



WP **30**
Agenda Item: 10.4
Person Responsible: P Convey

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The SCAR Development Council Update – April 2013

Executive Summary (1 page)

Title: SCAR Development Council – Update April 2013

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Introduction/ Background: SCAR's Strategic Plan called for the creation of a Development Council to manage and facilitate external fund raising for SCAR. The first progress report of the SDC was presented to the SCAR Delegates Meeting in Portland (2012).

Important Issues or Factors: The SCAR Development Council has been formed and conducted initial consideration of its Terms of Reference. SDC discussions have been conducted electronically. This document provides an update to the report presented in 2012, with focus on (a) strategic development of the SDC membership, and (b) means to target the effort available to the SDC towards particular identified opportunities.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: Supplemental funds to support SCAR's mission.

Budget Implications: Funds are in place (\$5000) for a face-to-face meeting in the 2013-2014 timeframe. As the SDC is an ongoing activity, this is expected to be a rolling request. Funds should also be considered for the development of promotional materials; \$3,000 in 2014.

The SCAR Development Council – Update April 2013

The SCAR Strategic Plan 2011-2016 called for the formation of a committee to identify sources of external funds and develop a strategy to diversify SCAR's financial resources beyond membership fees. This committee has now been established and completed its setup phase. This paper provides an update and recommendations on its membership and future activities, based on its terms of reference as it moves into its implementation /solicitation phase.

The SCAR Development Council (SDC) membership was agreed (Appendix 1), and the previous report for Delegates prepared in July 2012 (http://www.scar.org/members/scarmeetingreports/xxxiiportland12/32_WP30_SCARDevCouncil_Rev1.pdf). As initially recommended, membership was based on representatives from the regions of the world that represent SCAR membership. At this stage, individual members of the SDC were asked and agreed to “keep watch” for opportunities for the SDC in regard to major aspects of SCAR's mission.

Future membership of the Development Council – It was recognized at an early stage that in the longer term a different model for membership might become more effective. Now that the SDC can be considered to have entered its implementation phase, it is appropriate to consider and recommend such changes. In particular, noting that fund raising in most organizations is conducted/led by professionals and that substantial time and resources are often committed to the effort, the SDC should now discuss, decide and target a (very) small number of promising opportunities, and its membership should be sufficiently fluid to permit integration of suitable ‘lead’ persons – almost certainly acting voluntarily – in order to pursue each specific opportunity. Such opportunities may involve, for instance, targeting particular foundations, organisations/companies/NGOs, or particular regions of the world. Rather than re-inventing the wheel, it seems self evident that one approach will be to build on the already visible strengths and profile of SCAR (in particular through its SRPs and some of its Action and Expert Groups), and this could be achieved by co-opting some leading members of these groups to assist SDC members in developing appropriate promotional material, in order to build on the “seed monies” provided by SCAR.

Promotional Materials – an integral part of any fund raising effort to be conducted by SCAR through the SDC will be the development of high quality, ‘professional appearance’, promotional material. Time investment in doing so should not be underestimated, as well as budget requirement, but approaches are unlikely to be successful in the absence of such materials.

High Likelihood Targets for Fund Raising – As previously recognised by the SDC, specific targets such as all of the current SCAR Capacity Building activities, horizon scanning efforts, climate change communications, conservation efforts and others are likely fund raising targets. SCAR has already had sustained success with funding from its member countries for targeted capacity building activities like the Fellowship and the Visiting Professor schemes. In this context, there are already successes to report relating to SCAR activities, in particular the ongoing SCAR horizon scanning activity, the recent successful

sourcing of funds to support CAML data archiving activities, and the continuation of climate communications through engagement with the UNFCCC. Again, it has been noted previously that the SCAR Secretariat has little or no excess capacity to take on additional efforts related to new activities. Nevertheless, the SCAR EO has already coordinated a basic list of potential target organisations (Appendix 2). Given the (lack of) core human resources available, the most effective approach is to fund science coordination efforts managed by the community or to bring additional funds to activities already underway within SCAR but that are currently underfunded.

Partnerships – Fund raising partnerships with other organizations should be pursued when beneficial to both organizations. In this context, other polar organizations and organizations with a polar interest are natural partners. NGOs and large commercial organisations are also potential targets, particularly in the context of activities such as seeking funds for named Fellowships, or specific directed workshops/outputs. This may raise potential ethical questions e.g. partnerships with particular companies or organisations, though the SDC should refer to SCAR's Ethics and Donations Policy for guidance.

Summary and Recommendations

After the proposal by the SCAR EXCOM in 2012, Prof Peter Convey (British Antarctic Survey) has agreed to take on the role of Chair of the SDC with immediate effect.

On a go forward basis the SDC should:

Recommendation 1 – Further consider the model for SDC membership as it enters its active solicitation phase and decide on an optimal model for membership. Revise SDC membership in accordance with any changes in the model.

Recommendation 2 – Identify and prioritise appropriate bodies to approach for different forms of sponsorship of SCAR activities. This has to be commensurate with the practicalities of the post responsibilities of the SCAR Office, and reliance on volunteer activity

Recommendation 3 – Mindful of (2), identify a limited number of high priority SCAR activities and develop appropriate types of promotional material to aid fund raising approaches. For these identified activities, identify (appoint) an individual member of the SDC to drive the solicitation process, and recognising the very limited staff time available in the SCAR Office, secure assistance as appropriate from other SCAR bodies (e.g. SRP management groups).

APPENDIX 1. SCAR Development Council Membership

Rather than following a rigid regional structure, the suggestion is to have a somewhat smaller core membership, supplemented with additional co-opted representatives either for specific scientific activities, or for specific identified solicitation tasks. Proposed initial membership is summarised below.

1. Chair – **P Convey**, UK
2. **J Lopez Martinez**, Spain, SCAR President
3. **M Sparrow**, Executive Director of SCAR
4. **R Badhe**, Executive Officer SCAR, responsible for SCAR Capacity Building activities (CBET activities are a key opportunity)
5. **O Orheim**, Norway (opportunities and approaches to Nordic countries)
6. **K Lochte**, Germany, VP for Capacity Building, Education and Outreach
7. **A van de Putte**, Belgium, Biodiversity.aq (includes MarBin etc.)
8. **J Xavier**, Portugal
9. **S Rajan**, India– sub-continental funding opportunities (also SCAR senior visiting fellowships)
10. **S. Azizan**, Malaysia – approaches to non-aligned and Middle Eastern nations/foundations
11. **P Barrett**, New Zealand
12. **E Costa**, Brazil –S. American APECS community and opportunities
13. **M Aljoan**, Kuwait/Belgium – capacity building, early career, and Middle Eastern opportunities