



Paper 20
SCAR Group

Agenda 4.1
SCATS

Person
Responsible:

Aleks
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Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System

2017 ATCM XL CEP XX REPORT

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Summary of activities from 2016-17 and any other important issues or factors (<150 words):

SCAR submitted five lead Working Papers (WPs), three co-sponsored WPs, six lead Information Papers (IPs), four co-sponsored IPs and two Background Papers (BPs) to ATCM XL. While most were focused on the CEP, some were presented to both the CEP and the ATCM on areas of mutual interest, and five were only presented to Working Group 1 of the ATCM.

The research and policy advice contained in these submission was very well received by the CEP and ATCM. SCAR's position as the primary body for the provision of independent, objective and evidence based scientific advice to the ATS was reaffirmed on several occasions.

The SCAR Science lecture had a significant impact on attendees, and the value of this contribution to the ATCM was recognized by the decision to move the SCAR lecture to the opening Plenary Session.

Recommendations that EXCOM should consider (if any):

That the SCAR Executive Committee (ExCom) recognize the active involvement of SCAR in the CEP, ATCM and associated discussions and note the high regard with which SCAR, and the advice that it provides, is held by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

Introduction

SCAR provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations on scientific issues affecting the conservation and management of Antarctica. This advice is coordinated through the SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SCATS).

The SCAR Delegation to ATCM XL and CEP XX was comprised of Steven Chown (SCAR President), Aleks Terauds (Chief Officer of SCATS), Tim Naish (SCAR Lecturer) and Deneb Karentz.

Summary of ATCM Engagement

SCAR submitted five lead Working Papers (WPs), three co-sponsored WPs, six lead Information Papers (IPs), four co-sponsored IPs and two Background Papers (BPs) to CEP XX, some of which were also presented to the ATCM (see Appendix 1 for a full list of all submissions).

The revamped format of both the SCAR Annual Report (IP 35), and the Antarctic Climate and the Environment (ACCE) Report (IP 80) was explicitly acknowledged and appreciated by both the CEP and the ATCM and SCAR was encouraged to continue to present scientific advice in an accessible manner. The CEP also thanked SCAR for its comprehensive efforts in mapping SCAR affiliated research to the CEPs Climate Change Response Work Program, and noted its appreciation of SCARs willingness to continue to participate in ongoing CCRWP discussions.

SCAR's presentation of the Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (WP 13), generated significant discussion among CEP Members and within the ATCM. There was a clear and explicit recognition of the value of this work, and SCAR was encouraged to bring further updates to future meetings.

Both the revised SCAR Code of Conduct for Exploration and Research in Subglacial Aquatic Environments (WP 17) and the revision of the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions (WP 29) were adopted by the ATCM as Resolution B and Resolution C respectively. The CEP thanked SCAR for the comprehensive report on the state of knowledge of wildlife responses to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) use in the Antarctic (WP 20). The CEP acknowledged the value of the precautionary best-practice guidelines for RPAS use in the vicinity of wildlife in Antarctica and agreed to encourage the dissemination and use of those guidelines as an interim measure.

The CEP expressed its continued support for the Antarctic Environments Portal as an important source of up-to-date scientific information integral to the work of the CEP and thanked SCAR for its continued efforts in the management and development of the Portal. The Committee supported the decision taken by SCAR, in principle, to assume the management of the Portal after 2018 and agreed to consider further opportunities to support SCAR's management of the Portal.

The SCAR Science Lecture What does the Paris Climate Agreement mean for Antarctica (IP 161, BP 20) was well attended, and extremely well received in plenary. Recognizing the value of the SCAR science lecture in addressing science challenges, Parties supported a proposal to schedule the lecture early in the ATCM Plenary Session rather than over lunch at the 2018 CEP.

SCARs active participation in the ATCM, in particular under Agenda Item 15 (Appendix 1), reaffirmed SCARs position as the primary provider of independent, objective scientific advice to the ATS.

A full list of papers is provided in Appendix 1, and further details of ensuing discussions and actions are provided in Appendix 2.

