



XXXI SCAR Delegates Meeting
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-11 August 2010

Agenda Item: 8.4
Person Responsible: Mike Sparrow

Report on interactions with COMNAP

Executive Summary

Title: Report on interactions with COMNAP

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Relevant URLs or references to other reports: www.scar.org, www.comnap.aq

Introduction/ Background: Since XXX SCAR there have been two meetings between the EXCOMs of SCAR and COMNAP, one in Punta Arenas (August 2009) and one in Buenos Aires (August 2010). The two EXCOMs agreed to form an Action Group (as done with CEP) to explore ways in which the two organisations could work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner. The Action Group held its first meeting in Baltimore on March 13, and a second meeting in the margins of the ATCM/CEP meeting in Montevideo in May 2010.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: Delegates are asked to note progress made to date and to discuss and where appropriate approve recommended actions highlighted by the Action group in areas of mutual collaboration. These cover several areas, with a particular emphasis on Education and Outreach and Communication activities (e.g. joint Fellowships) and other possible areas of joint collaboration (e.g. observing systems, non-native species, data and information management, joint workshops and papers to the ATCM).

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: An improved, more efficient working relationship between SCAR and COMNAP that benefit both organizations.

Partners: COMNAP

Budget Implications: None

Report on interactions with COMNAP

SCAR has historically had close ties to 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 in even-numbered years; and (iii) liaison in the margins of the ATCM meetings.

Since XXX SCAR there have been two meetings between the EXCOMs of SCAR and COMNAP, one in Punta Arenas (August 2009) and one in Buenos Aires (August 2010). An Action Group of SCAR and COMNAP leadership was convened to provide recommendations on how best to improve and optimize relations between the two organizations.

The Terms of Reference of the group were to:

1. Collect information on what SCAR and COMNAP are and do, recognizing that SCAR has reorganized in recent years and COMNAP is undergoing reorganization.
2. Determine what SCAR's and COMNAP's expectations of each other are or should be, based on what is of benefit to Members of each organization, and on a more strategic understanding of what each organization can provide to make the partnership viable, sustainable and valuable.
3. Offer advice on ways and mechanisms that SCAR and COMNAP might implement to work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner.
4. Offer guidance on ways in which SCAR and COMNAP might work together more effectively in the future to provide advice to the ATS.
5. Identify a series of topics/issues that are of common interest to SCAR and COMNAP that could form an agenda for the way forward.

The Action Group held a full meeting in Baltimore on March 13, and a second, more informal, meeting in the margins of the ATCM/CEP meeting in Montevideo in May 2010. The first meeting concentrated on the main TORs highlighted above, with the second meeting concentrating on continuing the discussion on Capacity Building issues and on how better to coordinate SCAR/COMNAP input to the Antarctic Treaty Meetings. The meetings were productive. It should be noted that many of the actions and issues are ongoing and will rely on continued discussion and liaison between SCAR and COMNAP and in particularly the Secretariats of both organizations. The full meeting report of the first meeting is available in the Appendix. The second meeting consisted of a series of informal gatherings and discussions in the margins of the ATCM and no formal notes were taken. However, the major actions and outcomes listed below take these discussions into account.

Main Outcomes and Actions

1. *Education, Outreach and Communications*: One of the areas where SCAR and COMNAP can work more closely together is in the areas of Education, Outreach and Communications. To this end:
 - Subject to approval by both COMNAP and SCAR, both Secretariats will work to launch the 2011 Fellowships as a joint SCAR/COMNAP Fellowship Programme. Funds have already been donated by New Zealand to COMNAP for this purpose.

