

SCAR/COMNAP Joint Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday 21 August 2016 4pm/1600hrs

Venue: Renaissance Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Final Report (1 November 2016)

Participants

SCAR EXCOM

Jenny Baeseman
Eoghan Griffin
Karin Lochte
Jerónimo López-Martínez (President)
Bryan Storey
Aleks Terauds
Azizan bin Abu Samah
Terry Wilson

COMNAP EXCOM

Kazuyuki Shiraishi (Chairman)
Rob Wooding
Michelle Rogan-Finnemore
Yves Frenot

Apologies were received and accepted from John Guldahl, Javed Beg and José Retamales.

1. Welcome/introductions

All members were welcomed by Professor Jerónimo López-Martínez (SCAR President) and then by Professor Kazuyuki Shiraishi (COMNAP Chairman).

2. Review of progress on joint activities:

Medical Group and Potential Review (Michelle)

Before speaking to this item, Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that COMNAP Vice Chairman John Hall had oversight of the Joint Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine (JEGHBM) on behalf of COMNAP and that John had just successfully completed his 3-year term as Vice Chairman and so was no longer on EXCOM. She stated that the Telemedicine Workshop held in Tromsø, Norway in August 2015 was a significant achievement for the group, it was well attended and had good outcomes. COMNAP intends to review the group including its Terms of Reference (ToRs) to ensure that it serves both SCAR and COMNAP. Leadership rotation is planned with current leader Jeff Ayton completing a significantly long term, he is likely to handover to Anne Hicks who is already active in the group.

Jenny Baeseman attended part of the JEGHBM business meeting earlier on 21st August and was impressed by the way the group used the strengths of both organisations. Three main points came from the meeting.

1. In terms of membership there is an issue with getting countries to nominate representatives. A request was made for a letter to be sent to solicit better representation.
2. The group hasn't received new tasks from SCAR or COMNAP and would welcome receiving these. They also wanted to ensure that they had visibility to the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and so stand ready to respond to any requests from SCAR or COMNAP on an ATCM or CEP request.
3. The group feels that SCAR and COMNAP could help share the work the group undertakes more widely, in particular in the area of group behaviour. So they wish to have scientists better understand what work the group does and also how they can

help.

Jenny Baeseman added that there was a strong Asian contingent within the group and that there were plans to have a meeting in Asia, but that engagement with South America was a problem. This was perceived to be partly due to language but also reflecting funding issues. She also commented that SCAR would be interested in working with COMNAP to conduct the review of the group.

Karin Lochte commented that there are relevant research projects in individual countries that could feed in to the work of JEGHBM but at present they are marginalised within the SCAR structure. There was also scope for medical aspects from the Arctic to be relevant, in telemedicine for instance.

Jenny Baeseman noted that there is an existing member of the International Circumpolar Liaison within the JEGHBM group and a strong willingness to look to the Arctic.

Yves Frenot noted that from a national programme manager perspective the group had come from one that did not appear well-balanced to one which was producing very good presentations, for instance about the cooperation between stations, namely in terms of SAR or safety. He suggested that a joint letter of congratulations be sent to the group. Relating to the second message identified by Jenny Baeseman, he suggested that one area where the group could make a contribution is in bringing science results of relevance to the attention of managers who aren't regularly reading that specific scientific literature. This could be for instance in terms of psychological research on the behaviours of those working in remote stations and on scientific cruises and its relevance to recruitment.

Bryan Storey considered it would be good to know who isn't currently participating in the group. Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that she could provide the list and then pointed out that there would be some programmes where the medical officer is from the military or outside of the national Antarctic program as such and would be unable to join in some cases.

ACTION: Joint letter from SCAR and COMNAP to be sent to ask for national representatives to be appointed to JEGHBM.

ACTION: Joint message to be sent from SCAR and COMNAP congratulating JEGHBM on their progress to date.

ACTION: MRF to provide list of members in the JEGHBM.

ACTION: COMNAP and SCAR to conduct review of the group.

