

Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response

Appendix 2 CEP XX Report

At CEP XX, the The Committee agreed, to establish a Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (SGCCR). The Committee also agreed to appoint Ms Birgit Njaastad (Norway) as the convener of the SGCCR. The ATCM XL approved the proposal and adopted Decision 1 (2017): Subsidiary Group of the Committee for Environmental Protection on Climate Change Response (SGCCR).

Background

In 2008 the CEP included the issue of climate change on its agenda, and in 2009 SCAR published its Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment Report. In 2010 the ATCM held an Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts (ATME) on climate change and implications for Antarctic management and governance, which made 30 recommendations for the ATCM and CEP to consider, including that the

CEP consider developing a climate change response work programme, and that such a work programme should attempt to incorporate, *inter alia*:

- The need to continue to afford a high priority to the management of non-native species;
- A classification of existing protected areas according to climate change vulnerability;
- The need for more sophisticated and coordinated ecosystem monitoring, including the need for increased collaboration between CEP and SC-CAMLR;
- A review of existing management tools to assess their continuing suitability in a climate change context (*eg*, EIA guidelines (particularly with regard to planned long-term activities), Specially Protected Species guidelines, the guide to the preparation of management plans).

The CEP established an ICG to develop a climate change response work programme (CCRWP), and in Resolution 4, 2015, the ATCM welcomed the CCRWP, encouraged the CEP implement it as a matter of priority, provide annual progress reports to the ATCM, and keep the CCRWP under regular review. Implementing the CCRWP is a priority 1 item on the CEP Five-Year Work Plan.

Subsidiary Body of the CEP

The Committee may establish, with the approval of the ATCM, subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. Such subsidiary bodies shall operate on the basis of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee as applicable (Rule 10). CEP XX agreed to recommend to the ATCM the establishment of a Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (SGCCR) to support the implementation of the CCRWP.

SGCCR Terms of Reference

CEP XX adopted the following terms of reference to guide the Subsidiary Group's work:

Facilitate the efficient and timely implementation of the CCRWP by:

- Facilitating the coordination and communication of the CCRWP between Members, Observers and Experts, highlighting actions identified for the coming year(s) and requesting relevant updates on planned activities;
- Drafting proposed annual updates of the CCRWP, including management, research or monitoring actions;
- Drafting annual progress reports on the implementation of the CCRWP for the CEP to draw on in their updates to the ATCM.

The CEP may amend the ToR of the SGCCR at any time.

Translation

The CEP have agreed that key texts, for example, texts for discussion and or draft annual updates of the CCRWP be translated, on a case by case basis. Noting that the SGCCR will generally conduct its business remotely, the CEP considers that translation of key texts will meet the requirements of Rule 21.

Membership

Membership of the SGCCR is open to all Members, Observers and Experts. It is desirable that SCAR and WMO representatives are members of the group. Members are encouraged to participate in the SGCCR for more than a year, to support continuity in membership and to maintain knowledge.

The Committee has agreed that broad participation in the group is important, and the SGCCR should maintain a minimum of four CEP Member participants. The convener will have oversight of maintaining the membership of the SGCCR.

Convener

Convenors of the SGCCR may be a CEP Vice Chair or CEP Member, elected under the same conditions as set out for Vice Chairs in Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, as applicable. Convenors may, but are not required to, provide technical contribution to the SGCCR's activities.

Review

CEP XX noted its intention to review the effectiveness of the SGCCR after 3 years.