



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 09/20
SC CIRC 09/07

Tuesday, 17 February 2009

Voluntary UK Contribution to CCAMLR Special MPA Fund

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

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The United Kingdom has requested that the attached letter be circulated to all Members. The monies referred to therein were received by the Secretariat on 13 February 2009.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.

13 February 2009

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary
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Dear Denzil,

UK Voluntary Contribution to the Special Fund for Marine Protected Areas

I am writing to inform you that the UK is in the process of making a voluntary contribution of A\$ 26,648.21 to the Special Fund for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which was generously established by Belgium in 2005. The payment should be with you shortly.

The UK was pleased with the progress which was made at CCAMLR XXVII on the issue of MPAs and is keen to enhance the momentum which has been generated by these discussions during 2009.

As endorsed at CCAMLR XXVII, discussions by CCAMLR and the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) have concluded that the issues of where and how to establish a system of marine areas for biodiversity conservation in the Southern Ocean should be addressed as a matter of priority. This message was further echoed in the recent Performance Review Report which recommended that CCAMLR takes steps towards the designation of MPAs, including high-seas areas within the Convention's waters, as a matter of urgency. The Scientific Committee subsequently placed the issue in its top three priorities in response to the Review Panel's recommendations.

The UK is of the opinion that the designation of MPAs are a vital tool to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the Antarctic marine environment, its biodiversity and its resources and this tool should be considered in the general context of spatial management in the Southern Ocean.

The UK hopes that further progress on these important matters can be made at the CCAMLR Scientific Committee / CEP Workshop to be held in Baltimore, USA in early April. The UK would encourage all CCAMLR Members to consider developing proposals to utilise the CCAMLR MPA Special Fund to help us realise the establishment of marine areas for biodiversity conservation in the Southern Ocean.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to all Members of the Commission for their information.

Many thanks.

Jane

Jane Rumble
Head of UK Delegation to CCAMLR