

Minutes

Joint SCAR-COMNAP Executive Committees' Meeting

Washington DC, USA, Wednesday 11 July 2007 at 1230 hrs

In attendance: for SCAR: Chuck Kennicutt (Acting President), Jörn Thiede, Zhanhai Zhang, Sergio Marensi, Antonio Meloni, Colin Summerhayes, Mike Sparrow and Peter Clarkson;

In attendance for COMNAP: Gérard Jugie (Chairman), José Retamales (Chairman Elect), Yeadong Kim, Henry Valentine, Christo Pimpirev, John Pye, and Antoine Guichard

Minutes

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

COMNAP Chair Gérard Jugie opened the meeting at 1230 on 11 July. The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Review of the Interactions Between SCAR and COMNAP Since July 2006

COMNAP participation in SCAR Code of conduct workshop – June 2007

SCAR is working on a unified code of conduct for scientific field work, in response to discussion held at the CEP. This is a SCAR affair but this has some operational applications and COMNAP has committed to provide input and contribute to the consultation process. COMNAP had tasked to coordinator of its Environmental Officers Network (AEON), Rodolfo Sanchez, to participate in the workshop held in the Netherlands at the end of May. He has already provided COMNAP with a report on the workshop and the current draft of the code of conduct to enable individual Programs as well as the COMNAP environmental group to provide input.

It is understood and agreed that it is a SCAR affair and that a Working Paper presenting the code of conduct to CEP XI would be a SCAR paper – COMNAP remaining happy to contribute and facilitate input from National Programs.

Presentation to COMNAP on Aliens in Antarctica project – 10 July 2007

The COMNAP Environmental group is in contact with the investigators of the Aliens in Antarctica project and organised a presentation of the project to Program managers and logistics personnel on Monday 10 July, followed by discussions on how National Programs can participate in the project. COMNAP will continue to encourage National Programs to participate and to liaise with the project investigators to facilitate the flow of

practical feedback in both directions.

COMNAP Observer role in SCAR Standing Committee on Geographic Information (SCAGI)

The SCAR Geographic Information Group has just been reinvigorated, its status has been upgraded to a Standing Committee and its membership extended. The COMNAP Executive Secretary is an observer on SCAGI and will contribute to its work.

Meeting of SCAR and COMNAP Secretariats – Hobart, October 2006

Colin Summerhayes and Antoine Guichard had a productive and constructive meeting in Hobart in October 2006, taking advantage of Colin Summerhayes' attendance at the CCAMLR meeting. The meeting was useful in progressing tasks arising from last year's joint Executives' meeting and in discussing a number of practical aspects of communication between the two secretariats. Such meetings will continue on an opportunity basis.

Standing Action:

Secretariats to meet regularly on an opportunity basis to help progress tasks and develop communication.

3. Review of the Interactions between the two Executive Committees

Are current interactions sufficient? Could it for example be beneficial to circulate relevant information intersessionally to members of both executives by email?

It was agreed that while more productive interactions would be good, we had to remain pragmatic and not try to engage in actions we could not sustain.

Circulating more information could be good, but what type of information would be relevant and useful?

It was agreed that managing the exchange of information was a task for the two secretariats who could establish a protocol for circulating information and make a judgment about what information should be circulated. In doing so, they could leverage on advice and judgment from those who knew well both organisations, in particular Christo Pimpirev and Sergio Marensi.

Action 1: Secretariats to establish a protocol for circulating information to both Executives, including examples of the type of information that would be relevant and useful, seeking input from Christo Pimpirev and Sergio Marensi who knew both organisations well.

4. Review of the Interactions Regarding ATCM

2007 ATCM/CEP Meetings (ATCM XXX & CEP X, New Delhi, India)

There had been no need for any joint paper this last year. The two delegations had maintained contact and held ad-hoc discussions as and when required during CEP X and ATCM XXX. This was deemed useful and sufficient.

This year's SCAR talk to ATCM had been a talk given by SCAR President Chris Rapley on climate change, which had not included any operational aspects. SCAR had estimated this did not require involvement from COMNAP and had prepared the talk independently.

