

# **Report of the Committee for Environmental Protection**

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Report from the Committee's third meeting (CEP III)  
September 11 – 15, 2000  
The Hague, Netherlands

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## **Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

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- (1) The CEP Chair, Dr. Olav Orheim (Norway), opened the meeting on Monday, 11 September, 2000.

## **Item 2: Adoption of Agenda**

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- (2) The provisional agenda, as agreed at CEP II and circulated by the Netherlands, was adopted. Altogether 25 Working Papers and 43 Information Papers were considered under the various agenda items (**Annex 1** of the CEP Report).

## **Item 3: Operation of the CEP**

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- (3) The Committee noted that the use of the open-ended intersessional contact groups by the CEP had worked well during the intersessional period. The value of the intersessional contact group process in accelerating the work of the CEP, and the implementation of the Protocol, was recognised. Some Members drew attention to the importance of consistency among the procedures used by the intersessional contact groups set up by the CEP.
- (4) Members and Observers were asked to update the addresses of the CEP national contact points (**Annex 2** of the CEP Report).

## **Item 4: Compliance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection**

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### *4a) General Matters*

- (5) Ukraine submitted Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP41) on its adherence to the Protocol on Environmental Protection. The United Kingdom welcomed the efforts being made by Ukraine and asked for information on progress being made by other Non-Consultative Parties to ratify the Protocol. The Czech Republic, Ukraine, Canada and Romania informed the CEP that they are still working to ratify the Protocol. It is hoped that these Parties will ratify the Protocol before the next ATCM. The Committee welcomed this information.
- (6) The Committee agreed that Information Papers containing annual reports by Parties regarding compliance with the Protocol would not be discussed unless there were specific questions about any of these.
- (7) The following Information Papers giving the annual reports were submitted to the Committee, in accordance with Article 17 of the Protocol: (XII SATCM/IP1), (Germany); (XII SATCM/IP3), (Sweden); (XII SATCM/IP6), (South Africa); (XII SATCM/IP7), (United Kingdom); (XII SATCM/IP9), (Japan); (XII SATCM/IP12), (Norway); (XII SATCM/IP16), (Uruguay); (XII SATCM/IP23), (China); (XII SATCM/IP25), (Russian Federation); (XII SATCM/IP34), (Argentina); (XII SATCM/IP35), (New Zealand); (XII SATCM/IP36)

(Bulgaria); and (XII SATCM/IP38), (Finland). Australia and USA noted that they had posted the information under this agenda item on their websites. Romania also submitted Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP2) to the CEP.

(8) New Zealand submitted Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP 15) describing experience with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management system.

(9) ASOC submitted Information Papers: (XII SATCM/IP20) “1999/2000 Southern Ocean Expedition”, (XII SATCM/IP21), “Report of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition”, and (XII SATCM/IP22), “An Evaluation of Progress towards Implementation of the Madrid Protocol”. The Committee noted this interesting evaluation in IP22 and looked forward to its updating.

(10) The Committee noted Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP24) on cybercartography, submitted by Canada, reporting developments in computer based techniques for assembly and display of environmental and ecological information in multiple dimensions. Cartographic research groups in Argentina, Brazil, China, and the USA, co-ordinated by Canada and with the co-operation of SCAR, are developing a design for such an “atlas” of Antarctica that could supplement and be of assistance to various information databases presently used and which may also assist the CEP in its work.

(11) IAATO tabled Information Papers (XII SATCM/IP32) and (XII SATCM/IP33) reporting on tourism activities.

(12) Peru introduced Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP37) describing its activities since the adoption of Resolution 4 (ATCM XXIII), to improve co-operation in accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol. Peru thanked the Parties for their comments during the intersessional work and announced that it has opened a web page (<http://www.rree.gob.pe/cooperacion/default/html>) to continue the exchange of opinions for the presentation of a document during the next ATCM.

(13) The Netherlands introduced Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP39) listing IEE’s and a CEE prepared by the Parties.

(14) The CCAMLR observer noted that this Information Paper (XX SATCM/IP37) did not indicate whether CCAMLR had been approached in respect of improving co-operation for the protection of the Antarctic Environment. Peru indicated that this would be done.

(15) At CEP II, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR, attending the CEP as an observer, proposed a reciprocal arrangement whereby a representative of the CEP should attend meetings of the Scientific Committee of CAMLR (SC-CAMLR) as an observer. Dr Tony Press (Australia) represented the CEP at SC-CAMLR XVIII (October 1999).

(16) Dr Press noted that the Report of CCAMLR XVIII had acknowledged formal establishment of a constructive link between SC-CAMLR and the CEP.

(17) The CEP observer to CCAMLR introduced Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP40) which reported on the CCAMLR XVIII and SC-CAMLR XVIII, highlighting the development and implementation of the CCAMLR Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for Patagonian Toothfish. This represents a major CCAMLR initiative to address the growing threat of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing to Antarctic ecosystems. The report noted

the increase in the krill fishery in recent years and the reduction in by-catch of sea birds in the legal longline fishery due to increased compliance with CCAMLR mitigation measures.

(18) The Committee thanked Dr Press for his report. It noted the great value of measures adopted by CCAMLR to reduce the impacts of IUU fishing on the Antarctic ecosystem, especially the recent implementation of the CDS.

(19) The Committee also noted that marine debris from fishing vessels is an issue that CCAMLR is continuing to address and welcomed a report on this matter from the Commission to its next meeting, especially in relation to compliance with Annex IV of the Protocol.

(20) The SC-CAMLR Chair drew the Committee's attention to the recent multi-national survey aimed at assessing krill stocks in the South West Atlantic (CCAMLR area 48). The results of this survey will provide key data for CCAMLR's review of its precautionary catch limits for krill in the area.

(21) Ukraine tabled Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP43) containing a report on ecological situation at the Ukrainian Antarctic station Vernadsky.

*4b) Consideration of Draft CEEs forwarded to the CEP in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 3 of Annex I of the Protocol*

(22) Germany introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP1), containing a draft CEE for recovering a deep ice core in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica. Germany thanked those Parties that had provided comments on the draft CEE in accordance with Article 3(3) of Annex I of the Protocol.

(23) Germany noted that most Parties had raised two key issues. These related to oil spill response procedures for the drilling project and the materials to be left behind on completion of the drilling operations. With regard to the former, Germany made reference to its Emergency Response Manual that established the necessary procedures for dealing with oil spills. With regard to the latter, Germany quantified the amount of material that would be left *in situ*.

(24) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP24) containing the report of the open-ended intersessional contact group set up to consider the draft CEE. The contact group was established in accordance with the procedures set out in the "Guidelines for the CEP Consideration of CEEs" (Annex 4 to the Final Report of CEP II). The convenor of the group was Dr Peter Barrett from New Zealand.

(25) The report noted that while there were issues that could be further clarified and information that would be useful to include in the final draft, the draft CEE had provided a worthwhile basis for consideration of the project. The main issues raised concerned foreign material to be abandoned at the site (camp construction material and drilling fluid), and documentation for fuel storage, handling and emergency procedures. There were varying opinions in the group as to whether a CEE or an IEE was the appropriate level of EIA for this particular activity.

(26) The Committee thanked New Zealand for acting as convenor of the contact group and congratulated Germany on the preparation of the draft CEE. The Committee considered the draft CEE to be well structured and informative. The draft CEE had examined all the relevant issues and provided a meaningful basis for examining environmental impacts of the project.

(27) The Committee noted that in considering the draft CEE, its role was to examine the adequacy of draft CEEs and to provide advice on draft CEEs to the ATCM. The Committee had no responsibility for the nature or timing of the planned programme, or for approving the CEE. Such actions rested solely with national authorities.

(28) Several members had further comments or questions about the draft CEE. These related to *inter alia*:

- the need to provide more detail on the nature of the drilling fluid to be used, less harmful alternatives to it, and the reasons for leaving the drilling fluid in the borehole on completion of the work;
- the need to make better reference to the experience gained from other drilling projects, in particular the Vostok drilling program;
- greater consideration of alternatives for the construction of the drilling camp;
- further information on the treatment and disposal of wastewater from the drilling camp;
- an improved description of the methodology used to assess the severity of impacts, and the need for more quantitative data on these possible impacts;
- a more complete monitoring program to be included in the CEE; and
- a better description of potential future uses and monitoring of the borehole.

(29) On the issue of the drilling fluid to be used Russia and the UK expressed the view that from their experience the solution proposed was the best possible option available today. Italy described further the physical restrictions which prevented the removal of the drilling fluid from such a deep hole.

(30) Germany thanked the Committee for its comments on the draft CEE and explained the reasons for the chosen camp construction and the chosen drilling fluid. In relation to the latter Germany pointed out that recovery of the borehole fluid on completion of the project had been discussed in the international ice core drilling community. Current best available technology and the physical properties of the ice will not allow recovery of an appreciable amount of the drilling fluid from the hole.

(31) Germany further noted that the remarks made will be taken into account in preparation of the final version of the CEE.

(32) In advising the SATCM on its consideration of the draft CEE, the Committee:

- noted that it had fully considered the draft CEE circulated by Germany;
- noted that the CEP had provided comments at the meeting to Germany on specific elements of the draft CEE;
- considered that, in general, the draft CEE was well structured and had provided an appropriate assessment of the impacts of the proposed project; and

- considered that the draft CEE was consistent with the requirements of Annex I of the Protocol.

(33) The CEP's Advice to the XII SATCM on the draft CEE contained in (XII SATCM/WP1) is attached in **Appendix 1**.

(34) The Committee also reviewed the procedures established for intersessional examination of draft CEEs. The Committee noted that all comments submitted to the contact group should immediately be forwarded to all members of the contact group.

(35) It was also noted that the terms of reference for contact groups should not be too broad and that an intersessional contact group on a draft CEE is established only when there is a request from one of the Parties. An informal drafting group developed a revised version of the operational procedures for establishing intersessional contact groups for draft CEEs, including generic terms of reference. These were agreed and are reproduced at **Annex 3**.

*4c) Other Matters covered by Annex I (Environmental Impact Assessments)*

(36) Germany introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP2) on the exchange of information on the application of Articles 3 and 8, as well as Annex I of the Protocol, pointing out in particular problems regarding different interpretations of terms laid down in Article 3 (2) (b) and in Article 8 (1). The proposal was aimed at the establishment of an intersessional contact group of the licensing agencies responsible for applying the Protocol's provisions in order to exchange information on the reasoning behind national decisions and to increase harmonised interpretation and application of the Protocol.

