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## **SCAR Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting**

**Barcelona, Spain, 22-23 July 2013**



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# SCAR Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting

## Barcelona, Spain 22/23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013

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## **SCAR Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting**

### **Barcelona, Spain 22/23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013**

**Attendees:** J López-Martínez (President), MC Kennicutt II (Past-President), S Marensi, YD Kim, B Storey, K Lochte (Vice-Presidents), WB Lyons (Chief Officer SSG-GS), M Candidi (Deputy-Chief Officer SSG-PS), G Hosie (Chief Officer SSG-LS), S Chown (Chief Officer SC-ATS), J Storey (Chief Officer AAA), D Cowan (Chief Officer AntEco), C Escutia (Chief Officer PAIS), T Wilson (Chief Officer SERCE), M Sparrow (SCAR Executive Director), R Badhe (SCAR Executive Officer)

**Observers:** F Elias Piera (APECS), R Zapata Guardiola (local hosts)

WP refers to Working Papers; IP refers to Information papers; WPs and IPs are available from <http://www.scar.org/members/scarmeetingreports/barcelona13/> or directly from the Secretariat (info@scar.org).

#### **1. Opening Business (Lead: SCAR President)**

##### **1.1 Welcome – President (J López-Martínez)**

The SCAR President, J López-Martínez, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He thanked the local hosts for their assistance with the organisation of the meeting. The President reminded attendees that the final part of the meeting was in closed session, for EXCOM and the Secretariat only.

##### **1.2 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable – Executive Director (M Sparrow) (WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4)**

The agenda and associated documents were adopted, with the modification that the SC-ATS agenda items (5.1 and 5.2) were moved to the end of Monday after item 2.4 (Horizon Scan) to take into account the SC-ATS CO's travel schedule.

T de Bruin and B Danis (SC-ADM), A Fox and JY Pirlot (SC-AGI), J Gutt (AnT-ERA), and D Bromwich (SSG-PS) sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

#### **2. Science (Lead: VP for Science Y-D Kim)**

Presenters were asked to keep reports brief and to highlight items that required action or were of particular interest to EXCOM.

##### **2.1 Report of the Chief Officers' and Cross-Linkages Meeting (IP1, IP2)**

G Hosie reported on the main outcomes of the Cross Linkages and Chief Officers' (COs) meeting held two days previously. For a detailed report see IP2. Most of the Recommendations from the COs' meeting were discussed under the relevant EXCOM agenda items and so are not listed here. The exceptions were the following:

**ACTION: All COs to consider possible topics for the SCAR Lecture to the Treaty. For example the editorial committee of the bioregionalisation Atlas to be contacted (all COs; end 2013)**

**ACTION: Need to ensure linkages with the proposed ANTOS EG are explored with PS and GS (D Bergstrom; Delegates 2014)**

**ACTION: SCAR Secretariat to design a standard template of questions for each AG/EG, with relevant questions, for reporting to the Cross-Linkages meeting (Secretariat; end 2013)**

A discussion was held with regard to those groups that do not fit in the current structure of SRPs, Action, Expert and Advisory Groups, for example the SOOS, ICED and IPICS. It was pointed out that SCAR groups normally have a set time limit, but that this was not the case for many of these co-sponsored activities. All such groups should also be reviewed periodically.

**ACTION: VP for Science and Secretariat to summarise all groups co-sponsored by SCAR (e.g. SOOS, ICED, IPICS) and come up with recommendations as to how best they be handled within the SCAR structure (Y-D Kim, M Sparrow; Delegates 2014)**

EXCOM agreed with the suggestion from the COs' meeting that more of the SSG business be done in plenary with at least one full day when all three SSGs meet together. Many groups under the SSGs are now under two or three of the SSGs and even those that are under a single SSG are often of interest to others.

The Past President raised the question as to whether the SCAR Delegates should consider if the current structure of SCAR is ideal. Could it be improved to be both more efficient and cost effective?

**ACTION: An AG to be formed to examine the structure of SCAR and to make recommendations for a way forward, including a possible new external review, to Delegates in 2014 (J López-Martínez, EXCOM; Delegates 2014)**

## **2.2 SCAR SSGs: Highlights, Progress and Plans:**

### **2.2.1 Report of SSG Physical Sciences (WP 5)**

M Candidi reported on progress and plans since the last Delegates' Meeting. He highlighted the importance of the Ocean Acidification Action Group, though noted that he had not heard of recent progress. The main report writing is due to be complete by the end of 2013. The AG requested support to assist in obtaining funding to cover the salary time of writing the report from national bodies; it was agreed the Executive Director should draft such a letter.

