



IP 02

Agenda Item: 2.1

Person Responsible: G Hosie, M Sparrow

COs and Cross-Linkages Meeting

Science Museum CosmoCaixa, Carrer d'Isaac Newton 26, 08022 Barcelona, Spain

Chief Officers and Cross-Linkages Meeting Report

20 July 2013

Purpose

For the first time the Chief Officers (COs) and Cross-Linkages meetings were held jointly – this is to improve efficiency (normally this involves two separate meetings, which have many identical agenda items) and to reduce cost and travel.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Graham Hosie (SSG-LS Chief Officer) and Mike Sparrow (SCAR Executive Director), and Renuka Badhe (SCAR Executive Officer) was Rapporteur. Other meeting attendees were Bruno Danis, Don Cowan, Steven Chown, Julian Gutt, Terry Wilson, John Storey, Berry Lyons and Maurizio Candidi. Francyne Piera and Rebeca Zapata were early career observers. Guido di Prisco was an observer. Carlota Escutia and Nancy Bertler sent apologies.

The cross-linkage is a forum to discuss ongoing and future interactions between the SSGs, new SRPs etc. The focus this year was on interactions between / with the new SRPs and on any new joint groups formed over the last year.

The Chief Officers / Cross-Linkages Meeting Agenda can be downloaded from <http://www.scar.org/members/scarmeetingreports/barcelona13/> (IP 1).

1. Cross-Linkages

SRPs provided an update on current and future cross-cutting activities as follows:

Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica (AAA)

John Storey reported on activities of the AAA. He pointed out that Antarctica is used as a platform for Astronomy. AAA consists of four working groups, one of which is Arctic in focus (WG-B). Cross-linkages are difficult with biology groups, as all AAA sites are located inland and at height. On the Ridge A site, there are possible cross-linkages with other groups as there is a robotic observatory, which can support things other than astronomy. Ridge A is also not a “national” site but has only a SCAR flag. AAA has a site-testing database, which is potentially useful to other groups. Results of this search database link to the Astronomical Data Service (ADS) as well as give a DOI link to the publication.

WG-B (Arctic) currently has two proposals active – Greenland and Canada, both being proposed as new stations. The first AAA meeting was held in Beijing in 2012, and discussion is ongoing about the possibility of having a robotic station in

Antarctica to support more than just Astronomy research. Next meeting of AAA is in Siena, 24-26 July 2013.

ACTION: AAA to have an Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) record of the AAA database (John S, Bruno D, ASAP)

State of the Antarctic Ecosystem (AntEco)

Don Cowan presented AntEco, whose first steering committee meeting was held in July 2013 at the SCAR Biology conference. The programme's aim is to understand spatial patterns, structure and evolution of patterns over time, and understanding of possible mitigation strategies and threats. Structure of the Steering Committee covers various subject specialisation, age as well as geo-political spread. There are five research sectors, with a leader each, and a four-strong executive committee – Chief Officer (CO), Deputy CO, Secretary, Liaison. Aleks Terauds has been nominated to take over as CO, and Don Cowan to remain as Deputy CO.

The SRP implementation plan was presented, including presence at the 2013 Latin American meeting (September 2013, Chile), SCAR OSC, etc.

ACTION: AntEco to set up immediate interaction with relevant SRPs (AntClim21, SERCE), EGs & AGs via their Chief Officers. Ex-officio membership of all COs within Steering Committees of all groups. Further identification of gaps in cross-linkages to be carried out (Don Cowan, ASAP)

ACTION: Paleo-biology to be more included in AntEco, Dominic Hodgson to be contacted to set up interaction (Don Cowan, ASAP)

ACTION: Kunio Takahashi, Siti A, as possible reps in steering Committee. Use MISA6 conference for further advertising and broaden membership. (Mike Sparrow, Sept/Oct 2013).

Antarctic Thresholds - Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation (AnT-ERA)

Julian Gutt presented SRP AnT-ERA, the aim for which is adaptation of organisms to current and possible future change and how environmental change affects population performance, likely consequences of a changing environmental condition for key ecosystem function and services. Liaison officers for a large number of cross-linking groups have been identified and have been invited to the steering group. List of deliverables for the SRP have been identified, and current actions planned. Involvement and possible cross-links to ABI, AntClim21, ACCE, SOOS, ICED, CCAMLR, are already in place.

Antarctic Climate Change in the 21st Century (AntClim21)

Maurizio Candidi presented a short report on AntClim21 (apologies from Nancy Bertler), about the cross-connections already identified and in place, both within and outside SCAR. Outputs for the project have been identified as smaller more focussed reports over the next five years.