(37) The Committee welcomed the German Working Paper, acknowledging the value of co-operation in accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol, in sharing information that will help the Parties in their Antarctic activities. Individual Members offered to provide information for Germany, but it was agreed not to set up such a group at this time.

(38) Several members referred to existing requirements for exchanging information on IEEs according to Resolution 6 (1995).

(39) Attention was also drawn to the Guidelines on EIA, adopted under Resolution 1 (1999), which discussed aspects of the interpretation of the terms referred to in (XII SATCM/WP2).

(40) The Committee further welcomed the initiative of COMNAP, contained in Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP22), which proposed an analysis of existing IEEs for two or three specified types of activities with the aim of achieving a better understanding of how the EIA process is being implemented by different operators. COMNAP noted also that it had posted the EIA guidelines on its web site.

(41) The Committee welcomed this information and asked COMNAP to report to CEP IV on the outcome of the analysis.

(42) SCAR presented Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP42) regarding the impacts of acoustic techniques on the marine environment and which proposes a workshop on this issue in early 2001, located in Cambridge, UK.

(43) The Committee welcomed these actions and asked SCAR to report back to the CEP IV meeting on the outcome of the workshop.

(44) The Committee noted with interest the Information Paper from ASOC (XII SATCM/IP10) which elaborates the concept of strategic environmental assessments (SEA). The Committee noted that some aspects of this related to tourism, which is usually dealt with by the ATCM itself.

(45) The Committee agreed that it was appropriate that the issues raised were discussed within the CEP. Several members noted that there was merit in the SEA concept as it related to cumulative environmental impacts. The Committee welcomed information on the results of such efforts. It was agreed that the CEP may wish to consider this further at CEP IV.

(46) COMNAP noted that aspects of the work outlined in its Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP22), in particular consideration of monitoring and EIA at multi-operator sites, are examples of the application of the principles of SEA.

(47) IAATO offered to provide an Information Paper on the work it is undertaking on the issue of cumulative environmental impacts.

(48) New Zealand tabled Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP18) reviewing the scientific drilling project at Cape Roberts in Ross Sea in accordance with ATCM Resolution 1 (1997).

*4d) Matters covered by Annex II (Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna)*

(49) Australia introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP6) on diseases of Antarctic wildlife. SCAR also introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP20) on this subject which responded to the recommendations in the report from the 1988 Australian workshop on diseases of Antarctic wildlife.

(50) It was noted that there has not yet been a disease outbreak in Antarctic wildlife directly attributed to human activity. However, this should not prevent the Parties from taking a precautionary approach to disease introduction.

(51) It was also stressed that it would be advisable to increase awareness and scientific knowledge about diseases in Antarctic wildlife, aimed at identifying possible risks so that appropriate measures could be taken to prevent them.

(52) The Committee agreed that the work of the intersessional open-ended contact group set up at CEP II should continue, under the leadership of Dr Martin Riddle ([martin.riddle@aad.gov.au](mailto:martin.riddle@aad.gov.au)). The following revised Terms of Reference were agreed:

- That the contact group prepare an initial report for CEP IV which:
- provides a review of the introduction and spread by human activity of infectious disease causing agents in Antarctica and provides a risk assessment of those activities which may introduce or spread disease causing agents in Antarctica;
- presents practical measures that might be implemented by Parties to diminish the risk to Antarctic wildlife of the introduction and spread by human activity of infectious diseases causing agents; and

- presents practical measures that may be implemented to determine the cause of unusual wildlife mortality and morbidity events in Antarctica and to reduce the likelihood that human activity may exacerbate these events.

(53) COMNAP stated that it would provide operational advice to the intersessional work.

(54) IAATO stated that it was willing to contribute to the intersessional contact group. Others who wished to be part of the group were asked to contact Dr Riddle.

(55) Argentina presented Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP17) which stressed the need to analyse uncertainties regarding the difference in the level of protection between Antarctic native fauna and flora and Specially Protected Species as referred to in Article 3 of Annex II of the Protocol, and proposed the establishment of an intersessional open-ended contact group to work on this issue.

(56) In response to Resolution 2 (1999) SCAR introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP18), providing a review of the list of specially Protected species referred to in Article 3(4) of Annex II of the Protocol and listed in Appendix A to the same annex. SCAR proposed deletion of the fur seal from the list and the addition of five bird species. SCAR supported the view of Argentina that Annex II needs clarification regarding the purpose of setting the criteria for designation, and the extra protection afforded to Specially Protected Species.

(57) The Committee thanked Argentina and SCAR for these papers and noted that Article 8 of Annex II of the Protocol requires Parties to keep under continual review measures for the conservation of Antarctic flora and fauna. It noted also that Article 3 of Annex II needs clarification in relation to the nature of the special protection afforded by designation as an Antarctic Specially Protected Species.

(58) It was agreed to establish an open-ended intersessional contact group under the following Terms of Reference:

The contact group will:

- consider if some Antarctic native species require additional protection by designation beyond that afforded to all native species by the Madrid Protocol, and the reasons for this;
- identify criteria that could be used for assessing a species for inclusion in this category, if additional protection is considered necessary;
- propose practical mechanisms that might be implemented to provide the appropriate level of extra protection; and
- consider if the status of Antarctic Specially Protected Species should be applicable to classes of Antarctic organisms besides birds, mammals, and flora.

(59) The Committee asked Argentina to co-ordinate the contact group, under the leadership of José M. Acero ([jmacero@abaconet.com.ar](mailto:jmacero@abaconet.com.ar)). Those interested in participating should contact him directly by email.

(60) The contact group was asked to provide a progress report of its work to CEP IV and a final report to CEP V.

(61) The Committee accordingly decided not to consider the revisions proposed in the SCAR Working Paper until the criteria have been reviewed, and to revisit the question of amendments to the list when the contact group report has been considered.

(62) Russia introduced Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP26) on a fauna inventory in the Mirny Station area.

*4e) Matters covered by Annex III (Waste Disposal and Waste Management)*

(63) Germany introduced Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP4) on preparation of an inventory of locations of past scientific activities in Antarctica, and demonstrated its capabilities and potential uses during a special visual presentation. The Committee saw value in this approach and thanked Germany for its presentation.

(64) Uruguay tabled Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP17) on the removal of waste of unknown origin in the vicinity of its ECARE station on the Antarctic Peninsula.

(65) Russia introduced Information Papers (XII SATCM/IP29), (XII SATCM/IP30), (XII SATCM/IP31) on waste disposal and clean up actions at its stations.

*4f) Matters covered by Annex IV (Prevention of Marine Pollution)*

(66) The Committee noted the report from the International Hydrographic Organisation presented in Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP5).

*4g) Matters covered by Annex V (Area Protection and Management)*

(67) The USA, as Depository Government for the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol, reported that Argentina had deposited an instrument of ratification to Annex V. Four Consultative Parties have taken no action with respect to Annex V. Ecuador, India and the Russian Federation all indicated that they expected that Annex V would be ratified before the next ATCM. Poland informed the CEP that they had approved Recommendation XVI-10, but that apparently, for technical reasons, this was not yet on the register of the Depository Government.

(68) The United Kingdom introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP3) containing revised management plans for Specially Protected Areas No. 14, Lynch Island, South Orkney Islands and No. 19, Lagotellerie Island, Marguerite Bay, Graham Land.

(69) Australia presented Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP7) containing a revised management plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 17, Clark Peninsula.

(70) Poland introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP9) containing a revised management plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 8, Western Shore of Admiralty Bay, King George Island, South Shetland Islands and Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP10) containing a

revised management plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 34, Lions Rump, King George Island, South Shetland Islands.

(71) Japan presented Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP14) containing a revised management plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 22, Yukidori Valley, Langhovde, Lützow-Holm Bay.

(72) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP21) containing a draft management plan for Specially Protected Area No. 20, New College Valley, Cape Bird, Ross Island, which also incorporated SSSI No. 10.

(73) A number of comments were raised and incorporated in the revised texts of the management plans. The Committee thanked the above members for their respective papers and agreed to recommend that Measure 1 (2000) regarding these management plans be adopted by the XII SATCM (**Appendix 2**).

(74) Several members also presented Working Papers proposing extensions of the expiry dates of Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP8), (Australia) on the extension of expiry dates for the management plans of SSSIs No. 25 (Marine Plain) and No. 16 (North Eastern Bailey Peninsula); Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP23), (New Zealand) on SSSI No. 24 (Summit of Mt Melbourne, North Victoria Land); and Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP25), (United Kingdom) regarding extension of expiry dates for SSSIs No. 21 (Parts of Deception Island, South Shetland Islands), No. 29 (Ablation Point-Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island) and No. 31 (Mount Flora, Hope Bay, Antarctic Peninsula).

(75) The Committee thanked these Members for their Papers. The Committee agreed that each of the sites in question deserved continued protection until such time as their management plans could be revised in accordance with Annex V of the Protocol. The Committee recognised that there were other Management Plans for SSSIs that were about to expire. The Committee proposed a five year extension of the expiry dates for all these Management Plans and asked that Measure 2 (2000) be adopted by the XII SATCM (**Appendix 3**).

(76) The United Kingdom introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP4) on Historic Site and Monument No. 74 (HSM 74), the wreckage of a wooden sailing vessel, South-West Coast of Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands. The UK noted that the initial designation of the site had included a large section of the coastline of Elephant Island. On the basis of improved knowledge about the wreckage, the UK paper provided three options for HSM 74: continue with the existing designation, reduce the area of the site, or remove the site from the list.

(77) The United Kingdom also raised the more generic issue of regularly reviewing the list of Historic Sites and Monuments, in particular to remove any sites that no longer exist.

(78) The Committee thanked the United Kingdom for its paper. On the generic issue of reviewing the list of Historic Sites or Monuments, the Committee agreed that the list should only contain sites that exist. It was also suggested that there was a need for criteria for determining which site or monument to include or retain on the list.

(79) It was noted that changes to the list of Historic Sites or Monuments may require changes in domestic legislation. It was therefore agreed that changes to the list, including any changes to HSM No. 74, would be more appropriately considered collectively after a general review.

(80) The Committee urged Members to individually review the list of Historic Sites or Monuments within their operational area. Where it was known that sites no longer exist members were asked to provide the information to CEP IV. The information should also be transmitted to the UK contact point Dr Neil Gilbert (*prs.fco@gtnet.gov.uk*) who undertook to prepare a Paper on this issue for CEP IV.

