



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 09/87
SC CIRC 09/40

Wednesday, 29 July 2009

MPA Special Fund

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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Following WG-EMM's meeting earlier this month, the agreed convener (Dr S. Grant) of the small correspondence group (set up to provide advice to the Scientific Committee on activities that could be undertaken using available funds in the MPA Special Fund) has requested that the attached be circulated. Members' comments by 14 August 2009 would be most welcome.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.

Establishment of a Correspondence Group to consider uses for the MPAs Special Fund

Dear all,

At its recent meeting, the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM, Bergen, 6-17 July 2009) discussed ways in which the CCAMLR MPAs Special Fund could be used to facilitate the development of a representative system of marine protected areas in the Convention Area.

The Special Fund was established by Belgium in 2005 to support work on MPAs (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 3.29), and additional funds were contributed by the UK in 2009. The total amount now available is approximately A\$58 000, and no proposals have yet been made to allocate these funds.

WG-EMM agreed that significant further work is required to progress the establishment of a representative system of MPAs across the Convention Area by 2012, and that such work could include projects which aimed to:

- i) Collate physical and biological datasets to support bioregionalisation and systematic conservation planning analyses, across the Convention Area and/or for specific region(s);
- ii) Identify areas for protection, focusing on the 11 Priority Areas defined by the Working Group (WG-EMM-08, Figure 12), and endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraphs 3.55 (iv)) and the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP XII Report, paragraph 163).
- iii) Build capacity among Members to contribute towards systematic conservation planning and other analyses relevant to the development of MPAs;
- iv) Work within existing or future research groups to achieve these objectives.

WG-EMM recognised that the MPAs Special Fund could be used to facilitate such work, and recommended that a Correspondence Group should be convened as soon as possible to consider the development of coordinated proposals for use of the available funds. Having been nominated to coordinate the Correspondence Group, **I am therefore writing to invite Members to nominate individuals to participate in the Group by notifying the Secretariat before 14th August 2009.**

WG-EMM agreed that the Correspondence Group should have the following terms of reference:

- i) consider the types of proposal(s) which might be appropriate for further development (based on the aims outlined above);
- ii) elaborate the details of specific proposal(s), as appropriate;
- iii) outline any further work which may be required to facilitate the development of proposals and/or the allocation of funds;
- iv) submit a paper to SC-CAMLR-XXVIII summarizing the discussions on i) to iii), and requesting specific advice from SC-CAMLR on the next steps, as appropriate.

The Correspondence Group would not be responsible for reviewing proposals or making recommendations on the allocation of funds, as WG-EMM noted that the Scientific Committee would provide advice on these decisions as required.

WG-EMM also noted that, if they wish to do so, Members are able to submit individual proposals to the Secretariat for use of the MPAs Special Fund (as outlined in CCAMLR-XXVII, paragraph 7.7), in addition to any coordinated proposals that might be developed by the Correspondence Group.

I look forward to coordinating the Correspondence Group, and encourage Members to participate as far as possible. Once the membership of the Group has been established, I will send out further details on points for discussion in advance of SC-CAMLR-XXVIII.

With best regards,

Susie Grant

Coordinator of MPAs Special Fund Correspondence Group