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Agenda Item: 5.1

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Report from the SCAR Delegation to XXXIV ATCM in Buenos Aires June 20- July 1, 2011

Executive Summary

Title: REPORT FROM THE SCAR DELEGATION TO XXXIV ATCM IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, June 20-July 1, 2011

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Relevant URLs or references to other reports: www.ats.aq

Introduction/ Background: This report summarises the SCAR contribution to the CEP and ATCM meetings held in Argentina in 2011.

Important Issues or Factors:

SCAR's contributions to the XXXIV Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) were positively received. SCAR provided two Working Papers (WPs) and nine Information Papers (IPs). Many of these were joint with other Observers (COMNAP) and Parties (Australia).

The Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) report and updates formed a major part of the ongoing discussions of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and the ATCM. Two Parties (UK and Norway) and one Observer (ASOC) have committed to providing funds to communicate SCAR's climate related activities.

Many parties were interested in progress with the Southern Ocean Observing System (which was presented both at CEP and at the ATCM). The subject of marine acoustics came to the fore again and SCAR agreed to provide a literature update to its last report to inform parties.

The spread of non-native species is still a major topic of discussion in the CEP. SCAR provided several papers on this subject and agreed to moderate an Intersessional Contact Group.

In response to a request from the CEP in relation to environmental issues related to the practicality of repair or remediation of environmental damage, SCAR iterated that it would be happy to provide advice to the CEP on this topic if specific scientific questions were raised.

SCAR presented two new Codes of Conduct on the *Exploration and Research of Subglacial Aquatic Environments* and for the *Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes in Antarctica*.

The SCAR Lecture this year on "Detecting the Imprint of Humans on Antarctica: A Case Study" was based around the long-term environmental monitoring programme at McMurdo station. The lecture was well received, with many questions from the audience.

Meetings with CCAMLR, COMNAP and other Parties were held in the margins of the meeting, helping to improve and cement our working relationship with partner organisations.

Budget Implications: Funds are budgeted so the SCAR Delegation can attend the CEP/ATCM meetings. SCAR's work with the Antarctic Treaty System has also to be funded through SC-ATS.

Report from the SCAR Delegation to XXXIV ATCM, Buenos Aires, June 20- July 1, 2011

1. Introduction

The XXXIV Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from the 20th of June to 1st of July 2011.

The SCAR Delegation consisted of M D Sparrow, M C Kennicutt II and R. Badhe. M C Kennicutt also presented the SCAR lecture. The SCATS Chair, S Chown and invited expert J Lee were unable to attend due to flight cancellations brought on by a volcanic eruption in Chile. However, S Chown provided the SCAR Delegation substantive comments on relevant papers, which were very helpful. SCAR Vice Presidents R Ravindra, Y-D Kim and S Marensi were also present as part of their national delegations as was deputy Chief Officer of SC-ATS, Kevin Hughes.

2. SCAR Input

SCAR provided two Working Papers (WPs) and nine Information Papers (IPs). Many of these were joint with other Observers (COMNAP) and Parties (Australia):

Working Papers (WP)

- WP012: Raising awareness of non-native species introductions: Workshop results and checklists for supply chain managers (joint paper with COMNAP)
- WP053: Measures to reduce the risk of non-native species introductions to the Antarctic region associated with fresh foods

Information Papers (IP)

- IP033: SCAR's Code of Conduct for the Exploration and Research of Subglacial Aquatic Environments
- IP051: The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) - An update (joint paper with Australia)
- IP052: Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment – 2011 Update
- IP053: SCAR's Code of Conduct for the Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes in Antarctica
- IP054: Summary of SCAR's Strategic Plan 2011-2016
- IP055: Summary Report on IPY 2007–2008 by the ICSU-WMO Joint Committee
- IP061: The SCAR Antarctic Climate Evolution (ACE) Programme
- IP068: Alien Species Database (joint with Australia)
- IP081: Summary of the Annual Report for 2010 of The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

The papers are available from the SCAR web site: (<http://www.scar.org/treaty/atcmxxxiv/>)

3. Committee on Environmental Protection XIV

The full report of the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) meeting is available from <http://www.ats.aq>. In this report only those items directly relevant to SCAR are presented. At the request of the CEP IPs were only presented if absolutely necessary. Therefore unless otherwise stated below the SCAR IPs were taken as read.

3.1 Climate Change Implications for the Environment: Strategic Approach (CEP agenda item 5; ATCM agenda item 13)

The Executive Director, M Sparrow, presented the Information Paper on the ACCE update both to the CEP and ATCM. This paper (IP 52) was the second update to the ATCM since the publication of the SCAR Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) report. Membership of the new ACCE Expert Group has been expanded to include a wider range of expertise and to include experts from Russia, China and other countries. SCAR also highlighted that over the short to medium term the plan is to put together a series of targeted publications building on the ACCE Report. The topics and timeline for production are still being discussed but could cover topics such as:

- Antarctica 2100
- Southern Ocean change
- Ice sheets and sea level; and
- Recovery of the ozone hole

The UK presented WP 44 (Progress Report on ATME on Climate Change). The SCAR ED pointed out that SCAR is already carrying out many of the agenda items (for example, Recommendation 17 that “The ATME recommends that the ATCM encourages SCAR to incorporate identification of key regions, habitats and species at greatest risk from climate change effects into its research programmes.”) and would be happy to provide updates to the Secretariat.

