



WP **21**
Agenda Item: 4.1
Person Responsible: Mike Sparrow

EXCOM 2013

Barcelona, Spain 22/23rd July 2013

Bipolar Issues

Executive Summary

Title: Bipolar Issues

Authors: M Sparrow

Introduction/ Background: In pursuit of its Vision and Mission, SCAR often forms partnerships as an efficient means to achieve its goals and objectives. Our partnership with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is an example of a key partnership that both works efficiently and is mutually beneficial.

Important Issues or Factors: SCAR recently held a joint EXCOM meeting with IASC in Krakow, Poland April this year and re-signed jointly with IASC agreements with APECS, IACS and CliC (see WP22). It was decided that the Bipolar Action/Advisory Group was no longer required and that a joint workshop, convened every few years, would be sufficient to identify bipolar science needs.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: This paper summarises recent developments with regards SCAR's partnership with IASC. The Delegates are asked to comment as appropriate.

Partners: IASC

Budget Implications: N/A

Bipolar Issues

SCAR recognizes and values the many interests that the Antarctic and Arctic science communities have in common. SCAR has been making and will continue to make special efforts to increase bipolar cooperation and coordination with IASC in areas of common interest.

SCAR and IASC EXCOMs take the opportunity to meet annually to discuss issues of mutual cooperation and interest. The last meeting (see Appendix) resulted in several agreed actions that involve SCAR i.e.

- IASC and SCAR Secretariats to maintain a list of major outcomes of partnerships (Sparrow and Rachold; ongoing)
- IASC and SCAR Secretariats to explore the benefits and possibilities of entering into new agreements with organizations such as the European Polar Board (EPB) and the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFOPS) (Rachold and Sparrow, with Lochte (for EPB) and Yang (for AFOPS); before end 2013)
- IASC and SCAR to consider relevant bipolar session at the ICARP and SCAR OSC meetings (Sparrow and Rachold; ASAP)

The Executive Committees agreed with the recommendation of BiPAG II that a permanent bipolar SCAR/IASC group is no longer required. It was noted that a joint workshop, convened every few years, would be sufficient to identify bipolar science needs. Existing SCAR and IASC scientific groups would be requested to consider potential for bipolar activities when feasible.

SCAR and IASC have also re-signed jointly with IASC agreements with APECS, IACS and CliC (see WP22)

IASC is a co-sponsor of the SCAR/IASC Expert Group on Antarctic Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMASS) and co-sponsored an ISMASS workshop held in association with the SCAR Open Science Conference (<http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/en/events/2012/ISMASS/Home.html>) also co-sponsored by ICSU, WCRP, IGS and IACS as well as supported by CliC and APECS. See WP 16 for an update on ISMASS.

SCAR and IASC often jointly represent ICSU e.g. on the Montreal IPY 2012 Steering Committee as well as at the last ICSU General Assembly. The SCAR ED and IASC Executive Secretary are also members of the International Polar Initiative (IPI) concept Steering Committee (see IP3). Once a year SCAR and IASC issue a joint Newsletter. Further areas of cooperation will continue to be explored.

Appendix

Joint Meeting of the SCAR and IASC Executive Committees

17 April 2013, 16.00-18.00

Krakow, Poland

Minutes

Participants

Jeronimo Lopez Martinez (SCAR President)
 Karin Lochte (SCAR Vice President)
 Mike Sparrow (SCAR Executive Director)
 David Hik (IASC President)
 Susan Barr (IASC Vice President)
 Jackie Grebmeier (IASC Vice President)
 Volker Rachold (IASC Executive Secretary)
 Yoo Kyung Lee (IASC Executive Officer)
 Cynan Ellis-Evans (Chair of the Bipolar Action Group)

(1) Partnership Agreements

Participants noted that SCAR and IASC are maintaining trilateral partnership agreements with

- the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)
- the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
- the International Permafrost Association (IPA) and
- WCRP's Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project

The agreements with APECS, IACS and CliC were all renewed during the IASC Council meeting in Krakow. It was noted that the usefulness of these agreements should be monitored and that the SCAR and IASC Secretariats should maintain a list of the major achievements and joint activities for each of the partnerships. This list would be used to assess the benefit of the agreements prior to any future renewal.

Action: IASC and SCAR Secretariats to maintain a list of major outcomes of partnerships (Sparrow and Rachold; ongoing)

It was also agreed that the possibility of entering into new agreements with the European Polar Board (EPB) and the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFOPS) should be explored. Such agreements should be of mutual benefit to all organizations.

Action: IASC and SCAR Secretariats to explore the benefits and possibilities of entering into new agreements with organizations such as the European Polar Board (EPB) and the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFOPS) (Rachold and Sparrow, with Lochte (for EPB) and Yang (for AFOPS); before end 2013)

(2) Bipolar Action Group

Under this agenda item, Cynan Ellis-Evans briefly introduced the final report of the second SCAR/IASC Bipolar Action Group (BipAG II).

Participants agreed that IASC and SCAR should jointly support relevant education and communication activities, such as the Network of Polar Educators, which stems from the IPY 2007/2008. It was decided that a preliminary offer from the Canadian Polar Commission to support these activities should be pursued.

Action: IASC and SCAR to explore the preliminary offer from the Canadian Polar Commission to support education and outreach activities (Hik; ASAP)

The Executive Committees agreed with the recommendation of BiPAG II that a permanent bipolar SCAR/IASC group is no longer required. It was noted that a joint workshop, convened every few years, would be sufficient to identify bipolar science needs. Existing SCAR and ISAC scientific groups would be requested to consider potential for bipolar activities when feasible.

(3) SCAR/IASC Expert Group on Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level: ISMASS

Participants noted that the ISMASS group organized a very successful workshop in conjunction with the SCAR Meeting in Portland, July 2012. The workshop was also supported by IACS and CliC and received substantial funding from ICSU.

ISMASS is in the process of establishing a new Steering Group and it was noted that CliC may become the third co-sponsor.

(4) International Polar Initiative

Participants discussed the latest development of the International Polar Initiative (IPI). It was noted that this initiative is most relevant at an organization (WMO, WCRP etc.) i.e. top-down level, but that there was still ambivalence from scientists and some organizations i.e. from the bottom-up. It was agreed that IASC and SCAR should continue to be involved in the initiative, noting that it will take more time to fully develop. The potential for IPI to find a home within the ICSU-sponsored Future Earth program was noted.

(5) Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)

IASC will be organizing the ICARP III in conjunction with its 25th Anniversary in 2015. The ICARP III process will be launched at the ASSW 2014 in Helsinki and culminate in the final conference to be held during the ASSW 2015 in Tokyo.

It was agreed that a bipolar component would be very useful and participants decided that an ICARP III relevant session should be considered for the 2014 SCAR Open Science Conference.

Action: IASC and SCAR to consider relevant bipolar session at the ICARP and SCAR OSC meetings (Sparrow and Rachold; ASAP)

(6) SCAR Horizon Scan

Participants noted the brief report on SCAR's Horizon Scan, provided by the SCAR Executive Director.