

## **New directions for data management within SCAR**

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management (JCADM) took place in Rome in September. JCADM welcomed several new member states bringing the total number of countries represented on JCADM to 31, of which there were 20 countries represented in Rome (a new record for JCADM). The meeting involved consultation on the new (draft) SCAR Data Strategy, saw presentations on new tools and services for the science community, and examined further developments of links with the SCAR Science Groups.

Central to the draft data strategy is the need to enable interdisciplinary science through adopting new technologies and standards for enabling novel ways of accessing and integrating data, and building on the expertise of international data initiatives. This was recognised as becoming increasingly important as SCAR embarks on several initiatives to build Antarctic and Southern Ocean Observing Systems.

The Antarctic Master Directory presented its metadata discovery tools and its new initiatives to set up dedicated portals for science programmes, such as the Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) portal (see [http://gcmd.nasa.gov/KeywordSearch/amd/scar\\_projects.html](http://gcmd.nasa.gov/KeywordSearch/amd/scar_projects.html)), and its new tool for viewing metadata in Google Earth.

The SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network ([www.scarmarbin.be](http://www.scarmarbin.be)) presented its huge success in bringing together marine biodiversity data across the Southern Ocean, and encouraged more work on integrating physical and biological oceanographic data, and forging more links with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

Presentations on behalf of the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI – [www.antsdi.scar.org](http://www.antsdi.scar.org)) demonstrated new tools for improving access to spatial data, including the Antarctic Digital Database ([www.add.scar.org](http://www.add.scar.org)), the SCAR Feature Catalogue (standardising how spatial data are attributed), and the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica, which will all be delivered as dynamic web services.

New directions for data management were discussed, including advances towards new models of highly distributed data collaborations based on networking and common data standards, the increasing use of virtual globes for integrating interdisciplinary data, and the increasing use of web services.

JCADM will provide support to the SCAR Scientific Research Programmes in implementing these new tools and technologies, and will enable further consultation on the SCAR Data Strategy through the JCADM representatives within the Scientific Research Programmes.