission agreed that the Executive Secretary should describe the Commission's ongoing activities in this regard in his report to the next ATCM.

11.5 The Executive Secretary reported that a number of delegates at the ATCM had indicated that Bulgaria should be encouraged to become a Member of the Commission if its vessels are interested or involved in harvesting in the Convention Area.

11.6 Chile reported having raised an issue at the ATCM concerning the proposed rules of procedure of the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP). While it is expected that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee would appropriately be representing CCAMLR at CEP meetings, a separate issue concerned the obligation of the CEP to consult with other components of the Antarctic System. Within such context, Article XXI of the Convention was the guiding norm for CCAMLR, and the CEP should consult not only with the Scientific Committee, but also with the Commission itself. The UK, supported by the USA, noted that the CEP was a technical, scientific and environmental committee. As such, the direct involvement of the Commission in the CEP would be inappropriate.

Cooperation with SCAR

11.7 The Chairman of the Scientific Committee advised the Commission that the Scientific Committee had expressed regret at the absence, for the second consecutive year, of an observer from SCAR (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 11.2). The Commission noted that SCAR had also failed to nominate an observer to the Commission for the last two years. It agreed that the Executive Secretary should write to SCAR, attaching the comments of the Scientific Committee, inquiring about intentions as to attendance at the Commission and Scientific Committee meetings in the future.

11.8 It was noted that, thanks to the CCAMLR observer, Dr E. Fanta (Brazil), at the meetings of the SCAR Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC) and the SCAR Working Group on Biology's Subgroup on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms, CCAMLR has received information on programs of these groups of relevance to CCAMLR. Both groups had recommended maintaining information exchange with WG-EMM and WG-FSA and the Scientific Committee.