

The International Council for Science

ISSN 1998-0337

# SCAR **bulletin**

No. 184 AUGUST 2013

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## **The next generation of SCAR Research Programmes: Planning Meeting**

**Modena, Italy, 16-17 January 2012**



Published by the

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH**

at the

**Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, United Kingdom**

# The next generation of SCAR Research Programmes: Planning Meeting

Modena, Italy. 16-17 January 2012

## Background

A meeting was held in Modena to develop a strategic portfolio of, and explore linkages between, the next generation of SCAR Research Programmes (SRPs). An agenda is given in Appendix 1 and a list of attendees in Appendix 2. The meeting was held at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Appendix 3). A list of acronyms is included in Appendix 4.

The objective of this meeting was to plan how to present the SCAR Delegates with a coherent, linked package of new SRP programmes for approval. To do this the proposals need to be well developed, widely supported, and integrated.

After summarizing the main aims of the meeting and important dates, the first session outlined the state of play with regards to the proposals. All presentations focused on interactions with the other proposals, the Standing Committee on Antarctic Data management (SC-ADM), the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI), the Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SC-ATS) and other SCAR groups and programmes, as well as demonstrating how far advanced the proposals were. Issues that were considered included:

1. Will each proposal be ready for 2012, or would a particular proposal benefit from a workshop etc. before being delayed to 2014?
2. Does the concept rise to the level of an SRP or would an Expert Group be more appropriate?
3. Could (or should) the programmes be merged in some way, either with each other or with other SCAR groups or programmes?

The second session focused on strategy. It took into consideration that:

1. An integrated, high quality, package of new SRPs should be developed so the Delegates are not put in the position of picking and choosing. Having a united, integrated plan and submitting realistic budgets can do this.
2. Total funds available (if membership fee increases are approved) are likely to be a maximum of \$120,000 *including* the current SRP Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica (AAA). Does each proposed SRP need the full \$20k for a full eight years (or \$14k if the proposed fee increases are not approved)?

Consideration was also given as to how, and by whom, the package should be presented to the SSG plenary and in particular to the Delegates.



clearer by doing this). A *draft* version of a figure demonstrating the linkages is shown below.

**ACTION:** SRP Proponents to send Executive Director (i) 4-5 lines summarizing their proposal (ii) Concise text summarizing the linkages and unique characteristics of their proposals for inclusion in a short summary presentation/document. (PPG Proponents, ASAP)

## The next generation of SCAR Research Programmes

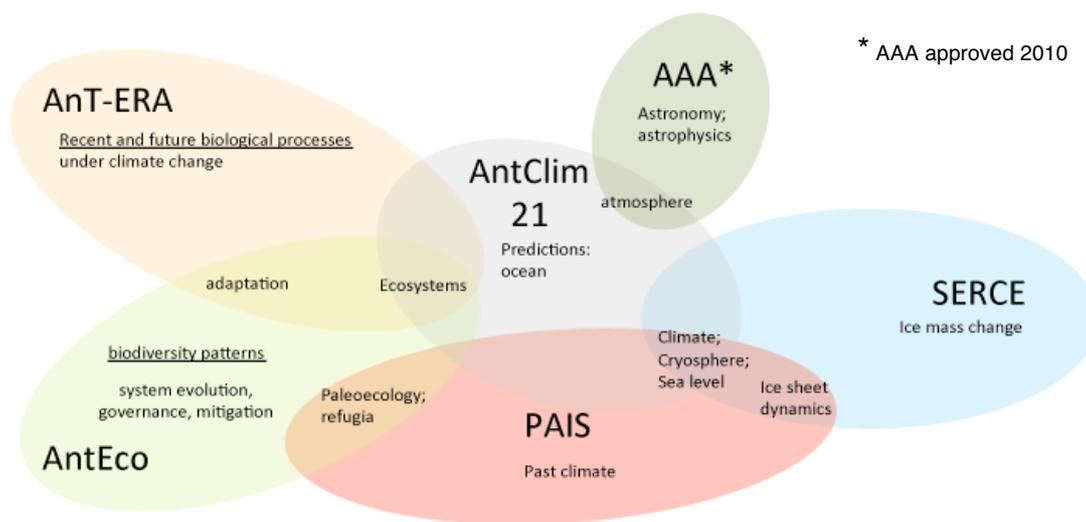


Figure 2: Main relationships between the next generation of SCAR Research Programmes

## Data Information and Management

Bruno Danis attended the meeting both as the data representative for AntEco and AnT-ERA but also in his role as deputy Chief Officer of SC-ADM. Bruno highlighted the need to have long-term data management plans coupled to the new programmes. In order to provide more structure to the Data and Information section of the proposals and to ensure consistency, he presented five questions that could be used in the proposals. It was agreed that this would be the best way forward and would be adopted in the proposals.

*Question 1:* All programmes should have a Data Coordinator, who should be part of the Steering Committee. Please identify at least one data coordinator within your community.

*Question 2:* The existence of all (new) data should be described using the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD). Do you plan to use complimentary metadata systems to the AMD? If yes, which standard will you be following, and where are they documented?

*Question 3:* Some programmes might want to have some visibility of their own for their data. Do you have plans to develop and deploy dedicated data portal(s)?

*Question 4:* Which repository (or repositories) and data centres will you be using for hosting your data?

*Question 5:* SC-ADM can help you with standards, interoperability, (meta)data hosting, (meta)data handling, website development. Do you need assistance from SC-ADM for any of these data management aspects? If yes, for which ones?

