SCAR Partnerships
Executive Summary

Title: SCAR Partnerships

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Relevant URLs or references to other reports: http://www.scar.org/about/partnerships/

Introduction/ Background: In pursuit of its Vision and Mission, SCAR often forms partnerships as an efficient means to achieve its goals and objectives. SCAR’s partners include other ICSU bodies, entities of the Antarctic Treaty System, organizations with a polar focus, and organizations with a polar interest. The types of partnerships SCAR form vary considerably since each is tailored to best accomplish the shared objectives. In some instances, formal co-sponsorship of an activity is warranted entailing shared responsibility for program management and resourcing. SCAR is always open to, and looking for ways, to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones.

This paper summarises recent developments with regards to SCAR partnerships. EXCOM are asked to comment as appropriate.

Partners: IASC, IACS, COMNAP, CCAMLR, ICSU, SCOR, WCRP….etc.

Budget Implications: Co-sponsorship does involve some budgetary commitments (currently $3000 for CliC and $4000 for other co-sponsorships) but considering the influence and visibility these partnerships give SCAR these represent good value.
**SCAR Partnerships**

Partnerships with organizations with complementary skills, technologies and interests bring added value to SCAR’s activities. SCAR partners with ICSU bodies, advisory bodies to the Antarctic Treaty System, organizations with a polar mission, and global programmes with polar interests. Partnerships support SCAR’s goals to provide authoritative scientific advice to policy makers, expand its advisory sphere of influence on global issues, develop the capacity of students and early career scientists, and encourage cooperation with Arctic counterparts.

This paper summarises recent developments with regards to partnerships. For further information see: http://www.scar.org/about/partnerships/

**Memorandum of Understanding and Letters of Agreement**

All SCAR partnerships will need to be reviewed as the MoUs or Letters of Agreement come up for renewal. Those partnerships that are seen to be beneficial will be continued and those that are not should be revised or terminated.

SCAR has recently renewed its Letter of Agreement with IASC (see below). The letter will be officially signed in September 2011.

SCAR currently has two MoUs with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) – see: http://www.scar.org/about/partnerships/wcrpmou.html. The newest MoU (signed in 2008, due for renewal in 2013) is between SCAR, IASC and WCRP on co-sponsorship of the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project. An older MoU (signed in 2004, already out of date) is between SCAR and WCRP on cosponsorship of CliC, the Southern Ocean Implementation panel and the International Programme for Antarctic Buoys (IPAB).

The SCAR Executive Director has initiated discussions as to how (and whether) SCAR and WCRP should revise the older MoU with regards to the SO panel and IPAB. EXCOM are asked to comment.

A new MoU has been proposed by different organisations who work in the cryosphere realm (see accompanying paper). EXCOM are asked to comment and approve SCAR’s involvement if deemed appropriate.

**Relationship with the International Council for Science (ICSU)**

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is SCAR’s parent organization and SCAR supports the vision, mission, and goals of ICSU. SCAR has ensured that polar issues are on the agenda of the ICSU General Assembly, with the SCAR Executive Director and IASC Executive Secretary giving a keynote talk to ICSU Delegates at the next Assembly in Rome (September 2011). SCAR, with other ICSU bodies, IASC and IACS, are also convening a symposium entitled ‘Research urgencies in the Polar Regions and their links to the ICSU Grand Challenges in Global Sustainability’ at which the SCAR President will be giving a keynote talk. The symposium will address all aspects of polar science, with a focus on the functioning of the Earth System in the Arctic and Antarctic, the major drivers of pervasive change and the as yet unaddressed research issues in these regions.

SCAR also has two ICSU grants for “Education and Outreach Lessons from IPY” (with IASC and APECS) and “MicroPerm” (with IUGG, IASC and INQUA). For further details see: http://www.scar.org/news/scarbusiness/2010.html
SCAR actively pursues linkages with other ICSU bodies. Examples include joint support of the SCAR/SCOR Oceanography Expert Group and the design of a Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). SOOS is managed through partnerships with the World Climate Research Program (WCRP), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO). Strong links will continue with ICSU’s Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) and Climate and Weather of the Sun (CAWSES) in support of SCAR’s solar-terrestrial physics programme. Links have improved with the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), though SCAR needs to work to improve its interactions with the other ICSU Unions.

