

Joint Meeting of the SCAR and COMNAP Executive Committees

Bremen, Germany, 29 July 2004

Draft Report of the Meeting

Opening formalities

Professor Dr J Thiede, President of SCAR, took the chair and welcomed the members to the meeting.

SCAR: J Thiede (President); R H Rutford (Past-President); R Schlich, C G Rapley, J López-Martínez, C Howard-Williams (Vice-Presidents); C P Summerhayes (Executive Director) and P D Clarkson (Executive Secretary).

COMNAP: K A Erb (Chairman); G Jugie (Chairman-elect); O Watanabe, J Berguño (Members); K A Pitt (SCALOP Chairman); A Guichard (Executive Secretary).

1. SCAR–COMNAP collaboration

1.1 General matters

It was agreed that communications between SCAR and COMNAP were generally satisfactory. It was noted that COMNAP had the opportunity to provide input to the SCAR presentation to XXVII ATCM but that a longer lead time would have been helpful.

The possibility of producing a joint SCAR–COMNAP publicity leaflet was discussed and was agreed to be a good idea. SCAR should prepare a draft text of SCAR information for inclusion. J Berguño suggested that outreach and data management were topics that should be joint SCAR–COMNAP functions.

The SCAR SSG on Life Sciences advised that a proposal for a joint SCAR–COMNAP medical group was being prepared. The SCAR Expert Group and the COMNAP MEDINET had a substantial number of members in common and a joint group would avoid duplication of effort in some circumstances. There was support for this from the SCAR Executive Committee but the COMNAP Executive Committee was less enthusiastic. [Subsequently, at the COMNAP Plenary Meeting, **concern was expressed that in a single group the mix of government employees from the COMNAP side and independent scientists from the SCAR side might inhibit discussion of certain matters. Despite the extent of common membership, the COMNAP Plenary decided against having a joint medical group with SCAR at the present time but would continue discussion with SCAR and review the matter at COMNAP XVII.]**

1.2 IPY implementation

COMNAP has established a group for coordination of IPY activities and will be reviewing its position later this week. SCAR has also established an *ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the International Polar Year 2007–08 (see Appendix 1) that will also meet later in the week to develop advice to SCAR. The Executive committee will consider the advice prior to tabling a paper at the Delegates Meeting.

The meeting noted that the ICSU Planning Group for the IPY will meet in Paris, France, 13–14 September 2004 where both SCAR and COMNAP will be represented at the open sessions.

1.3 *Arctic organizations (IASC, FARO, Arctic Council)*

The Arctic Science Meeting will take place in China in early 2005. It was suggested that SCAR and IASC could arrange to meet within that meeting to discuss matters of common interest. The SCAR Secretariat was asked to explore and develop this proposal with the IASC Secretariat.

The meeting noted that the XXX SCAR Science Meeting may be held in St Petersburg, Russia, during 2008. This could provide an ideal opportunity for a joint SCAR–IASC polar forum during the second half of the IPY.

2. **Data issues**

2.1 *AMD*

It was agreed that there is an urgent need to load the metadata on additional data sets into the AMD. The Secretariat was asked to contact K Jezek to see how this might be accomplished

It was also agreed that a critical review of JCADM by SCAR and COMNAP is needed to ascertain the extent to which JCADM is or is not meeting the needs of the SCAR and COMNAP communities.

It was noted that 26 SCAR members had now established National Antarctic Data Centres (NADCs) but there was wide variation in the operational status between NADCs. Searching the AMD could now be done through Google.

There was general satisfaction expressed at the work being done by the staff at the GCMD to develop the AMD. It was agreed to continue supporting this work through 2005 and 2006 as in the present and previous year. COMNAP will contribute \$3,333 *pa* and SCAR \$6,667 *pa*, to total \$10,000 *pa*. The COMNAP contributions will be transferred to SCAR for a single annual payment to the GCMD agency. The Executive Secretaries will liaise on payment when the annual invoice is received.