COMNAP Chair Gérard Jugie believed that it was not in line with the spirit of what had been decided and successfully managed over recent years. Any type of talk on Antarctic science could easily include some recognition of the support provided by National Programs, without which science in the Antarctic would not be possible. It would also have been good to be informed of this decision in advance.

SCAR Acting President Chuck Kennicut agreed with this. It had been an unfortunate mishap that we would all make sure did not happen again.

We had last year considered preparing a paper for ATCM on the importance of having sufficient separation, ideally a minimum of six weeks, between the end of the annual ATCM and the start of that same year's COMNAP and SCAR meetings. This could also have given an insight into the implications of Antarctic summer field work for COMNAP and SCAR's annual work cycle. As we cannot change dates of ATCM meetings, we should let the ATCM know about how timing can impact on our capacity to provide advice and fulfil our role in the Antarctic Treaty System.

The two secretariats had started progress on this and engaged in discussions with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat on how to best approach this. Unfortunately in the interim the Russian Academy of Science forced on us dates for the SCAR and COMNAP meetings that contradicted the position we wished to advocate. We were no longer in a position to present and defend this position. This could be revisited later.

It was noted that work requested by the ATCM and CEP was increasing, and that ensuring we had an appropriate work cycle was becoming even more important. We had to be careful about not being put in a position where we were requested to do work we could not do.

COMNAP noted that its new guidelines for the hosting of COMNAP annual meetings would specify a minimum of six week separation between the end of the ATCM and the start of the COMNAP annual meeting.

It was agreed that both organisations should work towards having greater control over the scheduling of their annual meetings. The secretariats would exchange both organisations' meeting guidelines and work towards developing 'converging' guidelines, in particular in relation to timing.

Action 2: Secretariats to exchange both organisations' meeting guidelines and work towards developing 'converging' guidelines, in particular in relation to timing.

Plans for 2008 ATCM/CEP Meetings (ATCM XXXI & CEP XI, Kiev, Ukraine)

SCAR indicated that it was planning to prepare for the Kiev meetings a number of papers on:

- code of conduct for scientific field work;
- disturbance effects on birds and seals;
- status of giant petrels;
- environmental domain analysis;
- marine acoustics;
- state of the Antarctic climate system; and
- terrestrial biodiversity.

SCAR indicated it would issue an invitation to COMNAP to contribute to its work on disturbance of birds and seals, which may involve a workshop.

COMNAP welcomed the opportunity to participate in this work, recalling how collaboration a few years ago on the development of guidelines for the operation of aircraft near concentration of birds had been instrumental in developing satisfactory, workable guidelines.

COMNAP would provide to SCAR, for input into its work on marine acoustics, any new / updated information on acoustic systems fitted on National Program ships.

Action 3: COMNAP to provide to SCAR, for input into its work on marine acoustics, any new / updated information on acoustic systems fitted on National Program ships.

COMNAP was planning to prepare papers on:

- international collaboration to reduce the environmental footprint; and
- results of a survey on procedures to minimise introduction of non-native species.

Long term considerations: observing systems

SCAR advised that it wished to push at the ATCM for the development of a long-term pan-Antarctic observing system, PANTOS. All was very much in the preliminary stages. It would like to work with COMNAP to see how this could be coordinated in the long-term. It would need to be managed in coordination with a number of other organisations,

including CCAMLR and COMNAP.

All agreed that it would affect how we could deliver science in the future and had of course strong implications for National Programs.

COMNAP noted that in general National Programs would not get any additional funding for monitoring and that the funding for monitoring did not usually go through the normal scientific peer review process. Any increase in the cost of monitoring will often mean less money for peer reviewed projects. We therefore needed to make sure monitoring was well planned and justified and organised in the most efficient manner. At least one National Program was closing any observatories that were not part of an international, coordinated system.

All agreed that it was important to avoid duplication; standardise and ensure legacy / maintenance of observing systems.

COMNAP indicated that it would flag to National Programs the importance of a coordinated observing system and encourage Programs to work together to

- Identify how to build a network between National Program stations; and
- Identify how to standardise and rationalise.

