

Report of the 2022 meeting of SCAR-SCAGI

Online using Zoom - Wednesday 26th October 2022, 10am UK time

Attendees

- Li Fei – China (Co-Chair)
- Louise Ireland - UK (Co-Chair)
- Larry Hothem – USA
- David Hedding - South Africa
- Christel Hansen – South Africa
- Lyubomir Ivanov – Bulgaria
- Songtao Ai – China
- Carlo Baroni – Italy
- Ursula Harris – Australia
- Ricardo Jana – Chile
- Daniel Nývlt - Czech Republic
- Jorge Cortes Ramos - Mexico
- Aurel Persoiu – Romania
- Yoshifumi Nogi – Japan
- Carlota Escutia – Spain
- Abi Espinoza – Ecuador
- Yngve Melvær - Norway
- Antonina Grishenina – Russia
- Roberto Cervellati - Italy
- Wendy Shaw – New Zealand
- Antonie Haas – Germany
- Graeme Blick – New Zealand
- Liezel Rudolph – South Africa
- Ayse Giz Gulnerman - Turkey

The Meeting was chaired by Li Fei and Louise Ireland as Co-Chairs of SCAGI and included 11 items as follows:

1) Welcome and introductions

Li Fei introduced the participants to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the agenda. Louise Ireland was welcomed as the new Co-Chair of SCAGI, following the approval in the September SCAR Delegates Meeting.

2) Review of minutes of last meeting, July 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Li Fei introduced the main progresses of SCAGI in the last two years.

3) SCAGI membership

Louise Ireland informed attendees that the membership list on the SCAGI website was the current 'master' list of members and representation. She therefore asked all members to review the list and feedback any amendments that are required to reflect the current membership.

Action: ALL to review the membership list on the SCAGI website and advise Louise Ireland of any changes. The list is available to view here: <https://www.scar.org/resources/scagi/members>

4) National reports

Li Fei thanked members for circulating their National Reports prior to the meeting and invited attendees to present their reports to the group, should they wish.

The following delegates presented highlights of their reports as part of the meeting:

- Ursula Harris – Australia
- Lyubomir Ivanov – Bulgaria
- Songtao Ai – China
- Carlo Baroni – Italy
- Louise Ireland - UK
- Liezel Rudolph – South Africa
- Wendy Shaw – New Zealand
- Giz Gulmerman – Turkey
- Antonie Haas – Germany
- Larry Hothem - USA

It was noted that National Reports would be made available on the SCAGI website. For detailed updates on member activities, please refer to the full copies of National Reports which will be published here: <https://www.scar.org/resources/scagi/resources>.

Action: Any outstanding National Reports should be sent to Louise Ireland, who will arrange for their publication on the SCAGI website.

5) SCAGI products

a. Map Catalogue (Ursula Harris)

Ursula Harris presented recent and planned updates to the SCAR Map Catalogue. She highlighted that she had put together a specification of requirements, which will be fed into developments and improvements for a new version of the catalogue. The main points noted were:

- There would be clear separation between the SCAR Map Catalogue and the Australian Map Catalogue.
- A new feature would allow 'lists' of map collections, enabling map series to be grouped together more intuitively
- It would provide an easier route for members to update map catalogue entries themselves, through implementation of validation routines for new items.

- It would only support the latest version of any individual map to keep it simple and up to date.

New members of SCAGI were encouraged to send in their maps, and also to suggest changes and additions to the 'Obtaining Maps' page of the SCAR Map Catalogue, which lists urls directing users to where maps can be found and purchased that are published by SCAGI members.

Action: New members to liaise with Ursula to publish their maps within the SCAR Map Catalogue

Action: ALL to review the 'Obtaining maps' and feedback changes and additions to Ursula.

b. Feature catalogue (Ursula Harris)

Ursula Harris provided some background to the SCAR Feature catalogue for the benefit of newer SCAGI members. She explained it was originally developed to provide a standardised spatial data model for Antarctic data. She updated members on recent discussions with Louise Ireland regarding the possibility to use the feature catalogue to define the data model for Antarctic Digital Database data and therefore help to standardise the way in which members could contribute to the dataset.

c. Antarctic Digital Database (Louise Ireland)

After outlining a brief overview of the Antarctic Digital Database for the benefit of new members, Louise Ireland highlighted the main data updates that had been incorporated into the ADD over the period of the previous two years. She also noted the coastline and contour datasets were now accessible via the ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World, which has improved the accessibility of the data to GIS users, and increased exposure to potential new users.

SCAGI members were encouraged to contact Louise if they had data that could be accessioned into the Antarctic Digital Database.

