

Report to SCAR EXCOM – April 2009

SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information SC-AGI

Community Projects

The SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information is responsible for five SCAR Community Projects. These are:

1. SCAR Antarctic Digital Database
2. SCAR Composite Gazetteer Antarctica
3. SCAR Map Catalogue
4. SCAR Feature Catalogue
5. SCAR Symbology

In addition to those projects, national institutions develop products that the wider Antarctic community benefit from, for example the Landsat Image Mosaic Antarctica (LIMA) developed by the United States Geodetic Survey.

[SCAR Antarctic Digital Database](#)

This is maintained by the BAS on behalf of SCAR.

Report by Paul Cooper:

Since 1 July 2008, 246 persons from 51 countries have registered to download data from SCAR Antarctic Digital Database. The table below gives a breakdown of the numbers per country. This figure only represents those people who wished to download data. As usual, the country is the value selected by users wishing to register, and is not otherwise validated.

The raw number of visits to the entry page of the ADD is given in the second table below; the ADD has attracted 69,238 visits since July 2008, an average of 7,693 visits per month. This figure is reasonably accurate, as this is a count of accesses to the entry page which automatically redirects users to an unlogged set of pages. Users only access this entry page once per visit.

At present, no note is taken of the number of downloads. As the old system of tiles has been replaced by an area based selection system, the number of downloads is no longer an indication of the volume of data being downloaded. It is feasible – though perhaps unwise - for a user to download the entire ADD at a single resolution in a single download operation.

Only one major upgrade to the ADD has taken place since July 2008. The server side map browser software was upgraded to use OpenLayers, and at the same time, the Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica (LIMA) was added as an optional background layer. Users should note that the LIMA data are accessed through servers operated by the United States Geological Survey.

Table 1: Registrations broken down by country

Country	Number of downloads
UNITED STATES	66
UNITED KINGDOM	38
AUSTRALIA	14
ARGENTINA	11
CHILE	10
NEW ZEALAND	9
CANADA	8
SPAIN	8
NORWAY	7
GERMANY	6
BRAZIL	5
INDIA	5
ITALY	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
CHINA	4
FRANCE	4
NETHERLANDS	4
POLAND	2
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	2
SWITZERLAND	2
ARMENIA	1
BELGIUM	1
BOUVET ISLAND	1
COSTA RICA	1
COTE D'IVOIRE	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	1
ERITREA	1
FRANCE, METROPOLITAN	1
GIBRALTAR	1
HONDURAS	1
IRAQ	1
IRELAND	1
JAPAN	1
KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF	1
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	1
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	1
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA	1
LITHUANIA	1
MALAYSIA	1
PERU	1
RWANDA	1

Country	Number of downloads
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	1
SLOVENIA	1
SOMALIA	1
SWEDEN	1
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1
UKRAINE	1
UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS	1
VENEZUELA	1
YUGOSLAVIA	1
ZAMBIA	1

Table 2: Visitors per month.

Month	Visitors
July 2008	8287
August 2008	8106
September 2008	6683
October 2008	7774
November 2008	7156
December 2008	6644
January 2009	8457
February 2009	7124
March 2009	9007
Total	69238

[SCAR Composite Gazetteer Antarctica](#)

The SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) has been compiled over a period of 16 years (commenced 1992) and consists of 36,191 names that correspond to 18,290 features (on 1 January 2009). The place names information has been submitted by the national names committees from 22 countries and compiled by Roberto Cervellati and Chiara Ramorino from the Italian Consortium for the Antarctica, PNRA SCrl. The Italian Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide will take over from PNRA in 2009 in compiling the gazetteer.

Over a period of eighteen months the SCAR CGA has been completely redeveloped and hosted at the [Australian Antarctic Data Centre](#), with the Italian web site officially closed in February 2009. This has taken considerable resources and commitment by both countries.

Statistics since 1 June 2008

Hits from all users	122,591
Hits from AAD only	12,065
Robot hits	72,381
Approximate hits from external users	38,145

SCAR Map Catalogue

This is compiled and maintained by the Australian Antarctic Division Data Centre. It contains entries for 3640 hard copy maps from 27 countries and 698 digital maps from four countries.

Statistics since 1 June 2008

Hits from all users	1,356,724
Hits from AAD only	36,073
Robot hits	1,039,155
Approximate hits from external users	281,496
Downloads of maps	3,558

2. Future plans for SCAGI

An intersessional meeting is to be held in Amsterdam from September 7 to 11 in conjunction with the SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM) at which SCAGI projects will be reported on in detail.

ISO standards, metadata for topographic data, improving the coordinates in the SCAR CGA and other issues will be addressed.

It was intended to hold the meeting in Santiago, Chile but as there was no confirmation on hosting the SC-AGI meeting from Chile, the meeting was transferred to Amsterdam.

3. SCAGI membership

While SCAGI now has national representatives from 25 countries, the majority of work is still done by just a few members. This is not sustainable in the long term.

May I suggest to the Executive committee that they contact SCAR National Delegates to encourage their national institutions to take a more active interest in SC-AGI activities.

4. Suggestions for discussion on agenda items for the Punta Arenas meeting:

Some suggestions I would like raised at the Punta Arenas meeting:

1. 3.6 3.5 Job descriptions for SSG officers -
Setting expectations for performance (Ex Dir to provide examples for COs to agree)

Can this include Descriptions for Chief Officer for SCAGI?

If it can be included, then may I suggest that it include the provision that the Chief Officer has the backing and commitment of the institution they work for so that we don't have a repeat of what occurred with Steffan Vogt at Freiburg University. Once the interest and usefulness waned, the commitment vanished, leaving SC-AGI with an ongoing embarrassing situation.

2. Data and Information SCAR products and Services / Strategic thinking
SCAGI needs a greater commitment from countries to commit to sharing of topographic data, input for names and commitment to SCAGI activities, especially those that will benefit all SCAR members.

3. COMNAP / SC-AGI
There needs to be a better and committed relationship between SCAGI and COMNAP on topographic mapping, hydrographic surveys and Geographic Information Systems for operational purposes. Perhaps the SCAR Exec might consider a point of contact in COMNAP and possible pilot project we could work on together in the first instance. If this were to occur, the meeting should send me contacts in COMNAP for participating countries and specifications on what might be considered could be drawn up.
4. King George Island (Isla de 25 Mayo) Science and SCAR Science
Consider my earlier proposal to you that SCAR develop a GIS / Web Map Server for [King George Island GIS](#) similar to that developed by Steffan at Freiburg University. It is a very good and useful product but would need an ongoing commitment from an expert to construct. This is a project that SCAR and COMNAP could work on together in that it has a;
 1. Defined area,
 2. High volume of COMNAP traffic,
 3. High volume of tourist traffic,
 4. Airfield
 5. Large number of stations and / or bases in a small area and
 6. An ASMA and two ASPAs and
 7. Resultant need for good management.

King George Island (Isla de 25 Mayo) has:

1. A Management Plan for an Antarctic Specially Managed Area;
[Admiralty Bay ASMA 1](#)
2. Several [Antarctic Specially Protected Areas](#);
Fildes Peninsula (ASPAs 125)
Potter Peninsula – ASPA 132
Ardley island – ASPA 151
Lions Rump – ASPA 151
See ATS web site for full descriptions.

The Web Map Server would be a very powerful management tool for the ATS, COMNAP and for SCAR scientists.

Yours sincerely,

Henk Broelsma
Chairman
SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information
20 April 2009