



SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2017
Brno, Czech Republic, 31 July - 2 August 2017

Progress towards the
2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan

Report Author(s):

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Summary (<150 words):

A document has been set up to help keep track of the progress towards the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. It is a google doc and anyone with a link can contribute. The paper that follows this cover page is a pdf of that doc as of 21 July. It is meant to be a working document that is progressed over the coming years.

The document can be accessed here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ILPdzUFCLungH_TCoXdOaxG71fIPg3q5YgNOMoMDbY8/edit#

Recommendations that EXCOM should consider (if any): *Please indicate if approval is necessary or if they are just asked to note information.*

The ExCom is asked to add items to the document as they progress them:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ILPdzUFCLungH_TCoXdOaxG71fIPg3q5YgNOMoMDbY8/edit#

Progress Towards the SCAR Strategic Plan 2017-2022

Connecting and Building Antarctic Research

Latest update: 20 July 2017

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ILPdZUFCLungH_TCoXdOaxG71fIPg3q5YgNOMoMDbY8/edit#

Executive summary

SCAR's vision is to create a legacy of Antarctic research as a foundation for a better future. In line with this vision, through scientific research and international cooperation SCAR will establish a thorough understanding of the nature of Antarctica, the role of Antarctica in the global system, and the character and effects of environmental change and human activities on Antarctica. SCAR's work in the next five years will focus on five key objectives:

- a) To amplify its leadership in Antarctic research by further strengthening and expanding high-quality collaborative and visionary Antarctic research, including observations from Antarctica;
- a) To offer independent scientific advice to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other bodies dealing with Antarctic and Southern Ocean matters;
- b) To enhance and grow research capacity in SCAR member countries;
- c) To enhance public awareness and understanding of Antarctic issues through communication of Antarctic research results in a timely and accessible manner; and
- d) To facilitate unrestricted and free access to Antarctic research data.

The actions required in the next six years to achieve the above objectives are highlighted in blue boxes contained within each section of this strategic plan. Underlining all objectives is SCAR's aim to enhance the information flow to all interested researchers and policy makers and stimulate cross- and trans-disciplinary exchange.

Progress

This document lists the goals SCAR set out in the plan as things to progress over the 2017-2022 period, divided into categories as in the plan. This is meant to be a running document to be updated periodically detailing steps taken toward each aim.

Anyone that makes progress toward the aims is encouraged to add the information under the appropriate bullets below. Solid bullets are the aims outlined in the Strategic Plan, open circle bullets are things done to help achieve the aim.

The document can be accessed here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ILPdZUFCLungH_TCoXdOaxG71fIPg3q5YgNOMoMDbY8/edit#

Core strategies

(a) Science leadership

SCAR will:

- continue to promote the implementation of the findings of the 1st SCAR Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Horizon Scan to help focus scientific efforts and resources on key research questions, and revisit the Horizon Scan at five-year intervals to identify new research directions;
- use the very popular biennial SCAR Open Science Conference and the SCAR international thematic symposia that take place every four years to grow interest in Antarctic and Southern Ocean science, to engage with related scientific communities and to promote collaboration between SCAR members, institutes and individuals;

- add value to the research programmes of SCAR member states and international programmes through the SCAR Scientific Research Programmes and specialized subsidiary groups;
- publicize and reward excellence in SCAR research, especially via administering the prestigious Tinker-Muse Prize for Science Policy in Antarctica;
- continue to foster interdisciplinary and cross-cutting research activities, particularly with regard to more effective integration of the social sciences and humanities;
- encourage international initiatives such as the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) and the Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics (ICED);
- engage with National Antarctic Programs, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP), satellite observation groups and other international programmes and organizations with a polar focus to identify common research priorities and encourage shared use of scientific resources; and reach out to groups who currently do not have a polar focus, but whose work may benefit from information on Antarctic science.

(b) Advice

SCAR will:

- provide scientific advice and further strengthen its relationships within the Antarctic Treaty System, UNFCCC, IPCC and others such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
- bring to the attention of these policy bodies and national programmes, emerging scientific issues of regional and global significance;

- present high-quality, relevant research through the SCAR Science Lecture at ATCMs;
- continue to support the Antarctic Environments Portal and its efforts to deliver science summaries for policy-makers;
- increase engagement with policy related partners such as CCAMLR;
- create learning opportunities for all researchers on the science-policy interface; and maintain its cooperation with National Antarctic Programs, COMNAP and other international programmes and organizations with a polar focus.