**ACTION: ED to draft letter on importance of Ocean Acidification report for OA group (M Sparrow; ASAP)**

**ACTION: ED to contact CO of Ocean Acidification group with regards to requirements and timeline for OA report (M Sparrow; ASAP)**

SCAR will need to inform SCOSTEP of the new SCAR representative, selected by SSG-PS.

**ACTION: ED and M Candidi to draft a letter to SCOSTEP letting them know of new SCAR representative (M Sparrow, M Candidi; ASAP)**

M Candidi highlighted the Antarctic Ice Rises 2013 meeting (26-29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 in Tromsø, Norway), in particular the relevance to the ISMASS Expert Group.

### **2.2.2 Report of SSG Life Sciences (WP 6)**

G Hosie reported on progress and plans since the last Delegates Meeting. He highlighted the new Expert Group on Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics (ABI) and iterated how information outside of Life Sciences is crucial to this group.

**ACTION: Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics (ABI) to request feedback from community to ensure new database developments are user friendly. ABI to run a survey of needs of all SRP work package leaders (B Danis, A van De Putte, Chief Officers of all SRPs; ASAP)**

The main activities of the EG on Birds and Marine Mammals was highlighted, including interactions with the new AG on Remote Sensing, capacity building and interactions with CCAMLR. EG on Continuous Plankton Recorder survey is expanding its activities, both in terms of membership and of data collected. ICED is progressing well. The decision was made and approved by EXCOM to disband the AG on Acoustics. The new AG on Remote Sensing - with a focus on monitoring bird populations by satellite - has been very active, with a meeting held during the SCAR Biology Symposium the week previous to EXCOM and links to other organisations such as CCAMLR. G Hosie outlined progress with the AG on Environmental Contamination in Antarctica, though noting there were some outstanding issues, for example a recent update on future plans was needed.

**ACTION: Need an update on the status of the ECA group and to chase up a trace metal report that was produced by the group (G Hosie; ASAP)**

G Hosie outlined plans for a major future activity: Antarctic Near-shore and Terrestrial Observing System (ANTOS), which will be presented to the SCAR SSGs and Delegates in Auckland 2014.

**ACTION: ANTOS group to specify if it wishes to have a large workshop during the SCAR OSC or business meetings. (D Bergstrom, B Storey, M Sparrow; ASAP)**

### **2.2.3 Report of SSG Geosciences (WP 7)**

WB Lyons reported on progress and plans since the last Delegates Meeting. He highlighted that all the SSG-GS COs are new and bring a variety of disciplines to the posts. SSG-GS is also taking the lead with many of the SCAR Products, for example the new BEDMAP 2. EXCOM approved the discontinuation of the AG on Seeps and Vents. A new group on Geological Heritage would also meet during the SCAR Business Meetings. It was noted that a representative of SC-ATS should be involved. With regard to the request for 20k to support travel for the ISAES 2015 meeting, EXCOM noted that there was a carry forward from the last meeting of \$11.8k and that additional funds should be allocated from the SCAR Major Meetings fund for 2015 to support this important symposium.

**ACTION: S Chown, CO of SC-ATS, to be included in discussions of AG on Geological Heritage during SCAR Business Meetings in 2014 (B Lyons, S Chown; Business Meetings 2014)**

## **2.3 SCAR Scientific Research Programmes**

### **2.3.1 Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) (WP 8)**

P Convey, EBA Co-chair, presented the final report from EBA. He noted that all remaining funds were used to support initiatives associated with the Biology Symposium and the new biology SRPs. He highlighted various outputs, for example large number of publications, workshops etc. The EBA Newsletter was also seen as an excellent model for the new SRPs. The importance of ensuring that the information from the old EBA website was not lost was considered. EXCOM thanked the chairs of EBA for leading a hugely successful programme.

**ACTION: Secretariat to investigate how best to archive all old SRP websites, in particular EBA (R Nash, P Convey; ASAP)**

### **2.3.2 Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica (AAA) (WP 9)**

J Storey reported on progress and plans since the last Delegates' Meeting. He reminded EXCOM of the roles of the four AAA working groups: A. Site Testing; B. Arctic; C. Science Goals; and D. Major New Facilities. He also highlighted data, such as precipitable water vapour content at Ridge A that may be useful to meteorologists. AAA now has a site-testing database, which will eventually link to the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD).

**ACTION: AAA to link the AAA database to the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) (J Storey, B Danis; end 2013)**

The lifetime of AAA is currently six years, but they will likely apply for an extension to eight years after the external review, which is due in 2014.