Agreements and Commitments from ATCM XL and CEP XX

- Ongoing support for the Antarctic Environments Portal and active engagement with interested parties on future funding and management options.
- Continue discussions with the CEP regarding the implementation of the CCWRP, in particular through the CEPs Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response.
- Further consultation on *SCAR's Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Research Activities* with interested parties and COMNAP in the 2017-18 intersessional period, and to bring a revised version back to the 2018 CEP for consideration.
- Bring forward information to CEP XXI (2018) on existing work and expertise that would be available for identifying non-native species in the field and informing non-native species invasion risk.
- Provide an interim report to CEP XXI (2018) on the Systematic Conservation Plan for the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Participate in the CEP Intersessional Contact Group on the use of RPAS around wildlife
- Provide advice on the assessment of environmental baselines for Environmental Impact Assessments (ongoing but nothing to the CEP until 2020).

Existing SCAR commitments to CEP XXI (2018)

- Ocean Acidification Report (IP)
- Report on underwater noise impacts on marine animals (IP)
- Report on Antarctic geo-conservation and geo-heritage (IP)

Other ATCM/SCATS business arising at ATCM XL and CEP XX

a) CCAMLR Engagement

Aleks Terauds attended several meetings with CCAMLR representative in the margins of the ATCM, including Executive Secretary Drew Wright, Scientific Committee Chair Mark Belchier, and the CCAMLR Review Panel. At the request of the Executive Secretary and the Review Panel, SCAR has now provided feedback to the CCAMLR Performance Review. Developing and improving CCAMLR engagement remains an important objective of SCATS.

b) Antarctic Environments Portal

The Antarctic Environments Portal continues to be well received by the CEP. In particular, there appears to be good support for SCAR to take over the running and management of the Portal once the current funding comes to an end in 2018. The SCAR Delegation and key Portal representatives Jana Newman and Neil Gilbert met several times in the margins of the ATCM. Issues discussed included the current editorial arrangements and how these might be best managed into the future, current and future budgetary requirements of the Portal, the role of SCATS in the Portal and timely delivery of appropriate content into the Portal. With regard to future funding, in-principle offers of financial support have been received from New Zealand, the Netherlands and Norway, and discussions between these, and other interested Parties, will be ongoing to negotiate details.

c) IAATO Systematic Conservation Planning Project

Several meetings were held between the SCAR delegation and members of IAATO, including the incoming Executive Director Damon Stanwell-Smith. These discussions focused on developing collaborations between SCAR and IAATO, including the Systematic Conservation Planning Project presented to the CEP in IP 166. Issues discussed in side meetings included the scope of the project, potential recruitment processes, and how best to engage with other interested Members of the CEP who expressed support for the project at the meeting.

Appendix 1 List of SCAR submission to ATCM XL (in order of presentation)

| Item | Title | Proponents | Agenda |
|-------------|--|---|------------------|
| WP 25 | Antarctic Environments Portal | NZ, Australia, Japan, Norway, USA, SCAR | CEP 4 |
| IP 14 | Antarctic Environments Portal: Content Management Plan | NZ, Australia, Japan, Norway, USA, SCAR | CEP 4 |
| IP 35 | The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Annual Report 2016-2017 to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XL | SCAR | CEP 5, ATCM 4 |
| IP 80 | Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment – 2017 Update | SCAR | CEP7a, ATCM 16 |
| IP 69 | Mapping SCAR affiliated research to the CEPs Climate Change Response Work Programme (CCRWP) | SCAR | CEP 7b |
| WP 17 | SCAR’s Code of Conduct for the Exploration and Research of Subglacial Aquatic Environments | SCAR | CEP 9e |
| WP 18 | SCAR’s Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica | SCAR | CEP9e |
| WP 29 | Proposed update to the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions (CEP) and the associated | Australia, NZ, SCAR | CEP 9e |
| IP 15 | Antarctic biogeography revisited: updating the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions | Australia, NZ, SCAR | CEP 9e |
| IP 166 | Systematic Conservation Plan for the Antarctic Peninsula | SCAR, IAATO | CEP9e, ATCM 17 |
| WP 13 | Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 to 2020 (CEP, ATCM) | SCAR, Monaco, Belgium | CEP 10c, 7a, 9a |
| WP 20 | State of Knowledge of Wildlife Responses to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) | SCAR | CEP 10c, ATCM 13 |
| BP 1 | Best Practice for Minimizing Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Disturbance to Wildlife in Biological Field Research | SCAR | CEP 9e |
| IP 68 | Update on activities of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) | SCAR | CEP 11, ATCM 15 |
| IP 81 | Report of Oceanites, Inc | SCAR | CEP 11 |
| IP 24 | Future Challenges in Southern Ocean Ecology Research: another outcome of the 1st SCAR Horizon Scan | Portugal, SCAR | CEP 13, ATCM 15 |
| IP 117 | The Antarctic Observing Network (AntON) to facilitate weather and climate information: an update | WMO, SCAR | ATCM 15 |
| WP 4 | Future Antarctic Science Challenges, which summarised SCAR’s Strategic Plan 2017-2022 | SCAR | ATCM 15a |
| WP 15 | The SCAR Antarctic Science Horizon Scan & the COMNAP Antarctic Roadmap Challenges projects | COMNAP, SCAR | ATCM 15a |
| IP 161 | What does the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement mean for Antarctica? | SCAR | ATCM 15a |
| BP 20 | The SCAR Lecture: What does the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement mean for Antarctica? | SCAR | ATCM 15a |