(81) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP11) that addressed part (a) of the terms of reference (CEP II Report Para 80) of the intersessional contact group on protected areas to develop guidelines for:

- implementation of the framework for protected areas set forth in Article 3 of Annex V, drawing on the conceptual scheme in Recommendation 1 of Working Paper 37; and
- ways to apply the concepts of environmental risk, quality and feasibility for identifying, selecting and proposing protected areas.

(82) The paper contained proposed “Guidelines for Implementation of Article 3, Annex V of the Environmental Protocol – Antarctic Specially Protected Areas”. New Zealand noted that the guidelines are intended to assist the Parties, SCAR, COMNAP, CCAMLR and the CEP in the assessment and definition of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

(83) The Committee thanked New Zealand for their very valuable and constructive work in co-ordinating the contact group. Several corrections were proposed which were incorporated in the revised version of the guidelines. COMNAP offered to post these guidelines on their website: [www.comnap.aq](http://www.comnap.aq). The Committee asked that the SATCM approve Resolution 1 (2000) containing these guidelines (**Appendix 4**).

(84) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP12) referring to part (b) of the terms of reference of the intersessional contact group. This considered further ways that the CEP might most effectively develop advice on proposed and revised management plans for Specially Protected Areas and the means by which Management Plans could be monitored. The paper contained a suggestion to utilise open-ended intersessional contact groups as a mechanism for assessing draft Management Plans in advance of each CEP meeting so as to prepare advice on the draft plans for the CEP.

(85) The Committee discussed whether one contact group should be established to revise all Management Plans or each of them should be considered by a separate group. It was agreed that separate open-ended intersessional working groups would be the best way of considering draft Management Plans. The proponent of the plan would normally act as convenor of the group. SCAR, COMNAP and CCAMLR confirmed their willingness to take part in such intersessional work. The Committee agreed to procedures to be followed when a draft management plan is submitted to the Committee. These are attached in **Annex 4**.

(86) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XXII SATCM/WP13) which addressed part (c) of the terms of reference of the intersessional contact group. This tasked the group with considering the need for further elaboration of an Antarctic conservation strategy.

(87) The contact group concluded that further elaboration of an Antarctic conservation strategy is not needed at present, given the provisions of the Environmental Protocol and its five annexes.

(88) The Committee noted that, in its consideration of this matter, several other issues were raised and deserve further consideration. These included: the need to better understand the reasons for different approaches to implementing the Protocol; environmental monitoring; management of cumulative effects; managing of “novel” or emerging activities; the need to fully implement the protected area system in Antarctica, and the use of Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) where the activities of different parties occurred at the same site.

(89) The Committee endorsed the conclusion of the contact group that further elaboration of an Antarctic conservation strategy is not needed at present.

(90) In carrying out its work the contact group had prepared a complete list of the recommendations stemming from various protected areas workshops held by SCAR, Antarctic Treaty Parties and IUCN from 1992 until 1999, and the extent to which these had been implemented. It was agreed to append this Table 1 as **Annex 5**, and to address this useful work in the future.

(91) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP15) updating the Committee on its proposal for a Balleny Islands Specially Protected Area and highlighted its concerns with the process for designation of protected areas with a significant marine component under Article 6 of Annex V of the Protocol. A preliminary proposal had been tabled at CEP II and had been referred to SCAR, as well as CCAMLR for consideration in accordance with Decision 4 (1998) which provides criteria for the provision of draft management plans with marine components to CCAMLR.

(92) New Zealand noted that the CCAMLR Commission had tasked its Scientific Committee and CCAMLR Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM) with assessing the proposal during the 1999/2000 intersessional period.

(93) The recent meeting of WG-EMM had supported the scientific validity of creating the specially protected area around the Balleny Islands and had noted that the area was an outstanding representation of both marine and terrestrial biodiversity. The WG-EMM suggested that the boundary be adjusted to include the Balleny Seamount as it is likely to provide an important habitat for fish species and other associated biota.

(94) New Zealand reiterated that the protected area provisions of the Protocol allow for protection of both terrestrial and marine areas and that areas with a significant marine component cannot be designated without prior approval of CCAMLR (Protocol Article 6(2)). New Zealand proposed that the CEP ask the ATCM to encourage the CCAMLR Commission in its work on the development of a clear process for assessment and approval of marine protected areas under Annex V of the Protocol. The UK noted its concerns regarding this proposal.

(95) The observer from CCAMLR indicated that work was underway within CCAMLR to develop methodologies for its consideration of marine protected areas and how these could be developed to meet CCAMLR needs. This matter is still to be considered by the CCAMLR Scientific Committee and the Commission at the forthcoming meeting in late October 2000.

(96) The Committee recognised the value of a dialogue between the ATCM and CCAMLR with respect to review of proposals for potential marine protected areas.

(97) The need for close liaison with CCAMLR where appropriate was noted in the report of CEP II (paragraphs 13 and 14). This goes beyond marine protected areas and may include some real or perceived differences with definitions, for example, understanding the term of ‘conservation’. Close co-ordination between the ATCM, the CEP and CCAMLR is needed to ensure harmonisation of measures aimed at conserving Antarctic marine living resources and protecting the Antarctic environment.

(98) New Zealand introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP16), “Systematic Environmental Geographic Framework for Protected Areas under Annex V of the Environmental Protocol” and noted that this issue had been raised and discussed in the intersessional contact group on protected areas. The phrase ‘systematic environmental geographic framework’ is not defined in the Protocol and there is no such agreed framework. New Zealand further noted that a systematic approach to protected areas could help the CEP take a broader, more comprehensive and long term perspective on protected areas in Antarctica including incorporation of aspects such as priority areas and representativeness.

(99) The Committee noted that this was a complex issue that needed further thought and welcomed New Zealand’s intention to continue its work with assistance from SCAR and others who may wish to contribute.

(100) SCAR introduced Working Paper (XII SATCM WP19) on Antarctic Meteorites. SCAR expressed serious concerns regarding the potential for unrestricted collection of Antarctic meteorites by private expeditions. The SCAR delegates had agreed a recommendation to this effect at its recent meeting.

(101) The Committee supported the views expressed in the SCAR paper and noted that taking meteorites may constitute a violation of Article 3(2)(VI) of the Protocol in so far as it might lead to the degradation of, or substantial risk to areas of scientific significance. Some Members suggested that collection of Antarctic meteorites might also be in violation of Article 7 of the Protocol. It was agreed that these were issues that needed legal clarification.

(102) The Committee gratefully accepted New Zealand’s offer to study further the issues connected with the collection of meteorites. SCAR offered to participate in this process, and gather further scientific information. New Zealand was requested to report on the results of the study at CEP IV.

(103) Information Paper (XXII SATCM/IP8) was jointly submitted to the CEP by Argentina, Chile, Norway, Spain and UK, concerning the future management of the Deception Island.

(104) Argentina expressed the view that the creation of an ASMA on Deception Island is a very interesting co-operative project. However, at this stage, Argentina considers that it requires a pause for further thought.

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## **Item 5: Environmental Monitoring**

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(105) COMNAP presented Working Paper (XII SATCM/WP22) updating the CEP on the work of COMNAP/SCAR on environmental monitoring and environmental impact assessment since CEP II. COMNAP/SCAR have published an Environmental Monitoring Handbook and CD-ROM version of this was circulated to each delegation. The handbook

provides techniques for physical and chemical monitoring of station environmental impacts. COMNAP are now developing guidelines for designing environmental monitoring programmes at research stations. Other monitoring issues identified by COMNAP include:

- monitoring activities and the exchange of information at multiple operator sites, and
- co-ordination of monitoring data between operators.

(106) The observer from CCAMLR drew the Committee's attention to the work of the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP). This programme monitors the status of selected species at various localities and in various habitats around the Antarctic south of the polar front. It documents population changes in these species with time in relation to biological and environmental variability. As such CEMP data give an indication of the "Ecosystem Health". By now there is about sixteen years of data available which provides useful benchmarks for CCAMLR management decisions.

(107) The Committee noted this information with interest and indicated that the existence of CEMP data again illustrated the need for close liaison between the CEP and CCAMLR.

(108) Information Paper (XXII SATCM/IP13) "Environmental Radioactivity and Biomonitoring" was submitted to the Committee by SCAR. Peru informed the Committee that it was continuing its studies on this subject. Two more Information Papers concerning monitoring issues were submitted to the Committee: (XXII SATCM/IP27) and (XXII SATCM/IP28) from the Russian Federation regarding monitoring of the radiation conditions and chemical environmental parameters in the areas of Russian Antarctic Stations.

## **Item 6: State of the Antarctic Environment Report**

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(109) SCAR presented Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP14) updating the Committee on the Scoping Study for a State of the Antarctic Environment Report that it had been tasked to produce. Sweden requested more information on progress in this respect. SCAR announced that the full Scoping Study would be available at the CEP IV.

(110) New Zealand introduced Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP19) on the Ross Sea Region State of the Environment Report – An Update on Progress. Sweden thanked New Zealand for this valuable work.

## **Item 7: Emergency Response and Contingency Planning**

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(111) COMNAP presented Working Papers (XII SATCM/WP5) on its assessment of environmental emergencies arising from activities in Antarctica.

(112) The paper identified that fuel spills are the most common incidents with the greatest potential to cause environmental impacts. Most reported spills have been small and confined to a station or base or the adjoining waters. Further fuel spills in the marine environment are the least likely to occur but pose the greatest risk to wildlife.

(113) The Committee thanked COMNAP for this informative paper and agreed that it provides a valuable contribution to the consideration of human impacts in Antarctica. The Committee recommended that the SATCM urge Parties to fully implement Resolution 6 (1998) with respect to COMNAP guidelines on fuel transfer, fuel spill prevention and containment, emergency response action and contingency planning.

(114) IAATO presented Information Paper (XII SATCM/IP11) on assessment of environmental emergencies arising from tourism activities in Antarctica.

(115) The committee welcomed the IAATO Information Paper. COMNAP and IAATO were urged to continue recording environmental emergencies and to report this information periodically to the CEP.

### **Item 8: Data and Exchange of Information**

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(116) The Chair observed that this was an important item with many aspects, and that the XXIII ATCM had started work on the issue. The Committee decided to return to this item at CEP IV. It was agreed to request the CCAMLR secretariat to provide a paper for CEP IV on their experience with data management including consideration of annual reports.

