



SOOS

SOUTHERN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

An update on SOOS activities in 2011

The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) is an initiative of SCAR, SCOR, POGO and other international bodies, with the mission to establish a multidisciplinary observing system to deliver the sustained observations of the Southern Ocean. These observations are needed to address key challenges of scientific and societal relevance, including climate change, sea-level rise, and the impacts of global change on marine ecosystems.

This document highlights the achievements of the SOOS in 2011, and upcoming planned activities.

1) The International Project Office (IPO)

The IPO opened in late August. The IPO is hosted by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), University of Tasmania (Australia). The Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) will also provide some support for the SOOS IPO for the 2011/2012 financial year. The role of the IPO is to act as a central contact point for SOOS, monitor progress towards SOOS goals, facilitate coordination of field work, assist in the organisation of workshops, and synthesis activities, and coordinate a Website and other activities to advertise the aims and achievements of the SOOS.

2) Executive Officer

IMAS hosting also includes support for an Executive Officer to run the IPO and associated SOOS activities. The Executive Officer selected was Dr Louise Newman, who started the position with the opening of the SOOS IPO in August.

3) Budget

SCAR and SCOR provide support for the annual Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) meeting, up to 10,000 USD each.

A budget for the running of the IPO has been developed for 2011 and 2012. This budget was a conservative estimate of expected costs of the IPO in its first year. The budget needs are being met predominantly by IMAS, with some additional support by the AAD promised for the current financial year. AAD support beyond this is not secured. Development of the IPO budget beyond 2012 will be done through discussions with the SOOS SSC and IMAS. For the SOOS to grow the budget and support will also need to grow.

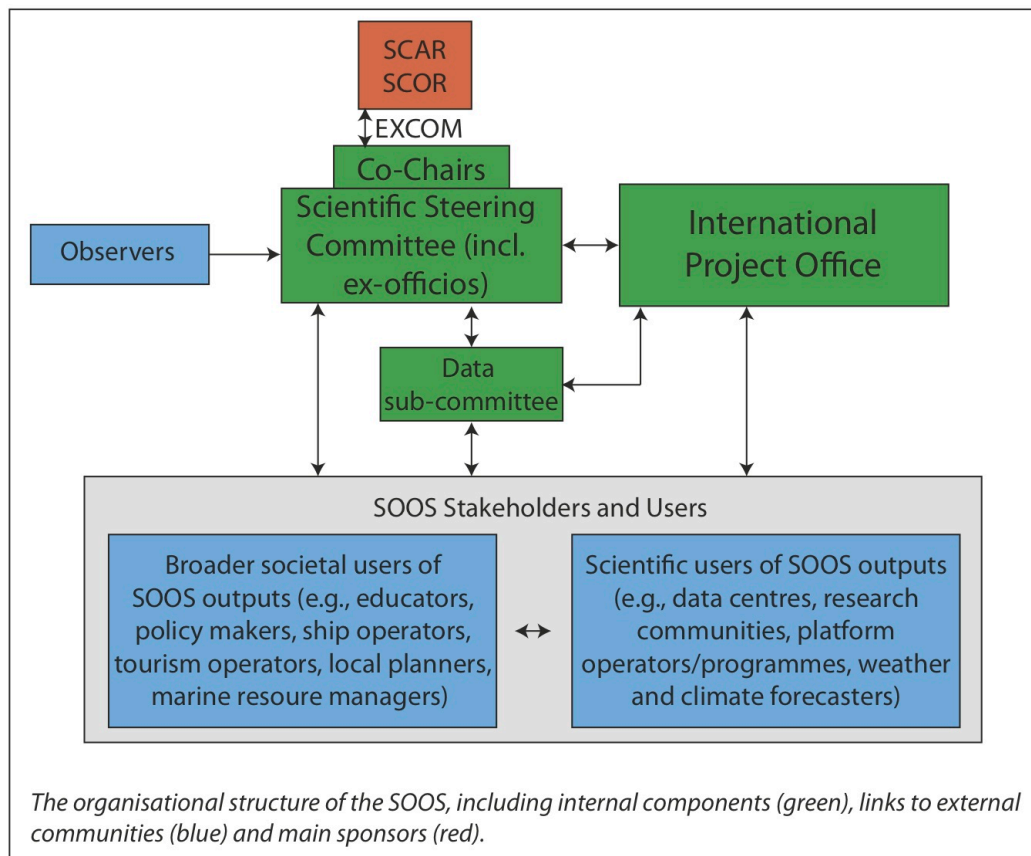
A key activity for the Executive Officer over the coming year is to secure more IPO funding.

