

Guidelines for CEP Consideration of Proposals for New and Revised Designations of Antarctic Specially Protected Species under Annex II of the Protocol

- 1 Proposals for new designations or revision of existing designations of species as Antarctic Specially Protected Species (ASPS), in accordance with Appendix A to Annex II to the Protocol, may be submitted by any Party, the CEP or SCAR to the CEP for consideration at its next meeting. Such proposals should include scientific justification and, for new designations, a draft Action Plan (using the attached template as a guideline), to the extent possible with available data and knowledge.
- 2 On receipt of a proposal, the CEP should invite the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to assess the status of the species, if SCAR has not already made such an assessment as part of the proposal.
- 3 SCAR should use the most up-to-date IUCN criteria (consulting with appropriate experts in IUCN and elsewhere) to assess the risk of extinction of the species. Such assessments should, as a priority, take account of the global status and trends of the species, though the status and trends of the species at regional or local levels may also need to be assessed.
- 4 For new designations:
 - a. If SCAR's assessment determines that the species is at significant risk of extinction (e.g. the conservation status is determined to be "vulnerable" or higher), then the CEP should recommend SPS designation to the ATCM and initiate a process to finalise the Action Plan for the species, in accordance with the guideline. The proponent should play a co-ordinating role.
 - b. The CEP should determine whether other authorities or organisations have a role in protective action and should consult accordingly (e.g. for species of interest to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) or the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) the CEP should forward the proposal and the draft Action Plan, and any advice from SCAR, to CCAMLR or ACAP for advice on practical measures to provide special protection).
 - c. The Action Plan should be finalised taking account of advice from any authority or organisation as appropriate, and reported to the next meeting of the CEP by the coordinator.
- 5 For existing designations:
 - a. if SCAR's assessment determines that the species remains at significant risk of extinction, then the species should retain its SPS designation and an Action Plan should be produced.
 - b. If SCAR's assessment determines that the species is no longer at a significant risk of extinction, the CEP should assess the implications of removing the species from the list of Specially Protected Species with particular regard to potential future threats to the species and specific mechanisms that might be needed to manage them.

- 6 The CEP should make a recommendation to the ATCM as to whether the species merits Specially Protected Species status, including the Action Plan as appropriate, and arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the Plan and modifying it when necessary.
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Guideline template of an Action Plan for a species proposed for designation as an Antarctic Specially Protected Species

PROTECTION ACTION PLAN FOR XXX YYY

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Summary

1. Introduction

Brief overview of:

- a) species reproductive and foraging ecology (e.g. life history)
- b) past and present distribution including critical habitat
- c) population trends (e.g. past, present, future estimates)
- d) conservation status
- e) agents of decline/threats (including uncertainties and potential future threats)
- f) past and current management/conservation measures
- g) legal framework under Environmental Protocol/Antarctic Treaty System

2. Goals and objectives (examples)

Overall goal: to downgrade threatened status/degree of endangerment by reducing threats to adults and critical stages of the life cycle

Specific objectives:

- a) Quantify and reduce threats to survival of breeding population
- b) Quantify and reduce threats to reproductive success
- c) Develop or maintain existing monitoring of populations
- d) Educate base staff and other relevant human agencies
- e) Assess and revise Action Plan every 5 years

3. Actions

This would include specific actions to be taken, who should do the work, performance measures, and prioritization if necessary

- a) Management of threats to survival (e.g. prevention of individual adult mortality)
- b) Management of threats to reproductive success (e.g. restrictions on approach to breeding areas, prohibition of destructive sampling)
- c) Management of critical habitat (e.g. establishment of protected areas)
- d) Research on agents of decline, population dynamics, distribution, management techniques and effectiveness
- e) Monitoring of key populations or life cycle stages
- f) Education and awareness
- g) International agreements (including consultation with relevant international organisations on appropriate action outside the Antarctic Treaty Area)
- h) Assessing and revising the Action Plan, including performance criteria and audit of efficacy of recovery actions

4. References

5. Appendices (examples)

- Summary of IUCN criteria
- Work programmes

Figure 1: Proposed assessment process for species proposed for designation, revision or delisting as Antarctic Specially Protected Species