ACTION: Further interactions to be discussed, including the need to inform Biology SRPs and SSG-LS about 2018 reports/publication with respect to representing biology in the next ACCE updates (Graham Hosie, Julian Gutt, Nancy Bertler, asap)

ACTION: Increase national representation on steering committee (Nancy Bertler, asap)

Solid Earth Responses and influences on Cryospheric Evolution (SERCE)

Terry Wilson presented SERCE, its interaction with ISMASS, and other groups. Overlaps of SERCE with different SRPs (PAIS and AntClim21) were discussed. It was identified that connection with AntClim21 needs to be stronger. Liaisons were identified with PAIS (Mike Bentley), and ISMASS (P Whitehouse), but for AntClim21, liaison needs to be set up and further explored. SERCE held a successful workshop in Greenland in June 2013, and further workshops and training schools are planned. There are planned capacity building activities for increasing the number of modellers since improving ice sheet modelling is a common theme between AntClim21, PAIS and SERCE.

ACTION: Connect with Cryosphere WG from IASC, GRAPE/WSWF, CliC. Modelling workshop - possibility of co-sponsorship with CliC and IASC. (Mike Sparrow, Volker Raschold and Jenny Baesman, August 2013).

EG-ABI

Bruno Danis gave a presentation to introduce ABI (Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics), which builds further on SCAR-MarBIN and AntaBIF.

ACTION: Feedback from community to be taken, to make sure new database developments are user-friendly. ABI/Bruno to run a survey of needs of all work package leaders (Bruno Danis, Anton van De Putte, asap)

Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics (PAIS)

Mike Sparrow presented PAIS (apologies from Carlota Escutia). PAIS works on improving understanding of past Antarctic ice sheet dynamics and its contribution to past sea level. Several high impact journal articles have already been published, including in Nature, Science, PNAS, etc. PAIS is assembling a steering committee, as well as six sub-committees. All sub-committees are linked to SCADM and APECS. PAIS are looking for further opportunities for links with Arctic communities (IASC). There is a planned PAIS session at AGU, December 2013, and the first PAIS symposium will be held in Malaysia later.

Current cross-links are included with SERCE, AntEco, AntClim21 and other SCAR EGs and AGs - ADMAP, ISMASS, ATHENA, IBCSO, Multibeam Bathymetric Data acquisition and SAVAnt (Seeps and Vents). Cross-links outside SCAR exist with ANDRILL, SHALLDRILL, ICECAP, PLIOMAX, PALSEA, WAIS.

ACTION: Data management representative to be identified in PAIS – as geospatial data is needed, a possible link to EG-ABI (Carlota Escutia, Bruno Danis, ASAP)

ACTION: Make all available publications/presentations as PAIS products (Carlota Escutia, Mike Sparrow, asap)

SRP linkages with other SCAR groups - SCADM

The SCADM (Bruno Danis presented, apologies from Taco de Bruin) presentation identified trends in scientific data management. The next SCADM meeting is to be held in Japan, 13-14 October 2013, and will include interactions with the Arctic data

community as well as with WDS (ICSU World Data System). Three projects have been identified as major deliverables – Interoperable Data Repository Network, Improving relevance and utility of SCAR products (including product review and further marketing) and Polar Information Commons (badging SCAR data as belonging to the PIC, Repository network). There exist close linkages with all SRPs, and outside to SOOS data managers.

SCADM had conducted a small horizon scanning exercise for trends in scientific data management – the main issue identified was that there is no uptake of sharing data by the community, but publishing the metadata record as a citable and peer-reviewed publication helps. Progress with GCMD and AMD was presented. The new version of AMD, which incorporates new metadata, has a growing number of metadata records, currently 8000+.

ACTION:

SRP linkages with other SCAR groups - SCATS

Steven Chown provided a presentation on SCATS activities and an overview of processes involved within SCATS, and particularly with respect to the Conservation Strategy being produced. He introduced a possible project (with Monaco) for conservation strategy and protection with respect to Aichi Biodiversity Targets. There was an open invitation to all SRPs to let SCATS know about any substantial areas of concerns within their research (eg stopping sale of meteorites), most important are inviolate areas (eg dry valleys, etc) and their use for research. The meeting was informed that the conservation portal will go live in 2014.

The use of the SCAR Lecture to educate Treaty parties about the science available, about possible subject area of concern, was shown to have been successful.

Possible SCAR Lecture subject suggestions were – Remote sensing for conservation management; Atlas presentation for marine conservation; using remote sensing data; why MPAs are important; iconic species protection; remote sensing data in both ways (counting penguins via guano, and remote sensing in astronomy); potential hot-spots needing protection (potentially with CCAMLR); endemism in freshwater lakes in Antarctica and development in sensitive areas; greater protection afforded to species around deep sea vents.

