



International  
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**Paper No: 15    Agenda item: 4.1**  
SCAR Standing                      SC-ATS  
Committee  
Person                                Susie Grant  
Responsible:

## **SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2023**

**Trieste, Italy, 15-16 September 2023**

# **Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System 2022-23 Report**

### **Report Author(s)**

Susie Grant (UK)

### **Summary**

During 2022-23, the SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SC-ATS) continued to provide independent, evidence based, scientific advice from SCAR to the bodies of the Antarctic Treaty System on a wide range of topics, particularly relating to environmental and conservation matters. In developing its advice, SC-ATS has consulted with SCAR experts and groups to compile information and to formulate recommendations on issues relevant to policy and management. This has included i) responses to direct requests for information or advice, and ii) proactive advice drawing attention to emerging issues. Advice has been delivered to the annual meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the CCAMLR Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR), as well as being communicated throughout the year during intersessional consultations, online activities and workshops.

A particular highlight from this period was the inaugural Ant-ICON/SC-ATS Science Policy Fellowship awards, which have provided opportunities for early-mid career researchers to gain experience of policy forums by participating in ATCM and CCAMLR meetings. Following successful participation of the first two Fellows, we plan to extend this scheme for 2024.

Specific challenges for SC-ATS include:

- Maintaining SCAR's scientific independence and objectivity as an Observer to the ATCM and CCAMLR, as well as ensuring equity and inclusivity in the development of advice – and effectively demonstrating this to Treaty Parties and CCAMLR Members.
- High workloads of the ATCM, CEP and CCAMLR, and the capacity of SCAR groups and SC-ATS members to develop and deliver advice as requested.
- Structure and membership of SC-ATS – ensuring manageable workloads and clear responsibilities for members, as well as representation and input from all relevant science groups. Current CO will be stepping down at the end of her term in 2024, and other members have also reached the end of their terms.
- Communication between SC-ATS and SCAR science groups, to share outcomes and requests from ATCM/CEP and CCAMLR meetings, highlight priority topics, and collaborate on identifying and prioritising future SCAR contributions (see proposed webinar below).

- Communication of practical advice to science groups on the provision of information to policy bodies (see proposed practical guidance document below).
- Provision of advice on climate change – need for re-instatement of an ACCE (or similar) group to develop future updates?

We request that the Executive Committee and SCAR group leaders consider how these challenges could be addressed to ensure that SCAR's advice continues to be developed with input from across the full representation of its groups and expertise, and provided to the ATS in a timely, relevant and effective manner that is useful to policymakers.

## Standing Committee updates since 2022 Delegates Meeting

### What has been achieved?

Date	Activity
October 2022	Advice provided to annual CCAMLR Scientific Committee and Commission meetings ( <i>see papers below</i> ), including an invited SCAR lecture on the Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) Decadal Synopsis report, delivered by Prof Steven Chown.
January 2023	First two Ant-ICON/SC-ATS Science-Policy Fellowships awarded to early/mid-career researchers.
March 2023	Advice provided to ATCM Workshop on the Future of Antarctic Tourism.
May/June 2023	Advice provided to annual Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and Committee on Environmental Protection ( <i>see papers below</i> ). Invited SCAR presentation to the CEP Strategic Planning workshop on "What does the science community / SCAR need from the CEP to enable action?", given by Dr Susie Grant. SCAR Lecture to the ATCM on "Satellite-based science and the changing nature of what it means to "explore" Antarctica", delivered by Prof Heather Lynch. Invited SCAR presentation to the ATCM/CEP special session on climate change on the SCAR ACCE Decadal Synopsis, given by Prof Steven Chown.
June 2023	Advice provided to CCAMLR Special Meeting on Marine Protected Areas ( <i>see paper below</i> ).
September 2023	Advice provided to CCAMLR Workshop on Climate Change ( <i>see papers below</i> ).

### What lies ahead?

Date	Activity
(ongoing - by end 2023)	Development of a practical guidance document for SCAR science groups on provision of advice and information to policy bodies – to include information on e.g. roles and responsibilities, expectations, types and aims of policy-relevant papers, review processes and deadlines.

tbc (late 2023?)	Webinar for SCAR science groups – to communicate outcomes and requests from 2023 ATCM/CEP and CCAMLR meetings, highlight priority topics, and identify/prioritise future SCAR contributions.
October 2023	CCAMLR Scientific Committee and Commission meetings.
November 2023	Launch next round of Ant-ICON/SC-ATS Science-Policy Fellowships.
June 2024	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and Committee on Environmental Protection.

