

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

CEP

10.1 The CEP Observer to SC-CAMLR (Dr Penhale) presented SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/7 on the ongoing collaboration between CEP and SC-CAMLR, as discussed at CEP XIII held in Uruguay in May 2010, on the following five areas of common interest:

(i) Climate change –

The CEP reviewed the 30 recommendations contained in the report of the ATME on impacts of climate change for management and governance of the Antarctic (see paragraphs 8.1 to 8.15) and agreed to place climate change as a high priority on its five-year work plan and to allocate items to relevant agenda items (see also SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/8).

(ii) Biodiversity and non-native species –

The CEP undertook to keep SC-CAMLR informed of any developments of relevance under this issue.

(iii) Species requiring special protection –

There was no discussion at CEP XIII on species requiring special protection.

(iv) Spatial management and area protection –

The CEP recognised SC-CAMLR's timetable for action towards developing a network of MPAs by the 2012 deadline, and mirrored the timetable in the CEP's five-year work program, noting that it would nominate observers to CCAMLR meetings and workshops as appropriate.

The CEP welcomed the evolving cooperation with SC-CAMLR and, noting that the issue of spatial marine management will be discussed in detail, accepted SC-CAMLR's invitation to send an observer to SC-CAMLR's WG-EMM meeting in July 2010. The Committee nominated Dr Watters as its observer to WG-EMM.

The CEP recalled that the Joint SC-CAMLR-CEP Workshop had recognised that the issue of marine spatial protection and management is best led by SC-CAMLR, and that the CEP had previously stressed the need to constructively engage in, and support, SC-CAMLR's work in this area.

(v) Ecosystem and environmental monitoring –

The CEP noted the need for biodiversity surveys to support environmental management for Antarctica and agreed to return to this issue at its next meeting.

10.2 Dr Penhale noted that there are two ASMAs (1 and 7) and two ASPAs (152 and 153) that contain marine components with the potential for harvesting. While these ASPA and ASMA designations have previously been reviewed by CCAMLR, there is no mention of them in CCAMLR conservation measures.

10.3 The Scientific Committee agreed that in the spirit of continued cooperation with the CEP and to encourage advance discussion and coordination of activities, including harvesting, in those ASPAs and ASMAs, the details of these sites and other relevant instruments should be made available to CCAMLR Members on the CCAMLR website. Furthermore, the Scientific Committee agreed to place the details of sites where CEMP data have been collected, highlighting those sites where CEMP research is currently undertaken, on the CCAMLR website.

10.4 The Scientific Committee thanked Dr Penhale for her report and agreed that the presentation of reciprocal reports between the CEP and SC-CAMLR should follow the procedure used this year.

SCAR

10.5 The SCAR Observer to CCAMLR (Prof. M. Hindell) presented the SCAR annual report to SC-CAMLR (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/17) and reported on the new activities conducted by SCAR that are of potential interest to CCAMLR, these included:

- SCAR's ACCE report was published in October 2009 and will be updated annually by SCAR's Expert Group on Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (see Item 8);
- the development of SOOS, the planning document for which will be finalised by the end of the 2010 and will be supported by a Secretariat hosted in Australia;
- two new potential scientific research programs of relevance to CCAMLR activities are under development – Antarctic Ecosystems: Adaptations, Thresholds and Resilience (AntETR) and State of the Antarctic Ecosystem (AntEco);
- SCAR's Action Group on Ocean Acidification;
- SCAR-coordinated CPR surveys continue to grow with an increasing number of countries contributing;
- the SCAR-MarBIN data portal continues to gather information on marine biodiversity in the Antarctic;
- a proposal for a joint CCAMLR–SCAR action group to improve the strategic partnership between the two organisations with the aims of:
 - determining what SCAR's and CCAMLR's expectations of each other are or should be, based on what is of benefit to Members of each organisation, and on a more strategic understanding of what each organisation can provide to make the partnership viable, sustainable and valuable;
 - offering advice on ways and mechanisms that SCAR and CCAMLR might implement to work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner;

- offering guidance on ways in which SCAR and CCAMLR might work together more effectively in the future to provide advice to the ATS;
- identifying a series of topics/issues that are of common interest to SCAR and CCAMLR that could form an agenda for the way forward.

10.6 The Scientific Committee thanked Prof. Hindell for his report and endorsed the proposed terms of reference for the joint action group. In order to make progress on the action group, the Scientific Committee agreed that the Chair of the Scientific Committee should contact the SCAR Executive to suggest a meeting in association with the CEP meeting to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in June 2011.

10.7 Dr E. Marschoff (CCAMLR Observer to SCAR-XXXI) provided the Scientific Committee with a report of the SCAR Delegates' Meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2010 (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/12). In particular he noted:

- (i) the great commitment of SCAR to promote early careers in Antarctic science;
- (ii) the finding by SCAR's Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) of more than 200 alien species;
- (iii) the proposal for SCAR to host a workshop in South Africa in May/June 2011 entitled 'Antarctic Conservation in the XXI Century'. It is expected that the outcomes of the meeting will be useful for the ATS.

10.8 Dr Barrera-Oro, who had attended the SCAR Open Science Conference, also held in Buenos Aires, informed the Scientific Committee that more than 850 papers had been presented and noted that there were a great number of young scientists presenting work at this meeting. The attendance of many of these scientists had been facilitated through the SCAR Science Capacity Fund.