ACTION: Editorial committee of the Atlas to be contacted for doing a possible SCAR lecture regarding Atlas and other conservation issues (Bruno Danis, Steven Chown, 2014)

ACTION: All SRPs to contribute material to the SCAR report (all SRP COs, Secretariat, ongoing)

Other Cross Cutting activities, including New Groups

SSG Physical Sciences

Maurizio Candidi presented SSG-PS, which included reports on all AGs and EGs within PS.

ACTION: Ocean Acidification requested sessions at OSC, and a mailshot from SCAR for raising funds from national programmes (Secretariat, Richard Bellerby, asap)

ACTION: Antarctic balloon data from Norway campaign to link with AntClim21 (Nancy Bertler, asap)

SSG Life Sciences

Graham Hosie presented SSG-LS, which included reports on all AGs and EGs within LS. EG-BAMM is working with RAATD (Retrospective Analysis of Antarctic Tracking Data), which is a joint project with CCAMLR, BirdLife International, and EG-ABI. AG Remote Sensing – counting birds and marine mammals. Increase in membership of EG-CPR, and increase in linkages with GACS, SOOS, SCOR, POGO, PICES, ICES, etc. includes sharing of data, resources, etc. It was reported that the AAD had provided funding for the CPR database, and this will directly feed into the ABI database. Graham Hosie reported that he would stand down as EG-CPR Chief officer, and recommended Kunio Takahashi as a replacement.

There was a discussion about ICED and whether it could/should remain as an AG/EG of SCAR, or needs to change its position within the SCAR structure like SOOS. The current structure has been maintained to retain its connection with SCAR and its community and also to ensure reporting to SCAR.

ACTION: The position of ICED and SOOS within the SCAR structure to be brought up at EXCOM for discussion (Mike Sparrow, asap)

ACTION: ANTOS, a new AG/EG proposal to SCAR in 2014, needs to be much more cross-linked to PS and GS (Dana Bergstrom, ongoing)

SSG Geosciences

Berry Lyons presented SSG-GS, which included reports on all AGs and EGs within GS. There was discussion about a proposed AG on Geological Heritage and Conservation, which would include unique locations for fossils and minerals to be defined and protected.

ACTION: Include a SCAR code of conduct for these objectives of the planned new AG (Berry Lyons, Steven Chown, OSC 2014)

ACTION: Possible AG to locate cross-linkage with AAA (John Storey, Berry Lyons, 2014)

EBA

Guido di Prisco (observer) presented EBA, which officially ended on Friday 19 July 2013.

Interactions with the Treaty and SCATS

Other Standing and Advisory Committees (SCADM, SCAGI, ACCE, CBET)

Already discussed above.

Interactions with other organisations (IASC, WCRP, SCOR etc.)

Mike Sparrow presented SCAR interactions with other organisations for specific projects like IASC, CliC for ISMASS; SCOR for SOOS; and further general interaction with WCRP, CLIVAR, CliC, IASC, etc.

The main point of discussion was whether these interactions (of groups like ICED and SOOS) with SSG leadership are necessary and what should be the scope of groups which were initially SCAR AG/EG but now have their own structure. Having a separate budget line for these groups (eg SOOS and co-sponsorship for ICED) eats into the same finance pie for science. Mike Sparrow reminded the meeting that SCAR has some oversight in SOOS and ICED, due to reporting requirements and interactions.

ACTION: The position of ICED and SOOS within the SCAR structure to be brought up at EXCOM for discussion (Mike Sparrow, asap)

2. COs' Meeting

Efficient functioning of the SSGs, including reporting, handling of joint groups, finances etc. There was an open discussion:

Utility of the CO / Cross-Linkages meetings before the EXCOM Meeting?

This was considered as useful by the meeting participants, especially for the new SRPs, and the potential to bring out linkages which have not been considered. The group also considered that the AG and EG reports were very superficial, and saw the need for more details, specific to cross-linkages.

ACTION: Standard template for each AG/EG, with relevant questions, for reporting to Cross-Linkages meeting (Secretariat, 2014)

Timing of SSG business meetings during the biennial meetings and reporting requirements

Timing of the cross-SSG groups reporting to Delegates was discussed as difficult since there is duplication, with the same people reporting to both SSG parallel sessions.

ACTION: Plenary session for all groups – One-day plenary and next half- or full-day parallel sessions at OSC proposed. (Secretariat, 2014)

SSG activities that would benefit from directed fundraising by the SCAR Development Council?

There was discussion about how individual groups would go for funding through the Development Council (DC). Mike Sparrow reminded the meeting that the DC was meant more for identification for potential subjects and sources of funding. DC members would, however, facilitate funding opportunities and joint efforts for funding proposals.

Role of SSGs in the OSC? Session proposers, session chairs, ISOC members, etc.?

How can SSGs improve communications/interactions with their associated communities inter-sessionally? Newsletters, updates from COs, meeting opportunities at major scientific meetings, etc.?

ACTION: MDS to organise external review of AAA, and review by ICSU.

Close of meeting.