Fellowships and Potential Review (Michelle/Jenny/Eoghan)

Eoghan Griffin gave an overview of the 2016 Fellowships programme which attracted a record number of applicants (55) and for which 4 SCAR and 3 COMNAP awards had been offered and accepted in the preceding week. The details were circulated and it was noted they would be announced at the Fellows Mini-symposium as part of the SCAR Open Science Conference the following week. Part of the reason for the record number of applicants was identified as the "Writing for Success" webinar provided in April 2016, as a joint SCAR-COMNAP-APECS effort to help support applicants. A recording has been made available which is accessible at both the SCAR and APECS websites. This activity would be repeated for 2017 but altered in the light of feedback from the 2016 event and following up with those who either attended the webinar or registered but didn't participate in real time. There were also changes to the management of the Fellowships review process, identifying individuals with wide experience to act as intermediaries to suggest reviewers across the applications in their fields. The aim was to both improve the efficiency of the process considering the extra workload and also widen the pool of reviewers in general.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that COMNAP were happy with the webinar and that they were conducting a review of the COMNAP Fellowship programme, which had been running for 5 years. The review would likely include consideration of changes to the COMNAP Fellowships Scheme's ToRs, to encourage Early Career people from wider afield, targeting those involved in science support.

Karin Lochte made two points. The first was that there would be a focus on empowering non-English speakers and those from developing programmes with the suggestion of having mentors to oversee and review applications before submission. The second point was that extra funding would be sought to support more Fellowships, with the Antarctic tourist industry being a specific target. To aid this, a more directed booklet to ask specifically for donations would be produced. Aleks Terauds pointed out that the effort would be more resonant for that audience by specifying support for a person rather than "research in general".

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore informed the meeting that Kim Crosbie of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) had been informally approached with the idea of an IAATO Fellowship in the past, but that, at that time, IAATO was not ready to participate. Michelle thought that timing was right for another approach, and a more formal, joint SCAR and COMNAP approach might have more success.

Terry Wilson suggested that it would be best to time the next webinar in conjunction with major meetings in for instance South America. It would also be helpful to ensure that the Visiting Professors advertise the Fellowships specifically when they are in nations with developing programmes.

Jenny Baeseman pointed out that there needs to be a stronger effort to support applicants for whom English is not their first language and that targeted activities are needed to address it.

Aleks Terauds noted that from a reviewer's point of view it would be good to know whether the applicant was applying for the SCAR fellowship, COMNAP fellowship or both programmes, as this information wasn't currently provided to reviewers.

In response to discussions in regards to whether the successful fellows had gone on to utilize the funding in an effective manner, Michelle Rogan-Finnemore highlighted one COMNAP example, that of the report produced by Ursula Rack on her COMNAP Fellowship 2011 which detailed the many research activities and outputs that the funds had allowed her to complete.

Jenny Baeseman noted that SCAR's Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM) had requested a data plan to be included in the application form as at present there is no requirement to do so. Where relevant it should be required.

ACTION: Joint SCAR and COMNAP approach to IAATO to support advertising for Fellowship funding donations.

ACTION: Updates for the 2017 Fellowships programmes in guidance and application process to reflect recommendations on information to reviewers and data plan requirements.

ACTION: Specific activities should be developed to address lack of representation of applications from developing programmes and non-English speakers.

Follow up on SCAR/COMNAP Action Group (Michelle/Jenny)

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that this still sits as an outstanding Action Item and has not been addressed since the last joint EXCOM meeting.

Rob Wooding asked if the SCAR Secretariat had ever been represented at a COMNAP AGM.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that SCAR is always formally invited to send a representative(s) to the COMNAP AGMs and it has been usual practice for SCAR to choose to be represented by the SCAR President, Jeronimo Lopez-Martinez, in recent years.

Jenny Baeseman noted that she would welcome the opportunity to participate as it would be a great learning experience and could help to facilitate new activities and strengthen current collaborations. In response, Rob expressed COMNAP's view that she would be most welcome to attend.

3. Review of other activities/items of mutual interest:

Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) (Rob/Jenny)

Rob Wooding noted that gathering information on where ships are and where they are going would be the most important thing that COMNAP could do for SOOS. More was hoped to have been done in the last 12 months but significant operational issues were encountered. He was with the SOOS Secretariat before the COMNAP AGM in Goa and they are hoping to move forward in the next 12 months.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore reported that the SOOS Program Office had sent a request through COMNAP to collect ship data, which the COMNAP Secretariat had assisted with. She had requested from SOOS that they share all data received with COMNAP members and this had not been responded to as yet.

Jenny Baeseman reported that there had been no specific requests from SOOS to SCAR to bring up at this meeting but she would follow up to see if there were any issues SCAR could help with.

ACTION: SCAR to follow up with SOOS on status of data contributed from COMNAP members to the SOOS' request for ship data facilitated by COMNAP.

