



WP 35

Agenda Item: 7.2

Person Responsible: P Convey

EXCOM 2015

Tromsø, Norway 27-28 August 2015

Update on SCAR Development Council

Executive Summary

Title: Update on SCAR Development Council

Authors: Pete Convey and Jenny Baeseman

Introduction/ Background: The SCAR Strategic Plan 2011-2016 called for the formation of a committee to identify sources of external funds and develop a strategy to diversify SCAR's financial resources beyond membership fees. The council also acts as an 'umbrella' for SCAR funding proposals.

Important Issues or Factors: The Committee has not been very active over the past year, but does have a plan to try to encourage engagement by existing SCAR programmes and groups in the search for resources to enhance SCAR's activities. The Delegates are largely an untapped resource in terms of engaging with national and possibly other funding opportunities that would expand SCAR programmes, particularly the Visiting Professorship and Fellowship Schemes.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: To begin this engagement, the chair of the committee has drafted two letters and asks the ExCom to consider their utility and content and provide comments and revisions.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: Ideas generated from these letters could help to identify additional funding sources for SCAR – thus providing opportunities to increase our activities.

Partners: Delegates and other National Committee reps

Budget Implications: Letters can be sent electronically, so no budget implications are foreseen. If letters are sent by post, some cost would be incurred, but usurped into normal office costs for SCAR. It is advised that funding be allotted, as in the past, for an in-person meeting of the DC to help facilitate activity.



Director Professor Jane E Francis
High Cross, Madingley Road
Cambridge CB3 0ET
United Kingdom
Telephone (01223) 221400
Facsimile (01223) 362616

[NB have used BAS letterhead here as my address.
But would be appropriate to use SCAR letterhead]

[date]

Dear [Delegate/Alternate delegate of XX country]

As you will probably be aware, several years ago, SCAR put in place a Development Council in order to encourage awareness and development of alternative or previously unrecognised routes of enhancing SCAR's international recognition and standing, and in particular to identify new routes or opportunities to generate funding or other forms of support for its scientific activities. SCAR and its component or related bodies have had a number of significant successes in such initiatives in recent years, most notably in the role of the Tinker Foundation in the creation and support of the Martha Muse Prize, the awarding of the Monaco Biodiversity Prize, sponsorship of major meetings or workshops such as the recent Monaco Antarctic Biodiversity Assessment, and in the wider recognition of the importance of and subsequently funding commitment to major international initiatives such as SOOS and, it is to be hoped, ANTOS.

While these initiatives mostly predate the creation of the Development Council, they illustrate to me what is the most effective route by which this Council can now help to support and enhance SCAR's activities. At the same time as writing to you as SCAR Delegates and Alternate Delegates, I have also written to the leaders of all current SCAR Science Research Programmes and specialist groups (Action, Expert, etc) to highlight the increasing need for all to engage with such means of seeking external enhancement of SCAR activities.

However, I also believe that there is a considerable opportunity, as yet largely untapped, for SCAR Delegates themselves to make a direct and fundamentally important contribution to what is no less than a cultural change in SCAR. Our Delegates are our direct formal link with the national Antarctic communities in each of our member countries. As such, you are in a supreme position to be aware of possible funding or significant support opportunities that could be directed towards SCAR activities at an earlier stage than most in SCAR's international community. Here, I am thinking of examples such as the already existing national support through India for the SCAR Visiting Professorship scheme, which I could easily see being further expanded if other support could be drawn upon, and likewise for the SCAR Fellowship scheme (which is likely to become increasingly over-subscribed through the success of APECS and the increasing early career community in polar science). Such ideas could also be easily associated with SCAR's well regarded 'capacity

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Comment [1]: May be worth including web ref to the DC's terms of reference (most recent ones)?

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building' role, for example through named fellowships supporting inwards or outwards movement to gain expertise for particular national communities.

What I now wish to make a direct appeal to you as Delegates and Alternate Delegates is to take up the challenge of assisting SCAR and the Development Council in identifying new opportunities for such sources of national funding and support, bringing these to our attention, and then mutually assisting in developing appropriate proposals within the required systems to try to take maximum advantage of such opportunities.

As with all SCAR bodies (Science Programmes, Action and Expert Groups, etc), Development Council members give their service entirely voluntarily, and it is important for all of us to make the most efficient use of the limited time that individuals can realistically give. In this context, I believe that the Development Council cannot be seen itself as a convenient 'proposal writing body', and rather can have three particularly useful functions:

- (a) To encourage and facilitate an 'opportunity seeking' mindset in the leadership groups of SCAR SRPs and specialist Groups; these groups represent the core expertise of the SCAR community and are likely to be best placed to be aware of external funding and other support opportunities available to enhance their activities. However, as part of the ongoing evolution of SCAR itself, there needs to be greater engagement with these opportunities from the communities involved.
- (b) To develop and provide over time a central resource of such opportunities that exist and/or have been attempted within the SCAR community, i.e. to act as one source of advice to groups actively seeking forms of external support. Here, the Council has already constructed a spreadsheet of many available funding sources, while also concluding in discussion with EXCOM that in any given year it is unlikely that the different SCAR groups as a whole would become involved in more than probably 1-3 such bids (all such bids are committing and time consuming to produce, while poorly constructed and plainly rushed ones will only be damaging to SCAR's standing).
- (c) As part of this, SCAR also sees the Development Council playing an active role in ensuring that 'bids' being developed by different SCAR groups do not mutually compromise each other, thereby placing SCAR itself potentially in a poor light. To this end we would wish to establish a principle that leaders of SCAR programmes and groups setting out to construct bids for this type of external sponsorship make sure to inform and consult the Development Council and SCAR Executive at an early stage in the process in order, again, to make the best and most effective use of the voluntary efforts of all involved.

The purpose of this letter is simply to remind or inform you, as important leaders of the SCAR community, of the existence of the Development Council, and to encourage you as SCAR's national representatives to join us actively in looking for such opportunities to enhance SCAR's scientific activities.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Peter Convey

Chair, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Development Council



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The purpose of this letter is simply to remind or inform you, as the important leaders of SCAR's SRPs and major specialist groups, of the existence of the Development Council, and to encourage in you and your group the mindset of looking for such opportunities to enhance your group's and hence SCAR's scientific activities.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Peter Convey

Chair, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Development Council



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