

Dear Antarctic colleague:

I wish to invite you to read and critically comment on the two draft research proposals (attached) that the Life Sciences Standing Scientific Group will be submitting to SCAR in April 2012. If supported, these will become the defining life sciences research programmes for SCAR over the next decade.

A new direction is being taken: we will build on the successes of **Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic**, our current Scientific Research Programme, which will end in 2013, by submitting two proposals rather than one, with foci that are complementary but different in time and scale.

**State of the Antarctic Ecosystem (AntECO)** will focus on past and present large scale patterns of biodiversity in Antarctic and subantarctic environments.

**Antarctic Thresholds - Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation (AnT-ERA)** will focus on changes in biological processes with resulting change in small to intermediate scale patterns there.

We are seeking your expertise in hopes that you will help us achieve this aim. Please feel free to circulate these draft proposals to your colleagues. Please note that:

- We are page limited, so cannot enlarge the proposal without removing other parts
- We require your review by **Thursday January 12, 2012**

Please send your comments, with cc to me ([kconlan@mus-nature.ca](mailto:kconlan@mus-nature.ca)), to:

**AntECO:** Don Cowan ([dcowan@uwc.ac.za](mailto:dcowan@uwc.ac.za))

**AnT-ERA:** Julian Gutt ([Julian.Gutt@awi.de](mailto:Julian.Gutt@awi.de))

Thank you and best wishes,  
Kathy Conlan