



# SSG-Life Sciences

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## EG – Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics

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- First meeting at SCAR Biology Symposium 2013
- Agreement on Terms of Reference, membership
- Communication strategy: creation of mailing list, website, wiki
- Preparation of data protocols
- Rapidly make contact and liaise with all relevant SCAR programs
- Anticipate new needs for biodiversity informatics within these programs
  - Prioritize progress on mARS (Microbial Antarctic Resources System)





## EG – Birds and Marine Mammals

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- Retrospective Analysis of Antarctic Tracking Data (RAATD) – joint project with CCAMLR, BirdLife International, technical support by EG-ABI
- Counting birds and mammals by satellite – AG Remote Sensing
- Capacity building – assigning APECS & mentor for each sub-programme
- Working with CCAMLR - consortium of experts to advise on monitoring status and trends of predators populations



## EG – Continuous Plankton Recorder

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- Continuing to expand
  - France, South Africa joined the SO-CPR Survey
  - Interest from Korea, PRC, India
- Affiliated with GACS and SOOS
  - Shared data base
  - Opportunity for shared resources
  - Links to other agencies
- New SO-CPR Database – AADC
- Change in Leadership
  - CO Dr Kunio Takahashi (Japan)



## EG – Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics

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- Numerous workshops in 2012-13
  - Major ICED workshop Cambridge November 2013 on food webs and scenarios of change
- Core activities progressing well
- Question – does this ICED need to remain as an EG?



## Joint Expert Group Human Biology and Medicine

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- JEGHBM – merger of EG Human Biology and Medicine with COMNAP Medical Network
- develop best practices for safe, healthy, efficient and effective management in healthcare and in the support of scientific research in Antarctica
- Tele-medicine and tele-health are a priority



## AG Acoustics

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- All work complete
- Recommendation – this AG be disbanded



## AG Remote Sensing

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- Terms of reference established
- Working with EG-ABI and EG-BAMM
- Planning meeting Barcelona 2013
  - ToR revised
  - Target session 32 at Auckland OSC
- Future meeting in Auckland
- Need additional \$2500 – contingency fund?





## AG Environmental Contamination in Antarctica

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- warming may remobilize contaminants buried or immobilized in soils
  - Recommendation - studies should be carried out to clarify this potential environmental problem
- 9th International Conference on: Contaminants in Freezing Ground, Melbourne May 2014
- develop an Antarctic Monitoring and Assessment synthesis
- promote a Contaminants portal-registry and management tool
- produce a Risk assessment guideline



## Major Future Initiatives

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- Antarctic Near-shore and Terrestrial Observing System – ANTOS
  - Complementary programme to SOOS
  - Numerous meetings held seeking public input
  - Full proposal to be submitted to SCAR – Auckland 2014
  - Expert Group status – review of existing Life Science EGs and AGs

# Questions or comments

