



AntEco

'The state of the Antarctic ecosystem'

SCAR SRP 2013 – 2018

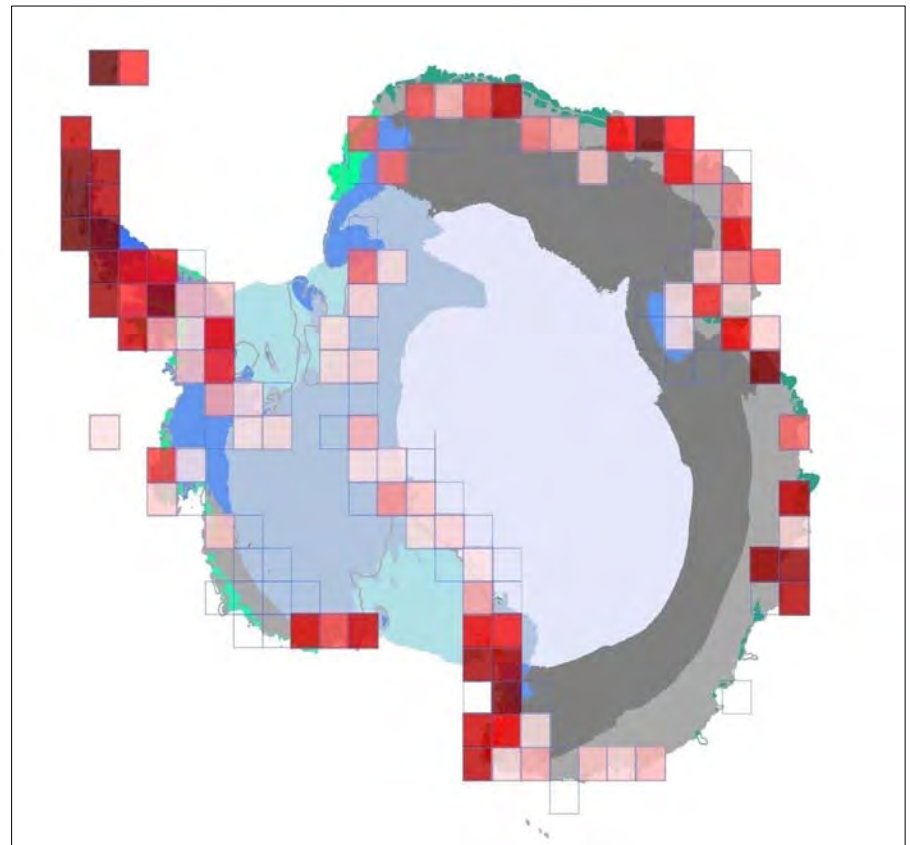
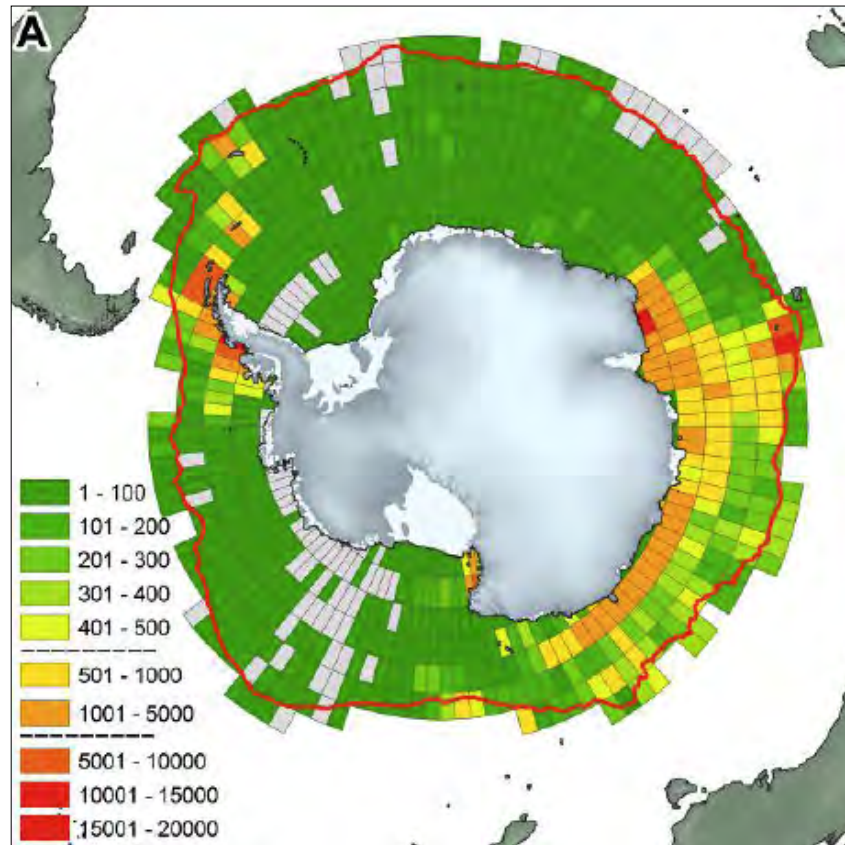
Report and Implementation Plan

Don Cowan, University of Pretoria

Rationale

- The Antarctic is experiencing unprecedented (at least in recent geological history) rapid change
 - A growing threat from changing climatic conditions
 - The rapid rise in human impact
- Technical developments (in molecular biology, informatics, microsensors, remote sensing, etc.) over the past few decades have greatly facilitated the study of species origins, history, trajectories and diversity.