### **Item 9: Election of Officers**

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(117) In accordance with Rules 16 and 20 of Rules of Procedure of the CEP, Dr. Olav Orheim was re-elected as the Chair of the CEP.

### **Item 10: Preparation for CEP IV**

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(118) The Committee agreed that the agenda of CEP III should also be the agenda of CEP IV. It was noted that in an effort to avoid duplication it would be expedient to subdivide agenda item 8 Data and Exchange of Information into two sub-items:

(8a) General matters and

(8b) Co-operation with other organisations in accordance with Article 11 of the Protocol.

This change would ensure that general co-operation with the organisations identified in Article 11 and not addressed elsewhere in CEP agenda could be consolidated. The SATCM was asked to approve the provisional Draft Agenda for CEP IV reproduced as **Appendix 5**.

(119) The Committee asked the SATCM to confirm the following organisations as observers to CEP IV according to 4c Rule of Procedure: ASOC, IAATO, IHO, IUCN, UNEP and WMO.

### **Item 11: Adoption of the Report**

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(120) The Draft Report was adopted by the Members.

### **Item 12: Closing of the Meeting**

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(121) The Chairperson Dr. Olav Orheim closed the Meeting, at the same time expressing the Committee's great gratitude to the work of the rapporteurs, the secretariat and the interpreters. He further thanked the Netherlands Government for the excellent facilities and support that had been provided.

## Annex 1

### Agenda and Final List of Documents

**Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

**Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

**Item 3: Operation of the CEP**

**Item 4: Compliance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection**

#### 4 a) General matters

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
IP 1	Annual Report of the Federal Republic of Germany pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	Germany
IP 2	The tourism and the Antarctic environment, two components of the modern civilization	Romania
IP 3	Annual Report under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Sweden	Sweden
IP 6	Annual Report pursuant to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	South Africa
IP 7	Implementation of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	United Kingdom
IP 9	Annual Report under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	Japan
IP 12	Annual Report pursuant to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	Norway
IP 15	ISO 14001 Environmental Management System – The New Zealand Antarctic Institute Experience	New Zealand
IP 16	Informe Anual de acuerdo al Artículo 17 del Protocolo al Tratado Antártico sobre la Protección del Medio Ambiente, Uruguay	Uruguay
IP 21	Report of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC)	ASOC
IP 22	An Evaluation of Progress towards Implementation of the Madrid Protocol	ASOC
IP 23	Chinese Antarctic Environmental Report – 1999/2000	China
IP 24	A Cybercartographic Atlas of Antarctica	Canada
IP 25	Annual Report pursuant to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	Russian Federation
IP32	Report of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators	IAATO
IP33	Overview of Antarctic Tourism	IAATO
IP34	Implementación del Protocolo al Tratado Antártico sobre Protección del Medio Ambiente por parte del Programa Antártico Argentino. Período 1999-2000.	Argentina
IP35	Implementation of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	New Zealand
IP36	Report of the Republic of Bulgaria pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty	Bulgaria

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
IP37	Advancement in Peru's Commitments Undertaken pursuant to Resolution 4 (ATCM XXIII) on the Treatment of the following subject: Co-operation between the Parties in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection	Peru
IP38	Annual Report Pursuant to the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty	Finland
IP39	List of Initial and Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations prepared by State Parties to the Environmental Protocol	Netherlands
IP40	Report of the CEP Observer to CCAMLR XVIII and SC-CAMLR XVIII 25 October to 5 November 1999	Australia
IP41	On the adherence to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty by Ukraine	Ukraine
IP43	The report on an ecological situation at the Ukrainian Antarctic station Akademik Vernadsky., 1996-2000	Ukraine

**4 b) Consideration of Draft CEEs forwarded to the CEP in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 3 of Annex I of the Protocol.**

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
WP 1	Draft Comprehensive Environmental Impact Evaluation for Recovering a Deep Ice Core in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica	Germany
WP 24	Report of the Contact Group of the Committee for Environmental Protection to Consider the Draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for recovering a deep ice core in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica	New Zealand

**4c) Others Matters covered by Annex I (Environmental Impact Assessments)**

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
WP 2	Exchange of information on the application of Articles 3 and 8 as well as Annex I of the Protocol	Germany
WP 22 (also AI 5)	Recent Monitoring and EIA initiatives	SCAR/COMNAP
IP 10	Antarctic Strategic Environmental Assessment: Application to the growing Antarctic tourism industry	ASOC
IP 18	Follow-up to Final Comprehensive Evaluation (CEE) – Antarctic Stratigraphic Drilling East of Cape Roberts in Southwest Ross Sea, Antarctica	New Zealand
IP 20	Greenpeace 1999/2000 Southern Ocean Expedition: Initial Environmental Evaluation	ASOC
IP42	Impacts of Acoustic Techniques in the Marine Environment	SCAR

**4d) Matters covered by Annex II (Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna)**

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
WP 6	Diseases of Antarctic Wildlife	Australia
WP 17	Considerations about the protection of native Antarctic flora and fauna	Argentina
WP 18	Specially protected species	SCAR
WP 20	Wildlife diseases	SCAR/COMNAP
IP26	Fauna Inventory of the Site of Special Scientific Interest № 7 “Haswell Island” (Mirny station area)	Russian Federation

**4e) Matters covered by Annex III (Waste Disposal and waste management)**

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
IP 4	Inventory of Location of Past Scientific Activities of Germany in Antarctica – ongoing studies	Germany
IP 17	Limpieza de Sitios Terrestres de Eliminación de Residuos y Sitios de Trabajo en E.C.A.R.E., en conformidad con el Anexo III, Artículo 1, Párrafo 5, del Protocolo sobre Protección del Medio Ambiente	Uruguay
IP29	Environmental protection activities at the Russian Antarctic station Bellingshausen	Russian Federation
IP30	Environmental protection activities at the Russian Antarctic station Molodezhnaya	Russian Federation
IP31	Environmental protection activities at the Russian Antarctic station Progress in 1999-2000	Russian Federation

**4f) Matters covered by Annex IV (Prevention of Marine Pollution)**

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
IP 5	Prevention of Marine Pollution	IHO

**4g) Matters covered by Annex V (Area protection and management)**

Paper No.	Title	Submitted by
WP 3	Antarctic Protected Areas System: Revised Management Plans for Specially Protected Area No. 14 Lynch Island, South Orkney Islands and for Specially Protected Area No. 19 Lagotellerie Island, Marguerite Bay, Graham Land	United Kingdom
WP 4	Historic Sites and Monuments: Sailing vessel wreckage, south-west coast of Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands	United Kingdom
WP 7	Antarctic Protected Areas System: Revised Management Plan for Clark Peninsula, Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 17	Australia
WP 8	Antarctic Protected Areas System: Extension of expiry dates for management plans for Sites of Special Scientific Interest No. 25 (Marine Plain) and No. 16 (North-Eastern Bailey Peninsula)	Australia
WP 9	Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 8	Poland
WP 10	Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 34	Poland
WP 11	Report on the open ended intersessional contact group on protected areas: Terms of Reference (a) – development of guidelines for protected areas	New Zealand
WP 12	Report on the open ended intersessional contact group on protected areas: Terms of Reference (b) – Advice on management plans	New Zealand
WP 13	Report on the open ended intersessional contact group on protected areas: Terms of Reference (c) – Consideration of the need for further elaboration of an Antarctic Conservation Strategy	New Zealand
WP 14	Antarctic Protected Areas System: Revised Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 22 Yukidori Valley, Langhovde, Lützow-Holm Bay	Japan
WP 15	Update on Proposal for a Balleny Islands Specially Protected Area	New Zealand
WP 16	Systematic Environmental Framework for Protected Areas Under Annex V of the Environmental Protocol	New Zealand
WP 19	Antarctic Meteorites	SCAR
WP 21	Draft Management Plan for Specially Protected Area No. 20 – New College Valley, Cape Bird, Ross Island	New Zealand
WP 23	Extension of Expiry Date for Designation of Site of Scientific Interest No. 24, Summit of Mt Melbourne, North Victoria Land	New Zealand

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
WP 25	Extension of Expiry Dates for Sites of Special Scientific Interest	The United Kingdom
IP 8	Deception Island – Future Management	Argentina, Chile, Norway, Spain and UK

**Item 5: Environmental Monitoring**

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
WP 22 (also AI 4c)	Recent Monitoring and EIA initiatives	SCAR/COMNAP
IP 13	Environmental Radioactivity and biomonitoring	SCAR
IP27	Monitoring of the radiation conditions in the areas of Russian Antarctic stations	Russian Federation
IP28	Monitoring of chemical environmental parameters in the areas of Russian Antarctic stations	Russian Federation

**Item 6: State of the Antarctic Environment Report**

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
IP 14	Scoping Study for A State of the Antarctic Environment Report	SCAR
IP 19	Ross Sea Region State of the Environment Report – An update on progress	New Zealand

**Item 7: Emergency Response and Contingency Planning**

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
WP 5	Revised working paper on an assessment of environmental emergencies arising from activities in Antarctica	COMNAP
IP 11	An assessment of Environmental Emergencies arising from Activities in Antarctica	IAATO

**Item 8: Data and Exchange of Information**

**Item 9: Election of Officers**

**Item 10: Preparation for CEP IV**

**Item 11: Adoption of the Report**

**Item 12: Closing of the Meeting**

## Annex 2

### Addresses of the national contact points

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## Annex 3

### Operational procedures for establishing intersessional contact groups for consideration of draft CEEs

*Note: these operational procedures do not replace the over-riding Guidelines for the CEP's Handling of CEEs, as set out in Annex 4 of the Final Report of CEP II. These procedures are only intended to provide practical guidance on the implementation of the Guidelines.*

1. At the same time a Draft CEE is circulated to Members via diplomatic channels, the proposer should notify the CEP Chair preferably by e-mail that a Draft CEE has been circulated, and indicate, if available, the web address on which the report can be accessed.
2. The originator of a Draft CEE should post it on its web site in the language(s) it is made available in. Links to this web site will be established on the CEP web site. If the proposer does not have a web site on which it is able to post the Draft CEE, an electronic version of the report, if available, should be forwarded to the Chair of the CEP who will immediately post it on the CEP web site.
3. The CEP Chair notifies the CEP contact points that the Draft CEE is available and of its web address. The notification should include the comment that any Party that wants CEP to consider an issue or issues concerning the draft CEE should notify the CEP Chair as soon as possible.
4. A Party that indicated that it wants the CEP to consider a draft CEE should as soon as possible indicate the issue(s) it wants examined, propose Terms of Reference (ToR) and propose their member of an open ended intersessional contact group.
5. On such notification the CEP Chair will immediately inform all contact points and indicate that an open ended intersessional contact group has been proposed. The CEP Chair will at this time suggest a convenor for the group, suggest a set of ToRs and ask for nominations of members to the group.
6. The convenor of the open ended "Contact Group" could be the person proposed by a Party requesting an issue to be considered. It should preferably not be from the Party proposing the draft CEE. The notification to the members should have a time limit of 15 days for them to object or offer comments, suggestions or proposals concerning:
  - i) the proposed convenor
  - ii) the proposed terms of reference, which should include, *inter alia*, the following generic issues:
    - The extent to which the CEE conforms to the requirements of Article 3 of Annex I of the Environmental Protocol.