SCAR is assisting ICSU with the redesign of the World Data Centers (WDC) and is contributing to the development of the Polar Information Commons (PIC). To strengthen its involvement in climate studies, SCAR has a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) to co-sponsor several WCRP activities including: (i) the Climate and Cryosphere Program (CliC); (ii) the Southern Ocean Implementation Panel shared by CliC and the WCRP’s Climate Variability Program (CLIVAR); (iii) the International Program on Antarctic Buoys (IPAB); and (iv) the SOOS program mentioned above. SCAR’s partnership with SCOR includes co-sponsoring the new IGBP Integrated Analyses of Circumpolar Climate Interactions and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Southern Ocean (ICED) programme. SCAR has a Memorandum of Agreement with IGBP’s Past Climate Change program (PAGES) and has established linkages with ICSU’s International Association for Cryosphere Sciences (IACS).

**Relationship with other Treaty Bodies**

SCAR has historically had close ties with the Council of Managers of Antarctic Programs (COMNAP). SCAR coordinates its activities with COMNAP through: (i) joint meetings of the SCAR and COMNAP Executives; (ii) joint meetings of the full memberships of both organizations when possible; and (iii) liaison in the margins of the ATCM meetings. SCAR is committed to working bi-laterally and multi-laterally with National Antarctic Programs and collectively through the Council of Managers of Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) in mutually beneficial ways.

SCAR has been working to improve its strategic partnership with the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). A joint Action Group will be formed (the details of which will be discussed during the Treaty meeting in June/July 2011) to examine this strategic partnership (see Appendix 1).

**Bipolar Activities: The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)**

SCAR recognizes and values the many interests that the Antarctic and Arctic science communities have in common. SCAR has re-signed its agreement with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). SCAR has been making and will continue to make special efforts to increase bipolar cooperation and coordination with IASC in areas of common interest. A new Bipolar Action Group (BiPAG II) has been charged with identifying areas for bipolar scientific cooperation (see IP17).

IASC is now a co-sponsor of the SCAR Expert Group on Antarctic Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMASS). Co-sponsorship with IACS and WCRP is also being explored.

Mentoring of the next generation of polar scientists is being pursued in collaboration with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). SCAR and IASC have signed Memoranda of Understanding with APECS. SCAR’s partnership with APECS has been especially productive and new ways to strengthen this relationship in the future will be explored (see WP23).
SCAR and IASC jointly represent ICSU on the Montreal IPY 2012 Steering Committee as well as at the ICSU General Assembly as mentioned above. Once a year SCAR and IASC will also issue a joint Newsletter, with a focus on bipolar cooperation.

A summary of key partners is given in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Draft Terms of Reference for joint SCAR CCAMLR Action Group

The joint SCAR/CCAMLR Action Group would have the following aims:

- determining what SCAR’s and CCAMLR’s expectations of each other are or should be, based on what is of benefit to Members of each organisation, and on a more strategic understanding of what each organisation can provide to make the partnership viable, sustainable and valuable
- offering advice on ways and mechanisms that SCAR and CCAMLR might implement to work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner
- offering guidance on ways in which SCAR and CCAMLR might work together more effectively in the future to provide advice to the ATS
- identifying a series of topics/issues that are of common interest to SCAR and CCAMLR that could form an agenda for the way forward.

Appendix 2: Examples of SCAR Partners in 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICSU Bodies</th>
<th>Antarctic Treaty System</th>
<th>Organizations with a Polar Focus</th>
<th>Programmes with a Polar Interest</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)</td>
<td>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)</td>
<td>Southern Ocean component Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics Program (SO-GLOBEC)</td>
<td>Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Astronomical Union (IAU)</td>
<td>Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)</td>
<td>Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Southern Ocean Program (ICED)</td>
<td>Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)</td>
<td>Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP)</td>
<td>International Permafrost Association (IPA)</td>
<td>International Whaling Commission (IWC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)</td>
<td>Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP)</td>
<td>International Partnerships in Ice Core Sciences (IPICS)</td>
<td>Past Climate Changes (PAGES)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)</td>
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<td>Association of Early Career Scientists (APECS)</td>
<td>Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Climate Research Program (WCRP)</td>
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<td>Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)</td>
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<td>The Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)</td>
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