## Budget

### Changes to planned use of funds for 2023 and 2024

There are no changes to the planned use of funds.

## Membership

### Changes to SC Leadership since 2022 Delegates Meeting report

There are no current changes to SC-ATS leadership. However, the Chief Officer (Susie Grant) will step down in 2024 at the end of her term in this role.

### SCAR Fellowship Reviewers

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Principal Expertise
Susie	Grant	suan@bas.ac.uk	Marine conservation, spatial management, benthic ecology
Daniela	Liggett	daniela.liggett@canterbury.ac.nz	Humanities and social sciences

## Additional information (optional)

### Outreach, communication and capacity-building activities

SC-ATS and Ant-ICON collaborated to develop a joint science-policy fellowship scheme, and the first two fellowships were awarded in January 2023. Dr Lucia Ziegler (Centro Universitario Regional del Este, Universidad de la República, Uruguay) attended the CEP/ATCM meetings in June 2023, and presented her research on the assessment of anthropogenic noise in Antarctic terrestrial ecosystems. Dr Kirsten Steinke (Oregon State University, United States) will attend the CCAMLR meetings in October 2023, and will present her research on the effects of climate variability on krill reproduction.

The fellowship programme aims to provide the opportunity for EMCRs to gain experience in the science-policy interface from participating in Antarctic policy forums through the preparation and potential submission of a science/policy paper based on their research, in collaboration with SC-ATS. The programme was specifically

welcomed by the CEP as important in “furthering the integration between science and management” (CEPXXV Report, paragraph 216).

## Major Products

1. **CCAMLR Scientific Committee – SC-CAMLR-41 (October 2022)** – 7 Background Papers (see Appendix 1)
2. **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting & Committee on Environmental Protection – ATCM XLV–CEP XXV (May/June 2023)** – 3 Working Papers and 14 Information Papers (see Appendix 2)
3. **CCAMLR Special Meeting on Marine Protected Areas – CCAMLR-SM-III (June 2023)** – 1 Background Paper (see Appendix 3)
4. **CCAMLR Scientific Committee Workshop on Climate Change CCAMLR WS-CC (September 2023)** – 2 Workshop Papers (see Appendix 3)

## Major Impacts

Major impacts this year have included the ongoing importance of the 2022 Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment ACCE Decadal Synopsis Report. The CEP/ATCM special session on climate change aimed to implement the ACCE recommendations, and resulted in the [Helsinki Declaration on Climate Change and the Antarctic](#), in which the Parties agreed to:

*Invite SCAR to continue to provide annual updates to its ACCE report and reconfirm our commitment to take account of the best scientific and technical advice available in taking appropriate measures to deliver our commitments made in the Protocol on Environmental Protection for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems;*

SCAR was invited to deliver an introductory presentation on the ACCE report at this special session, as well as a lecture on the ACCE report to the 2022 CAMLR meeting – both of these were delivered by Steven Chown, and were very well received.

The CEP welcomed SCAR’s advice on a range of topics, endorsing further work by ANTOS to establish a network of nearshore and terrestrial observation systems at sites around the continent, as well as work by Ant-ICON to develop approaches for State of the Antarctic Environment Reporting. Both of these initiatives will have an important impact on CEP priority work to develop internationally coordinated and collaborative environmental monitoring frameworks.

The SCAR Wildlife Health Monitoring Network has worked closely with SC-ATS, IAATO and COMNAP to develop advice and practical guidance on the risk of avian influenza in Antarctica. Advice on this was welcomed by the CEP, and a recent workshop during the SCAR Biology Symposium has brought experts together to further identify approaches for surveillance, reporting and mitigation of risk in the coming Antarctic field seasons.

Advice was also provided to the ATCM in response to a request for information on seismic risk in Antarctica (Geosciences), and on projected sea-level rise and potential impacts on Antarctic coastal environments and infrastructure (INSTANT).