Antarctic research infrastructure database

Yves Frenot informed that following the EU PolarNET project COMNAP began an initiative to collect data on Antarctic infrastructure. Previously a simple list existed but now there is a comprehensive database, which includes technical and scientific data on equipment available, accommodation capacity etc. Work on the project is nearly finished and it will be available in various formats as yet to be confirmed.

Jenny Baeseman asked if the database would be open.

Yves replied that some information may be for COMNAP managers only but the elements relating to science will be open. He added that if SCAR wished to add data they would be happy to have it.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that some of the data cannot be made public, for instance the telephone numbers of Antarctic stations, but COMNAP would endeavour to share as much of the information as possible. The database currently includes 98% of the data from 30 COMNAP-member programmes and COMNAP is currently looking to make the best use of the information.

Yves noted that there was a relevant EU Polarnet meeting to be held during the Open Science Conference.

4 Joint Meetings

Discussion on specifics and on strategic value of joint EXCOM-level interactions

Comments from the SCAR President on 2016 COMNAP AGM (Jerónimo)

Jerónimo López-Martínez noted that SCAR had sent its Annual Report in advance as usual to the COMNAP AGM but that a number of recent extra points were noted in his presentations. This included an update on the IODP plans for 2018-2021, which relate to Antarctic projects. These expeditions have significant potential to drive research in SCAR, especially through the Past Antarctic Ice Sheets (PAIS) Scientific Research Programme. There are also implications for logistics and planning as icebreaker support is needed for the drilling ships. SCAR has already endorsed PAIS requests to support the plans and will work further with COMNAP as plans progress.

Another recent activity reported on at the COMNAP meeting were SCAR interactions with the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), specifically their Antarctic component, the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA), relating to bathymetric data. IHO had been in contact with both SCAR and COMNAP Secretariats. Jerónimo López-Martínez expressed his hope that the points raised were relevant for COMNAP.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore replied that the SCAR report was always welcome at the COMNAP AGM and COMNAP would also welcome the participation of the SCAR Executive Director at future COMNAP AGMs. The feedback received from SCAR in relation to activities within the ATS and CEP was very helpful for the COMNAP community.

On the particular point relating to the IHO they were aware of the interest from the HCA to have ships file data to aid in the production of bathymetric maps but that COMNAP can't interfere with the way in which national programmes use their data.

Jerónimo López-Martínez noted that IODP already had funding for ship time to deliver the science. The request to COMNAP was for National Antarctic Programs with icebreaking-capable vessels, that would be operating in the Antarctic during the IODP Programme, to communicate their schedules with IODP in order to coordinate icebreaking with the IODP Programme, so that research vessels can follow the icebreakers into areas important for the IODP Science Programme. Kazuyuki Shiraishi noted that previous IODP drilling operations had requested support by icebreakers from national programmes.

Bryan Storey noted the major achievement for SCAR and PAIS represented by the return of the IODP drilling ships to the Antarctic and that the required ships were purely for protection rather than the drilling itself.

ACTION: COMNAP agrees, based on Jerónimo's presentation to COMNAP, that its final AGM report will note the importance of the IODP Programme and will encourage national Antarctic programmes with suitable ice-breaking capable vessels to consider support of the upcoming IODP Programme.

Plans for 2017: Brno, Czech Republic COMNAP AGM

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore reported that the dates for the meetings in Brno in 2017 were expected to be in the last week of July. Account had been taken of the date of the ATCM in 2017 in China which was expected early May. Final confirmation of the ATCM data is expected in November.

Plans for 2018: SCAR OSC in Davos, Switzerland / COMNAP AGM Germany

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore also welcomed the offer from AWI to host and organize the 2018 COMNAP AGM as close to the Davos meetings as possible.

Karin Lochte stated that Munich was being looked at as the possible venue and the details were being sorted out. She enquired whether the COMNAP AGM would be before or after the SCAR and IASC meetings.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore responded that a decision on that would be communicated soon.

Yves Frenot noted that for the joint meetings including the ASSW it would be important to know the specific schedule.

Jenny Baeseman noted that conversations were already underway on that issue between the organisations and local organisers. Karin Lochte added that the upcoming International Science Organising Committee (ISOC) planning meeting would note the importance of including the business meetings in the schedule.

Coming Years?

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore asked about the timing of the ATCM in 2018.

Aleks Terauds answered that the venue would be Ecuador but that the dates had not yet been set.

Jerónimo López-Martínez noted that for future SCAR biennial meetings there was an application for 2020 from Australia and for 2022 from India.

