



Paper 5

Agenda 2.1

SG

LS

Person
Responsible:

Yan Ropert-
Coudert

SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2017

Brno, Czech Republic, 31 July - 2 Aug 2017

Life Sciences Group 2016-2017 Report

Report Author(s):

Y. Ropert-Coudert (CO), M. Shepanek (Deputy-CO), I. McDonald (Secretary)

Summary of activities from 2016-17 and any other important issues or factors (<150 words):

The major highlight of Life Science activities is yet to come for 2017 as the SCAR Biology Symposium will be held the week following the deadline for submitting this report, i.e. the 10-14 July 2017 in Leuven, Belgium. Life Sciences has helped in preparing this major event. In addition to this, Life Sciences, and its related AGs and EGs, has been active in producing reports to SCATS, attending meetings such as the Monaco Assessment phase II or in disseminating information to its community and beyond, as the LS and related AGs and EGs' reports will demonstrate.

Recommendations that EXCOM should consider (if any): *Please indicate if approval is necessary or if they are just asked to note information.*

NEED APPROVAL: Life Sciences would like to open a discussion with EXCOM on the possibility to adapt the rules for funds use by the AGs and EGs. Currently, the (non-written?) rules for using the money allocated by the Delegates do not authorize groups to purchase material or to hire a technical expert for a specific purpose that would serve the group aims. While it is understood that SCAR is a committee and not a mean agency Life Sciences has had to answer comments from the Delegates regarding the use of the funds that were (citing) "primarily used for people to conduct workshops and travelling around". The Delegate further added that there seemed to be a lack of more "concrete" actions. If this is a stance shared by EXCOM Life Sciences would then argue that concrete actions may occasionally require funds to be used to obtain material goods or expert time in order to be addressed. This is

especially the case for the AGs and EGs' scientists that generally come from various countries and institutions that are not necessarily willing to allocate national funds for what they see as an external group. SCAR funds provided by the Delegates could thus help tremendously in achieving goals that necessitate specific devices or expertise. Such a practise should, of course, not become a common approach and would need to be highly justified to and strictly supervised by the Secretariat.

INFORMATION: Life Sciences has stopped requesting reports to the AG Ocean Acidification, following the (almost) complete absence of communication and exchanges over the past years. In Kuala Lumpur it was decided that no new funds would be allocated to this AG over the 2017-18 exercise.

INFORMATION: The timing of the report, a week before the SCAR biology symposium means that many (most) groups have not yet used their 2017 funds. The Biology symposium represents the highlight of the Life Science activities and a major opportunity for the AGs and EGs to hold their meetings.

Progress and Plans:

Major Activities and Significant Progress from the past year (<500 words):

Life Sciences is primarily responsible for five Expert Groups (ANTOS, EG-ABI, EG-BAMM, SO-CPR and the SCAR-COMNAP JEGHBM) and four Action Groups (ISSA, BEPSII, Ocean Acidification and Remote Sensing). ANTOS and ISSA are cross disciplined with PS and GS. Ocean Acidification and Remoting Sensing are shared with PS. In addition, Life Sciences is involved in the SCAR-SCOR co-sponsored ICED program.

Life Sciences' routine activities include the maintenance of the webpage of the SG, the updating of the mailing list of national representatives and AGs/EGs, the communication of various relevant information to the group, the participation to meetings, workshops, popular meetings to represent Life Sciences and disseminate its activities to other scientific communities or to the public, reviewing some of the SCAR Fellowships (visiting professors for 2017), writing letters of support and recommendations. Among the 2017 activities we wish to highlight the following:

- Coordinating the assistance of Life Science Delegates in facilitating the responses of National Committees and Representatives to the request by SCAR on the use of drones in Antarctica, a paper which was submitted to the CEP meeting in Beijing last week.
- Elaborating, together with other Life Sciences representatives, of the SCAR Code of Conduct on the use of Wildlife to be submitted to the CEP of the ATCM via SCATS (5 SCAR affiliated members and 3 external experts were consulted for this).
- Participating to the preparation of the Biology Symposium in Leuven, Belgium in July (abstracts review, selection of keynote speakers, etc.).

- Compiling the Life Sciences activities that address the priorities of the Committee on Environmental Projection.
- Participating to the Monaco Assessment Phase 2 in Monaco, 3-5 July 2017.
- The CO of LSG is also involved in the EG-BAMM (serving as secretary since 2009) and as such participated to the production of the documents necessary for the review of the EG, organized a workshop dedicated to Retrospective Analysis of Antarctic Tracking Datasets (a key project of the EG) and currently supervises a post-doctorate student to work on this project (Dr. Ryan Reisinger from South Africa on a CESAB grant, France).

Major Future Initiatives and Actions, including rough timeline, for at least the next 2 years (<500 words):

- SCAR Biology Symposium, Leuven, Belgium, 8-14 July 2017 (including Priority Threat Management Workshop, EGBAMM and RAATD group meeting, MEASO preparation meeting, etc.)
- CESAB-RAATD workshop, September 2017
- CESAB-RAATD workshop, March 2018
- MEASO/ICED/SOOS Conference, Hobart, Australia, April 2018
- SCAR OSC, Davos Switzerland, August 2018

Among the major items to be noted from the AGs and EGs reports, Life Sciences wish to mention that two major initiatives will take place in the coming years: on land (ANTOS) and at sea (Benchmarking ICED/SOOS). Increasing fund requests are suspected to emerge from these, as ANTOS has already noted that they will request 10 000 USD per year to conduct their activities.