AGREEMENT: SCAR agreed to provide updates to the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat on progress with SCAR-relevant ATME recommendations (M Sparrow, prior to next ATCM).

The CEP noted that they were extremely interested in the outcome report of the SCAR Ocean Acidification Group, the final report of which will be available in 2 years approximately.

3.2 Quarantine and Non-native Species (CEP agenda 8a)

The COMNAP Executive Secretary, M Rogan-Finnemore, presented the joint COMNAP-SCAR paper (WP12) on *Raising awareness of non-native species introductions: Workshop results and checklists for supply chain managers*. The CEP approved the recommendations included in the paper, including addition of the checklists outlined in the paper into the “Non-Native Species Manual”.

SCAR presented paper WP53, *Measures to reduce the risk on non-native species introductions to the Antarctic region associated with fresh foods*. Aspects of the paper were discussed in some depth (see CEP report for details). SCAR clarified that the measures were at a draft stage and would require consultation before formal adoption. SCAR was asked to moderate an informal discussion on WP53 during the intersessional period with the intention of submitting a revised paper to CEP XV.

AGREEMENT: SCAR agreed to moderate an informal discussion on WP53, *Measures to reduce the risk on non-native species introductions to the Antarctic region associated with fresh foods* during the intersessional period with the intention of submitting a revised paper to CEP XV.

Australia briefly presented the joint Australian SCAR paper IP 68, *Alien Species Database*.

The CEP agreed to continue to develop the Non-Native Species Manual with the input of SCAR and COMNAP on scientific and practical matters, respectively.

3.3 Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna, other Annex II matters (CEP agenda 8c)

Germany introduced WP38 *Antarctic Discussion Forum of Competent Authorities (DFCA) – Impacts of underwater sound to Antarctic waters*. The CEP decided that further information was needed on this topic and noted that both SCAR and ASOC had produced previous papers on this topic. (For SCAR, IP078 SCAR Report on Marine Acoustic Technology and the Antarctic Environment in 2004 and WP041: SCAR Report on Marine Acoustics and the Southern Ocean in 2006). SCAR agreed to provide a literature review update on the science of marine acoustics in the Southern Ocean.

AGREEMENT: Building on its 2006 paper, SCAR agreed to provide a literature review update on the science of marine acoustics in the Southern Ocean.

The Executive Officer, Renuka Badhe, presented SCAR's Code of Conduct (CoC) (IP33, IP53). The first of these "SCAR's Code of Conduct for the Exploration and Research of Subglacial Aquatic Environments" (SAE) provides guidance to the scientific community with interests in exploring and conducting research on and in Antarctic subglacial aquatic environments (SAE). Several Parties expressed their thanks for these guidelines. In particular the UK noted that the CoC for SAE had been useful in drafting its CEE on the exploration of subglacial Lake Ellsworth.

The second, "SCAR's Code of Conduct for the Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes in Antarctica" provides guiding principles to the scientific community for research involving animals. This Code of Conduct should be read in concert with Annex II of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which provides guidance on the killing, capturing and handling ("taking") of native fauna and aims to provide guidance on the interpretation of Article 3 paragraph 6 of this Annex. The UK expressed the view that researchers should not wait until the end of an experiment to painlessly kill animals for scientific purposes that would otherwise suffer permanent pain, distress, discomfort, or disablement that could not be relieved.

3.4 Environmental Monitoring and Reporting (CEP agenda 9)

The SCAR Executive Director presented IP 51 *Progress with the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS)*. This paper (IP 51) presents progress with the design and implementation of a Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) over the last year. The ED informed Parties that the SOOS Design Plan has been completed and is currently being formatted for printing. All Treaty Parties will receive a hard copy, though it will also be available on the internet. SCAR also thanked Australia for forming an International Program Office at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies in Hobart, Australia to take the implementation of the SOOS forward.

3.5 Other Matters

In response to a request from the CEP in relation to the Australian paper WP28 *Environmental issues related to the practicality of repair or remediation of environmental damage*, SCAR iterated that it would be happy to provide advice to the CEP on specific scientific questions related to repair and remediation of environmental damage.

In response to the CEP agenda item discussing their 5-year work plan SCAR noted that it would delay its paper reporting on SCAR products of relevance to the work of the CEP until 2012 since it first wished to carry out an internal review of its products.

AGREEMENT: SCAR to provide a paper reporting on SCAR products of relevance to the work of the CEP for CEP XV.

