XXXI SCAR Delegates Meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 August 2010

Chief Officers’ Meeting report
Punta Arenas
4th August 2009
Executive Summary

**Title:** Chief Officers Meeting Report, Punta Arenas

**Authors:** S. Chown, M.Sparrow, C.Summerhayes

**Introduction/ Background:** This meeting report summarizes the outcomes of the COs meeting held in Punta Arenas prior to the EXCOM meeting.

**Recommendations/Actions and Justification:** Having the COs meet prior to the EXCOM meeting has proven useful both in its own right and for improving efficiency of the EXCOM meeting since many issues can be discussed and a way forward agreed prior to the meeting.
CHIEF OFFICERS’ MEETING REPORT

PUNTA ARENAS 4th AUGUST 2009

Attendees: S. Chown (SC-ATS and Chairing), A Capra (SSG-GS), M. Candidi (SSG-PS), H. Campbell (SC-ADM), A. Huiskes (SCAR Vice-President, for SSG-LS), M. Sparrow (Secretariat, for SC-AGI), C. Summerhayes (Secretariat), M. C. Kennicutt (SCAR President) (from 4p.m. onwards).

Introduction
The meeting commenced at 09h00, with apologies from P. Convey (SSG-LS) and K. Conlan (SSG-LS). The Agenda was adopted with a single addition (see Appendix 1). This report provides a list of the actions, decisions and recommendations arising from the meeting.

Items 1.1 to 1.4 Operational procedures
The procedures for SSG business meetings, and the requirements for job descriptions and terms of reference for the SSGs were agreed to. SRP leaders should have job descriptions too.

The requirements for improved communication within and among SSGs were recognized. SC-ADM agreed to provide advice on modern mechanisms for improving communication efficiency.

The Chief Officers (COs) are of the view that a joint SSG plenary meeting at the Business Meetings would be less useful than tailored presentations to Standing Scientific Groups (SSGs) on matters of joint interest.

SSG subsidiary groups should be provided with adequate time in advance of the SSG meetings to conduct their business, recognizing that overlap in membership of subsidiary groups exists in several cases.

Cross-linkage groups should report to all SSGs involved, but the report to the SCAR Delegates should be presented through a single SSG.

Items 1.5 and 1.6 SSG Strategic Positions and future Scientific Research Programmes
Clearer communication of requirements for the contributions of SSGs to the development of the SCAR strategic plan is required.

The COs recommend that one of the monthly notes from the President be used to communicate to the broader community the strategy for the development of the new SCAR Strategic Plan, and how the community should contribute through the SSGs.

The community of SCAR scientists should be contacted as soon as possible for their views and suggestions for the strategic areas within the SSGs, and also for potential Scientific Research Projects (SRPs) and the required Programme Planning Groups.

Owing to the timing of the current SRPs, proposals for new programme planning groups would have to serve for Delegate approval at the 2010 meeting of SCAR.

The possibility for larger SRPs (with cross-cutting themes) should be discussed by the SCAR Executive Committee and Delegates.

Item 1.7 Future of SSGs
The COs agreed that SSGs are an essential component of SCAR for promoting scientific collaboration, developing scientific research programmes, and providing the means for SCAR to develop advice to external parties both in a pro-active and reactive mode.

Item 2 SCAR Plans
It was suggested that as part of the strategic planning process meeting to be held in 2010, those typically attending the cross-linkages meetings should be invited to attend.

Item 3 Interactions with the Treaty
Item 3.1.1
It was agreed that the Executive should be requested to invite M. Hindell to lead a small delegation to CCAMLR, including V. Alder (Argentina) and M. Goebel (??).
Items 3.1.2-3.1.8
Information on the Treaty requests and SCAR’s plans concerning these, and on requirements for providing new information to the Treaty were discussed. Broad agreement was reached on the approach for each of these.

The COs suggested that it might be useful for the ECA group to identify new research directions based on the Persistent Organic Pollutants report, and perhaps to think about updates as new developments arise in the future.

Two scientific papers are in preparation from the IPY Aliens in Antarctica project, and these will form the basis of an Information Paper for the 2010 Treaty meeting.

Item 3.1.10
It was agreed that AGCS be requested by the Executive to make a proposal for how all the elements of climate change research within SCAR could be drawn together.