The budget does not include any costs of running workshops etc. Funding for these sorts of activities will be sought on a case-by-case basis.

4) SOOS Initial Science and Implementation Strategy

This document has now been published and is available for download from the SCOR website (http://www.scor-int.org/SOOS/SOOS_Report_Final.pdf) and soon also from the SOOS website (www.soos.aq). It is also available in hardcopy by request to the SOOS IPO (Louise.Newman@utas.edu.au).

5) Governance Structure (Note: This figure is a draft and needs final approval by the Scientific Steering Committee.)



6) SOOS Scientific Steering Committee (SSC)

The SSC was recently selected, following an international call for nominations. Note: Because of a move to a new position, John Gunn will step down from the Co-Chair (and SSC) in February 2012

SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
Name	Affiliation	Role
Stephen Ackley	Uni. of Texas San Antonio, USA	SSC Member
Parli Venkateswaran Bhaskar	National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research, India	SSC Member
Angelika Brandt	Uni of Hamburg, Germany	SSC Member
Daniel Costa	University of California, USA	SSC Member
Kim Finney	Australian Antarctic Division	SSC Member, Data Manager
Alberto Naveira Garabato	National Oceanographic Centre, UK	SSC Member, WCRP SO Panel ex-officio
John Gunn	Australian Antarctic Division	Co-Chair
Jiping Liu	Chinese Academy of Sciences	SSC Member
Mauricio Mata	Fed Uni. Of Rio Grande, Brazil	SSC Member
Michael Meredith	British Antarctic Survey, UK	Co-Chair, POGO ex-officio
Steve Rintoul	CSIRO, Australia	SSC Member, WCRP SO Panel ex-officio
Oscar Schofield	Rutgers University	SSC Member
Sebastiaan Swart	Uni. of Cape Town, South Africa	SSC Member
Bronte Tillbrook	CSIRO, Australia	SSC Member
Anna Wahlin	Uni. of Gothenburg, Sweden	SSC Member

Ex-Officio members		
Name	Affiliation	Role
Tosca Ballerini	Centre d'Océanologie de Marseille, France	APECS Ex-officio
Andrew Constable	Australian Antarctic Division	ICED-Sentinel Ex-officio
Mike Sparrow	SCAR Secretariat	SCAR Ex-officio
Ed Urban	SCOR Secretariat	SCOR Ex-officio

International Project Office		
Name	Affiliation	Role
Louise Newman	University of Tasmania, Aus	Executive Officer

7) The first SSC meeting

The first meeting of the SOOS SSC will take place on the 18-19 February 2012 in Salt Lake City (Utah, USA), to coincide with the Ocean Sciences Meeting. Key agenda items include:

- Defining SOOS objectives
- Operating model (and Terms of Reference) for the committee, IPO and initiative as a whole
- Objectives for data management, and development of a data policy
- Cross-programmatic, -disciplinary, -national links
- SOOS funding
- Development of detailed steps towards implementation of objectives
- Workshops
- Communication strategy
- Endorsements (for and by SOOS)

8) Communication

The communication strategy is currently being developed. A number of activities that contribute to this have been initiated:

- *Website*: The address is www.soos.aq and the design has been finalised and the programming is currently underway. It will be online by the mid-February 2012 SSC meeting. (Note that aq = Antarctica)
- *SOOS flyer*: In the design phase, expected to be available for distribution at the Ocean Sciences Meeting (20 Feb 2012)
- *SOOS newsletter*: Currently in concept phase, first issue likely by April 2012

9) Data Management

A Data Management Sub-Committee is in development, led by Kim Finney the data management expert on the SSC. The role of the committee will be to develop the SOOS data portal, liaise with international and national data centres, and push forward with the development of important data products. The SOOS data portal will be one of the central features of the system.