***ACTION:*** SRP proponents to include answers to the above data questions in their section on Data and Information Management. (SRP proponents; before deadline for submission)

## **SRP budgets**

A discussion was held on the funding available to the SRP proposals and how best to distribute the available funds between the different proposals, taking into account that there are areas of common interest (as well as joint meetings and outputs planned) and that some SRPs may have differing requirements in different years. However, it was felt that the most equitable way for distributing funds was an equal distribution between the potential SRPs (including AAA, if agreed), and that the different SRPs would share the expenses of joint activities as needed. This would mean around \$20k, assuming fee increases are approved, or around \$14k if they are not. With regards to the lower figure, in this case the SRP proponents may well need to re-examine their planned science outputs.

## **External Review of Proposals**

The system for appointing reviewers was discussed. Suggestions included asking representatives from the relevant ICSU unions and including Arctic scientists. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have at least one reviewer to review both biology programmes.

In some cases the names of potential reviewers needs further discussion. Ideally these will be submitted in mid-February, but no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March.

***ACTION:*** SRP proponents to send the Executive Director a list of potential reviewers (a minimum of five for each proposal), ideally at the same time as submission of a 'letter of intent to submit an SRP proposal' (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>) but no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. (SRP proponents; March 1<sup>st</sup>)

## **Membership of SRPs**

It was decided that the membership of the Scientific Steering Committee of each SRP should include a data representative. Including an APECS representative is also encouraged. The SRP chairs should liaise with the COs of SC-ADM (Taco de Bruin) and the Executive Director of APECS (currently Jenny Baeseman), respectively.

***ACTION:** SRP proponents to include a data representative and to consider including an APECS representative in their final Scientific Steering Committee (SRP proponents; before submission deadline)*

## **General Issues**

The SRP proponents were keen that the next generation of programmes have a similar format on the new SCAR website. This should include an outreach and education component (e.g. first page should explain in non-specialist language what the project is about). The Content Management System should be simple to use.

***ACTION:** The new SCAR website should have a section for the new SRPs laid out in a similar manner; the website should include information for the general public etc. and be reasonably easy to edit (Secretariat in consultation with SRP proponents)*

The decision as to who will present the proposals to the SSG Plenaries and to the Delegates will require further discussion amongst the SRP proponents themselves, but a decision will be made well in advance of the SCAR meetings and communicated to the Secretariat.

***ACTION:** The SRP proponents will decide amongst themselves who would be best placed to present the new proposals to the SCAR SSG plenary meeting and to the SCAR Delegates and communicate this to the Secretariat (SRP proponents; ASAP)*

A good deal of discussion was held on the individual SRP proposals and their linkages with the other proposals, and several breakout sessions were held. Outcomes from these are not highlighted here but will be used to improve the next drafts of the SRP proposals.

## Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda

### Day 1: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January

8:45 Arrival

9:00-9:15: Introductions and welcome: Alessandro Capra, Mike Sparrow

9:15: Background, including timeline: Mike Sparrow

#### **Session 1: Summary of SRP proposals**

9:30-10:15: AntEco – status and discussion

10: 15-11:00: Ant-ERA – status and discussion

11:00-11: 30: Coffee break

11:30-12:15: AntClim21 – status and discussion

12:15-13:00: SERCE – status and discussion

13:00-14:00: lunch buffet

14:00-14:45: Past Ice Sheet Dynamics (PAIS) – status and discussion

14:45-15:30: Links with other SCAR groups, in particular Standing Committees such as SCADM – general discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

#### **Session 2: Strategy Discussions:**

16:00-16:45: A strategic approach to the new SRPs: Conference call with Chuck Kennicutt

16:45-17:30 General discussion

### Day 2: Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January

#### **Strategy discussions continued...**

09:00-09:30: Summary of previous day. Aims.

09:30-11:00: Strategy Discussions, including budgets, presentations to delegates etc.

11:00-11: 30: Coffee break

11:30-13:00: Breakout Groups: Cross interactions; data etc.

13:00: Lunch, including discussion of SSG budgets (SSG heads and ED)

### Meeting End

## **Appendix 2: Meeting Attendees**

1. Tom Bracegirdle - AntClim21 (in substitution of Nancy Bertler)
2. Julian Gutt – AnT-ERA
3. Jan Strugnell – AntEco (for Donald Cowan)
4. Terry Wilson – SERCE
5. Carlota Escutia Dotti – ACE follow-on
6. Bruno Danis – MarBIN/SCADM
7. Alessandro Capra – SSG-GS
8. Kathleen Conlan – SSG-LS
9. Maurizio Candidi – SSG-PS
10. Mike Sparrow – SCAR Executive Director
11. Guido di Prisco – EBA
12. Chuck Kennicutt – SCAR President (via Skype)

## **Appendix 3: Meeting Location**

Faculty of Engineering  
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia  
Via Vignolese n.905  
41100- Modena

Local Logistics: Alessandro Capra, SSG-GS Chief Officer

## Appendix 4: List of Acronyms

AAA	Astronomy & Astrophysics from Antarctica
AMD	Antarctic Master Directory
AntClim <sup>21</sup>	Antarctic Climate Change in the 21st Century
AntEco	State of the Antarctic Ecosystem
AnT-ERA	Antarctic Thresholds - Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation
APECS	Association of Polar Early Career Scientists
ASAP	as soon as possible
CO	Chief Officer
ICSU	International Council for Science
MarBIN	Marine Biodiversity Information Network
PAIS	Past Antarctic Ice Sheet dynamics
PPG	Programme Planning Group
SC-ADM	Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management
SC-AGI	Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information
SC-ATS	Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System
SERCE	Solid Earth Response and influence on Cryosphere Evolution
SRP	Scientific Research Programme
SSG	Standing Scientific Group
SSG-GS	Standing Scientific Group on GeoSciences
SSG-LS	Standing Scientific Group on Life Sciences
SSG-PS	Standing Scientific Group on Physical Sciences