Jenny Baeseman corrected that the interest from India was a letter of intent and not a formal proposal to host.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that the COMNAP AGM would be in Punta Arenas in 2019 and they were happy to join SCAR in 2020 in Australia if that is what was agreed by the SCAR delegates. For 2021 COMNAP had expression of interests from Japan and Bulgaria. Michelle Rogan-Finnemore also asked if there was a format to the SCAR response to the letter of intent from India, and whether it would be appropriate for COMNAP to offer feedback to help with the application.

ACTION: Based on discussions at the SCAR Delegates meeting, COMNAP could provide advice in formulating a reply to India if it was helpful to do so.

5. Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)/ Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP)

Outcomes from ATCM/CEP 2016 (Michelle/Aleks)

Aleks Terauds presented the report on the ATCM and CEP. SCAR submitted 2 Working Papers, 6 Information Papers and 2 Background papers to the CEP and some also to the ATCM. COMNAP made significant contributions to the Code of Conduct on Terrestrial Geothermal Environments, which were well received and had real appreciation on the floor of the meeting. Jerónimo López-Martínez presented the SCAR Lecture, which had a strong COMNAP link through the Antarctic Roadmap Challenges (ARC) element.

SCAR participated in inter-sessional discussions on the CEP Climate Change Work Response Program and the Review of the CEP Non-native species manual. SCATS were also widening discussion with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living resources (CCAMLR) in general including attending the joint CEP-SC-CCAMLR Workshop on Climate Change in Punta Arenas immediately prior to the ATCM.

Plans for joint papers ATCM/CEP 2017 (Michelle/Aleks)

Aleks then outlined the future commitments for the SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SCATS) in relation to next year's ATCM and CEP meetings. There will be continued involvement with the Antarctic Environments Portal (AEP), with Aleks as Deputy Editor, and through the content provided by SCAR scientists and their service on the editorial board. The annual Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) update

continues to be well received. Detailed findings from the Monaco Assessment are coming soon and input and feedback will be sought from COMNAP on a paper on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

The topic of the effect of underwater noise on marine biota has been raised a number of times over the years within the CEP and needs to be made tangible. The nature of a possible report in this area is not clear but may take the form of a statement on the state of current knowledge followed by a dedicated workshop. Broad stakeholder engagement on the issue is vital for progress on the issue.

Aleks mentioned that the final Ocean Acidification report would be presented at the 2017 ATCM. In summary there would be a big year ahead for SCATS but it all appeared to be in hand.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore confirmed that COMNAP is working on a number of papers and topics relating to the UAVs for the next ATCM and that they still have a Working Group discussing the issue. There will also be a paper on the Infrastructure Catalogue and its results plus feedback on activity relating to the ARC. She suggested that it would be good to have a joint SCAR-COMNAP paper on the success of the Fellowships programmes.

Rob Wooding indicated that there were 2 possible reports to the ATCM from the COMNAP Air Expert Group based on UAVS and the Larsemann Hills Management Group. Rob also noted that the Larsemann Hills Management Group was very active and productive.

Yves Frenot noted that, in relation to the CEP, COMNAP will be involved in tasks within the CEP 5-year work plan. He identified the issue of non-native species as one on which COMNAP was playing an active role including a survey relating to the non-native fly species on King George Island. The CEP plans to develop guidelines to reduce the impact of non-native species in the future. COMNAP would also be involved in areas such as the remediation of past activity and the review of clean-up plans. There will be continuing interest from COMNAP in these issues due to the major related operational issues.

On other points COMNAP agreed at its AGM to actively participate in publications from the 25th Anniversary of the Madrid Protocol Meeting which took place in Santiago and to work with the intersessional contact group looking at developing guidance around the management of historic sites.

Future joint papers/joint topics

Karin Lochte asked about the relationship with CCAMLR and potential joint issues to explore with them for instance on proposals for Marine Protected Areas.

Michelle responded that CCAMLR representatives are always invited to the COMNAP search and rescue workshops, and they had a representative to the SAR Workshop III and that collaborative discussions would be good on the CCAMLR Scholarship and intern schemes. She also noted that COMNAP is invited to attend CCAMLR Meetings as an Observer.

Aleks Terauds reported that work had been ongoing from the SCAR perspective for the last 18 months to improve engagement, which had been generally positive and revealed that the CCAMLR community may not always be aware of the relevant work that is being done within SCAR.

ACTION: SCAR and COMNAP to continue to liaise on papers of joint interest to be presented at the ATCM and CEP meetings in 2017.

ACTION: SCAR and COMNAP to continue to investigate ways to cooperate more closely with CCAMLR.

