

ANNEX 3

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC)**

Preamble

This letter recognises that there are many common interests between SCAR and IASC in scientific research in the polar-regions, and that there is much to be gained therefore from developing a synergy between SCAR and IASC in polar and bipolar research.

Informal links already exist, for example (i) in joint participation of SCAR and IASC as members of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee on the International Polar Year (IPY); (ii) in the participation of SCAR as an observer in Arctic Summit Science Week (ASSW); (iii) in the participation of some people as Delegates or Alternate Delegates to SCAR and as national representatives to the IASC Council; (iv) through the activities of many scientists in both the Arctic and the Antarctic regions; (v) through the interests of many scientists in both SCAR and IASC in the teleconnections in the atmosphere and in the ocean between the Arctic and the Antarctic.

A link between SCAR and IASC at this time is encouraged to ensure that both communities together make an integrated and comprehensive contribution to meeting the goals of the International Polar Year, which runs from 1 March 2007 to 1 March 2009.

1. SCAR

SCAR is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Council for Science (ICSU). Its geographical remit covers Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean including the Antarctic Circumpolar Current south of the Subantarctic Front. SCAR's main aim is to initiate, develop, and co-ordinate leading edge scientific activity in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. And it aims to facilitate free and unrestricted access to Antarctic scientific data and information.

SCAR's coordination of scientific research takes place through its three Standing Scientific Groups on Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Geosciences. They currently focus their efforts on five major international Scientific Research Programmes (SRPs) addressing major, priority scientific issues of global or fundamental importance requiring

fieldwork and/or observations in the Antarctic. Most of these programmes are interdisciplinary in nature and will last 5 -10+ years. Three of them address the issue of climate change and its effects, on timescales ranging from the modern to the geological and extending into the next 100 years. In addition, a number of Expert Groups (EG) and Action Groups (AG) plan and effect cooperative research in areas of special interest requiring attention in the short term (AG; 2-4 years) to medium term (EG 2-8 years). Biodiversity is a major interest, along with human health (in the context of resident populations of scientists). Every two years, SCAR brings the scientific community together in a major international Antarctic Open Science Conference

SCAR's 5 SRPs are leading projects within the IPY. SCAR is an active member of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee that is steering the IPY process.

2. IASC

IASC is affiliated to the International Council for Science (ICSU) as an International Scientific Associate. Its geographical remit covers the Arctic Ocean and the surrounding landmasses. IASC's main aim is to initiate, develop, and co-ordinate leading edge scientific activity in the Arctic region, and on the role of the Arctic region in the Earth system. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Arctic Council and other organizations on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region.

IASC focuses its efforts on a limited number of international scientific research programmes or projects addressing priority scientific issues of global or fundamental importance requiring fieldwork and/or observations in the Arctic. Most of these programmes will be multidisciplinary in nature. The programmes and projects are organized and run by Project Groups. Several of IASC's research projects address the issue of climate change and its effects. Biodiversity is a major interest, along with human health (in the context of indigenous peoples) and the impacts of environmental change on society. IASC brings the scientific community together in the annual Arctic Science Summit Week and in a decadal Arctic Science Conference.

Some of IASC's projects are leading projects within the IPY. IASC is an active member of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee that is steering the IPY process.

3. Common Interests and Practices

As set out in Annexes 1 and 2, SCAR and IASC share a number of common interests and practices, which will make it relatively easy for them to work together for example in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, in developing integrated plans for scientific research, in communicating to the public, and in providing advice to policy makers.

4. Declaration of Intent

SCAR and IASC intend to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities (to be decided by mutual agreement) so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers (for example of the likelihood and likely effects of climate change), as well as to avoid duplication.

Combining efforts in selected fields and activities requires no change to the terms of reference of either organization, and carries no financial implication.

To facilitate the process, SCAR and IASC agree:

- (i) to invite each other to attend the meetings of their major bodies (SCAR Delegates' Meeting and IASC Council);
- (ii) to encourage appropriate linkages between the relevant existing SCAR and IASC scientific projects;
- (iii) to encourage their scientific communities to develop joint bipolar projects and approaches in appropriate fields;
- (iv) to work together in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest;
- (v) to exchange ideas on best practices in data and information management;
- (vi) to exchange newsletters and advertise each other's newsletters and web sites on their own web sites;
- (vii) to develop combined approaches to communicating with the wider community on the significance of polar research to the solution of societal issues, including their respective experience in giving advice to the AC and ATCM.

The agreement will remain in force for 5 years, thereafter be reviewed and continued as appropriate.

Signed

 Kristjan Kristjansson
 President, IASC

 Jörn Thiede
 President, SCAR

 Date 9/8/ 2006

 Date 18/7/ 2006

Annex 1: *Raison d'Être* and Operating Practices of SCAR and IASC
 Annex 2: Main Scientific Research Projects of SCAR and IASC