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Antarctic Protected Area System - Annex V

Submitted by
United Kingdom

ANTARCTIC PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM: ANNEX V

SUBMITTED BY THE UK

Introduction

The Environmental Protocol, along with its Annexes I-IV, entered into force on 14 January 1998 following ratification by all 26 Consultative Parties.

In contrast, Annex V on "Area Protection and Management", although adopted by Treaty Parties at ATCM XVI within two weeks of adoption of the Protocol itself, appears to be some way off entering into force.

Annex V is embodied in Recommendation XVI-10. It will therefore enter into force only once it has been approved by all Consultative Parties under the procedures of Article IX (4) of the Antarctic Treaty. Despite urgings by Parties at successive ATCMs the rate at which Recommendation XVI-10 has been approved by Parties has been slower than the pace of ratification of the Protocol. Up to ATCM XXI 11 Consultative Parties had approved Recommendation XVI-10; a further 6 Consultative Parties had "accepted Annex V" (which the UK presumes has the same intent). Since then (as of 3.4.98) two other Parties have taken action to approve the Recommendation (see Annex I).

With 7 Consultative Parties yet to approve Recommendation XVI-10 it is unlikely that Annex V will enter into force in the near future unless Parties make a special effort to address this matter.

Management Plans

Once Annex V enters into force those Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest already designated as such, will automatically be re-designated as Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and be re-named and re-numbered accordingly.

In the interim, Treaty Parties have recognised the need to begin addressing the issue by revising the Management Plans for those Protected Areas in the format of Annex V. But here again progress has been slow. Of the 54 SPAs and SSSIs in existence at the time of the adoption of Annex V, only 16 plan revisions have been submitted subsequently for adoption; a mean rate of 3 revised plans per ATCM. At this rate, it could take at least a further ten years before all existing protected areas have revised Management Plans in accordance with the requirements of Annex V.

In an effort to expedite matters, and clarify which national groups are primarily involved in the revision of Management Plans, an indicative list of proposed national attributions was prepared by SCAR, and circulated to all its National Committees (see Annex II). This listing has been accepted by SCAR National Committees as a working basis on which to undertake revisions of existing Management Plans. The listing does not however set out a time-frame within which revisions for Management Plans should be submitted.

Until Annex V enters into force, the Antarctic Protected Area System will continue in an unsatisfactory interim state. Numerous (previous) site designations remain in existence, and no sites can be adopted into the new Annex V designations (ASPA, ASMA). For the majority of sites there are variable standards of (or indeed, no) Management Plans.

Proposals

/ In an attempt to remedy this situation the attached draft Resolution addresses three issues:

i) it calls on Consultative Parties to make renewed efforts to approve Recommendation XVI-10 in a timely fashion;

ii) it proposes that the ATCM should endorse the national attribution listing (Annex II) compiled by SCAR (as modified);

iii) it urges those Parties primarily responsible for the preparation of revised Management Plans to give urgency to this task, to prepare a timetable for the submission of respective plans under their responsibility, and to circulate that timetable to ATCM XXIII.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Representatives,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Environmental Protocol, including its Annexes I-IV;

Conscious that this situation does not extend to Annex V on *Area Protection and Management* which was adopted under Recommendation XVI-10;

Aware that approval of this Recommendation requires completion of the procedures of Article IX(4) of the Treaty by all Consultative Parties;

Concerned that such approvals have fallen well behind that of ratification of the Protocol;

Concerned also that delay to the entry into force of Annex V has left the Antarctic Protected Area System in an unfortunate interim situation;

Desiring to see this situation rectified,

Recommend that:

1. Those Consultative Parties which have yet to approve Recommendation XVI-10 under the procedures of Article IX(4) take steps to do so as soon as possible.

2. The list of national attributions, annexed to this Resolution, should be endorsed; noting that the list identifies which Parties have responsibility for the preparation of revised Management Plans for specified protected areas.

3. Those Consultative Parties identified in the Annex should prepare a timetable for the preparation of Management Plan revisions for those sites for which they have principal responsibility, and should submit the timetable for information to ATCM XXIII.

ANNEX I

STATUS OF ANNEX V

Consultative Parties who have approved Recommendation XVI-10:

Australia*
Chile
China*
Finland*
France
Japan*
Korea Republic of
New Zealand
Norway
South Africa
Sweden*
United Kingdom
Uruguay

TOTAL: 13

Consultative Parties who have accepted Annex V:

Belgium
Germany
Italy
Peru
Spain
United States

TOTAL: 6

(* - Parties who have both approved the Recommendation and accepted the Annex).

ANNEX II

NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REVISING MANAGEMENT PLANS OF ANTARCTIC PROTECTED AREAS

(as adopted by SCAR but minus the sites identified in Annex III)

Australia

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

16. North-eastern Bailey Peninsula

17. Clark Peninsula

25. Marine Plain, Vestfold Hills

Chile

Specially Protected Areas

16. Coppermine Peninsula

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

5. Fildes Peninsula

[6. Byers Peninsula - joint with UK]

26. Chile Bay, Greenwich Island

27. Port Foster, Deception Island

28. South Bay, Doumer Island

[32. Cape Shirreff - joint with USA]

34. Ardley Island

New Zealand

Specially Protected Areas

4. Sabrina Island

22. Cryptogam Ridge

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

10. Caughley Beach

24. Summit of Mount Melbourne

Norway

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

23. Svarthamaren

Russia

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

7. Haswell Island

Poland

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

8. Western shore, Admiralty Bay

34. Lions Rump, King George Island

Japan

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

22. Yukidori Valley

United Kingdom

Specially Protected Areas

8. Dion Islands

9. Green Island

14. Lynch Island

18. North Coronation Island

19. Lagotellerie Island

21. Avian Island

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

[6. Byers Peninsula - joint with Chile]

21. Parts of Deception Island

29. Ablation Point

31. Mount Flora

USA

Specially Protected Areas

7. Cape Hallett

17. Litchfield Island

23. Forlidas Ponds

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

1. Cape Royds

2. Arrival Heights

3. Barwick Valley

4. Cape Crozier

18. North-western White Island

20. Biscoe Point

[32. Cape Shirreff - joint with Chile]

35. Western Bransfield Strait

36. East Dallman Bay

ANNEX III

ANTARCTIC PROTECTED AREAS FOR WHICH REVISED MANAGEMENT PLANS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN THE FORMAT OF ANNEX V

ATCM	Year	SSSI	SPA	Name	Attibution
XVII	1992		1	Taylor Rookery	Australia
			2	Rookery Island	Australia
			3	Ardery Island	Australia
			20	New College Valley	NZ
XIX	1995		13	Moe Island	UK
			15	Southern Powell Island	UK
		11		Tramway Ridge	NZ
XX	1996	9		Rothera Point	UK
		19		Linnaeus Terrace	US
XXI	1997		5	Beaufort Island	NZ
		12		Canada Glacier	NZ
		13		Potter Peninsula	Argentina
		14		Harmony Point	Argentina/ Chile
		15		Cierva Point	Argentina