- SCAR will work with COMNAP when appropriate with the Outreach Expert Group of COMNAP led by Linda Capper has been preparing press/media statements for National Antarctic Programs to use when there has been a major science-related announcement. This is of benefit to both SCAR and COMNAP to communicate science achievements and results about Antarctica to a broad audience.
2. *Observing Systems*: The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) has been one of SCAR's focus areas and also the subject of a requested IP by the Treaty Parties. The topic of monitoring and observing systems will be presented by SCAR at the COMNAP AGM 2010. A "Terrestrial CAML" has been proposed (Chown) and such a project appears to be a good for SCAR and COMNAP collaboration.
 3. *Non-Native Species*: It was noted that this has been a topic for discussion at the ATCM. It is important that the ATCM understands what the science is saying about non-native species and what that means to the National Antarctic Programs, which are supporting human activity in Antarctica. Critical to successful operations in Antarctica that National Antarctic Programs and their science communities have a say as to how, from a practical standpoint, this issue will be handled. A joint COMNAP/SCAR workshop is already planned for 8 August 2010 at Buenos Aires. Yves Frenot is the point of contact for this and SCAR's point of contact is Steven Chown.
 4. *Data and Information Management*: This topic is on the COMNAP AGM 2010 agenda and will be presented and discussed by the SCAR representative at the COMNAP AGM. Difficulties here were noted given that data management is often driven by National strategies and priorities. There was mention that JCADM was a "joint committee" funded by SCAR and COMNAP until COMNAP withdrew funding. COMNAP members will be made aware of the DIMS and discussion will follow about the future of this topic .
 5. *Collaboration at the ATCM*: It is important that SCAR and COMNAP keep each other informed about papers being submitted to the ATS so that a coordinated approach can be used when appropriate. Mechanisms to improve this communication will be explored,
 6. *Joint workshops*: A good example of something that worked well in the past is the environmental monitoring workshop. COMNAP will review the status of the list of items from the environmental monitoring workshop and see if further benefit can be had from pulling those ideas together. For 2011, SCAR noted that plans were underway for a review of conservation practice for Antarctica in the 21st century. COMNAP will be involved in this workshop.
 7. *'Sustainability'*: In general, there is a move from National Antarctic Programs to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints in Antarctica. This must be done in consultation with the science community. The reduction that has already taken place is evidenced by some of the project work and expert group work of COMNAP, such as work on energy saving, effluent handling, water quality at stations and in field camps and changing human behavior in Antarctica. It is recommended that scientists be involved the decision-making processes of National Antarctic Programs with the aim of to being more efficient in Antarctica. There may be an opportunity to theme the 2012 COMNAP Symposium on "Sustainability", this idea is to be further discussed at the COMNAP AGM.

8. *King George Island Project*: “APASI-the King George Island Data Base Project” is a COMNAP project that is a management tool for upcoming season activity on King George Island. This is a welcomed development that supports SCAR’s Action Group on KGI coordination and the KGI GIS.
9. *Medical*: SCAR/COMNAP Workshop at AGM. SCAR has a human biology and medicine group and COMNAP has a medical group. Merging these into a joint SCAR/COMNAP group is being discussed.
10. *Exchange Programmes* - A series of initiatives whereby experienced scientists and others from National Antarctic Programs can assist and support “smaller” or emerging Antarctic programs and their personnel in order to successfully increase their participation in Antarctic research activities is being discussed. Exchanging scientists and others between National Antarctic Programs is supportive of both organizations goal to build-capacity in Antarctic countries with less well-developed Antarctic Programs. SCAR is launching what it calls a “Visiting Professor” scheme. Joint SCAR/COMNAP initiatives in this area will be discussed.

**Appendix - SCAR/COMNAP Action Group:
Notes from the First Meeting, Saturday March 13, 2010
Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, USA**

Participants

Berry Lyons (Facilitator), Chuck Kennicutt (Co-convenor/SCAR President), Jose Retamales (Co-convenor/COMNAP Chair), Sergio Marensi, Michelle Rogan-Finnemore, Lou Sanson and Michael Sparrow. Apologies: Heinz Miller.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Background to the formation of the Action Group
4. Discussion (based on the Terms of Reference (TOR)):
 - a. TOR 1 SCAR Presentation & COMNAP Presentation
 - b. TOR 2 Brainstorming session/discussion
 - c. TOR 3 Brainstorming session/discussion
 - d. TOR 4 Brainstorming session/discussion
 - e. TOR 5
5. Plan for intersessional period
6. Close of meeting

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

The Action Group Meeting was opened at 10:30am by Professor Berry Lyons, facilitator for this first meeting. Berry welcomed the group and invited each member to provide his/her own introduction. He noted that Heinz Miller is a member of the Action Group but was unable to join the group in person for this first meeting. Heinz had commented on the agenda items and was available by telephone should we have wished to contact him during the meeting.