- Whether the conclusions of the draft CEE are adequately supported by the information contained within the document.
- The clarity, format and presentation of the draft CEE.

If the Chair does not receive a reply within 15 days it will be considered that the Member agrees to the establishment of the group, the proposed convenor and the proposed ToRs.

If the chair receives objections or comments to i) or ii) listed above within the 15 day limit the Chair shall as appropriate circulate a revised suggestion for one or both items. The 15 day limit applies for Members to respond.

7. If more than one Member proposes issues to be considered by the CEP, the ToRs should be amended to reflect the additional issues at the time such issues are raised. There should be a reasonable flexibility in the ToRs to allow for consideration of related technical issues that arise in the work of the contact group. All comments submitted for the contact group should be immediately forwarded to all members of the contact group.
8. The right of a Party to raise an issue on a Draft CEE at the CEP or ATCM is not affected by its action in relation to the establishment - or non-establishment - of an open-ended intersessional contact group.
9. Hereafter the procedures follow items 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Guidelines for CEP Considerations of Draft CEEs (Annex 4 to the final report of CEP II). Item 6 is also handled by the convenor.

## **Annex 4**

### **Guidelines for CEP Consideration of New and Revised Draft Management Plans for Protected Areas**

1. Draft management plans (new or revised) shall be submitted by the proponent to the CEP meeting for consideration.
2. At its meeting, the CEP shall establish, as needed, in accordance with Rule 9 of its Rules of Procedure, an open ended intersessional contact group to consider each draft management plan received.
3. A coordinator for each contact group shall be appointed by the CEP and should normally be from the Party proposing the draft management plan.
4. The contact group(s) shall operate in accordance with the guidelines noted in paragraph 9 of the report of CEP I.
5. In considering a draft management plan, contact groups shall examine the content, clarity, consistency and likely effectiveness of the draft management plan and should take into account the *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas* (Resolution 2(1998)).
6. The outcome of each contact group's deliberations, including any recommendations, shall be reported to the next CEP meeting by the coordinator.

## **Annex 5**

The following table provides a summary of recommendations of main Antarctic Protected Area (PA) Workshops held by SCAR, Antarctic Treaty Parties and IUCN.

### A. SCAR/IUCN Workshop, Cambridge, 29 June – 2 July 1992 (Lewis and others 1992)

	Recommendation	Implementation (question marks indicate uncertainties)
1.	Ratification of Protocol and Annexes.	All ratified. Annex V not yet in force. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR</i>
2.	CEP rules of procedure to include development of PA system.	Rules implemented. <i>Recommendation overtaken. Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
3.	Encourage proposals for new PA to achieve adequate geographical and comprehensive environmental representation.	Some new emphasis on protecting a wider range of values but representation is still biased (at least geographically). <i>Further work outside scope of TOR but it is hoped that guidelines under TOR (a) will encourage proposals.</i>
4.	SCAR to continue to receive and evaluate PA proposals in the form of draft management plans and advise CEP/ATCM.	Implemented. <i>Implicit in TOR (b).</i>
5.	PA proposals should not be rejected because of insufficient knowledge provided sufficient detail (and draft management plan) are included.	Implemented but not accepted throughout Treaty system? <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
6.	SCAR should utilise revised 1977 ecosystem classification system as the environmental – geographic framework (Annex V) until an improved and agreed system, including comprehensive assessment criteria (e.g. wilderness, aesthetic), is adopted by an ATCM.	Did SCAR utilise it? An improved environmental – geographic framework is not yet agreed. <i>Relevant to TOR (a). Classification matrix found helpful but not sufficient at Tromso and Peru workshops.</i>
7.	SCAR and IUCN to continue to advise on PA, planning and design, research to enhance protection and distribution of a SCAR handbook on preparation of management plans.	Collaboration and advice continues? SCAR produced guidelines adopted at XXII ATCM on preparation of management plans for ASPAs. <i>No guide yet on ASMAs. Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
8.	PA boundaries should be defined by natural features where appropriate, fixed by GPS where possible, and standardised signs should be erected at them.	Partly reflected in Annex V and guidelines (TOR (a)). <i>Signs are not standardised or commonplace. Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
9.	Management plans should identify values, management objectives, and activities to be observed. COMNAP support should be sought.	Guidelines adopted at XXII ATCM contain these aspects. When the ATCM approves management plans, Parties and associated organisations (e.g. COMNAP) implement them. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR..</i>

10.	When existing PAs are reclassified in accordance with Annex V, new management plans should be prepared.	Implemented and underway. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
11.	Standard methodology for site surveillance, monitoring and co-operative management.	SCAR reporting form adopted by XXII ATCM. Co-operative management has improved <i>but more work needed. Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
12.	Issue of permit to enter PAs to require compliance with management plan; permits should be subject to review.	Standard practice in most countries but difficult to enforce everywhere. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
13.	Parties inspect PAs at not more than five year intervals to ensure use in accordance with management plans; inspections to be co-ordinated.	Practice being adopted but backlog exists. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
14.	Protection measures for Historic Sites and Monuments.	Implemented. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
15.	Historic and scientific values of abandoned work sites to be considered before clean-up sanctioned.	Generally implemented. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
16.	Conservation principles for assessment and management of tourist operations be considered.	<i>IAATO has prepared such principles but responsibility for management resides with Treaty Parties. Not all tourist operators belong to IAATO. Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
17.	Research into and monitoring of tourist activities and impacts to facilitate planning and management.	Some research and monitoring is and has been undertaken. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
18.	Establishment of PA database to allow access to management plans and site data to be considered.	Some relevant databases have been established at national sites. Wider establishment still under discussion at ATCMs and CEP. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
19.	Information in four languages to be made available to all visitors to ensure compliance with conservation measures.	<i>Not implemented in all languages. Documents important for protection of Antarctica should be translated into as many visitors' languages as possible, especially for operations near protected areas (e.g. Recommendation XVIII-I has been translated into the four official languages plus Italian, Chinese, Japanese and German). Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
20.	Parties to ensure that expeditions shall oblige pilots, captains, officers, crew and passengers to comply with conservation measures and PA regulations.	Generally implemented. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
21.	CEP should develop an information strategy for data collection etc associated with PA management.	Under preliminary discussion. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>

22.	Parties to consider opportunities for applying international PA designations to areas of exceptional and universal conservation value and explore the possibility of ‘Antarctic Heritage Landscapes’.	Discussed at subsequent workshops and briefly in ATCM’s and CEP. <i>Indirectly relevant in part to TOR (a).</i>
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### B. Treaty Parties – NGO Workshop, Tromso, 28 May 1998 (Njastad 1998)

	Recommendation	Implementation
1.	That the ATCPs, the CEP, SCAR and CCAMLR, take urgent steps to identify possible new protected areas in the following categories: areas kept inviolate from human interference (Annex V, Article 3(2a)); representative examples of ecosystems (Annex V, Article 3 (2b)).	Recommendation A.3 applies here. <i>Meaning of “representative” examined in TOR task (a). Partly relevant to TOR part (a).</i>
2.	That the CEP, in collaboration with SCAR and IUCN, should develop new systems for classifying protected areas in Antarctica making good use of existing knowledge and methods (and taking account of all types of area referred to in Annex V, Article 3.2).	Similar to A.6 and A.22. Not yet agreement or formal development in Treaty system. <i>Recommendation consistent with TOR part (a).</i>
3.	That the ATCPs through the CEP examine ways of establishing and maintaining a database on Antarctic protected areas, which could be made accessible electronically.	Similar to A.18. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
4.	That the ATCPs, through the CEP, undertake a gap analysis based on the values for site protection identified in Article 3 of Annex V, in order to make recommendations for new protected areas.	Argentine paper at Peru workshop useful but author considered more systematic work was required. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
5.	That the ATCPs, the CEP, SCAR and COMNAP should consider means by which adopted management plans and the Guidelines on the Preparation of Management Plans can be made as widely available as possible.	Overlap with A.18, 19 and B.3. Under discussion. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
6.	That the CEP should develop criteria for the five year review of management plans as required by Article 6 (3) of Annex V, and establish a standardised reporting system for the exchange of information as required by Article 10 (1c) of Annex V.	See A.11. Discussed at CEP II, Peru workshop. <i>Implicit in TOR (b) and also (a).</i>
7.	That the CEP should consider how it can best review plans for ASPAs proposed because of their wilderness, aesthetic or historic values given that consideration of such values lies outside the relevant competence of SCAR and CCAMLR.	Information papers by UK and NZ at CEP I and II provided background. <i>TOR (b) implicitly includes this.</i>
8.	That the CEP consider establishing a sub-group(s) to address elements of the protected areas system, and select appropriate convenors for such sub-groups.	Intersessional group for EIA useful model of intersessional subgroups. Discussed at Peru workshop and CEP II. <i>Part of TOR (b).</i>
9.	That the Terms of Reference of and sub-group be determined by the CEP.	Accepted <i>and required by CEP rules of procedure.</i> Discussed at Peru workshop

		and CEP II. <i>Implicit part of TOR (b).</i>
10.	That the CEP should examine the timelines for the submission and processing of proposed management plans with a view to improving the process, where possible.	UK paper at Peru workshop. <i>Implicit part of TOR (b).</i>

#### C. Treaty Parties – NGO workshop, Lima, 22 – 23 May 1999 (Peru 1999)

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
1.	That the CEP elaborates the existing framework for protected areas in Antarctica, which draws on the schema (identified).	Overlap with A.6, B.2? <i>ICG TOR (a).</i>
2.	That the CEP considers the need for further elaboration of an Antarctic conservation strategy.	<i>TOR (c)</i> (This paper).
3.	That in selecting new protected areas, a range of tools be used, including analysis of environmental risk, quality and feasibility.	<i>TOR (a).</i>
4.	When preparing and periodically reviewing protected area management plans [for which it has been assigned responsibility], the Party compile inventories of the values found in those areas, and assess the effectiveness of protection for the designated assemblages. In addition consider whether there is inappropriate duplication between areas, and whether there are other assemblages which need inclusion in the protected area.	Advice to CEP II. <i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>

#### D. IUCN Antarctic cumulative impacts workshop, Washington, 18-21 September 1996 (De Poorter, M and Dalziell, JC (Editors) 1996).