6. Potential new/continuing joint projects or other strategic issues (all)

Follow up from Horizon Scan and Antarctic Roadmap Challenges (ARC) project - Human Resources? (Michelle/Jenny)

Rob Wooding pointed out that COMNAP would be interested in a more topological follow-up to the Horizon Scan and ARC activities, which could have an Information Technology element but also look at the support available for access to more remote and difficult to reach locations. This wouldn't however be focused on Human Resources.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore suggested that the technological aspects could be dealt with first and then followed by the Human Resources element.

Jenny Baeseman asked if this would be a good topic for a paper to the ATCM with the opportunity for a few paragraphs to test which countries would be interested and might potentially fund the activity. She pointed out the potential interest in terms of relevance for countries with developing programmes and their needs in terms of workforce etc.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that any paper should underline the importance that both SCAR and COMNAP attributed to the activity.

Bryan Storey noted that it would be important on the technology element that any workshops etc. were organised to be closely aligned to the science questions already identified. From the ANTOS meeting he could see that setting up a network of multi-disciplinary stations would have significant requirements in terms of logistical support.

Rob Wooding pointed out that ANTOS would be in a position to provide potentially crucial information for countries with developing programmes in terms of capabilities at specific stations.

Bryan Storey noted that engagement is still a general problem and ANTOS emphasises that the placement of stations is important not just having more of them.

Karin Lochte and Jerónimo López-Martínez noted that countries often feel they need to build a station but that it is possible to share the facilities. Rob Wooding reported there had been positive examples of this such as the experience of working with Romania in this way. Karin added that ANTOS also needs to agree on the number of variables each station is to measure. Bryan Storey replied that ANTOS was going to do so and Michelle Rogan-Finnemore asked what the timetable for that was. Aleks Terauds stated that within 12 to 18 months they wanted to be placing orders to reflect what was required from each station.

Jenny Baeseman noted that the WMO was working on an Antarctic Monitoring Programme. Bryan Storey noted this had been attempted in the past.

Jerónimo López-Martínez suggested that SCAR and COMNAP could play a role in facilitating the sharing of resources between nations. Yves Frenot noted that transnational access was one of the pieces of information being provided through the COMNAP infrastructure database. He pointed to the example of the Netherlands who have no station but have worked through the UK's Rothera Station. Jerónimo López-Martínez suggested SCAR and COMNAP could be more pro-active on the topic and use opportunities such as the Visiting Professorships to promote shared access to facilities. Rob Wooding suggested that with a comprehensive list of projects tied to specific locations, countries with developing programmes could match their needs to the available infrastructure already existing. Bryan Storey noted that efforts to produce similar lists in the past were unsuccessful.

Michelle Rogan-Finnemore noted that some national Antarctic programs are not eligible for COMNAP Membership, since the COMANP Rules of Procedure rightfully require that COMNAP Members must be governmental organisations from countries that have at least signed the Environmental Protocol.

7. Other business (all)

Jerónimo López-Martínez asked if there was any other business. None was suggested.

8. Close of business

Jerónimo López-Martínez, SCAR President closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

Action Items Arising

<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Status</i>
Joint letter from SCAR and COMNAP to be sent to ask for national representatives to be appointed to JEGHBM.	JB/MRF	
Joint letter from SCAR and COMNAP to be sent to JEGHBM.	MRF/JB	
Provide list of members in the JEGHBM.	MRF to JB	
COMNAP and SCAR to conduct review of the JEGHBM group.	All	
Joint SCAR and COMNAP approach to IAATO to support advertising for Fellowship funding donations.	JB/MRF	
Updates for the 2017 Fellowships programmes in guidance and application process to reflect recommendations on information to reviewers and data plan requirements.	All	
Specific activities should be developed to address lack of representation of Fellowship applications from developing programmes and non-English speakers.	JB/MRF	
SCAR to follow up with SOOS on status of data contributed from COMNAP members to the SOOS request for ship data facilitated by COMNAP.	JB	
The COMNAP AGM 2016 Final Report to note the importance of the IODP Programme and will encourage national Antarctic programmes with suitable ice-breaking capable vessels to consider support of the upcoming IODP Programme.	MRF	
Based on discussions at the SCAR Delegates meeting, COMNAP could provide advice in formulating a reply to India if it was helpful to do so.	MRF	
SCAR and COMNAP to continue to liaise on papers of joint interest to be presented at the ATCM and CEP meetings in 2017.	MRF/AT	