Please list any new outputs and deliverables (including publications and products that your group feels are part of your achievements):

Xavier JC, Brandt A, Ropert-Coudert Y, Badhe R, Gutt J, Havermans C, Jones C, Costa ES, Lochte K, Schloss IR, Kennicutt MC II, Sutherland WJ (2016) Future Challenges in Southern Ocean Ecology Research. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 3: 94

Ropert-Coudert Y (2017) "Une aire marine en Antarctique permettrait de protéger les ressources alimentaires de plus de 75 000 couples de manchots Adélie" A Marine Protected Area in Antarctica would protect the food resources of more than 75 000 pairs of Adélie penguins. *LE MONDE* (French major press), published on the 28/06/2017 at 15h08.

SCAR's Code of Conduct for the Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes in Antarctica. IP 53 CEP ATCM.

If your Group produces data, please report any new data generated and links to inclusions to the Antarctic Master Directory, etc.

Non applicable. See EGs and AGs for new data generated.

Budget

Planned use of funds for 2017 and 2018

The funds use described below only concerns the general funds allocated to Life Sciences. For a breakdown of the funds use by AGs and EGs, please see the reports of the different groups. As a quick summary please note that ANTOS will decide on funds use for 2017 and 18 at the SCAR Biology symposium in July, BEPSII and Remote Sensing will not use their 2017 funds and will use all their funds in 2018 to attend the OSC Davos meeting. Finally at the time of completing this report JEGHBM had not yet provided us with a complete report, especially regarding the budget plans.

Month/Year (MM-YY)	Purpose/Activity	Amount (in USD)	Contact Name	Contact Email
07-17	Travel grant Biology Symposium (Yamasaki)	415	Yan Ropert-Coudert	docyaounde@gmail.com
07-17	Travel grant Biology Symposium (Secco)	420	Yan Ropert-Coudert	docyaounde@gmail.com
07-17	Travel fees LS CO	300 (roughly)	Yan Ropert-Coudert	docyaounde@gmail.com
07-17	Hotel fees LS CO	800	Yan Ropert-Coudert	docyaounde@gmail.com
08-18	Travel assistance for COs of Life Science	2000 (roughly)	Yan Ropert-Coudert	docyaounde@gmail.com

Briefly describe what the funds will be used for and what the desired results are:

835 USD have been used to assist young students to travel to the SCAR Biology symposium in July 2017.

1100 USD will be used to allow YRC to attend the SCAR Biology Symposium. We estimate roughly the cost of travelling of Life Sciences COs to the Open Science Conference of SCAR, Davos, Switzerland in 2018 to 2000 USD.

Provide an estimate on the % of the budget to be used for support of early career researchers:

2017: 50%

2018: ?

Provide an estimate on the % of the budget to be used for support of scientists from countries with developing Antarctic programmes (as listed here: <http://www.scar.org/finances/contributions>):

2017:

2018:

Linkages

Please describe any direct support you receive for your activities beyond SCAR (eg. Funds from another organization for a workshop):

The Centre d'Etudes pour la Synthèse et l'Analyse de la Biodiversité, in France is funding YRC for him to conduct a series of workshops between 2017 and 2019 on the Retrospective Analysis of Antarctic Tracking Datasets (a key project of EG-BAMM). The latest workshop took place in spring 2017 and gathered a dozen of experts, mostly from SCAR. The next workshop will take place in September 2017. See more details on the EG-BAMM report.

Please list any major collaborations your group has with other SCAR groups and with organisations/groups beyond SCAR:

- Supervising all SCAR Life Science groups
- Strong links with SCATS (Codes of Conducts, shared representations at various meetings, etc.)
- Increasing interactions with CCAMLR (Marine Protected Areas)
- Collaborations with the french Comité National Français pour la Recherche en Antarctique (CNFRA, YRC acting as vice-president)
- the PEW marine foundation (YRC is a PEW fellow since 2017)
- Exchanging information on Marine Protected Areas issues with ASOC.

Outreach and Capacity Building

Please describe any outreach, communication and capacity building activities that your group participates in. Also provide information on activities that demonstrate effectiveness as a network. (coordinating activity for your discipline/topic, i.e. mailing list and diversity of scientists involved) (<250 words):

Life Sciences maintain a mailing list of national representatives, AGs and EGs chief officers, which includes an APECS representative. In addition Life Sciences has a twitter account (or a Facebook) but clearly the CO of the group is absolutely helpless with it and has been relying on the secretariat and the good will of Anton van de Putte to post news for the group. Participation to an APECS webinar in France to present SCAR.

*As part of SCAR's Capacity Building efforts, such as the Fellowships and Visiting Professor Awards, we are looking for people from all the SCAR groups to form a 'review panel' so if applications in your field are submitted we have people to contact to help assess relevant applications. **Please list one or more people (name and email address) from your Group who would be willing to serve as reviewers for the next few years.***

Yan Ropert-Coudert (yan.ropert-coudert@cebc.cnrs.fr)

Membership

Leadership

Role	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Country	Email	Date Started	Date Term is to End
CO	Yan	Ropert-Coudert	CEBC-CNRS	France	docyaounde@gmail.com	08/2017	08/2021
Dep-CO	Marc	Shepanek	NASA	USA	marc.a.shepanek@nasa.gov	08/2017	08/2021
Sec.	Ian	McDonald	Waikato Univ.	New Zealand	irmcdon@waikato.ac.nz	08/2017	08/2021

** Please include any APECS representative / Junior Officers*

Other members

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	County	Email
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Requests to the Secretariat:

If there are specific administrative tasks you would like help with such as your webpages, mailing list, online meeting tools, etc., please include them below:

See ANTOS, BEPSII, and JEGHBM reports.