

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

### Twenty-second Antarctic Treaty Consultative Party Meeting

11.1 The Executive Secretary reported on his participation as the CCAMLR Observer at the Twenty-second Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties Meeting (ATCM-XXII) held in Tromsø, Norway, from 25 May to 5 June 1998. The statement of the Executive Secretary at the ATCM was tabled as CCAMLR-XVII/BG/5. In presenting his report, the Executive Secretary drew to the attention of the Commission the following aspects, and the decisions of the ATCM which are of importance to CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/18):

- (i) agreement of the ATCM that concerted action was needed to support the Convention in matters of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area;
- (ii) participation of the CCAMLR Chairman of the Scientific Committee as the observer at meetings of the ATCM Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP);
- (iii) the invitation to interested observers and experts from CCAMLR to participate in the 1999 Workshop on Antarctic Specially Protected Areas to be held in conjunction with ATCM-XXIII;
- (iv) adoption of a definition of marine protected areas, as endorsed by CCAMLR-XVI; and
- (v) Bulgaria's participation as a Consultative Party in ATCM.

11.2 The UK pointed out that CCAMLR, being not only a fisheries organisation but also an environmental organisation, has a crucially important role within the Antarctic Treaty System. Any weakness in the operation of CCAMLR reflects on the Antarctic Treaty System as a whole. The UK also noted that a provision for the participation of CCAMLR's Chairman of the Scientific Committee at meetings of CEP was an important development which provided for greater integration between CCAMLR and ATCM.

11.3 The UK recalled that ATCM-XXII acknowledged that Bulgaria had fulfilled the requirements for consultative status under Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty. In this context, Bulgaria had informed the meeting (ATCM-XXII) of its intention to accept the conservation measures in force under CCAMLR and to apply for membership of CCAMLR, should it resume harvesting activity in the Convention Area. New Zealand supported the views expressed by the UK, particularly that CCAMLR is not just an international fisheries organisation but is part of the Antarctic Treaty System, and suggested that Bulgaria should be invited to become a Member of the Commission. The Commission agreed that the Chairman should write to Bulgaria extending this invitation.

11.4 Norway and Sweden associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the UK and New Zealand. Norway further mentioned that the link between CCAMLR and the ATCM, particularly in terms of its Protocol for Environmental Protection, has established a unique environment protection system for Antarctica.

11.5 The Commission endorsed these points of view of its Members with respect to cooperation with the ATCM.

## Cooperation with SCAR

11.6 The SCAR Observer, Dr E. Fanta (Brazil), reported on the XXV meeting held in Concepción, Chile in July 1998, and on the activities of some of the groups within SCAR, pointing out matters of interest to CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/59). Discussions on reports of CCAMLR Observers at various SCAR meetings took place at the meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XVII, paragraphs 11.7 to 11.13). These discussions included reports on the SCAR Subcommittee on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms, Group of Specialist on Seals, Subcommittee on Bird Biology, Working Group on Biology and the VII International Biology Symposium. The SCAR Working Group on Biology, in particular, recognised the need for the establishment of multidisciplinary programs in collaboration and coordination with other bodies of the Antarctic Treaty System such as CCAMLR, mainly in matters of environmental protection, conservation and management. It also recognised the need for an efficient communication mechanism inside and among these bodies (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/20).

11.7 In discussing the report of the observer from SCAR, the UK, Chile and New Zealand noted, in particular, the following initiatives:

- (i) development of research programs and methodology relating to environmental protection, including protection of marine areas;
- (ii) review of protected areas, including marine areas of interest to CCAMLR; and
- (iii) classification, under IUCN's Red List Categories of Threat, of rockhopper and royal penguins as vulnerable, and of macaroni penguins as near-threatened.

11.8 These initiatives were considered by the Commission as being important to CCAMLR. It was agreed that CCAMLR should continue its work on the development of a methodology for the assessment of proposals for marine protected areas put forward by the ATCM within a framework of the Protocol for Environmental Protection.

11.9 The UK expressed concern that, considering the importance to CCAMLR of the work undertaken by SCAR and its subsidiary groups, its report to the Commission had been summarised too briefly, particularly in relation to the treatment accorded reports from other observers. The UK looked forward to seeing a more balanced discussion and summary of observer reports at subsequent meetings.