

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

Twenty-third Antarctic Consultative Party Meeting

11.1 The Executive Secretary reported on his participation at ATCM-XXIII (CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/28). The statement of the CCAMLR Observer as presented at ATCM-XXIII is reproduced in CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/5. In particular, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the ATCM-XXIII's call for Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties that are also CCAMLR Members to take effective measures to conserve stocks of *Dissostichus* spp., including the adoption of a Catch Documentation Scheme (ATCM Resolution 3, 1999).

11.2 The Chairman of the Scientific Committee represented CCAMLR at the Second Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) of ATCM (CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/23). He advised that his attendance at CEP had formalised establishment of a constructive link between the two bodies. He also noted that CEP was represented at this meeting of the Commission by Dr A. Press (Australia).

11.3 Among matters discussed by CEP, the following were of particular interest to CCAMLR:

- (i) CCAMLR's anticipated involvement in the provision of support to SCAR on the preparation of the State of the Antarctic Environment Report; and
- (ii) a proposal of New Zealand to expand the Balleny Islands SPA to include all of the Balleny Islands as well as the surrounding marine area.

11.4 CCAMLR was also represented at the Second Workshop on Antarctic Protected Areas by Dr J. Valencia (Chile) (CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/34). There were several major topics discussed at the workshop that were of particular interest to CCAMLR, such as criteria for identification of new areas and assessment of the effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.

11.5 Following statements made by New Zealand, Sweden, Australia, UK and Chile, the Commission commended the work of CCAMLR observers and noted with satisfaction the development of new important links between CCAMLR and the ATCM.

11.6 With respect to the ATCM Resolution 3 (1999) 'Support for CCAMLR', the Commission noted that it should be taken into account by Members in their work on the adoption and implementation of the CCAMLR Catch Documentation Scheme. The Commission noted that all Members strongly supported the efforts to deal with IUU fishing in the Convention Area.

11.7 The Commission noted the provision of Article 11 of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and the CEP Rules of Procedure which provide observer status to the Chairman of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee at annual meetings of CEP. The Commission agreed that such participation would be important in the development of greater cooperation between CCAMLR and ATCM.

11.8 To this end, the Commission agreed that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee shall, *ex officio*, attend as an observer the annual meetings of CEP.

11.9 Sweden made the following statement:

'Sweden expressed its gratitude to the Executive Secretary and the Scientific Committee Chairman for the reports from the ATCM in Lima. Sweden

appreciates that CCAMLR is represented in this way at the ATCM meetings and would like to thank them for their active and knowledgeable participation, which demonstrates the important links between CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty. This linkage also has its bearing on the ecosystem encompassing both the continent and the surrounding waters.

It is incumbent upon us in the CCAMLR Commission to engage ourselves – in loyalty and respect of the aims and objectives of CCAMLR – in such a way that the delicate balance in the Antarctic ecosystem is not violated.

This approach calls for a close cooperation and Sweden is especially happy to note that CCAMLR – in Lima – offered to lend support to the work to be undertaken in collecting material for a study to be prepared by SCAR for CEP III, which could eventually lead to a decision to start work on a State of the Antarctic Environment Report (SAER). Sweden notes with appreciation that the Scientific Committee has already asked its working groups, WG-EMM and WG-FSA, to consider what relevant information they may be able to provide for the SAER, so that this information be forwarded to CEP. And I note with pleasure that GOSEAC has identified key variables that should be considered in assessing the status of the Antarctic environment.’

11.10 New Zealand presented to the Commission a proposal for an enlarged SPA encompassing the Balleny Islands and surrounding marine area (CCAMLR-XVIII/24). A draft management plan for the SPA was submitted to the meeting of CEP during ATCM-XXIII and also to WG-EMM. New Zealand suggested that the Commission could consider endorsing, in principle, the concept of a marine refuge around the Balleny Islands to be established as an Antarctic SPA under Annex V to the Protocol of Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. In the meantime, New Zealand proposed creating an appropriately-sized ecological refuge.

11.11 The Commission noted that the New Zealand proposal had been reviewed by GOSEAC (SC-CAMLR-XVIII/BG/27). GOSEAC had suggested that the scientific justification for the protection of the marine area be included in the draft management plan for the SPA and that feeding grounds of birds and seals be shown on the map included in this proposal. It was also suggested that the area proposed be presented as a Multiple Use Area that contains some Protected Areas.

11.12 The Commission, in dealing with the proposal, took note of advice on the matter received from the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XVIII, paragraphs 4.25 to 4.31).

11.13 Further discussions by the Commission of the New Zealand proposal are reflected in paragraph 4.9.

11.14 New Zealand suggested that a new agenda item could be included on CCAMLR’s agenda: ‘Antarctic Specially Protected Areas which include Marine Areas.’

Cooperation with SCAR

11.15 There was no full meeting of SCAR in 1999. The SCAR Observer, Dr Fanta presented her report (CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/46) and elaborated on points of interest to CCAMLR on a number of SCAR-related activities including meetings of GOSEAC (SC-CAMLR-XVIII/BG/27), Group of Specialists on Seals, SCAR Subcommittee on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms (SC-CAMLR-XVIII/BG/29) and SCAR Subcommittee on Bird Biology. The Report of the Scientific Committee also contains a number of details describing the work of SCAR of relevance to CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-XVIII, paragraphs 11.33 to 11.35).

11.16 The Commission, in particular, took note that:

- (i) new terms of reference of GOSEAC include a number of areas which are of common interest with CCAMLR;
- (ii) GOSEAC expressed great concern about the high amount of IUU catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the CCAMLR Convention Area;
- (iii) SCAR had requested:
 - (a) comments from GOSEAC on the criteria to be used to determine how far impacts originated from human activities cause harm to the environment;
 - (b) a scientific definition of dependent and associated ecosystems; and
 - (c) definition of irreparable damage to the environment by different types of marine pollution;
- (iv) a list of key variables for which data should be assembled for an Antarctic State of the Environment Report was compiled by GOSEAC; and
- (v) a list of standard techniques for environmental monitoring has been reviewed and will be published at the beginning of 2000.

11.17 Dr Fanta noted that the link between SCAR and CCAMLR should be strengthened and a closer collaboration established which would speed up the provision of results to both organisations.

11.18 Australia suggested that, given the importance of the required cooperation between CCAMLR and SCAR, it might be appropriate for the Scientific Committee Chairman to represent the Commission at SCAR meetings.

11.19 The Commission noted that since the Scientific Committee had not yet considered this as an option, it would not be possible to make a commitment for the Scientific Committee Chairman at this time.

11.20 In the meantime, it was agreed that given the fortuitous timing of the next SCAR meeting and the SCAR Working Group on Biology (10 to 14 July, Tokyo, Japan), which will be attended by Dr Fanta (Vice-Chairperson, Scientific Committee), Dr Fanta be nominated to represent CCAMLR at the SCAR meeting to be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 10 to 22 July 2000.