Finally, Louise advised that several of the datasets had not been updated in a number of years, namely the rock outcrop, moraines, lakes and rivers. She asked SCAGI members whether those datasets should be prioritised for updating to feed into future data releases, and invited SCAGI members to help with that effort if they could.

Action: ALL to contact Louise Ireland if they are interested in contributing to the ADD datasets and to discuss dataset update priorities.

d. Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (Carlo Baroni)

Carlo Baroni gave an overview of the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA). He requested that all submissions to the Gazetteer should contain all necessary information and data, to ensure the Gazetteer entries were complete. He also asked the group for any feature suggestions for the Gazetteer. Wendy Shaw asked if there was the potential for adding sound files to the entries to aid users in pronunciation.

Action: Carlo to investigate technical feasibility of adding sound files to the SCAR CGA.

e. Air Operations Planning Maps Series (Louise Ireland)

Louise Ireland gave background to the Air Operations planning maps series, and the current state of maps that are now published. Full continent-wide coverage was now imminent, with the forthcoming publication of the maps published by the Australian Antarctic Division.

With the successful publication of the completed map series, it was suggested that it would be a good time to have a project de-brief and planning workshop for ongoing improvements to the map series. This would include:

- Further discussion on whether the Air Operations Planning maps should be added to AFIM. This was raised as an action at the previous SCAGI meeting in 2020, and has been carried over to this meeting.
- Planning to ensure sustainability of map series
- Review of the cartographic specification to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- Update of maps series to incorporate new elevation data from REMA v2.0
- Discussion whether to include contours in feet in Antarctic Digital Database. This was suggested at the previous SCAGI meeting in 2020 and was been carried forward to this meeting.

Action: Louise Ireland to plan an Air Operations Planning Maps project workshop to cover the main points above. Aim to schedule this for early 2023, following the Antarctic season.

6) Website

Li Fei informed the group that he had contacted Jean-Yves Pirlot to invite him to the meeting in order to talk to present this agenda item. Jean-Yves Pirlot was the previous Co-Chair of SCAGI and ensured the SCAGI pages on the SCAR website were always kept up to date.

Songtao Ai advised it should be the Co-Chairs responsibility to ensure the website is kept up to date. Therefore Louise Ireland volunteered to take this on.

Action: ALL to suggest website changes for SCAGI products and other information to Louise Ireland.

7) Horizon scan

Louise Ireland invited members present to openly discuss ideas and propose areas of potential future collaboration.

Songtao Ai highlighted that a number of SCAGI members had reported developments and publication of a range of data portals, as part of their National Reports. He asked whether SCAGI members could combine effort with these portals and work towards great levels of data sharing. To illustrate this idea further, he showed the PolarGo platform with the group, which enables positions of vessels and assets, to be displayed alongside meteorological conditions and other weather and environmental data from satellite resources, and explained that other SCAGI members may have similar datasets and use cases for making this data available via portals. Therefore, it was proposed SCAGI could build such a web GIS platform, integrating near-real-time polar data and the current SCAGI products as many as possible, as a new SCAGI product.

Antonie Haas asked whether Songtai Ai was proposing that the data sharing could be via OGC web services, or by developing a single central repository for the data. Others commented that this was a big idea, and an interesting one, and would require more discussion to determine the scope of the proposal. Carlo Baroni suggested that it may not be within SCAGI remit to enable data sharing for environmental and weather datasets, as there were other groups in SCAR that would be more suitable to this.

Time available to discuss this at the meeting was short. Therefore members were encouraged to think about this and request to bring it up again at the next meeting if they had further thoughts on this.

8) Working Group on Antarctic Place Names

Ursula Harris highlighted the SCAGI report International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names, which was successfully published in October 2021.

The report can be accessed here: <https://www.scar.org/scar-library/reports-and-bulletins/scar-reports/5729-scar-report-41/>

Ursula proposed a project to develop a single SCAGI approved map of place names for the Antarctic continent. She highlighted the issue of confusion which can arise from features and areas having more than one name, or variation of a name, designated by different naming authorities. She asked SCAGI members to contact her if they would be interested in exploring this idea further.

There were also several other points addressed under this agenda item. Firstly, Louise Ireland noted that the UK Antarctic Place-Names Committee had recently highlighted that the place names in Google maps were out of date, and that the update should ideally come from the SCAR CGA. Secondly, it was raised that there had been discussion previously regarding whether the SCAR CGA should support polygon and line geometry.

With a few discussion leads arising from this item, it was suggested that a follow up meeting of the Working Group on Place Names should be arranged to ensure these conversations could continue.

