SCAR guidelines for accepting donations
Executive Summary

Title: SCAR guidelines for accepting donations

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Relevant URLs or references to other reports: None

Introduction/ Background:
The SCAR guidelines for accepting donations were 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. Revised after Delegates XXX meeting this was approved by the Executive Committee Meeting in August 2009 for final approval by the Delegates, though for reasons of time was never formally approved.

Important Issues or Factors:
Having a series of guidelines for accepting donations as well as being important in their own right, will help reduce the risk of SCAR accepting a donation that could have a negative affect on SCAR’s reputation in the future.

Recognising that very few companies, foundations etc. can be considered 100% ethical (for instance many national programmes partner with oil companies) these limitations should be recognized and thus the guidelines as drafted are broad in their scope. Any potential donation should be considered by the Secretariat who will then discuss with EXCOM for final approval.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification:
EXCOM are requested to approve the SCAR Guidelines for accepting donations.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:
Have ethical guidelines for accepting donations is important both to enhance and protect SCAR’s reputation.
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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.

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Guidelines:

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 or fails to uphold basic human rights within its sphere of influence.

Use of Donations ²

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.

Agents ²

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/)