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
5.	The use of ASMAs and ASPAs should be encouraged as a tool to manage cumulative impacts.	<i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
6.	International cooperation is essential and should be strongly encouraged in the establishment and management of protected areas.	<i>Implicit in TOR.</i>
7.	In the management of these areas, steps should be taken to avoid or minimise the increased risk of cumulative impacts [arising] from the possibility that protected areas attract further scientific activities.	<i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>
8.	“Pristine” areas should be identified and consideration given to designations under Annex V to achieve the appropriate level of protection of them (which could include exclusion of activities).	<i>Further work outside scope of TOR.</i>

## Appendix 1

### CEP Advice to the XII SATCM on the draft CEE contained in (XII SATCM/WP1)

With regard to the draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for recovering a deep ice core in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica, (XII SATCM/WP1) the Committee for Environmental Protection,

*Having fully considered the draft CEE circulated by Germany, as reported in paragraphs 20 to 30 in the report of CEP III, Annex, and*

*having provided comments at the meeting to Germany on specific elements of the draft CEE,*

- considered that, in general, the draft CEE was well structured and had provided an appropriate assessment of the impacts of the proposed project; and
- considered that the draft CEE was consistent with the requirements of Annex I of the Protocol.

*Recommends that the SATCM*

Endorse the views of the CEP.

### MEASURE 1 (2000)

#### **Antarctic Protected Areas System: Revised Management Plans for Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.**

##### **The Representatives,**

*Recalling* Resolution 1 (1998) allocating responsibility among Consultative Parties for the revision of Management Plans for protected areas;

*Recommend* to their Governments the following Measure for approval in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty:

1. That the Management Plan for Specially Protected Area N° 14, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation IV-14 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation.
2. That the Management Plan for Specially Protected Area N° 19, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation XIII-11 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation.
3. That the Management Plan for Specially Protected Area N° 20, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation XIII-12 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation, and that thereupon SSSI N° 10, as designated by Recommendation XIII-8, shall cease to exist.
4. That the Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest N° 8, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation X-5 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation.
5. That the Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest N° 17, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation XIII-8 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation.
6. That the Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest N° 22, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation XIV-5 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation.
7. That the Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest N° 34, attached to this Measure\*, be inserted in the Annex to Recommendation XVI-2 to replace the plan previously annexed to that Recommendation.
8. That the Parties ensure that their nationals comply with the mandatory provisions of the revised management plans.

\* The management plans have not been reproduced in this version of the CEP III report. The management plans are available on the CEP website, at the following address:  
[http://www.npolar.no/cep/inhold/cep\\_archive/Docs/Forvaltningsplaner/forvalt\\_plan.htm](http://www.npolar.no/cep/inhold/cep_archive/Docs/Forvaltningsplaner/forvalt_plan.htm).

### MEASURE 2 (2000)

#### Antarctic Protected Areas System. Extension of expiry dates for certain Sites of Special Scientific Interest

##### The Representatives,

*Recalling* Recommendations VIII-4, XIII-8, XIV-5, XV-6 and XV-7 adopting the Management Plans for Sites of Special Scientific Interest numbers 1, 2, 3, 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 and 32;

*Noting* that the expiry date for these sites is 31 December 2000, but wishing to continue to protect these sites, until such time that their respective Management Plans have been revised in accordance with Annex V of the Environmental Protocol;

*Recommend* to their Governments the following Measure for approval in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty.

That the date of expiry of the management plans in the list annexed to this Measure be extended until 31 December 2005, and that this Measure be applied provisionally, to the fullest extent possible consistent with their Governments' domestic laws and regulations, pending such approval.

##### Annex to Measure 2 (2000)

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SSSI Number 1	Cape Royds, Ross Island
SSSI Number 2	Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula, Ross Island
SSSI Number 3	Barwick Valley, Victoria Land
SSSI Number 16	North-eastern Bailey Peninsula, Budd Coast
SSSI Number 20	Biscoe Point, Anvers Island
SSSI Number 21	Parts of Deception Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI Number 24	Summit of Mount Melbourne, Northern Victoria Land
SSSI Number 25	Marine Plain, Mule Peninsula, Vestfold Hills
SSSI Number 26	Chile Bay, (Discovery Bay), Greenwich Island
SSSI Number 27	Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands
SSSI Number 28	South Bay, Doumer Island, Palmer Archipelago
SSSI Number 29	Ablation Point-Ganymede Heights, Alexander Island
SSSI Number 31	Mount Flora, Hope Bay, Antarctic Peninsula
SSSI Number 32	Cape Shirreff, Livingstone Island, South Shetland Islands

### RESOLUTION 1 (2000)

#### **Guidelines for Implementation of the Framework for Protected Areas set forth in Article 3, Annex V of the Environmental Protocol**

##### **The Representatives,**

*Noting* that Article 3 of Annex V of the Protocol provides a framework for the designation of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas;

*Recognising* that these Areas must conform to the requirements of Article 3 of Annex V;

*Recalling* Resolution 2(1998) *Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas*;

*Conscious* of the need for general guidance in the assessment and definition of potential specially protected areas;

*Recommend* that the “Guidelines for Implementation of the Framework for Protected Areas set forth in Article 3, Annex V of the Environmental Protocol”, attached to this Resolution, be used by those engaged in the development of proposals for specially protected areas in Antarctica.

**GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR  
PROTECTED AREAS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 3, ANNEX V OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOL**

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## **PART I: INTRODUCTION**

### 1.1 The Antarctic Treaty System and Protected Areas

A variety of instruments have been developed within the Antarctic Treaty system to help protect special places such as important wildlife breeding areas, fragile plant communities, cold desert ecosystems and historic places. These instruments have included the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora and numerous recommendations to Parties.

More recently Annex V of the Environmental Protocol was agreed. It defines the basic structure or framework for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) with a list of values that may merit special protection (Article 3(1) and types or examples of area to be protected (Article 3(2)) (refer Appendix I). Article 3(2) of Annex V states that Parties shall seek to identify such areas within a systematic environmental-geographical framework. Such areas will then be included in the existing series of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Antarctic Specially Protected Areas is the only category of protected area provided for under Annex V of the Environmental Protocol (refer Article 2). Another category of area, Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) are defined in Article 4 and are areas with special management requirements. ASMAs are not considered in these guidelines.

Protected areas provide a higher level of protection for specific values beyond that achieved by other forms of planning and management measures under the Protocol. These areas are designated within geographically defined limits and are managed to achieve specific protection aims and objectives.

### 1.2 Aim of the Guidelines

The aim of the guidelines is to assist the Parties, SCAR, CCAMLR, COMNAP and the CEP to apply Article 3 of Annex V of the Environmental Protocol for the designation of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas. The guidelines provide a set of tools to enable more systematic assessment, selection, definition and proposal of areas that might require greater protection in accordance with the provisions of Annex V of the Environmental Protocol. It is hoped that they will facilitate methodical assessment and designation of such areas.

### 1.3 Structure of the Guidelines

The guidelines are organised into three main parts representing a process for assessing, selecting, defining and proposing new protected areas.

**Part I** is an introductory section, which offers a brief explanation of the existing mechanisms to protect Antarctic areas within the Antarctic Treaty system. This section also establishes the aims of the guidelines and details the way they are structured.

**Part II** provides guidance for **assessing** the potential of an area or site for protection and includes checklists on the framework for protected areas provided in Article 3(1) and 3(2). The checklist provides guidance on the values to be protected and on how to determine what should be protected and why, i.e. the reasons for protection. The concept of quality, including quality criteria, is defined to provide a further means of assessing whether an area merits being specially protected. Finally, the concept of environmental risk is presented as a very important aid in assessing the area's need for enhanced protection.

**Part III** provides guidance for **defining** areas for protection under Article 3 of Annex V of the Protocol, including ways to apply the concept of feasibility.

**Part IV** briefly notes the steps for **proposing** areas for protection including drafting of management plans and refers readers to the "*Guide to Preparing Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas*".

#### NOTE:

*As these guidelines have no legal status, those wishing to establish new protected areas should also carefully examine the provisions of Annex V of the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty and should seek advice from their national authority at an early stage.*

## PART II: ASSESSING THE PROTECTION POTENTIAL OF AN AREA

### 2.1 Assessing Values to be Protected (Article 3(1))

When seeking to assess whether an area merits protection, a clear understanding is needed of the values to be protected. Values are generally taken to mean something of worth, merit or importance. Table 1 offers a checklist of the values listed in Article 3(1) that could be used to help identify those values represented in possible specially protected areas.

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**Tab**

**le 1: Checklist of the values listed in Article 3(1)**

<b>Environmental values</b>	does the area contain physical, chemical or biological features e.g., glaciers, fresh water lakes, melt pools, rock outcrops, plant life or animal life that are particularly unique or representative components of the Antarctic environment?
<b>Scientific values</b>	does the area contain physical, chemical or biological features of special interest to scientific researchers where the principles and methods of science would be applicable?
<b>Historic values</b>	does the area contain features or objects that represent, connate or recall events, experiences, achievements, places or records that are important, significant or unusual in the course of human events and activity [1] in Antarctica?
<b>Aesthetic values</b>	does the area contain features or attributes e.g., beauty, pleasantness, inspirational qualities, scenic attraction and appeal [3] that contribute to people's appreciation and sense or perception of an area?
<b>Wilderness values</b>	does the area contain characteristics e.g., remoteness, few or no people, an absence of human-made objects, traces, sounds and smells, untravelled or infrequently visited terrain that are particularly unique or representative components of the Antarctic environment? [3]
<b>Combination</b>	does the area contain any combination of the above values?
<b>Ongoing or planned scientific activities</b>	does the area include ongoing or planned scientific projects or activities?

