

Terms of Reference for SCAR Structure Review

1. To analyze and identify whether the current structure of three Standing Scientific Groups (Life Sciences, Geo Sciences, Physical Sciences) is the most efficient in order to achieve the objectives of SCAR and its members, taking into account -
 - a) The different size and historic activity level of each SSG (with Life Sciences being generally the largest and most active and Geosciences the smallest and least active)
 - b) The number of cross disciplinary activities that now occur (AGs and EGs in particular)
 - c) That some activities e.g. the cryosphere, fall partly within one SSG and partly in another and others e.g. humanities and social sciences do not currently fall under any SSG
 - d) That the SSGs represent national members which are allowed to send up to four reps to each SSG (is this optimal? should countries need to send up to 12 reps if many of the activities are cross disciplinary? IF we were to adopt a different system how would we best ensure national representation?)
 - e) How other (in particular other ICSU bodies) operate e.g. SCOR (temporary working groups) or IASC (Working groups in a similar manner to SCAR but with slightly different foci).
2. Analyse whether the present structure of SCAR (SSGs, SCs, SRPs, EGs, AGs,...) is effective and how interactions between the different groups can be improved.
3. To assess whether current procedures for the development, implementation and assessment of SRPs and the engagement of SCAR scientists in SRP activities require any changes.
4. To review the changes in format of formal SCAR meetings (Business Meetings, Open Science Conference, Delegates Meeting) from the initial 'SCAR Restructuring' recommendations, as well as the level of participation of Delegates during the formal meetings and intersessionally, and decide if current practices are optimal.
5. To consider whether there are current procedures of SCAR, its bodies, and its secretariat that could be improved.
6. To solicit input from the range of stakeholders in SCAR on how SCAR organization is functioning and potential improvements.
7. In light of the above discussions, to discuss how the Rules of Procedure and Rules of Procedure for Subsidiary Groups might be modified.