Action 4: COMNAP to flag to National Programs the importance of a coordinated observing system and encourage Programs to work together to

- **Identify how to build a network between National Program stations; and**
- **Identify how to standardise and rationalise.**

A meeting was scheduled for early October in Bremerhaven to look at a Southern Ocean Observing System, in which COMNAP had been invited to participate. COMNAP confirmed it has arranged to send a representative, Hartwig Gernandt of Germany.

Action 5: COMNAP to participate to the October 2007 Southern Ocean Observing System meeting in Bremerhaven

5. SCAR and COMNAP Meetings and Open Science Conference in Russia 2008

The 2008 meetings will be organised back to back to facilitate cross-participation:

- XX COMNAP Delegates' Meeting, Mon 30 June – Fri 04 July 2008, St Petersburg
- XIII Symposium on Antarctic Logistics and Operations, Thu 03 July, St Petersburg
- XXX SCAR Science Week, Sat 05 – Mon 07 July, St Petersburg
- Joint SCAR-IASC Open Science Conference, Tue 08 – Fri 11 July, St Petersburg
- XXX SCAR Delegates' Meeting, Mon 14 – Wed 16 July, Moscow

It was noted that the Open Science Conference (OSC), this time a joint SCAR-IASC

conference, was to be an official IPY event endorsed by ICSU and WMO.

The COMNAP delegates meeting, hosted by AARI, will be held in AARI's premises. Alongside the meeting will be held on Thursday 03 July 2008 an open one day Symposium on Antarctic Logistics and Operations. It will be titled "Antarctic Capabilities - Visions for the Future" and focus on the following topics: Human factors in field operations in Antarctica (with Keynote speaker); Renewable energies; Traverse technologies; Elevated structure designs; Waste management; Information technologies; Remote vehicles; Aviation improvements and airfields (with Keynote speaker) and Telemedicine aspects. At this stage it was not envisaged to also organise a commercial exhibition.

It was agreed that cross participation in meetings should be promoted, notwithstanding the fact that both COMNAP delegates and SCAR delegates meetings were member-only meetings. The secretariats should liaise to exchange and circulate information about the respective meetings, and in particular the Symposium on Antarctic Logistics and Operations and the Open Science Conference, to promote cross participation.

SCAR evoked the possibility of COMNAP giving a key talk in the opening session of the OSC, as in 2006 in Hobart. All agreed that it would be good and should be explored further during the year.

Action 6: Secretariats to exchange and circulate information about their respective 2008 Russia meetings, and in particular the Symposium on Antarctic Logistics and Operations and the Open Science Conference, to promote cross participation.

Action 7: Secretariats to liaise and consult with their respective Chair/President to discuss the possibility of a COMNAP keynote talk in the opening session of the joint SCAR-IASC Open Science Conference (Tuesday 08 July, St Petersburg)

6. Progress with JCADM

The Secretariats had agreed that following two years of comprehensive review of JCADM by the Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (STADM), a review would not be necessary during 2007. COMNAP will continue funding up to 2008 inclusive (2007 contribution paid early 2008, 2008 contribution paid early 2009)

The COMNAP Chair confirmed that COMNAP would continue to encourage National Programs to contribute to the Antarctic Master Directory.

7. IPY

The COMNAP Chair noted that the IPY was working well at agency and scientist level, with SCAR and COMNAP standing by to help further if required.

SCAR advised that it had started discussions with the International Arctic Science

Council (IASC) about the possibility to create a joint working group on management of the IPY legacy. A possible mechanism for such management would be proposed in October to the IPY Joint Committee.

SCAR confirmed that it remained ready to take COMNAP views to the IPY Joint Committee if necessary.

8. Outreach and Communication

The two secretariat noted they were working together on processes to exchange information, in particular to exchange and aggregate newsletter items and make them available on the respective web sites. This would also be done in liaison with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Action 8: Secretariats to continue working together, and in liaison with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, on processes to exchange information, in particular to exchange and aggregate newsletter items and make them available on the respective web sites.

9. Future meetings

The next joint Executives meeting was tentatively scheduled for Saturday 05 July morning in St Petersburg.

10. Review of Actions

This had been done through discussions under previous agenda items.

11. Any other Business

None.

12. Close of meeting

COMNAP Chair Gérard Jugie closed the meeting at 1400.