Both topics are being addressed in collaboration with COMNAP as part of ongoing projects, and were welcomed by the Treaty Parties as highly relevant to their discussions on climate change, safety and operations.

During 2022-23, SC-ATS has further developed collaborations with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on providing climate change updates for the ATS and identifying future mechanisms for the delivery of regular, relevant information on the effects of climate change in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

**Direct support from outside organisations received for your activities**

N/A

**Major collaborations your Committee has with other SCAR groups and with organisations/groups beyond SCAR**

**Within SCAR**

1. Ant-ICON – State of the Antarctic Environment Reporting; systematic conservation planning; interpretation of CEP science needs.
2. AntClimNow – ACCE updates
3. INSTANT – ACCE updates; understanding future sea-level change around Antarctica
4. Geosciences – seismic risk in Antarctica
5. Ant-TAG
6. ANTOS
7. EG-BAMM
8. ICED
9. ImPACT
10. MEASO
11. Plastics AG
12. RINGS
13. SKEG
14. SOOS

**Outside SCAR**

1. Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP) – seismic activity risk; avian influenza
2. International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) – systematic conservation planning project; avian influenza
3. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Key Biodiversity Areas; representative protected area systems
4. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) – sea-level rise; future ACCE updates and reports.

**Updates for your group's SCAR web page**

N/A

**Other information for publicity purposes**

N/A

## Appendix 1

### SCAR submissions to CCAMLR-41 (2022)

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Authors</b>
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/19	SCAR Annual Report to CCAMLR 2022	SCAR
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/20	Heightened risk of avian influenza in the Southern Ocean	SCAR & IAATO
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/21	Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment: a Decadal Synopsis	SCAR
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/22	Workshop on Identifying Key Biodiversity Areas for the Southern Ocean Using Tracking Data	SCAR & IUCN
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/23	The Southern Ocean contribution to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	SCAR, SCOR, IAATO, Netherlands & Belgium
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/24	Recent highlights and future plans of the Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Southern Ocean (ICED) Programme	SCAR
SC-CAMLR-41/BG/25	Marine Ecosystem Assessment for the Southern Ocean (MEASO) Progress, key outcomes to date, and next steps	SCAR

## Appendix 2

### SCAR submissions to ATCM XLV–CEP XXV (2023)

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Authors</b>
WP018	Contribution of information to inform State of the Antarctic Environment Reporting (SAER): a potential new SCAR initiative	SCAR
WP042	SCAR updates on Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment	SCAR
WP049	Antarctic Near-shore and Terrestrial Observing System (ANTOS)	SCAR, New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Republic of Korea, United States
IP010	SCAR Annual Report 2023 to the ATCM	SCAR
IP047	Summary of SCAR's Strategic Plan 2023-2028	SCAR
IP048	Systematic Conservation Plan for the Antarctic Peninsula Project Updates and Next Steps	SCAR & IAATO
IP049	SCAR Lecture: "Satellite-based science and the changing nature of what it means to "explore" Antarctica"	SCAR
IP050	Plans for a fifth International Polar Year 2032/33	SCAR & WMO

IP075	Antarctic Environments Portal	SCAR
IP077	The SCAR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Group	SCAR
IP078	Plastic Pollution in the Southern Ocean	SCAR
IP095	Understanding Future Sea-level Change Around Antarctica	SCAR & COMNAP
IP096	Seismic activity and associated risk in Antarctica	SCAR
IP098	Marine Ecosystem Assessment for the Southern Ocean (MEASO) - Key Findings and Recommendations	SCAR
IP100	Anthropogenic noise in Antarctic terrestrial environments	SCAR
IP101	Heightened Risk of Avian Influenza in the Antarctic Treaty Area	SCAR, IAATO & COMNAP
IP104	Update on the Southern Ocean contribution to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	SCAR, Belgium, Netherlands & WMO

## Appendix 3

### SCAR submissions to CCAMLR-SM-III and CCAMLR WS-CC (2023)

<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Authors</b>
CCAMLR-SM-III/BG/08	The importance of marine protected areas in enhancing ecosystem resilience to climate change impacts	SCAR
WS-CC-23/xx	SCAR affiliated research activities relevant to CCAMLR work on climate change	SCAR
WS-CC-23/xx	Marine Ecosystem Assessment of the Southern Ocean	SCAR & SCOR