### **2.3.3 State of the Antarctic Ecosystem (AntEco) (WP 10)**

D Cowan outlined the AntEco Mission Statement, i.e. "AntEco is a community program aiming to promote, stimulate and coordinate international interdisciplinary research relevant to Antarctic ecosystems". The first ad hoc steering group meeting was held in association with the Biology Symposium, the week previous to EXCOM. A core steering committee was highlighted. EXCOM approved the committee, with the proviso that they should look to increase geographic representation as much as possible, particularly with regard to including someone from Latin America.

Although the structure of AntEco has been well defined, e.g. with the definition of research sectors with leads, it was noted that a full implementation plan needed to be developed. EXCOM agreed with the recommendation of AntEco that A Terauds be the new CO of AntEco, with D Cowan becoming deputy CO.

### **2.3.4 Antarctic Thresholds - Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation (AnT-ERA) (WP 11)**

G Hosie reported on progress with the new SRP AnT-ERA, including a suggested steering committee and a draft implementation plan. AnT-ERA is well advanced with

a logo, merchandise, implementation plan etc. The major questions that Ant-ERA aims to answer are:

- How are Antarctic organisms adapted to current and future conditions?
- How does environmental change affect population performance: who are the winners and who the losers?
- What are the likely consequences of a changing environment for key ecosystems function and services?

EXCOM were pleased with progress and accepted the implementation plan and Steering Committee (noting, as with the other new SRPs that geographic representation needed to be fully considered).

### **2.3.5 Antarctic Climate Change in the 21st Century (AntClim21) (WP 12)**

M Candidi reported on progress with the new SRP AntClim21, which revolves around three main themes:

- Theme 1. Quantification of Antarctic climate variability.
- Theme 2. Climate model verification for the Antarctic region.
- Theme 3. Antarctic climate projection to 2100 AD

He noted that this programme will strengthen SCAR's position as a leading authority on Antarctic climate change and its local and global impacts. Antarctica and the Southern Ocean do not have a high enough profile in the IPCC, and SCAR is well placed to provide the detailed assessment that is required by policymakers and the broader scientific community.

EXCOM noted that the steering committee needs to be expanded to include more geographical diversity and an implementation plan still needs to be developed. M Candidi also noted that there was an unexplored connection with upper atmosphere balloon data.

**ACTION: AntClim21 to link with upper atmosphere Antarctic balloon data (N Bertler, M Candidi; end 2013)**

### **2.3.6 Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics (PAIS) (WP 13)**

C Escutia reported on progress with the new SRP PAIS. The overarching goal of PAIS is to improve confidence in predictions of ice sheet and sea level response to future climate change and ocean warming. She gave an overview of recent science highlights. A core PAIS Steering Committee has been formed, though geographic representation still needs to be improved. PAIS is planning to include a bipolar component to its activities. C. Escutia also iterated that members of the Steering Committee will rotate off to increase representation over time.

**ACTION: Data management representative to be identified for PAIS, with a possible link to the EG on Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics (C Escutia, B Danis; ASAP)**

### **2.3.7 Solid Earth Response and influence on Cryosphere Evolution (SERCE) (WP 14)**

T Wilson reported on progress with the new SRP SERCE. SERCE targets new understanding of solid earth – cryosphere interactions at a crucial time in earth history

when global change is driving changes in mass balance of the polar ice sheets. She gave some background to the SRP and outlined achievements to date, for example specific targeted sessions at AGU 2012. Cross-linkages with groups such as PAIS, AntClim21, ISMASS and GRAPE were considered. The idea of a joint modelling workshop with a bipolar content was proposed. The core steering committee was approved, with the proviso that geographic representation needs to be improved.

**ACTION: Look into the possibility of involvement and co-sponsorship of the proposed SERCE modelling workshop by CliC and IASC (M Sparrow, V Rachold, J Baeseman and T Wilson; August 2013)**

### **2.3.8 General SRP Actions:**

**ACTION: All COs of new SRPs (except Ant-ERA) to ensure they have a short implementation plan in place before the end of the year; the SCAR Secretariat to provide a template for such a plan (D Cowan, N Bertler, T Wilson, C Escutia, M Sparrow; end 2013)**

**ACTION: Ensure that the new biology SRPs and SSG-LS feed into the next ACCE updates and AntClim21 publications (J Gutt, A Terauds, N Bertler, G Hosie, J Turner; Delegates 2014)**

**ACTION: All SRPs to consider including ex officio members of other relevant SRPs in their steering committees (all SRP COs; ASAP)**

**ACTION: All new SRPs to ensure adequate national representation as far as possible, in particular with regard to Asian and Latin American members (all SRP COs; end 2013)**

## **2.4 The SCAR Science Horizon Scan (WP 15)**

M C Kennicutt II reported on progress with the SCAR Science Horizon Scan. The 1<sup>st</sup> SCAR Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Horizon Scan will assemble 50 of the world's leading Antarctic scientists, policy makers, leaders, and visionaries to identify the most important scientific questions that will or should be addressed by research in and from the southern Polar Regions over the next two decades.