Action: Ursula Harris to convene a meeting of SCAGI members involved in place naming to continue discussion around the topics highlighted by members as part of this agenda item.

9) AOB

Ursula Harris suggested to continue the discussions the group had over the course of the meeting as separate meetings. Louise Ireland agreed this would provide a way to maintain momentum and connection with SCAGI members on development of SCAGI products and collaborations.

10) Date and location of next meeting

It was proposed that the next meeting should be held in mid-2023 and that this should again be held virtually. Louise Ireland asked for suggestions as to how to make the timing of the meeting fair, and suitable for all SCAGI members, given the challenge of holding meetings over multiple time zones.

Action: Co-Chairs to plan the next meeting at a time and date that is most suitable for SCAGI members.

11) Close

The Co-Chairs thanked all attendees for their positive contributions to the meeting and expressed how interesting and insightful it had been to hear about members activities and ideas for future work.

Actions

Progress against action from SCAGI meeting July 2020

No.	Action	Owner	Due by	Status
1.	Delegates to contact Ursula Harris a) for a listing of their Organisation's MapCat entries to check for completeness, and b) to ask Ursula to be added to the CGA new maps alert list, if desired.	ALL	Ongoing	Carry forward.
2.	Polygon generation for place names – UK and US to liaise over shared polygons.	Adrian Fox and Cole Kelleher	Autumn 2020	Not done, carry forward.
3.	ADD team to discuss linkage to the SCAR feature catalogue with Ursula Harris	Louise Ireland	Autumn 2020	Louise and Ursula have begun discussing how this might work and scope of work required to make use of SCAR feature catalogue for ADD.
4.	Add ancillary information about how to submit data and proposed update schedule and link prominently from the landing page (web-map).	Louise Ireland	For release v7.3	More information has been added to the Project page on the BAS website, and to the SCAGI web pages.
5.	Organise a meeting in Spring 2021 to plan an update with new elevation data.	Adrian Fox	Spring 2021	Not done, carried forward and proposed for discussion in Spring 2023 workshop
6.	Liaise with ADD and Quantarctica teams over inclusion of Air Ops elevation data in feet.	Adrian Fox, Louise Ireland and Yngve Melvær		Not done. Carried forward to discuss as part of proposed workshop on Air Ops Planning maps in Spring 2023.
7.	Liaise with COMNAP over inclusion of information about AOPMs in AFIM.	Adrian Fox	2020	Not done. This will be discussed further as part of proposed Air Ops Maps project workshop in Spring 2023.
8.	Final comments on doc 'International Principles and Procedures for Place Names in Antarctica' dated 27 July	Jean-Yves Pirlot and Ursula Harris	15 th September 2020	Complete

New actions

No.	Action	Owner	Due by	Status
1.	Delegates to contact Ursula Harris a) to add their maps to the SCAR map catalogue, and b) to feedback any amendments and additions to the 'Obtaining maps' section of the Map Catalogue site, and c) ask to be added to the CGA new maps alert list, if desired.	ALL	Ongoing	Carried forward from previous meeting with additional request added
2.	Polygon generation for place names – UK and US to liaise over shared polygons.	Louise Ireland and Cole Kelleher	Autumn 2020	Carried forward from previous meeting.
3.	Review the membership list on the SCAGI website and advise Louise Ireland of any changes. The list is available to view here: https://www.scar.org/resources/scagi/members	All	Mid-2023	
4.	Any outstanding National Reports should be sent to Louise Ireland, who will arrange for their publication on the SCAGI website.	All	As soon as possible	
5.	Contact Louise Ireland if they are interested in contributing to the ADD datasets and to discuss dataset update priorities	All	Ongoing	
6.	Investigate technical feasibility of adding sound files to the SCAR CGA	Carlo Baroni	Mid-2023	
7.	Plan an Air Operations Planning Maps project workshop to cover, a) further discussion on whether the Air Operations Planning maps should be added to AFIM, b) planning to ensure sustainability of map series, c) review of the cartographic specification to ensure it is fit for purpose, d) update of maps series to incorporate new elevation data from REMA v2.0, e) discussion whether to include contours in feet in Antarctic Digital Database.	Louise Ireland	Early 2023	Proposed content of workshop contains items of discussion carried forward from previous meeting.
8.	Suggest and feedback website changes for SCAGI products and other information to Louise Ireland	All	Ongoing	
9.	Convene a meeting of SCAGI members involved in place naming to continue discussion around the topics highlighted by members as part of this meeting, including a) proposal of a single SCAGI approved map of placenames, b) updating placenames in Google, c) SCAR CGA support for polygon and line geometries and d) SCAR CGA support for sound files (see action 6 above).	Ursula Harris		