Agenda Item 2 – Introductions

Introductions were briefly made, however, most of the members of the Action Group were already familiar with each other. The agenda items for the meeting were confirmed (see above), as were the Terms of Reference for the Action Group, as follows:

Terms of Reference

- Collect information on what SCAR and COMNAP actually are and do, recognizing that both bodies have significantly reorganized in very recent years.
- Determine what SCAR's and COMNAP's expectations of each other are or should be, based on what is of benefit to Members of each organization, and on a more strategic understanding of what each organization can provide to make the partnership viable, sustainable and valuable.
- Offer advice on ways and mechanisms that SCAR and COMNAP might implement to work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner.
- Offer guidance on ways in which SCAR and COMNAP might work together yet more effectively in future to provide advice to the ATS.

- Identify a series of topics/issues that are of common interest to SCAR and COMNAP that could form an agenda for the way forward.

Agenda Item 3 – Background to the Formation of the Action Group

The co-conveners of the Action Group, Dr. Jose Retamales (COMNAP) and Dr. Chuck Kennicutt (SCAR), were each invited to deliver opening remarks to provide background to this Action Group meeting.

Jose began by saying that the COMNAP Executive Committee (EXCOM) has come to realize, particularly as a result of the joint SCAR/COMNAP EXCOM meeting in Punta Arenas, Chile, in August 2009, that in order to build a sustainable partnership with SCAR, more is needed than simply meeting together once a year. He noted that there are challenges and opportunities with the partnership and that this is a timely opportunity to get to know each other better. Real communication is the key, and we needed to ask, “What is the person we are working with actually saying, what is the meaning of their words?” He also noted that science has become very topical for COMNAP, especially given COMNAP’s transition from a logistics-focused organization, to an organization that recognizes the broad responsibilities of National Antarctic Programs in their support/management of Antarctic scientific research and international scientific collaboration. Therefore, COMNAP recognizes that there is mutual benefit for greater collaboration between SCAR and COMNAP. Both organizations are different than what we both were, even as recently as five years ago. It was noted that COMNAP was in the process of a planned reorganization .

Chuck noted that SCAR is an organization that is now “beyond their restructure”. He noted that SCAR is working on strengthening its partnerships with other organizations, giving the example of the SCAR/CEP discussions. He also noted that there is new leadership in almost every organization within the Antarctic Treaty System.

There was then mention of the COMNAP AGM 2009 and of the interest shown by the National Antarctic Program Managers for the SCAR presentation last year at that AGM. There are a diverse range of National Antarctic Programs and Program Managers-some are scientists themselves, some are logistics experts and many of the National Antarctic Programs have a Manager and a Deputy Manager which have complementary skills (often one is a scientist and one is the logistics expert). It is because of this diversity of skills and diversity within National Antarctic Programs that COMNAP is restructuring. Strategic, sustainable partnerships with other key organizations are critical to the restructure and the success of COMNAP.

Chuck noted that the SCAR Data and Information Management Strategy (DIMS) will benefit the scientists and the National Antarctic Programs. He also thought that the focus that both organizations have with King George Island (for example, the SCAR Action Group and the COMNAP APASI project) was another example where both organizations could work together for mutual benefit.

Agenda Item 4a – SCAR and COMNAP background presentations

There were two presentations, one from SCAR and one from COMNAP to provide background to Action Group Members. Michael Sparrow presented on “What is SCAR” and Michelle Rogan-Finnemore presented on “What is COMNAP”.