An Action Group (which met in December 2012) was set up to manage the process, including finding external funding to bring the process to fruition. This was replaced by a Steering Committee, which included further international members.

The Tinker Foundation awarded \$200k towards the Scan, with New Zealand contributing a further \$48k and acting as local hosts. The final Retreat for the Horizon Scan will be held on April 21-23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 in Queenstown, New Zealand.

EXCOM thanked the Past President for taking this forward.

## **2.5 Other Science Topics**

### **2.5.1 The International Polar Initiative (IPI) (IP 3)**

M Sparrow updated EXCOM on progress with the IPI, noting that a website has been set up at <http://internationalpolarinitiative.org> and the latest version (December 2012) of the Concept Note can be downloaded from: [http://internationalpolarinitiative.org/IPI\\_Concept\\_v.5-21.12.12.pdf](http://internationalpolarinitiative.org/IPI_Concept_v.5-21.12.12.pdf). EXCOM noted



that there still does not seem to be a critical mass of enthusiasm for this initiative amongst the Antarctic community, however SCAR should remain connected, cooperate with IASC, and follow the development of the initiative.

### 2.5.2 The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) (IP 4)

M Sparrow updated EXCOM on progress with the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). The most urgent research challenges in the Southern Ocean often span traditionally separate scientific disciplines. The SOOS provides the sustained, integrated, multi-disciplinary observations required to meet these challenges.

The last steering committee meeting was held in Shanghai in May 2013 and included a workshop to improve engagement with the Asian community. Another workshop with COMNAP was held in Korea, two weeks before the EXCOM Meeting, in association with the COMNAP AGM. A SOOS data portal has been launched and the SOOS has been endorsed by other relevant organisations. With a project office in Australia, the SOOS is a high-profile activity for both SCAR and its sister organisation, SCOR (the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research).

**ACTION: SOOS to be assigned a set time limit as per all SCAR groups and be subject to a review half way through this period. (M Sparrow; end 2013)**

### 2.5.3 SCAR/IASC Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level group (ISMASS) (WP 16)

M Sparrow presented progress with the SCAR/IASC ISMASS group, including a suggested membership of the Steering Committee, possible partnership with CliC and the first steering meeting to be held in Sheffield on 7th October 2013. The main tasks at the meeting will be to define updated terms of reference for ISMASS, a strategy of ISMASS and a plan of action of ISMASS for the forthcoming years, including a clear definition of the organizational aspects.

A high-profile paper came out of the ISMASS workshop held in Portland:

E. Hanna, F.J. Navarro, F. Pattyn, C.M. Domingues, X. Fettweis, E.R. Ivins, R.J. Nicholls, C. Ritz, B. Smith, S. Tulaczyk, P.L. Whitehouse & H.J. Zwally (2013). Ice-sheet mass balance and climate change. *Nature*, 498, 51-59, doi:10.1038/nature12238.

EXCOM noted that ISMASS should report to SSG-PS since it is an Expert Group of SSG-PS.

EXCOM agreed with the co-sponsorship of ISMASS by CliC, noting that this is consistent with the MoU signed between SCAR, IASC and CliC earlier in the year. They noted the importance of the high-profile paper and of the topic in general. The chairs of the interim steering committee were thanked for taking this important topic forward.

EXCOM approved the core steering committee, but noted that this will need to be expanded to improve the geographical representation.

**ACTION: ISMASS steering committee needs to be expanded to include further geographic representation and also perhaps an early career person. (ISMASS chairs, D Bromwich; ASAP).**

### **2.5.4 The Social Sciences and History Groups (WP 17, WP 18)**

M Sparrow presented the reports of the Social Sciences and History Groups. Both groups responded well to the Horizon Scan activity. EXCOM noted progress and looked forward to discussing the Social Sciences application to become an Expert Group at the Delegates' meeting in 2014.

### **2.5.5 Other**

No other additional items were highlighted under this agenda item.

## **3. Data and Information: Highlights, Progress and Plans (Lead: VP for Science Y-D Kim)**

### **3.1 Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SC-ADM) (WP 19)**

M Sparrow presented progress with SC-ADM. He highlighted the importance of the upcoming SC-ADM meeting held in association with the Polar Data Forum being held in Tokyo on October 13-14, 2013. This provides important links with the Arctic data community through SAON and IASC involvement and to the ICSU-World Data System through the WDS Steering Committee meeting immediately afterwards. He reminded EXCOM of the three overarching projects of SC-ADM, i.e.