Appendix 2 Engagement Detail (including non-SCAR papers that had SCAR related discussion)

Further detail on the presentation of papers and responses can be found in the final reports of the CEP and ATCM (www.ats.aq).

WP 25 Antarctic Environments Portal (NZ, et al SCAR)

IP 14 Antarctic Environments Portal: Content Management Plan (NZ, et al, SCAR)

The CEP expressed its continued support for the Portal as an important source of up-to-date scientific information integral to the work of the CEP and thanked SCAR and others for their continued efforts in the management and development of the Portal. The Committee supported the decision taken by SCAR, in principle, to assume the management of the Portal after 2018 and agreed to consider further opportunities to support SCAR's management of the Portal. The Committee welcomed France's contribution in the form of translation of Portal content into French as an example of support in kind, and welcomed the offer made by the Netherlands' during the meeting to financially support the Portal in the future. The Committee encouraged Members to consider further opportunities to support the management of the Portal and to consult further with SCAR.

IP 35 The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Annual Report 2016-2017 to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XL (CEP, ATCM)

Both the CEP and the ATCM thanked SCAR for the presentation of the report and congratulated Prof. Steven Chown on his election as President of SCAR, and acknowledged Prof. Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez for his achievements while SCAR President. The new format of the report was noted and appreciated by several Parties.

IP 80 Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment – 2017 Update (CEP, ATCM) (SCAR)

The Committee thanked SCAR for continuing to provide annual updates to its Antarctic Climate Change report and acknowledged the considerable work that was involved in preparing IP 80. The Committee strongly supported SCAR's move to present the report in a format that is accessible to a broad audience

IP 69 Mapping SCAR affiliated research to the CEPs Climate Change Response Work Programme (CCRWP) (SCAR)

The CEP expressed appreciation for SCAR's significant efforts to provide a comprehensive report on the substantial body of SCAR-affiliated work related to the CCRWP and acknowledged that SCAR-affiliated research covered all issues related to the CCRWP. The CEP also noted the challenge of incorporating the results from the numerous ongoing SCAR initiatives into the framework of the CCRWP, especially with regard to how the outcomes of the work address CCRWP priorities. The CEP

agreed that effective communication between the CEP and SCAR on the implementation of the CCRWP remained important. The Parties endorsed the establishment of a Subsidiary Group on Climate Change Response (SGCCR) for facilitate the implementation of the CCWRP.

WP 41 Environmental Impact Assessments – Update on broader policy discussions (UK)

Following a request in WP41 from the United Kingdom, and subsequent discussions in the margins of the meeting, SCAR agreed to undertake work on the best practice assessment of baselines for the purposes of environmental impact assessments and provide guidance to the CEP in 2020. In agreeing to this request, SCAR cautioned that the scope of the advice provided would be dependent upon the resources available to support this work.

WP 17 SCAR’s Code of Conduct for the Exploration and Research of Subglacial Aquatic Environments

The Committee thanked SCAR for submitting the paper and for the broad consultation with stakeholders to review and improve the Code of Conduct, Following endorsement of SCAR’s Code of Conduct for the Exploration and Research of Subglacial Aquatic Environments by the CEP the ATCM accepted the CEP's advice, and adopted Resolution B (2017) encouraging the use and dissemination of this code.