Reports of observers from other international organisations

ASOC

10.9 Dr R. Werner (ASOC Observer) drew attention to the papers tabled by ASOC.

10.10 With respect to CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/24, ASOC noted that ocean acidification poses severe potential threats to marine ecosystems, particularly the Southern Ocean. Ocean acidification has the potential to cause serious problems for a number of calcifying organisms, and rising CO₂ levels are already reducing the average shell weights of a species of Southern Ocean foraminifera. The relative under-saturation of CaCO₃ in the Southern Ocean suggests that initial impacts of acidification in this ocean will be obvious if greenhouse gas emissions continue on their projected trajectory. Therefore, ASOC requested the Scientific Committee to urgently develop research programs to fill in the gaps of current research on Southern Ocean impacts as soon as possible, including longer-term studies of acidification for the entire life cycle of important species. Information arising from these studies will be very important when assessing the impacts of bottom fishing on VMEs given the effect on calcifying organisms, including cold water corals.

10.11 Also of relevance to the work of the Scientific Committee, WWF on behalf of ASOC, represented by WWF-New Zealand, attended the Fifth Advisory Committee Meeting of ACAP, held earlier this year in Mar del Plata, Argentina. ASOC indicated its support for the progress made on the development of an official MOU between ACAP and CCAMLR. ASOC encouraged all CCAMLR Members and observers to fully implement the Agreement, and encouraged non-signatories to the Agreement to immediately accede. ASOC further noted that it is vital that CCAMLR Parties fully engage to encourage greater cooperation in the Agreement in order to address the high seabird mortality outside the Convention Area, particularly associated with tuna fisheries.

10.12 ASOC member group WWF submitted two papers to WG-EMM.

10.13 ASOC member 'The Antarctic Krill Conservation Project', an initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts, attended the 7th International Penguin Conference held in August 2010 in Boston, MA, USA, and presented the paper 'Are penguins in Antarctica in danger from krill fishing?' This presentation provided penguin researchers with up-to-date information on the current work of CCAMLR in the management of the krill fishery, especially highlighting the conservation challenges regarding krill fishing and penguin species in Area 48.

IWC

10.14 Prof. Fernholm (CCAMLR Observer to IWC) presented his report (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/14 Rev. 1) from the 62nd Meeting of the SC-IWC which was held in Agadir, Morocco, from 30 May to 11 June 2010.

10.15 Antarctic whale stocks were discussed by the SC-IWC. For the Antarctic minke whales, two different methods for estimating abundance gave different results, but indicated a possible decline. Work is ongoing to derive an agreed estimate for abundance and trends. For southern hemisphere blue whales, an annual rate of increase of 8% is indicated. For the Australian south coast population of the southern hemisphere right whale, the annual rate of increase is 7.5%.

Reports of representatives at meetings of other international organisations

ACAP

10.16 Mr I. Hay (Australia) attended the 5th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC5) for ACAP as the CCAMLR Observer. Mr Hay was unable to attend the Scientific Committee meeting, however, he provided SC-CAMLR with a report on the ACAP meeting which was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 13 to 17 April 2010. The meeting was preceded by meetings of three Working Groups (WGs) of the Advisory Committee – Breeding Sites WG, Seabird Bycatch WG and Status and Trends WG – in Mar del Plata, from 8 to 10 April 2010.

10.17 The Scientific Committee noted key ACAP agenda items and results of particular interest to CCAMLR which included:

- revision of ACAP's best-practice advice on mitigation measures for demersal and pelagic trawl and longline fisheries (AC5 report, Annexes 6 to 11);

- the joint revision and publication with Birdlife International, of comprehensive Mitigation Fact Sheets describing, in a range of languages, and illustrating seabird by-catch mitigation measures for the most common fishing methods. The fact sheets are available from the ACAP website (www.acap.aq);
- improvements to ACAP Parties national reporting to establish seabird by-catch reporting;
- agreement on some performance indicators to measure the conservation status of ACAP-listed species and the effectiveness of the agreement;
- further substantial progress on the development of a decision-making framework for prioritising which species, populations, breeding sites and threats are the most important for improved conservation;
- engagement with RFMOs and other international organisations, such as CCAMLR, that have fisheries management responsibilities;
- allocation of funds to the ACAP work program and ACAP grants process;
- development of data sharing arrangements.

Future cooperation

10.18 The list of meetings of potential relevance to the Scientific Committee was divided into those meetings of other bodies with which CCAMLR has common interests and science conferences/symposia where the subject material is likely to be of relevance to CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/11 Rev. 2).

10.19 In 2009, the Scientific Committee requested that, where Members are aware of, or attending, meetings of potential relevance to the work of CCAMLR (including those listed in SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 9.42), that they notify the Secretariat in order that arrangements can be made to ensure that the Scientific Committee and its working groups are kept informed of current scientific developments relevant to their work (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 9.41). The Secretariat received no such notifications during 2010.

10.20 In CCAMLR-XXIX/33 Rev. 1 the Secretariat had invited Members of the Scientific Committee to:

- (i) review the continued need for the Secretariat to produce an annual paper on ‘Calendar of meetings of relevance’, and to annually seek nominations from Members to be the CCAMLR-nominated observer to the meetings of other organisations;
- (ii) consider alternative mechanisms to ensure that CCAMLR is adequately informed of developments in other organisations of relevance to the work of CCAMLR.

10.21 The Scientific Committee noted that the reports of the meetings of other organisations in which CCAMLR has an interest are normally publically available on that organisation's website. However, the Scientific Committee asked that the Secretariat continue to make a 'Calendar of meetings of relevance' of the organisations listed in CCAMLR-XXIX/33 Rev. 1 available to the Scientific Committee in future and make the Scientific Committee aware of project reports – such as from ICED – which are also of relevance to the work of the Scientific Committee.