It was noted that both SCAR and COMNAP reach out to their members via regular meetings. During even number years, SCAR and COMNAP organize their meetings to be held in the same location at the same time of the year. The goal being to allow for members of each organization to attend events of the other organization and to interact with people they might not otherwise see

throughout the year. SCAR plans at least four years in advance for its Open Science Conferences (OSC) and associated meetings. So that, for the 2012 meeting planning began in 2008.

There was discussion regarding the 2012 SCAR OSC/Business/Delegates meetings which are confirmed for Portland, Oregon, USA for 13 - 25 July 2012. The COMNAP AGM for 2012 has not been confirmed, but there was general agreement that having our even number year meetings together were important for both organizations.

For COMNAP, AGMs are confirmed/under discussion as follows: 2010-Buenos Aires, Argentina (also confirmed SCAR Meetings); 2011-Sweden; 2013-interest has been shown by Korea but has not been confirmed (will be discussed at this year's AGM); 2014-interest has been shown by New Zealand (for the SCAR Meetings for 2014, interest has been shown by Spain, Malaysia and New Zealand; the final location of the SCAR meetings and the COMNAP AGM will be discussed at this year's SCAR and COMNAP meetings, respectively, in August). To help with organization of COMNAP's meetings during even number years COMNAP it was suggested that the SCAR and COMNAP Secretariats keep each other informed about possible meeting locations. SCAR could consider updating its guidelines for holding SCAR meetings to suggest that countries who wish to hold the SCAR OSC/Business/Delegates meetings also discuss this, at an early stage, with their National Antarctic Program.

There was also agreement on the need to discuss why we are holding our meetings together. What expectations does each organization have of these meetings? Meeting in the same place and meeting jointly is not the same. There is scope to look at the model we have for these meetings and to further develop our thinking about this. What are the benefits of meeting together? The SCAR OSC itself is, of course, open to all who wish to attend. It exposes participants to a broad range of science topics which in itself is valuable. There is also value in choosing significant keynote speakers who will deliver information on a topic that is of value to National Antarctic Programs. There are costs associated with these joint meetings, so that both SCAR and COMNAP might recognize there is more benefit in holding joint EXCOM meetings in even years at the location of the OSC/AGM. But, during odd years joint meetings could be held at one of the Secretariats or at a location convenient to both organizations (on the margins of another meeting for example). It was also noted that holding the COMNAP symposium in parallel with the SCAR OSC (as in Bremen) gave additional opportunities for COMNAP Members and SCAR Delegates to participate in both meetings.

Agenda items 4b, 4c & 4e – Expectations and Mechanisms for Cooperation

Berry led a brain-storming discussion session on ways and mechanisms that SCAR and COMNAP might work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner. The following list, in no particular order, was developed as a result of those discussions.

Areas to collaborate together:

11. Joint meetings. For the OSC and the AGM-especially with 'overlapping' sessions of interest to both organizations. There was strong agreement on the benefits of joint meetings.

12. Education, outreach and communications. There are various aspects to this:

- First, under the heading of communications, there is a wish to develop a "Localizing of science stories" for benefit of National Antarctic Programs. So that, for example, the Outreach Expert Group of COMNAP led by Linda Capper has been preparing press/media statements for National Antarctic Programs to use when there has been a major science-related announcement. This is of benefit to both SCAR and COMNAP from the point of successful communication of science achievements and results about Antarctica.

- Second, under the heading of education and outreach and furthering that to include capacity-building, there was a recognition that the SCAR Fellowship Programme was both successful and beneficial to early career scientists. COMNAP is developing something similar to support other types of young people who work within National Antarctic Programs (environmental scientists/managers, science strategy managers, communications/outreach experts are just a few examples). Education and outreach is also an area that the CEP has identified as a focus area in their 5-year plan.