For the purposes of reporting to the Treaty (as requested) the COs suggested that the Executive request the ACCE editorial group to provide the necessary papers for the Treaty meetings in 2010 and 2011.

Item 3.11
SC-ADM was requested to prepare a Working Paper for the 2010 Treaty meeting setting out the Data Information Strategy developed by SCAR and the products and services available. SCAR should perhaps engage with a Treaty party to develop the paper as a broader discussion document. The Chief Officers of SC-ADM and SC-ATS will work together to finalize the paper. All interactions with the Treaty would continue to take place though SC-ATS and the SCAR observers to the Treaty meetings.

Item 3.2
The proposed new Terms of Reference for SC-ATS were set out. The COs agreed with the roles set out for their membership if the ToR were approved by the Executive Committee.

It was also agreed that a new Expert Group for the consideration of Management Plans for Antarctic Specially Protected and Specially Managed Areas should be established within the SSG-Life Sciences. The ToR are, in essence, to provide scientific advice to the CEP on Management Plans, when requested by the CEP, via the CO of SC-ATS. The EG should be established as soon as possible.

The COs noted the strong and growing relationship between SCAR and other Treaty-related organizations such as COMNAP, the CEP, CCAMLR, IAATO and others.

Item 4
The Executive Director outlined the substantial benefits of the relationships being developed by SCAR with other organizations such as IASC, SCOR, and the IPCC. The COs agreed that these relationships are valuable.

Item 5
The Executive Director requested Chief Officers to revisit all of the Recommendations from their SSGs so that these can be considered and where necessary removed (lapsed) at the next Delegates meeting.

Item 6
A lively discussion of the new strategy for SCAR was held with the SCAR President.

Item 7
The Chair closed the meeting at 17h00, after thanking INACH for the excellent facilities and for hosting the meeting, and the Chief Officers for their time and efforts in attending the meeting.
Appendix 1

AGENDA

CHIEF OFFICERS' MEETING

PUNTA ARENAS

09h00-1700, 4th AUGUST 2009

Proposed Attendees: S. Chown (SC-ATS and Chairing), P. Convey (for SSG-LS), A Capra (SSG-GS), M. Candidi (SSG-PS), H. Campbell (SC-ADM), M. Sparrow (Secretariat, for SC-AGI), C. Summerhayes (Secretariat)

Opening, and Adoption of the Agenda

1. Key Issues for SSGs
   1.1. Terms of Reference for SSGs and related groups
   1.2. Job descriptions for SSG Officers
   1.3. SRP Leaders job descriptions (added by M. Candidi)
   1.4. SSG Business meetings (WP10)
   1.5. SSG's Strategic Position Papers (Exec., see Exec. request)
   1.6. Renewal of SRPs and the SCAR Scientific Portfolio
   1.7. What is the future of SSGs? Science and advisory roles

2. SCAR Plans
   2.1. Advances since Cross Linkages Workshop
   2.2. SSG Inputs to Strategic Plan 2010-2016 (Exec.)

3. Interactions with Treaty
   3.1. Actions from CEP/ATCM
      3.1.1. Predators group status and interaction with CCAMLR (SSG-LS)
      3.1.2. Persistent Organic Pollutants (SC-ATS)
      3.1.3. Biological Prospecting – a Potentially Problematic Situation (SC-ATS)
      3.1.4. Biodiversity and Environmental Domains (SC-ATS)
      3.1.5. Alien risk assessment and non-native ICG (SC-ATS)
      3.1.6. Conservation science for Antarctica (SC-ATS/EBA/SSG-LS)
      3.1.7. Aliens in Antarctica report (SSG-LS)
      3.1.8. Marine protected areas (SC-ATS)
      3.1.9. Climate indicators review (SC-ATS)
      3.1.10. Climate change update (SSG-PS)
      3.1.11. SCADM report to CEP (SCADM)
   3.2. Improvements/Enhancements in interactions with other Treaty bodies (CCAMLR, COMNAP, ACAP), and the role of SSGs
      3.2.1. SC-ATS and the SSGs: science and advice
      3.2.2. SC-ADM, COMNAP and the CEP

4. Links with other groups (Exec.)
   4.1. SC-AGI
   4.2. IASC
   4.3. Others (e.g. IPCC)

5. SSG Administrative Issues (Exec.)
   5.1. SCAR Recommendations
   5.2. Reporting Template

6. Any Other Business

7. Closure of the Meeting