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If it is considered that any examples of the values listed in Article 3(1) are contained or represented in a particular area then further investigation of the area for protected area status may be worthwhile.

## 2.2 Assessment of Potential Protection and Use Category (Article 3(2a-i))

Article 3(2a-i) provides a list of examples of areas that can be designated as ASPAs. It should be noted that the specific examples of areas identified are not exclusive and that other examples of protected area could potentially be included provided they aim to protect the values set out in Article 3(1). In addition, it should be noted that Article 3(2) does not provide a uniform series of values, features, objectives, categories or uses of potential ASPAs.

A conceptual methodology has been developed to help understand more systematically what should be protected and why (i.e. examples or categories of areas and reasons for their proposed designation). Table 2 provides a checklist of the potential types or categories of areas to be protected and their management or use objectives. The aim is to provide a tool that can be used for the clearer identification of the important components or attributes of possible protected areas once the values to be protected have been agreed (refer section 2.1).

The checklist may also help to ensure that possible protected areas are considered in a more standardised way and to aid further work in the designation process (e.g. assessment and subsequent development of management plans).

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**Table 2. Checklist for identifying and clarifying the type of area to be protected (protection category) as well as the use or reasons (use category).**

### *Protection Categories (i.e. what is being protected)*

<b>Ecosystems</b>	would the area be protected for its ecosystems? I.e. dynamic complexes of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit [4].
<b>Habitats</b>	would the area be protected for its habitats? I.e. the places or types of site where an organism or population naturally occurs [4].
<b>Species assemblages</b>	would the area be protected for its species assemblages? I.e. important or unusual groupings or populations of one or more species of fauna or flora (usual type of area protection of species in Antarctica).
<b>Species (taxa)</b>	would the area be protected for its species? I.e. special groups of organisms which resemble each other and sometimes are linked to a common habitat to a greater degree than members of other groups, and which commonly form reproductively isolated groups that will not normally breed with members of another group [5].

<b>Geological, glaciological or geomorphological features</b>	would the area be protected for its geological, glaciological or geomorphological features? I.e. distinctive or special characteristics of the history, structure or components of the Earth's crust, rocks, fossils and cryosphere or a result of present or past processes beneath or at the Earth's surface in Antarctica
<b>Landscapes</b>	would the area be protected for its landscape? I.e. expanses of coastal or inland scenery, usually at a scale where they contain a mosaic of inter-related ecosystems, and characterised by particular patterns of geometry, heterogeneity, patch dynamics and biophysical processes [6].
<b>Aesthetic</b>	would the area be protected for its aesthetic features? I.e. attributes concerned with beauty, appreciation, perception and inspiration [3].
<b>Wilderness</b>	would the area be protected for its wilderness features? I.e. attributes concerned with remoteness and a relative absence of both people and indications of past and present human presence or activity [3].
<b>Historic</b>	would the area be protected for its historic features? I.e. things which represent or recall events, experiences, places, achievements or records that are important, significant or unusual in the course of human events and activity in Antarctica.
<b>Intrinsic</b>	would the area be protected for its intrinsic features? (The real or inherent nature of a thing is worth protecting in its own right i.e. without requiring use).

*Use Categories (why the area is being protected)*

<b>Scientific research</b>	would the area be protected for scientific research?
<b>Conservation</b>	would the area be protected for its conservation purposes? (Conservation embraces both protection and judicious use, management of biodiversity, intrinsic value and importance in maintaining the life sustaining systems of the biosphere: distinguished from "sustainable use" and "sustainable management" [4])

### 2.3 Quality Criteria

Quality criteria can be applied as a checklist to evaluate further whether an area deserves special protection or not. The quality of a potential protected area can be thought of as an overall degree of excellence in terms of the values it contains. Table 3 provides a checklist of questions that can be used to assess the quality of a proposed protected area.

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**Table 3: Checklist for assessing quality aspects of proposed protected areas**

**Representativeness**

- Is the potential area **representative** of other comparable parts of Antarctica?
- Does it contain ecosystems, species, habitats, physical, historic, aesthetic and wilderness or other values or features represented elsewhere?
- What contribution would the area make to an Antarctic Protected Area system with a full range of outstanding natural environmental, biological, geographic and geological values of the Antarctic region?
- In relation to Antarctica as a whole, what proportion of the values or types of protected area identified in Articles 3(1) and 3(2) are represented in the site being investigated?  
*E.g. an area containing representative examples of marine & terrestrial ecosystems & assemblages of species of seabird may be higher quality than one containing a single colony of a common species.*

**Diversity**

- What **diversity** of species, habitats or other values or features does the area contain?  
*For example an area might be of higher quality if it contained a greater diversity of biological and/or geological features than a nearby area.*

**Distinctiveness**

- Is the potential area **distinctive** from other areas? How different is it from other areas?
- Does it contain species, habitats or other values or features not duplicated elsewhere? Are they **unique, rare, uncommon** or common?
- Are there naturally uncommon taxa present, including “*sparse*” taxa which occur within typically small and widely scattered natural populations, “*range restricted*” taxa whose distribution is naturally confined to specific substrates (e.g a specific rock type), habitats (e.g. geothermally-heated soils) or geographic areas (e.g. nunataks), “*vagrant*” taxa which may appear for short periods without establishing long-term breeding populations, and “*seasonal*” taxa which migrate into the polar regions during summer?
- Are there naturally uncommon abiotic features present that have been formed or preserved through an unusual or infrequent set of geological, geomorphological or glaciological processes?  
*For example an area containing the only example of a terrestrial ecosystem or a unique fossil locality might be of higher quality than one that contained a common terrestrial ecosystem or type of fossil.*

**Ecological importance**

- How **important/critical** is the area ecologically or numerically for key species, ecosystems or as a type locality?
- Do the number of individuals or groups occurring at the area include a high proportion of the global population? *For example, if 90% of the global population were present, this would represent a key population and a very important ecological site.*
- What contribution does the area make to maintenance of essential ecological processes or life-support systems or habitats?
- Does the area have any inherent vulnerability due to local endemism, rarity of species, biological vulnerability or for other reasons?

**Degree of interference**

- To what extent has the area been subject to human **interference**?
- Does the area lack signs of human activities (e.g. tracks, litters)?
- Is there minimal loss or addition of species, natural processes and abiotic material?
- What is the degree of visitation and alteration of the adjacent landscape?  
*E.g. an area that has not experienced local human-induced change and is protected from it because of isolation may have higher quality wilderness values and might be more valuable as an undisturbed reference area than a less natural area.*

**Scientific and monitoring uses**

- What is the potential for the pursuit of science including gaining of knowledge by study and analysis?
- What is the potential of the area to be used as a reference area (e.g. for environmental monitoring)?

The reasons for area protection summarised in Tables 1 and 2 could be analysed together with the quality criteria in Table 3 using the matrix set out in Table 4 as a guide. This approach may provide a convenient and efficient method of evaluation and identification of a potential area. It could also help in the comparison of potential areas and for determining priorities for protection.

**Table 4 Matrix of area values and categories from Tables 1 and 2 against quality criteria from Table 3.**

Value / category	Quality Criteria					
	Representativeness	Diversity	Distinctiveness	Ecological Importance	Degree of Interference	Science & monitoring
Ecosystems						
Habitats						
Assemblages						
Species						
Features						
Landscapes						
Aesthetics						
Wilderness						
Historic						
Science						
Conservation						
Intrinsic						

## 2.4 Environmental Risk Assessment

Environmental risk assessment can be used to further assess possible protected areas i.e. to help decide whether a particular area merits protection of its special characteristics (not as a means to modify or prohibit ongoing activities in or near the area). Risk assessment should assist in identifying what the actual and potential threats and risks are to an area containing outstanding values.

This step in the protected area process recognises that every area identified as having important values may not need to be formally designated as an ASPA. Most areas will not need additional protection because they are naturally robust or because the Antarctic Treaty system already provides sufficient protection. It should be noted that the degree of environmental risk to a potential area (e.g. as identified through application of the checklist in Table 5) is not a prerequisite for formal protection of an area under the Environmental Protocol. However, areas identified as subject to risks that threaten the identified values to an unacceptable or unmanageable level may need to be considered as a priority or more worthy of more formal protection.

Table 5 provides risk criteria in the form of a checklist for assessing environmental risk to a possible protected area.

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**Table 5. Checklist for assessing environmental risk to a possible protected area**

### **Human activities and impacts**

- Are human activities regularly, infrequently or almost never carried out in the area?
- Are biological or abiotic components or processes of the area vulnerable to any existing or likely future human activities in the area itself or nearby?
- Could these activities directly, indirectly or in a cumulative way result in impacts on the values for which this area has been identified or modify them in any way?
- How likely, frequent and intensive might the impacts be and over what temporal and spatial scales?
- When disturbance occurs, what is the time taken to return to pre-disturbance or equilibrium levels?

### **Natural processes**

- Are natural processes (e.g. atmospheric, climatic, marine, biological or glacial processes) likely to modify the area or its values?

### **Natural variability and viability**

- What are the short and long term variations (e.g. seasonal changes) in populations of biota present in the area?
- Is the likely variation due to natural processes likely to be smaller, similar to or larger than impacts of human activities in the area?
- Are there any medium- or long-term indications that natural trends could result in significantly different characteristics of the area which could effect its future viability, require a reassessment of protected status or necessitate changes in management?
- To what extent does natural buffering protect the area from outside influences?

**Non-Antarctic threats**

- Would protection of the area be compromised by processes originating or driven from outside the Antarctic such as global change, ozone depletion or long-range transport of contaminants such as long-lived chemical pollutants and introduction of non-native species?

**Urgency**

- Do human activities pose imminent environmental risks?

**Scientific uncertainty**

- How well known are the natural values and other characteristics of the area and potential impacts of human activities on them?
  - Could these uncertainties mask significant threats to the area and its values?
- 

Potential areas that “score” highly in regard to the checklists in Tables 3 and 4 (e.g. meet many of the criteria listed) and that have been assessed as being at some risk environmentally (Table 5) may be considered for further investigation as a possible ASPA. Consideration should then be given to advancing the proposal further, in particular into the selection and proposal phases.

## **PART III: DEFINING AREAS FOR PROTECTION**

### **3.1 Tools for Assisting in Selecting Protected Areas**

Once potential areas have been assessed, further design and assessment is needed to ensure that they are suitable for eventual selection and proposal as ASPAs. Area design and feasibility criteria are two tools that can be used to assist in further defining of areas for protection.