Project 1: Interoperable Data Repository Network

Project 2: Improving the Relevance and Utility of SCAR Products

Project 3: Polar Information Commons

Use of the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) continues to increase, with a four-fold increase in metadata over the last 10 years. However, many countries still do not contribute to this facility.

### **3.2 Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI) (WP 20)**

M Sparrow presented progress with SC-AGI. He noted that all work in Antarctica relies on a consistent geographic framework. SC-AGI improves this not only for Antarctic scientific research but also for other activities including operations, environmental management and tourism. SC-AGI also manages various Products, the most high-profile being:

- SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica
- SCAR Antarctic Digital Database
- SCAR Map Catalogue

He noted that, although progress has been good, there is still a need to engage members from other countries, in particular South America.

### **3.3 SCAR Products (IP 5)**

M Sparrow highlighted progress with regard to the SCAR Products. SCAR has several products (see <http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/productsandservices/>).

These products provide scientific information in a form that is useful to scientists and others, for example providing meteorological data (Met-READER) or biodiversity data (e.g. biodiversity.aq) in a more easily usable format or providing access to information on bathymetry in the Southern Ocean (IBCSO). EXCOM noted the importance of the SCAR Products, but also highlighted that not all Products are clearly branded as SCAR.

**ACTION: All SCAR Products to clearly identify themselves as such (e.g. BEDMAP 2) (M Sparrow; end 2013)**

#### **4. Science Partnerships: Highlights, Progress and Plans (Lead: VP for Science Y-D Kim)**

##### **4.1 *The Bipolar Advisory Group and relationship with IASC (WP 21)***

M Sparrow highlighted the important relationship SCAR has with IASC. The SCAR and IASC EXCOMs have joint meetings when possible. The last was held in Krakow, Poland in April 2013. During this meeting, the joint EXCOMs recommended that a permanent SCAR/IASC bipolar group was no longer required, something that the SCAR EXCOM endorsed. Existing SCAR and IASC scientific groups would be requested to consider potential bipolar activities when appropriate.

**ACTION: Possible bipolar activities to be considered by all SSGs as a standard agenda item (SSG COs; SCAR 2014)**

##### **4.2 *Other SCAR Science Partnerships (e.g. APECS, COMNAP, WCRP) (IP 6)***

M Sparrow updated EXCOM on interactions with partner organisations. He highlighted the excellent relationship we currently have with ICSU and ICSU bodies, and the success we have had with obtaining ICSU grants. He noted that SCAR is due for a review by ICSU and suggested 2015 would be the best date to do this, to which EXCOM agreed. SCAR needs to keep a watching brief on activities with Future Earth, noting that currently there is no Antarctic component. The meeting in Auckland 2014 when both SCAR and ICSU meet would be an ideal opportunity to discuss this further.

**Action: ED to communicate with ICSU about the ICSU review of SCAR in 2015 (M Sparrow; ASAP)**

SCAR's relationship with COMNAP has improved considerably over the years, with joint SCAR/COMNAP fellowships and improved coordination within the Treaty system. The SCAR president and vice-president YD Kim attended the last COMNAP General Assembly in Seoul, two weeks before the EXCOM Meeting. EXCOM decided that the joint EXCOM meeting with COMNAP should be in Norway in 2015. The relationship with APECS is also an important one, with many joint activities being undertaken. M Sparrow also reminded EXCOM that SCAR (along with IASC) now endorses Polar Educators International. SCAR has many other partnerships with organisations whose aims coincide with SCAR's.

### **4.3 Update on MoUs with other organisations (WP 22)**

M Sparrow highlighted the various SCAR MoUs and other agreements in force. The following were renewed and signed in April 2013 by the SCAR President:

- Letter of Agreement between SCAR, IASC and IACS
- Memorandum of Understanding between APECS, IASC and SCAR
- Memorandum of Understanding between CliC, IASC and SCAR

He highlighted that when MoUs come up for renewal the benefits of such agreements need to be carefully considered.

**ACTION: Consider renewal of MoU with the IAI in 2013 and the IPA in 2014 (K Lochte, M Sparrow)**

## **5. SCAR and Policy Advice (Lead: SCAR President)**

### **5.1 Report of Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SC-ATS) (WP 23)**

S Chown reported on progress with SC-ATS and interactions with the Treaty. SCAR provided five Working Papers (WPs), six Information Papers (IPs) and three Background Papers (BP) to the 2013 Treaty meeting. Many were submitted jointly with other Parties, Observers and Experts. The SCAR Lecture, given by MC Kennicutt II and jointly authored with J Wadham, was entitled 'Probing the Limits of Technology: Exploration of Subglacial Aquatic Environments'. The Treaty agreed on the first draft of a multi-year strategic plan. Along with the successful CEP five-year plan, these documents will be useful to SCAR when it comes to its own priority-setting for advice to the ATCM.