There was recognition that Rasik Ravindra was a VP for SCAR leading their Capacity Building, Education and Training (CBET) group and he is also a Vice Chair of COMNAP and so, along with Lou Sanson, the Vice Chair with oversight on Outreach for COMNAP, this looks like an area that would provide mutual benefit to both organizations by increasing resources and breadth of fellowships under the heading of SCAR/COMNAP Fellowships. New Zealand would be willing to contribute some funding via COMNAP to assist with the first joint SCAR/COMNAP Fellowships. This idea will be discussed with COMNAP Members at the AGM when a proposal is presented which would outline the aim of the joint Fellowships. And, if approved, a timeline for implementation will be developed, noting that the SCAR Fellowships are usually announced in March each year.

13. Data and Information Management. This topic is on the COMNAP AGM 2010 agenda and will be presented and discussed by the SCAR representative at the COMNAP AGM. Difficulties here were noted given that data management is often driven by National strategies and priorities. There was mention that JCADM was a “joint committee” and jointly funded by SCAR and COMNAP until COMNAP withdrew funding. There is no expectation that COMNAP will in the near future begin to fund JCADM (now SCADM – the Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management) once again. COMNAP members will be made aware of the DIMS.
14. Observing Systems: The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) has been one of SCAR’s focus areas and also the subject of a requested IP by the Treaty Parties. The topic of monitoring and observing systems will also be presented by SCAR at the COMNAP AGM 2010. There is also the possibility that SCAR may wish to follow up with joint themes at the COMNAP Symposium - perhaps with specific examples/projects. A “Terrestrial CAML” has been proposed (Chown) and such a project appears to be a good collaborative area for SCAR and COMNAP. There was thinking this might be another area where there might be a joint group. Such an idea will be presented on the “Way Forward” slide at the end of the SCAR presentation at the COMNAP AGM in order to generate discussion. Opportunity to link scientists across Antarctica that are monitoring or observing the same thing from a different location.
15. Non-Native Species. It was noted that this has been a topic for discussion at the ATCM. It is important that the ATCM understands what the science is saying about non-native species and what that means to the National Antarctic Programs which are supporting human activity in Antarctica. Critical to successful operations in Antarctica that National Antarctic Programs and their science communities have a say as to how, from a practical standpoint, this issue will be handled. Joint COMNAP/SCAR workshop is already planned for 8 August 2010 at Buenos Aires. Yves Frenot is the point of contact for this and SCAR’s point of contact is Stephen Chown.

16. Joint papers to the ATCM, joint workshops. A good example of something that worked well in the past is the environmental monitoring workshop. Lou will review the status of the list of items from the environmental monitoring workshop and see if further benefit can be had from pulling those ideas together. For 2011, SCAR noted that plans were underway for a review of conservation practice for Antarctica in the 21st century. COMNAP will be one of the key organisations involved in this workshop.
17. Sustainability. In general, there is a move from National Antarctic Programs to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints in Antarctica. This must be done in consultation with the science community. The reduction that has already taken place is evidenced by some of the project work and expert group work of COMNAP, such as work around energy saving, effluent handling, water quality at stations and in field camps and changing human behavior in Antarctica. A recommendation made is that scientists should be involved the decision-making processes of National Antarctic Programs with the aim of to being more efficient in Antarctica. The topic of sustainability requires more thought, especially given that for some Antarctic Treaty countries this is a political issue and therefore a delicate one and there is often differing views amongst countries what is actually meant by the term "sustainability". This is understandable because sustainability has become a wide-ranging term¹. Sustainability might be considered more broadly here, like what do SCAR and COMNAP have in common? - We want more money to do more research in Antarctica. So that sustainable funding is also a topic that we can consider. There may be an opportunity to theme the 2012 COMNAP Symposium on "Sustainability", this idea has to be further developed and presented to the COMNAP AGM. Lou would be happy to act as convener if this idea is supported. It was noted that the ATCM Operational Working Group is more often presented with Information Papers and not with Working Papers and that there has been considerable discussion on the idea of "environmental footprint".
18. Co-ordinated approach at ATCMs. It is important that SCAR and COMNAP keep each other informed about papers being submitted to the ATS so that a coordinated approach can be used when appropriate.
19. King George Island Project. "APASI-the King George Island Data Base Project" is a COMNAP project that is a management tool for upcoming season activity on King George Island. This could be useful to SCAR in particular considering SCAR has an Action Group on KGI coordination and a KGI GIS.
20. Medical. SCAR/COMNAP Workshop at AGM. SCAR has human biology group and COMNAP has medical group. It should be up to the groups to decide how they wish to proceed, but it could be that a single SCAR/COMNAP group is a possibility. This will need further discussion. There is a SCAR/COMNAP Workshop planned for 8 August 2010 in Buenos Aires. Iain Grant is the COMNAP point of contact for this and many of the COMNAP medical expert group participants are also members of SCAR (Human Biology