### **3.2 Area Design**

There is a wide body of literature on aspects of protected area design and selection relevant here which is beyond the scope of these guidelines. Important aspects of design include boundaries, size and shape, access, management tools, duration and relation to other protected areas (see Table 6). Proposers may wish to consult Lewis-Smith and others (1992), Thorsell (1997), IUCN (1998), FAO (1988) and Dingwall (1992).

### **3.3 Feasibility Criteria**

The feasibility of a possible protected area is defined here as *how possible is it to implement proposed management objectives for a particular area under consideration*. The criteria defined in Table 6 could be used to assess feasibility. While the meaning of each of these criteria is generally clear, the implications or their application may not be. Therefore Table 6 is structured as a checklist with additional questions to highlight some of the issues involved and to offer further guidance.

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**Table 6. Checklist of feasibility criteria for assessment of possible protected areas**

#### **Boundaries**

- Are the proposed boundaries consistent with management objectives? (E.g. do they protect foraging areas of birds in an important breeding area and/or do they enclose other ecosystem components required for continuity of species identified?).
- Can boundaries be easily defined for management purposes and identified by visitors? (E.g. can fixed natural boundaries such as mountain peaks, ridgelines, shorelines, or water depth be used?).
- Can management objectives be met regardless of the future use of areas adjacent to the protected area boundary, including conflicts between different values or management objectives, and acceptability to others?

#### **What are the existing scientific or other uses of the area?**

- Are there conflicting values (e.g. between environmental and scientific values in Article 3(1)) or between protection and use categories, or management objectives?

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**Table 6 cont. Checklist of feasibility criteria for assessment of possible protected areas****Size**

- Is the area large enough to maximise the chance of management objectives being achieved?
- Is it large enough to contain all or most of the key elements identified, in their natural relationships, so that it will be self-perpetuating?
- What is the minimum size needed to achieve management objectives?
- Is the area small enough to minimise conflicts between different values or management objectives?
- Is the area large enough to accommodate future changes (e.g. due to climate change?)

**Possible management tools**

- Are there management tools available that could be used to help achieve management objectives and minimise conflicts? (E.g. would zoning be useful to facilitate recognition, protection and management including partitioning between objectives such as protection of vulnerable species in core breeding areas, provision of reference areas and capacity for human activity in suitable fringe areas?).
- Can management programmes be formulated to attain management objectives? (E.g. signage or boundary markers, survey and research, monitoring, any specific information needed for reporting).

**Time period/duration**

- Can the area be protected for a time period that allows full achievement of management objectives?
- Are there some seasonal periods when parts of the area or species in it are not vulnerable to human activity?

**Accessibility/logistics**

- Is the area sufficiently accessible for management operations?
- Might the logistics needed negatively impact on management objectives and are there alternative management options?
- Would inaccessibility help achieve management objectives by deterring potentially impacting activity?

**Ability to protect more than one value and meet different management objectives (i.e. complementarity)**

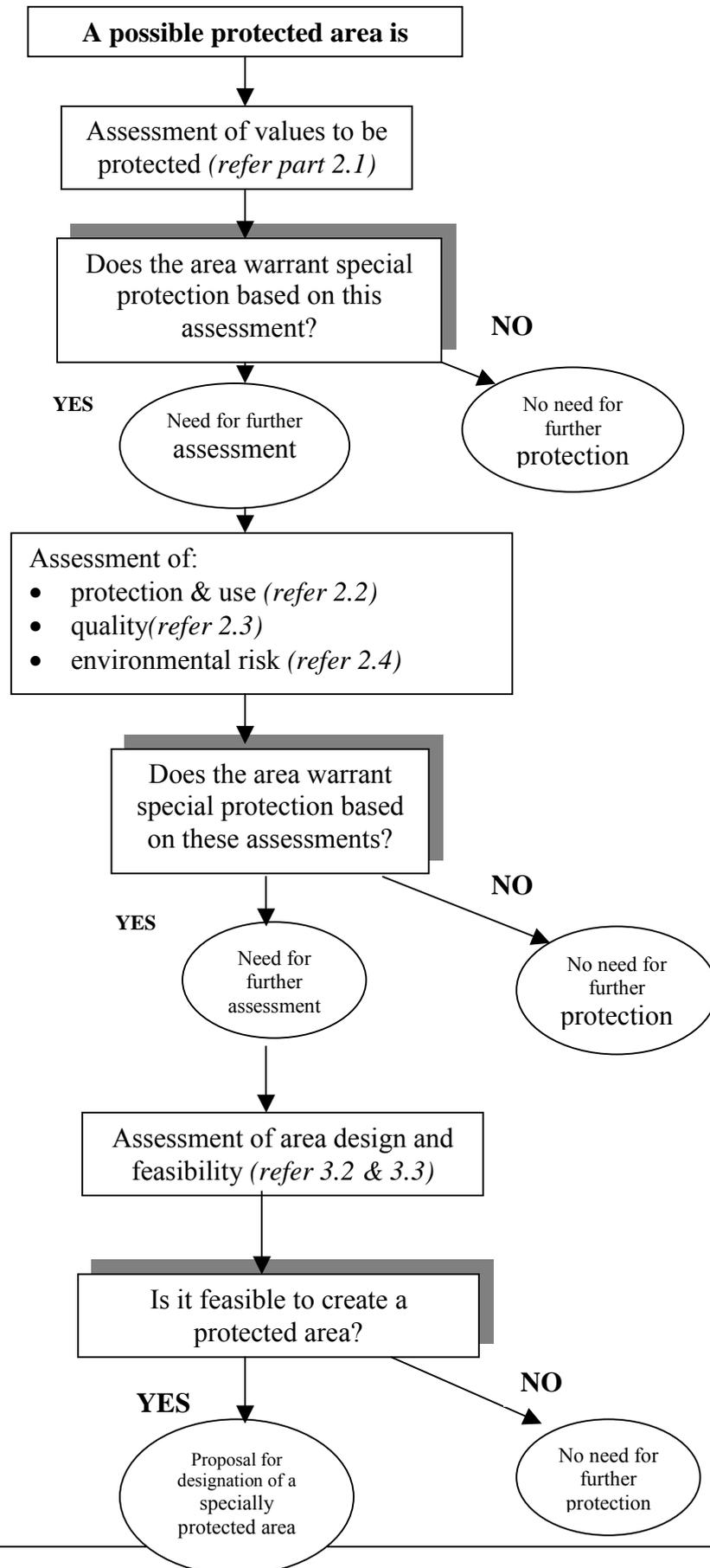
- Is there more than one value or objective in Article 3 (1) & 3(2) that can be protected in the area?
- Would the site add value to the Antarctic protected area system, in quality as well as quantity?
- Is there an appropriate balance between the costs and benefits of protecting the area, and appropriate equity in the distribution of it and adjacent protected and unprotected areas?

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Therefore, if an area has been through an assessment process (Part II), and has satisfied feasibility criteria (Part III), it may be considered as a worthy candidate for further evaluation as a potential ASPA. The outcome of checking and analysis against criteria in Table 6 could also be used to help prepare the draft management plan for the area.

Figure 1 below provides a flowchart illustrating the assessment process from identifying the values and potential protection categories of a proposed area, to considering quality aspects, to identifying any environmental risks, to assessment of feasibility and finally to a decision on whether to develop a proposal for designation of the site as an ASPA.

**Figure 1: The assessment process for potential protected areas as outlined in Part II and Part III of these guidelines.**



## **PART IV: PROPOSING AREAS FOR PROTECTION**

### **4.1 Drafting Management Plans for Proposed ASPAs**

Once a candidate area has been assessed, it is ready for the next stages in the process. A draft management plan is prepared as required by Article 5 of Annex V. The document “*Guide to the Preparation of Management Plans for Protected Areas*” was recommended by CEP 1 and adopted at ATCM XXII in 1998 to give some practical elaboration of Article 5. This document should be referred to when drafting management plans for ASPAs.

### **4.2 Further Steps in the Designation Process**

The final stages in the designation process involve formal consideration (review) by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties of a draft management plan following the outline in Article 6 of Annex V.

## **PART V: DOCUMENTATION**

### **5.1 Articles 3(1) and 3(2) of the Environment Protocol**

#### **Article 3(1)**

Any area, including any marine area, may be designated as an Antarctic Specially Protected Area to protect outstanding environmental, scientific, historic, aesthetic or wilderness values, any combination of those values, or ongoing or planned scientific research.

#### **Article 3(2)**

Parties shall seek to identify, within a systematic environmental-geographical framework, and to include in the series of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas:

- (a) areas kept inviolate from human interference so that future comparisons may be possible with localities that have been affected by human activities;
- (b) representative examples of major terrestrial, including glacial and aquatic, ecosystems and marine ecosystems;
- (c) areas with important or unusual assemblages of species, including major colonies of breeding native birds or mammals;
- (d) the type locality or only known habitat of any species;
- (e) areas of interest to ongoing or planned scientific research;
- (f) examples of outstanding geological, glaciological, or geomorphological features;
- (g) areas of outstanding aesthetic and wilderness value;
- (h) sites or monuments of recognised historic value; and
- (h) such other areas as may be appropriate to protect the values set out in paragraph 1 above [Article 3(1)].

## 5.2. REFERENCES

(see bibliography for full citation where needed)

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3. adapted from Porteous 1996 with reference to philosopher Kant.
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5. Allaby 1977

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**DRAFT AGENDA FOR CEP IV**

**Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

**Item 2: Adoption of Agenda**

**Item 3: Operation of the CEP**

**Item 4: Compliance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection**

4a) General Matter

4b) Consideration of Draft CEEs forwarded to the CEP in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 3 of Annex I of the Protocol.

4c) Others Matters covered by Annex I (Environmental Impact Assessment

4d) Matters covered by Annex II (Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna)

4e) Matters covered by Annex III (Waste Disposal and waste management)

4f) Matters covered by Annex IV (Prevention of Marine Pollution)

4g) Matters covered by Annex V (Area protection and management)

**Item 5: Environmental Monitoring**

**Item 6: State of the Antarctic Environment Report**

**Item 7: Emergency Response and Contingency Planning**

**Item 8: Data and Exchange of Information**

8a) General Matters

8b) Co-operation with other organizations in accordance with Article 11 of the Protocol

**Item 9: Election of Officers**

**Item 10: Preparation for CEP V**

**Item 11: Adoption of the Report**

**Item 12: Closing of the Meeting**