S Chown explained that the papers submitted to the Treaty are chosen in two ways (a) SCAR is asked directly for advice or (b) SCAR highlights issues it believes are of importance to Treaty Parties. A discussion was held on the importance of objectivity in SCAR papers. S Chown agreed that SCAR has to be very sensitive to this issue and SC-ATS will not have its name associated with a paper if this is not adhered to. The Past President reminded EXCOM that providing information on SCAR programmes or other groups is often useful, the new SCAR SRPs being a good example.

It was pointed out that the term of S Chown as CO officially ends in August 2014 and that some of the other members are also due to rotate off. Of particular importance was ensuring there is sufficient hand-over time for a new CO of SC-ATS. S Chown agreed that he would be prepared to extend his time with SC-ATS in some capacity to ensure there is a smooth continuation of leadership.

**ACTION: Need to revise SC-ATS membership, including addition of new members, rotating off some members and membership time periods. (S Chown, M Sparrow, EXCOM)**

EXCOM agreed that the Head of the SCAR Delegation at the ATCMs should usually be the SCAR President, being replaced by the Executive Director when the President is not present.

## **5.2 The Antarctic Conservation Strategy and Environments Portal (IP 7, IP 8)**

S Chown highlighted progress with the Antarctic Conservation Strategy (ACS) and the Environments Portal.

S Chown reminded EXCOM that in recognition of growing use of and environmental threats to Antarctica, as well as something of a piecemeal approach to SCAR concerning various conservation threats, a proposal was accepted by the SCAR Delegates for a major activity to develop a Conservation Strategy for Antarctica (the ACS). Development of the strategy will also identify knowledge gaps that SCAR could help fill as part of its vision to re-assert international leadership in Antarctic science. A joint workshop is being held with COMNAP in September 2013 to investigate how National Antarctic Programmes should best engage with the ACS. An open mini-symposium will also be held in Auckland, New Zealand as part of the SCAR Open Science Conference. Monaco has also offered to host a further workshop in early 2015 to allow discussion of the interactions between the ACS and conservation strategies world-wide. Discussions with Monaco delegates about this were held during the Biology Symposium the previous week to the EXCOM Meeting.

SCAR, with New Zealand, and Australia recognised that there is a pressing need to improve the availability of, and access to, scientific syntheses and high quality information to inform decision-making to support the effective implementation of the Madrid Protocol. The Environments Portal being developed primarily by New Zealand is a vehicle to do just that. The Portal is a vehicle to give additional effect to SCAR's vision of re-establishing its pre-eminence as a scientific advisor to the Antarctic Treaty System (in keeping with the 2011-2016 strategic plan) in a cost effective manner, and which leverages the benefits of significant partnerships. S Chown clarified that the summary of relevant topics would be based on peer-reviewed literature only, but that a timeline of all submitted Treaty papers would also be included for reference.

## **5.3 Interactions with CCAMLR (WP 24)**

R Badhe updated EXCOM on interaction with CCAMLR, including the outcomes of a joint SCAR/CCAMLR AG Meeting, held in Brussels in May 2013 in the margins of the ATCM, to work towards a more strategic partnership. She reminded meeting attendees of the background and terms of reference of the joint AG on CCAMLR. She highlighted the Actions from the AG meeting, which the SCAR President, ED, EO and B Danis attended on behalf of SCAR.

EXCOM commented that this is an excellent initiative and that SCAR's interactions with CCAMLR are steadily improving, though further work and interactions were needed.

**ACTION: ED to check SCAR CCAMLR representative is willing to continue in this role (M Sparrow, ASAP)**

## **5.4 Advice to other bodies such as IPCC (Oral)**

M Sparrow reported on interactions with other policy bodies such as the IPCC and UNFCCC. He noted that we had in the past sent SCAR representatives to key IPCC workshops and that using an external grant from Norway, for climate

communications, sent representatives to the last UNFCCC meeting in Bonn, Germany in June 2013.

## **6. Capacity Building, Education and Training: Progress and Plans (Lead: VP for CBET K Lochte)**

### **6.1 The Martha T Muse Prize (IP 9)**

The Executive Officer, R Badhe, reported on the Martha T Muse Prize. She highlighted that the Tinker Foundation has agreed to fund the prize for another five years. She also showed the distribution of gender and discipline of the applications. A review process has been instigated for the Prize itself at the request of the Tinker Foundation. The Past President reminded EXCOM that a Muse Prize Colloquium will be held in 2014, in association with the Horizon Scan activity in New Zealand.