(c) Capacity building, education and training

SCAR will:

- establish a mentoring programme for researchers in new SCAR member countries, particularly those with emerging Antarctic programmes;
- work with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and similar organisations to provide career development and mentoring, and to promote involvement of early career researchers in SCAR groups;
- encourage groups and member countries to hold specialized training courses for early career scientists and others interested in developing Antarctic research activities;
- facilitate networking through use of social media and web-based communication tools;

- enable the participation of scientists new to the Antarctic community in the SCAR Open Science Conference, the SCAR international thematic symposia, and specific workshops;
- identify additional funding sources to grow and strengthen its fellowship and award schemes;
- engage in appropriate international educational activities ; and promote the development and publication of educational products communicating Antarctic research to educators, students and the general public.

(d) Communication

SCAR will:

- use the most effective communication technologies, including social media, to enhance its visibility and further promote SCAR activities;
- continue to regularly update the SCAR website and produce an e-newsletter;
 - a new website is being designed to be more user-friendly.
 - Articles are regularly added to the website and social media
- expand participation in SCAR activities by providing virtual participation, especially in the SCAR Open Science Conferences and the SCAR international thematic symposia;
 - 2017 Humanities and Social Science Symposium used SCAR's Go-To-Meeting system for remote participation
- regularly review the effectiveness of its communication strategy and mechanisms; and work closely with National SCAR Committees and partners to ensure effective communication.
 - A proposed revision to the out of date communication strategy has been proposed.

- National Committees have been asked to send updates on their activities.

(e) Grow and strengthen SCAR membership

SCAR will:

- seek to broaden its membership;
- foster, through new and existing activities, the closer integration and participation of its members;
- sponsor activities at national and international meetings to promote SCAR's aims;
- promote engagement with scientists and policy-makers from countries not traditionally involved in Antarctic research;
- organize webinars to promote Antarctic science in member countries; and build upon its relationship with ICSU bodies to proactively identify areas of common interest.

(f) Data management and access

SCAR will:

- ensure visibility and access to data through the Antarctic Master Directory;
- encourage the community to contribute data to appropriate open-access repositories;

- require recipients of SCAR research funding to submit a data management plan and ensure its followed;
- work toward ensuring SCAR peer-reviewed literature is published as open-access;
- promote the development and implementation of standards and quality control procedures that support the exchange of data;
- create training opportunities for scientists on data management practices;
- promote coordination among the different National Antarctic Data Centres; and promote cooperation with international information platforms (e.g. Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF).

Enabling strategies

(a) Coordination

SCAR will:

- facilitate the exchange of ideas via the biennial SCAR Open Science Conference and the SCAR international thematic symposia;
- stimulate cross-disciplinary collaboration via the SCAR Scientific Research Programmes and groups;
- ensure wide participation by facilitating access to its activities, including providing technologies to support virtual participation;

- strengthen coordination of activities with COMNAP, IASC and ICSU Unions; and promote Antarctic sessions in international and national conferences.

(b) Partnerships

SCAR will:

- nurture and expand the partnerships that are of particular importance to SCAR's mission;
- reinforce alliances with Arctic counterparts (e.g. IASC) to develop a polar perspective on climate change and other research issues;
- partner with IASC and other groups interested in polar research to identify themes of international priority;
- strengthen cooperation, seek common interests and exchange scientific expertise and educational knowledge with partners; and encourage communication and cooperation with particular emphasis on aspects of climate change, human impacts and the associated research programmes.

(c) Resourcing

SCAR will:

- simplify the membership contribution structure;
 - Approved at the 2016 Delegates meeting.
 - Definitions of categories were developed as part of the creation of the SCAR Membership Guide in 2017.

- create a database for potential international Antarctic activity funding;
 - A google spreadsheet has been set up with various possibilities. It is planned that this will be incorporated into the new website and be easily accessible to the Antarctic Research Community

- work closely with National SCAR Committees and partners to leverage new funding;

- develop outreach activities to publicize the importance of Antarctic research;
 - Working with PEI to share activities that already exist with the SCAR community

- provide guidance on how members may contribute more actively to SCAR activities and governance; and explore opportunities to expand the SCAR fellowships and other award schemes.
 - Membership guide has been developed to provide more information on how SCAR works, the follow up could be targeted communications to various countries and Unions to find out what they would like from SCAR
 - The Development Council and CBET sent letters to members requesting additional voluntary contributions. India provided funds for an additional fellowship and visiting professor award. Norway and Switzerland each provided funds for a visiting professor award.

(d) Products

SCAR will:

- promote its products widely and provide up-to-date information on its website and through social media;
 - Products are being included in the 'Get to know SCAR' section of the newsletter

- regularly review existing products to ensure that they are up to date;

- A workshop has been proposed to develop a strategic view of what SCAR should do with its products

- seek opportunities to develop new and innovative products;

- promote the inclusion of the SCAR logo or name in the products made by the SCAR community; and develop outreach activities to publicize the importance of Antarctic research.