It was agreed that the STADM group was still needed to provide independent oversight of the GCMD development work. SCAR should nominate two members to the group.

2.2 *IPY data*

The current plans for the science programmes for the IPY make scant mention of data. COMNAP wishes to know what data collection might be needed, and if existing facilities will need to be enlarged. A report of the ICSU data group is due to be published soon and should provide guidance. Meanwhile, the Chief Officers of the SSGs should be asked to indicate their likely data requirements, including the needs for archiving samples.

2.3 *JCADM*

It was agreed that JCADM should establish links with other data groups, eg the new IPY data group. It was also suggested that the NADCs needed to link with the National Ocean Data centres (NODCs). The Geographic Information specialists in the SSG on Geosciences are keen to integrate more closely with other data groups.

It was also agreed that the efforts of NADCs, NODCs, GIS and metadata centres should combine to provide a valuable data legacy for the IPY.

3. ATCM issues

3.1 XXVII ATCM, Cape Town

The Report of the SCAR Observers at XXVII ATCM was circulated for information. It was agreed that Dr R E Bell had made an excellent presentation on Antarctic sub-glacial lakes, entitled “The Secret Life of Lake Vostok”, but the timing as a lunch-time event was not ideal and audience size was less than hoped, despite the provision of a wine reception immediately following the lecture.

3.2 XXVIII ATCM, Stockholm

3.2.1 SCAR–COMNAP presentation at XXVIII ATCM

D W H Walton discussed the SCAR presentation at XXVIII ATCM with the Swedish hosts of the meeting. In particular, he requested that SCAR be granted a slot in a plenary session for the presentation in order to maximize the audience. The Swedish hosts have requested SCAR to make a formal proposal for the presentation, including the subject matter, following the Bremen meeting. It is essential for SCAR to do this in order to have the best chance of the request being met. Although the Swedes are sympathetic to SCAR’s request, nothing can be guaranteed. The SCAR Executive Committee will determine the topic of the presentation and the SCAR Secretariat will ensure that a draft is provided to COMNAP well in advance of the ATCM.

3.2.2 ATCM requests (general and specific)

SCAR is anticipating submitting the following Working Papers (WPs) and Information Papers (IPs) to XXVIII ATCM:

- WP Antarctic Specially Protected Species I – this paper should provide an example of how the IUCN criteria can be applied to birds (probably using the Southern Giant Petrel) to make the case for special protection and what management tools might be invoked in a recovery plan;
- WP Antarctic Specially Protected Species II – present the case for delisting Fur Seals using the latest data from the Expert Group on Seals;
- WP Biological Monitoring in determining Human Impacts in the Antarctic – this would report the conclusions of the SCAR biological monitoring workshop planned for March 2005.
- IP SCAR Report to XXVIII ATCM;
- IP New SCAR Research Programmes;
- IP Supporting paper for SCAR/COMNAP lecture;
- IP The introduction of non-native species into the Antarctic;
- IP Ballast water as a potential source of marine introductions.

It was suggested that SCAR might also provide papers on bioprospecting and criteria for determining the baseline status of an ASPA. In neither case has SCAR agreed to provide papers. However, SCAR might anticipate any discussion on the use of anti-foulant paints (tributyl tin) in Antarctica by doing a scientific review of the issue. COMNAP suggested that the paper on ballast water might be a joint paper with COMNAP and that there might also be a case for a joint paper on fuel release.

It was suggested that the Code of Conduct for research and operations in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, as contained in the Management Plan for the McMurdo Dry Valleys Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA 2) could or should be adopted for more widespread use. This would require a joint approach by SCAR and COMNAP. COMNAP will draft a document and forward it to SCAR for consideration.

The CEP will establish a single ICG to consider revised management plans for three existing ASPAs; management plans for three new ASPAs; and a management plan for a new ASMA at Deception Island. SCAR will provide input to the ICG once it is operational.