AGREEMENT: SCAR agreed to participate in a US-lead International Working Group to discuss the scientific basis for area protection at Taylor Glacier and Blood Falls and, if agreed, assist in development of a draft ASPA management plan to be submitted to CEP XV in 2012.

Other SCAR papers that were noted, but not presented, were IP54, *Summary of SCAR's Strategic Plan 2011-2016* and IP061, *The SCAR Antarctic Climate Evolution (ACE) Programme*.

4. Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM XXXIV)

4.1 SCAR Annual Report 2010 (ATCM agenda item 4)

The SCAR President presented a comprehensive report (IP 81) on SCAR's activities in the inter-sessional period. He called attention to several items, including: (i) SCAR's new Strategic Plan (ii) that SCAR held its Open Science Conference in August 2010 (iii) the new SCAR Programme Planning Groups (iv) that Monaco joined SCAR as an Associate Member (v) that the Martha T Muse Prize winner was Helen Fricker from US (vi) the Southern Ocean Observing System (vii) the ISMASS science plan (viii) that R Badhe is the new SCAR Executive Officer, and (ix) the IPY Summary report. He summarized several future activities or relevance to Parties including (i) SCAR's Strategy for Conservation in the 21st Century (ii) the Siena Symposium on research urgencies in September 2011 (iii) the SCAR Open Science Conference in Portland, US in July in 2012.

4.2 The SCAR Lecture

The SCAR President gave the SCAR lecture on "Detecting the Imprint of Humans on Antarctica: A Case Study", based around the long-term environmental monitoring programme at McMurdo station. The lecture was well received, with many questions from the audience.

4.3 Science Issues, Scientific Cooperation and Facilitation, including the Legacy of the International Polar Year 2007-2008

The SCAR ED presented summaries of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS – see Section 3.4) and the Summary report of the IPY 2007-2008 (IP55). This latter paper reported to the ATCM on the closing of IPY 2007–2008 and introduced the IPY Summary overview book produced by the ICSU-WMO Joint Committee for IPY, which is available for free online. The ED pointed out that the IPY legacy will also be a focus of the SCAR Open Science Conference in Portland, US in July 2012 and the Montreal IPY Conference in April 2012.

Russia presented a paper on the St Petersburg workshop on the International Polar Decade (IPD). SCAR and COMNAP are asked to consider support for an IPD to begin in 2014.

AGREEMENT: SCAR asked to consider support for an IPD and report to ATCM XXXV

4.4 Implications of Climate Change for Management of the Antarctic Treaty Area

The SCAR ED introduced IP52, *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment – 2011 Update* (see Section 3.1).

The United Kingdom presented WP44, *Progress Report on the ATME on Climate Change*, which reported on progress with regards to the recommendations from the ATME on Climate Change. SCAR commented that it already covered many of the recommendations and would send the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS) an update on relevant actions.

Norway way drew attention to ASOC's paper IP83, *An Antarctic Climate Change Communication Plan* which suggests a way forward to address ATME Recommendation 2 that "The ATME recommends that the ATCM considers developing an Antarctic climate change communication plan to bring the findings of the Antarctic Climate Change and Environment (ACCE) report to the attention of other decision makers, the general public and the media." Norway announced that it would be providing financial support, along with the UK and ASOC, for SCAR to take this forward.

4.5 Other matters

(i) Safety and Operations in Antarctica

Argentina presented the paper "Early warning system for Antarctica of the Arrival of Waves generated by Earthquakes. COMNAP and SCAR were tasked to provide advice on this matter. COMNAP noted that they had already drafted a report on this matter and the SCAR ED noted that they were happy to work with COMNAP to take this forward. SCAR also reiterated the point made by Germany and the UK on the importance of Bathymetric data in the Southern Ocean, noting that SCAR had a group on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO).

AGREEMENT: SCAR agreed to work with COMNAP on providing advice to the ATCM on the risk of Tsunamis around Antarctica, noting that COMNAP had already drafted a report on this matter.

(ii) Review of ATCM Recommendations

The CEP and SCAR were asked to comment on a number of old ATCM resolutions that addressed environmental matters. In particular SCAR was specifically tasked to comment on Recommendation ATCM X-4 (Washington, 1979) (Man's impact on the Antarctic Environment: Collection of Geological Specimens). See: http://www.ats.aq/devAS/info_measures_listitem.aspx?lang=e&id=126

SCAR concluded that this recommendation should be considered no longer current. However, it was relevant to SCAR's Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica (IP004: XXXII ATCM 2009, Baltimore, US). SCAR offered to consider if a revision of this CoC is necessary to cover some points brought up by Recommendation ATCM X-4 that may not be currently covered.

AGREEMENT: SCAR agreed to consider if an update to its Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica was warranted based on some points brought up by Recommendation ATCM X-4 that may not be currently covered.

4.6 Next CEP/ATCM

The next CEP/ATCM will be held in Hobart, Australia, 2012. It was also noted that from 2012 the meetings would be shortened from 2 weeks to 8 days.