### **6.2 The SCAR/COMNAP Fellowship Programme (IP 10)**

R Badhe reported on the SCAR/COMNAP Fellowship Scheme. EXCOM agreed with the fellowship review committee on the 2013 five main nominations. A discussion was held on the sixth and final nomination, which was awarded according to a vote.

**ACTION: For the next Fellowship reviews the EO to provide reviewers with statistics of country of origin of winners (R Badhe; March 2014)**

### **6.3 The Visiting Professor Scheme (IP 11)**

R Badhe gave a brief update to EXCOM on the new Visiting Professor Scheme, noting that the scheme is currently open for applications until 16 August 2013.

### **6.4 The CBET Committee and future plans (IP 12)**

K Lochte presented progress with the CBET Committee and future plans, including an update of the SCAR CBET Plan from 2006. The CBET Committee is involved in various awards, including the review of the Martha Muse Prize. K Lochte suggested that some of the CBET Committee take on various tasks such as management of the various SCAR schemes in order to assist with Secretariat workload.

**ACTION: CBET committee to be asked to take on specific tasks; CBET chair and EO to lead (K Lochte, R Badhe; ASAP)**

## **7. Communications: Progress and Plans (Lead: VP for Admin and Outreach S Marensi)**

### **7.1 The SCAR Website (IP 13)**

M Sparrow reported on progress with the new SCAR Website. He noted that the final designs will be completed in August and work to transfer the relevant information would be done shortly after. All groups would have responsibility for their own web-space, though with the Secretariat having overall control. EXCOM commented that it

was important to ensure the information in the old website was conserved and still accessible.

## **7.2 Other Communications activities (e.g. Climate Communications, Social Networking, publications including the SCAR Newsletter) (IP 14)**

R Badhe reported on other communications activities, including the SCAR Newsletter, Social Media, News from the Secretariat, President's Notes and the Climate Communications initiative.

## **8. Major Meetings (Lead: VP for Admin and Outreach S Marensi)**

### **8.1 Plans for 2014 SCAR Delegates meeting and OSC, including abstract submissions (IP 15)**

The chair of the OSC 2014 meeting, B Storey, updated EXCOM on progress with regard to the OSC 2014 Meeting. A discussion was held on the most efficient way to handle the abstracts, with the final decision being that the LOC would do this rather than the SCAR Secretariat. Since ICSU will also be handling their General Assembly around the same time as SCAR's Delegates' meeting, EXCOM also agreed with B Storey's suggestion that a joint icebreaker be held with ICSU.

### **8.2 Updates for ISAES 2015 and OSC 2016 (IP 16)**

S Marensi provided a short update on plans with regard to ISAES 2015 in Goa (India).

## **9. SCAR Business (EXCOM only) (Lead: VP for Admin and Outreach S Marensi)**

### **9.1 Secretariat Report (WP 25)**

M Sparrow presented the Secretariat report. The SCAR Secretariat consists of:

- Mike Sparrow (ED) and Renuka Badhe (EO), full-time. EO 20% by external funds
- Rosemary Nash (50% time). 10% external funds
- Eoghan Griffin (~50%). 100% external funds
- Various interns managed by EO

Untaken leave, particularly by the EO is a problem. M Sparrow noted that the Secretariat does not have the capacity to take on additional tasks. The hosting of the SCAR Secretariat was discussed. EXCOM noted that, in the future, the hosting of the Secretariat could be put out to tender, but that current hosting at SPRI in the UK was an excellent location. It was noted that it would be a positive development for SCAR if the facilities provided by the hosting institution could be improved as are in the case of other international secretariats. EXCOM recognized the Secretariat is doing a good job and noted that, taking into account the increasing workload, further prioritisation

of activities was needed, in particular regarding their participation in travel and external meetings. It was also pointed out that when significant new workload requirements are received by the secretariat, the ED jointly with EXCOM should evaluate the possibility of hiring new people for the new functions.

**ACTION: EO to check with regard to personal liability insurance for all employees working in SCAR Office (R Badhe, ASAP);**

**ACTION: To include details of the SCAR interns and their roles in quarterly reports to EXCOM (R Badhe; ongoing)**

## **9.2 Potential new membership (IP 17)**

S Marensi informed EXCOM of discussions held with potential new SCAR members and noted that membership arrears were minimal.

**ACTION: ED to send reminders to potential members as well as remind potential SCAR members about procedure and who is responsible for paying membership dues (M Sparrow; September 2013)**

## **10. Finance (EXCOM only) (Lead: VP for Finance B Storey)**

### **10.1 Financial Statement for 2012 (WP 26a,b)**

B Storey presented the Financial Statement for 2012 which, after discussion, EXCOM approved.