¹ The most popular definition of sustainability can be traced to a 1987 UN conference. It defined sustainable developments as those that "meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"(WECD, 1987). Robert Gillman, editor of the In Context magazine, extends this goal oriented definition by stating "sustainability refers to a very old and simple concept (The Golden Rule)...do onto future generations as you would have them do onto you." These well-established definitions set an ideal premise, but do not clarify specific human and environmental parameters for modeling and measuring sustainable developments. The following definitions are more specific: "Sustainable means using methods, systems and materials that won't deplete resources or harm natural cycles" (Rosenbaum, 1993). Sustainability "identifies a concept and attitude in development that looks at a site's natural land, water, and energy resources as integral aspects of the development" (Vieira,1993). "Sustainability integrates natural systems with human patterns and celebrates continuity, uniqueness and placemaking" (Early, 1993). In review of the plurality of these definitions, the site or the environmental context is an important variable to most working definitions of sustainability. This emphasis is expressed in the following composite definition: Sustainable developments are those which fulfill present and future needs (WECD, 1987) while [only] using and not harming renewable resources and unique human-environmental systems of a site: [air], water, land, energy, and human ecology and/or those of other [off-site] sustainable systems (Rosenbaum 1993 and Vieira 1993).

Group). Michelle and Michael will talk with medical group members to see what the SCRA/COMNAP “fit” is and the answer will most likely map the way forward.

21. “Hands across the water”. A series of initiatives whereby experienced scientists and others from National Antarctic Programs can assist and support “smaller” or emerging Antarctic programs and their personnel in order to successfully increase their participation in Antarctic research activities. Exchanging scientists and other people from National Antarctic Programs makes good sense and supports the role of both organizations to build-capacity in “smaller” Antarctic countries. SCAR is launching what it calls a “Visiting Professor” scheme. There should be ways to explore exchanges in a more strategic manner.

Agenda Item 4d – Working more closely with the ATS

Due to time limitations, the Action Group agreed to postpone the discussion on identifying a series of topics/issues that are of common interest to SCAR and COMNAP that could form an agenda for the way forward. The 5-year plan of the CEP should also be considered under this agenda item. It was also noted that since papers from COMNAP are from National Antarctic Programs (governmental organizations) that it is critical that such papers are always shown to the COMNAP plenary for approval before submission to the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat for an ATCM. This agenda item will be considered at the next joint SCAR/COMNAP EXCOM Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Agenda Item 5 – plan for the intersessional period

It was agreed that Michael and Michelle would consider the upcoming ATCM programme and organize a time that the Action Group members (those that will be in attendance at the ATCM) could meet for the second Action Group Meeting. The focus of that second meeting would be Agenda Item 4d “Offer guidance on ways in which SCAR and COMNAP might work together yet more effectively in future to provide advice to the ATS.” It would also be a good time to agree the agenda items for the joint SCAR/COMNAP EXCOM Meeting in Buenos Aires to be held on Sunday 8 August 2010.

Agenda Item 6 – Close of meeting

Berry closed the meeting. There was general agreement that the Action Group Meeting had been very productive. The participants thanked Berry for his time and his expertise as facilitator for the discussions.