Dr J Huber (The Netherlands) was elected Executive Secretary of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat and he will take up the post in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 1 September 2004. It was noted that A Guichard and various SCAR members had spoken informally with Dr Huber concerning future relations between the Secretariat and COMNAP and SCAR. In particular, it was very encouraging to see Dr Huber in Bremen this week, attending sessions of both the XXVIII SCAR and COMNAP XVI Meetings.

4. Potential SCAR programmes

SCAR advised COMNAP of the five proposals for SCAR Scientific Research Programmes (SRPs) that are currently being prepared and that will be tabled at the SCAR Delegates' Meeting for evaluation and possible adoption (see list below). The SCAR Secretariat will advise the COMNAP Executive Committee of the status of these proposals following the SCAR Delegates' Meeting in order that COMNAP can consider the possible requirements for their implementation by National Antarctic Programmes. In addition, COMNAP will be invited to provide reviews of the proposals from the operational perspective.

- Antarctica and the Global Climate System (AGCS)
- Cenozoic Antarctic Climate Evolution (CACE)
- Evolutionary Biology of Antarctica (EBA)
- Inter-hemispheric Conjugacy on Environmental, Solar-Terrestrial and Atmospheric Research (ICESTAR)
- Subglacial Antarctic Lake Exploration (SALE)

5. Draft SCAR Long-Term Strategic Plan

The Draft SCAR Long-Term Strategic Plan has been forwarded to COMNAP for review.

6. Future joint meetings

6.1 *COMNAP XVII, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2005*

C Pimpirev, the Delegate of Bulgaria to both SCAR and COMNAP, invited the SCAR Executive Committee to meet in parallel with the COMNAP XVII meeting to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 11–15 July 2005. Registration will be on Monday 11 July and the meeting will be Tuesday to Friday, 12–15 July. The first circular was distributed during the meeting.

It is envisaged that the SCAR Executive Committee Meeting will be a maximum of 3 days, probably Wednesday to Friday, including a joint meeting with the COMNAP Executive Committee, probably on Thursday. The SCAR Chief Officers will be invited to attend the meeting. Both Executive Secretaries were encouraged to maintain contact with each other and the Bulgarian hosts of the meeting.

6.2 *XIX SCAR and COMNAP XVIII, Hobart, Australia, 2006*

I Allison, the Australian Delegate to SCAR, joined the meeting and described the provisional arrangements for the COMNAP XVIII Meeting and the XXIX SCAR Science Meeting that will be held in parallel in the Hobart Waterfront conference facility in Hobart, Tasmania, 9–14 July 2006. A joint meeting of the SCAR and COMNAP Executive Committees will be held at this time. The time and place of the XXIX SCAR Delegates' Meeting had not yet been decided but would probably be in mainland Australia, possibly Darwin, during October 2008. Such a location would help to reduce the travel costs for most participants.

7. Close of Meeting

The draft report of this meeting will be prepared by SCAR and circulated to both Executive Committees for comment as soon as possible.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGCS	Antarctica and the Global Climate System
AMD	Antarctic Master Directory
ASMA	Antarctic Specially Managed Area
ASPA	Antarctic Specially Protected Area
ATCM	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
CACE	Cenozoic Antarctic Climate Evolution
CEP	Committee for Environmental Protection
CO	Chief Officer
COMNAP	Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes
EBA	Evolutionary Biology of Antarctica
FARO	Forum of Arctic Research Operators
GCMD	Global Change Master Directory
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
ICESTAR	Inter-hemispheric Conjugacy on Environmental, Solar-Terrestrial and Atmospheric Research

ICG	Intersessional Contact Group
ICSU	International Council for Science
IP	Information Paper
IPY	International Polar Year 2007–08
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JCADM	Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management
MEDINET	Medical Network
NADC	National Antarctic Data Centres
NODC	National Ocean Data centres
SALE	Subglacial Antarctic Lake Exploration
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SRP	Scientific Research Programmes
SSG	Standing Scientific Group
STADM	Steering Committee for Antarctic Data Management
WP	Working Paper

Appendix 1

ad hoc SCAR Advisory Committee on the International Polar Year 2007–08

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