### **10.2 Revised Budgets for 2013 and 2014 (WP 27, WP 28)**

B Storey presented the revised budgets for 2013 and 2014. After some discussion of allocations, EXCOM approved the revised budgets subject to their recommendations.

### **10.3 Draft Budget for 2015 (WP 29)**

B Storey presented the draft budget for 2015, which was approved by EXCOM.

### **10.4 Progress with SCAR Development Council (WP 30)**

J López-Martínez presented an update on the SCAR Development Council. He reminded EXCOM that the President, and ED with the EO had held separate meetings with P Convey to discuss the way ahead. EXCOM commented that the list of recommended people for the Council needed to be reconsidered. The Council needs to include experienced people well-versed in writing proposals and with connections to funding agencies and foundations.

**ACTION: A meeting to discuss the membership and next steps of the Development Council to be held in Cambridge (M Sparrow, P Convey, J López-Martínez; ASAP)**

### **10.5 Finance Strategy update (WP 31)**

B Storey presented an update on the SCAR financial strategy, which included consideration of the last Business Plan, the requirements of the SCAR groups and



Secretariat and the concerns of the Delegates with regard to efficient use of resources. He outlined the positive changes since the increase in fees was agreed, with an increase in science spending, etc. External income has also increased. EXCOM noted that an updated version of these figures needed to be shown at the SCAR 2014 Delegates' Meeting.

EXCOM also agreed with the procedure for allocating the SCAR contingency funds.

**ACTION: Post 2006-2016 expenditure and income charts to show year-on-year changes for Delegates (R Badhe; Delegates 2014)**

## **11. Actions Arising (Lead: SCAR President)**

### **11.1 Actions from EXCOM 2013 (Oral)**

It was agreed that a draft list of Actions would be sent to all meeting attendees within a week of the EXCOM meeting.

### **11.2 Other Business**

A discussion followed about Observers at EXCOM meetings. EXCOM felt that the highest priorities, when inviting Observers, were the local National SCAR Delegate and an APECS representative, nominated by the APECS international office.

**ACTION: Invite the local National SCAR Delegate to EXCOM meetings as an Observer, and one APECS representative (nominated by the APECS international office) (Secretariat; Ongoing)**

EXCOM also noted that EXCOM papers should highlight the main decisions and updated information and not include unnecessary background information.

## **12. Closure of the meeting**

The SCAR President, J López-Martínez, closed the meeting.

**List of Acronyms**

AAA	Astronomy & Astrophysics from Antarctica
ABI	Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics
ACS	Antarctic Conservation Strategy
AG	Action Group
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AGU	American Geophysical Union
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
ANTOS	Antarctic Near-shore and Terrestrial Observing System
APECS	Association of Polar Early Career Scientists
ASAP	as soon as possible
ATCM	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
ATS	Antarctic Treaty System
BEDMAP	Antarctic Bedrock Mapping
CBET	Capacity Building, Education and Training
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CEP	Committee for Environmental Protection (Antarctic Treaty)
CGA	Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica
CliC	Climate and Cryosphere Project (a project of the World Climate Research Programme)
CO	Chief Officer
COMNAP	Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs
CPR	Continuous Plankton Recorder
EBA	Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic
ECA	Environmental Contamination in Antarctica
ED	Executive Director
EG	Expert Group
EG-ABI	Expert Group on Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics
EO	Executive Officer
EXCOM	Executive Committee
GRAPE	GNSS Research and Application for Polar Environment
IACS	International Association of Cryospheric Sciences
IAI	International Antarctic Institute
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
IBCSO	International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean
ICED	Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics
ICSU	International Council for Science

IP	Information Paper
IPA	International Permafrost Association
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPI	International Polar Initiative
IPICS	International Partnership in Ice Core Science
ISAES	International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences
ISMSS	Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level
LoA	Letter of Agreement
LOC	Local Organising Committee
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Antarctic Programme
OA	(Southern) Ocean Acidification (Action Group)
OSC	Open Science Conference
PAIS	Past Antarctic Ice Sheet dynamics
PEI	Polar Educators International
PIC	Polar Information Commons
READER	REference Antarctic Data for Environmental Research
SAON	Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks
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
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SCOR	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
SCOSTEP	Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics
SERCE	Solid Earth Response and influence on Cryosphere Evolution
SOOS	Southern Ocean Observing System
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
UNFCCC	United National Framework Convention on Climate Change
VP	Vice President
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WDS	World Data System
WP	Working Paper