SCAR guidelines for accepting donations – DRAFT version 9.1.08

Developed by the Secretariat in response to Executive Committee Action 75 (Washington, DC, July 2007): The Secretariat to draft a paper on ethical guidelines with respect to accepting donations, for consideration by XXX SCAR.

Background research has involved examination of the ethical policies of several organisations including SCAR’s parent body The International Council for Science (ICSU), The Association for Polar Early Career Scientists (APECs), The Cooperative Bank, F&C Investments’ ‘A guide to Ethical Investing for Charities’ and Oxfam GB as well as information contained in the International Non Governmental Organizations Accountability Charter.

Accepting Donations
In raising funds, we will accurately describe our activities and needs.

A donation shall not be accepted if it could compromise the independence of SCAR.¹

The decision whether to accept a donation will be made on a case by case basis, but SCAR will not knowingly accept funding or assistance from a company, business or individual that:
- profits from illegal activities
- fails to uphold basic human rights within its sphere of influence
- is involved in the arms trade, tobacco product manufacture or the extraction of natural resources
- has a detrimental ecological or environmental impact

Use of Donations²
Funds derived from donations accepted by SCAR shall be used in accordance with the agreements made with the donors. Some donations (gifts in kind) may be given as goods or services. All donations should further SCAR’s mission.

Agents²
Donations sought indirectly, such as through third parties, should be solicited and received in full conformity with our own practices. This will normally be the subject of written agreement between the parties.

Transparency
Details of all donations, gifts, grants and other resources from external sources, and their use, will be published in the SCAR annual reports and accounts, making plain the valuation and auditing methods used.

References
1. Adapted from ICSU document: STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE As approved by the 28th Session of the General Assembly of ICSU Suzhou, China, October 2005
2. Adapted from: International Non Governmental Organizations: Accountability Charter (http://www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org/)