WP 18 SCAR’s Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica (CEP) (SCAR)

The CEP thanked SCAR for its work to review and improve this Code of Conduct. It emphasised the importance of having such a Code of Conduct, noting how such guidance for specific types of activities in Antarctica contribute to the enhancement of the overall protection of Antarctica, and further noted that the current version of the Code has been valuable. SCAR agreed to undertake further consultation with interested Members and COMNAP in the 2017-18 intersessional period and bring a revised version back to the 2018 CEP for consideration.

WP 29 Proposed update to the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions (CEP) (Australia, New Zealand, SCAR)

IP 15 Antarctic biogeography revisited: updating the Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions (CEP) (Australia, New Zealand, SCAR)

The CEP thanked Australia, New Zealand and SCAR for their work on WP 29 and IP 15 and agreed on the importance of continuing to update the ACBR spatial framework. Accordingly, the CEP agreed to endorse the revised ACBRs, and requested the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat to make the updated spatial data layer available on its website. Accepting the CEP's advice, the ATCP adopted Resolution C (2017) - Antarctic Conservation Biogeographic Regions (ACBRs Version 2).

IP 166 Systematic Conservation Plan for the Antarctic Peninsula (CEP) (SCAR, IAATO)

The CEP thanked SCAR and IAATO for the advice presented in IP 166. Several Members and Observers expressed interest in contributing to the initiative including through sharing experiences from other relevant work, and also to contribute to discussions on setting conservation goals and considering interactions between this work and other work underway or planned by the CEP and its Members. SCAR agreed to provide an interim report to the CEP in 2018.

WP 5 Non-native Species Response Protocol (CEP) (UK)

The CEP noted the offer from SCAR to bring forward information to CEP XXI regarding existing work and expertise that would be available for identifying non-native species and further informing knowledge of invasion risk.

WP 13 Antarctica and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 to 2020 (CEP, ATCM)

The CEP thanked SCAR, Belgium and Monaco for the paper and their continuing efforts to assess the status of biodiversity in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Some Members supported the recommendation that the CEP consider the development of an integrated biodiversity strategy and action plan for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Some of those Members also noted that this work is in-line with Article 3(2) of the Treaty. Other Members, while not supporting this recommendation, expressed their support for work at the CEP towards an improved understanding of biodiversity and its conservation in the Antarctic, including the continuation of the planned work by SCAR, Monaco and Belgium, and welcomed the advice by SCAR that it was progressing with its conservation strategy. The CEP noted that an enhanced understanding of the state of Antarctic biodiversity would also contribute to global efforts to conserve biodiversity. The CEP welcomed the efforts by SCAR to develop evidence-based tools and approaches, including through a further workshop planned for July 2017, to assist the CEP in addressing challenges to Antarctic biodiversity conservation, and encouraged those involved to bring back their findings for its consideration.

WP 20 State of Knowledge of Wildlife Responses to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)

BP 1 Best Practice for Minimising Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Disturbance to Wildlife in Biological Field Research

The CEP thanked SCAR for the comprehensive report on the state of knowledge of wildlife responses to RPAS use in the Antarctic. It acknowledged the value of the precautionary best-practice guidelines for RPAS use in the vicinity of wildlife in Antarctica presented in WP 20, and agreed to encourage the dissemination and use of those guidelines as an interim measure pending the further development of broader guidance on the environmental aspects of RPAS use in Antarctica. The CEP noted that further intersessional work might consider: the environmental impacts

associated with the use of RPAS in the Antarctic other than those associated with wildlife disturbance; site and species specific guidance on their use; and how scientific use of RPAS could be assessed in future. The CEP supported SCAR's recommendation that future studies on wildlife response to RPAS in the Antarctic should consider a range of aspects as outlined in WP 20. The CEP decided to establish an ICG to develop guidelines for the environmental aspects of the use of RPAS in Antarctica and SCAR agreed to participate.

WP 4 Future Antarctic Science Challenges

Parties thanked SCAR for its important work in identifying key research challenges shared by the Parties as well as condensing important research findings to sound policy advice. In the ensuing discussions, several Parties referred to the work of SCAR in identifying key research challenges, and recognized the value of work done by SCAR.

IP 161 What does the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement mean for Antarctica?

BP 20 The SCAR Lecture: What does the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement mean for Antarctica? (SCAR).

Recognizing the value of the SCAR science lecture in addressing science challenges, Parties supported a proposal to schedule the lecture early in the ATCM Plenary session rather than over lunch. SCAR confirmed that it would welcome suggestions for the topic of the lecture which would be considered by the SCAR Executive Committee.