Major gaps in our understanding of marine and terrestrial biodiversity



AntEco Mission Statement

"*AntEco* is a community program aiming to promote, stimulate and coordinate international interdisciplinary research relevant to Antarctic ecosystems"

- The key objectives are to:
 - understand spatial patterns in Antarctic biodiversity, from genes to ecosystems
 - understand the structure of Antarctic communities
 - to determine how patterns of diversity have evolved through time
 - to identify the implications for conservation management, including mitigation of forecast threats, in a time of rapid environmental change.

Origin timeline

- 2011-2012 Preparation, submission and approval of *AntEco* proposal
- Jan 2013 Nominal launch of *AntEco*
- July 2013 First Steering Group Meeting

AntEco Steering Committee

Don Cowan*	U. Pretoria	RSA	Terrestrial microbial ecology	M	Established
Aleks Terauds*	AAD	AUS	Terrestrial ecology	M	Emerging
Pete Convey*	BAS	UK	General biology	M	Established
Angelika Brandt*	U. Hamburg	DE	Marine biology	F	Established
Alison Murray	DRI	USA	Marine microbiology plus	F	Emerging
Annick Wilmotte	U. Ghent	BEL	Human impacts	F	Established
Craig Cary	U. Waikato	NZ	Terrestrial microbiology	M	Established
Guido di Prisco	U. Naples	IT	Marine biology	M	Established
Jan Strugnell*	La Trobe	AUS	Marine biology	F	Emerging
Claudio Gonzales-Wevar	U. Chile	CHI	Marine biology	M	Emerging
Dom Hodgson*	BAS	UK	Terrestrial paleoreconstr.	M	Established
Huw Griffiths*	BAS	UK	Marine biology	M	Emerging
Anton van der Putte	AntaBif	BEL	Marine biology	M	Emerging
Stephano Schiaparelli*	U. Genoa	IT	Marine ecology	M	Emerging
Mary-Ann Lea	IMAS, U Tas	AUS	Marine ecology	F	Emerging
Conxita Avila	U. Barcelona	ESP	Marine biology	F	Emerging
Julian Gutt	A. W. Inst.		Linkage with ANT-ERA	-	-
Kunio Takahashi	-	JP	Marine biology	M	Established
Siti Alias	U Malaya	MAL	Microbiology	F	Established

Operational Structure

- Identification of 'Research Sectors' (in line with focus areas identified in the *AntEco* SRP proposal)
- Nomination of research sector leaders
- The officers and research sector leaders constitute the Steering Committee Executive

'Research Sector' structure

MOLECULAR ECOLOGY
AND EVOLUTION

Jan Strugnell

Aleks Terauds, Chief Officer
Don Cowan, Deputy CO
Anton van der Putte, Secretary
Pete Convey (Liaison)

Alison Murray

ECOINFORMATICS AND
SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

SPATIAL ECOLOGY

Huw Griffiths

Dom Hodgson

Annick Wilmotte

IMPACTS, TRENDS AND
CONSERVATION

PALEOBIOLOGY

Recommendations from Cross-Linkages Committee (20 July)

- Paleobiology Research Sector leader should broaden membership to include the paleological community (Barry Lyons)
- Establishing practical cross-representation with other relevant SCAR groups is critical and must be urgently actioned (e.g., SCATS, AntClim21, ICED, SOOS, CCAMLR, EG-ABI, PAIS, SCADM and others)
- An *AntEco* presence at the Malaysian Antarctic meeting (MISA6, October 8-9) should be considered.

Implementation Plan (2013-2014)

- Marketing and Membership
 - Assembly of a 'membership 'database (07/13-12/13) DAC
 - Preparation of marketing material (07/13 – 12/13) AT/DAC
 - Establishment of a website (SCAR hosted) AvdP

- Workshops/Presentations
 - Latin American Congress on Antarctic Science (Sept 2013) CG-W
 - *Polar and Alpine Microbiology (Sept 2013), Malaysian Antarctic Conference (Oct 2013)*
 - SCAR OSC 2014 [Full session symposium, Steering Committee meeting]

And beyond...

- Sector leaders to identify 'actions'
- Regular Steering Group meetings
- Regular ***AntEco*** symposia (SCAR-linked and independent)
- Representation at all major international Antarctic biology meetings
- Periodic data collection and reporting

Tangible Activities and Outputs

■ IMMEDIATE

- Complete the Steering Committee by inclusion of Asian region representatives
- Establish cross-linkage representation with other SRPs and EGs

■ SHORT TERM (2013/2014)

- Establish marketing and membership structures and processes
- Develop 'task sets' for the specific Research Sectors
- First *AntEco* symposium (SCAR OSC 2014)

■ LONG TERM

- Develop a program of workshops and symposia
- Implement specific Research Sector tasks
- Establish reporting mechanisms for identifying outputs and activities
- Explore large-scale fund-raising options

Budget summary

- Budget allocation (2013): \$20,000
- Expenditure (2013): \$12,000
 - Part time administrative assistance
 - Travel contributions
- Projected Expenditure (2013): \$3000
 - Travel contributions (LACAS, MISA6)
- Roll-over to 2014: \$5,000

Specific proposals

- That the SCAR ExCom approve the proposed structure of the *AntEco* Steering Committee and its Executive
- That the ExCom should approve the 2014 *AntEco* budget allocation