



XXXII SCAR Delegates' Meeting

Portland, USA, 23-25 July 2012

Application for 2013/2014 Major Meeting Funds

Biology Symposium

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Title and date of meeting to be supported:

XIth SCAR International Biology Symposium
From 15 to 19 July of 2013

Authors:

Local Scientific Organizing Committee: **Wolf Arntz** –Honorary President (AWI-Germany), **Josep-Maria Gili** – Chairperson (ICM-CSIC), **Verónica Fuentes** (ICM-CSIC), **Enrique Isla** (ICM-CSIC), **Dolors Vaqué** (ICM-CSIC), **Begoña Vendrell-Simón** (ICM-CSIC, APECS), **Rebeca Zapata Guardiola** (ICM-CSIC, APECS), **Leopoldo García Sancho** (UCM), **Andrés Barbosa** (MNCN-CSIC), **Antonio Quesada** (UAM), **Pablo López** (US), **Sergio Rossi** (UAB), **Cruz Palacín** (UB), **Carlos Duarte** (IMEDEA-CSIC), **Covadonga Orejas** (IEO), **Ana Ramos** (IEO).

International Steering Committee: **Kathleen Conlan** – Chairperson (The Chief Officer of the SSG-LS), **Deneb Karentz** (Secretary of the SSG-LS), The Chief Officers of the Expert Groups and the Research Programme of the SSG-LS: **Mark Hindell** (Chief Officer Expert Group on Birds and Marine Mammals), **Graham Hosie** and **Mitsuo Fukuchi** (Chief Officers Expert Group on CPR Research), **Guido di Prisco** and **Pete Convey** (Chief Officers of the Special Research Programme EBA), **Mitsuo Fukuchi** (The Chair of the Local Scientific Organizing Committee of the previous Symposium), **Josep-Maria Gili** (The Chair of the Local Scientific Organizing Committee).

Introduction/ Background: (brief history of the meeting and why it is important)

The SCAR International Biology Symposium started in September of 1962 in Paris. After the first meeting, a new symposium has been celebrated every 4-6 years approximately.

Ist SCAR International Biology Symposium, Paris, France, 2-8 September 1962.

IInd SCAR International Biology Symposium, Washington, USA, 29 July-3 August 1968.

IIIrd SCAR International Biology Symposium, Washington, USA, 26-30 August 1974.

IVth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Wilderness, South Africa, 12-16 September 1983.

Vth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Hobart, Australia, 29 August-3 September 1988.

Vith SCAR International Biology Symposium, Venice, Italy, 30 May-3 June 1994.

VIIth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Christchurch, New Zealand, 31 August-4 September 1998.

VIIIth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Amsterdam, The Nederland, 27 August-1 September 2001.

IXth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Curitiba, Brazil, 23-31 July 2005.

Xth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Sapporo, Japan, 26-31 July 2009.

XIth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Barcelona, Spain, 15-19 July 2013.

In July 2010, at the XXXIth SCAR Open Science Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the SSG-LS decided that the venue for the XIth SCAR International Biology Symposium would be in Spain. The main theme for the XIth symposium is "**Life in Antarctica: Boundaries and Gradients in a Changing Environment**", this symposium links the functional importance of land and water ecosystems and their biocomplexity, under an ecosystemic perspective in order to understand the Antarctic trophic web, human impacts such as the ozone hole, climate change or the exponential increase of the touristic activities that Antarctic ecosystems are suffering nowadays, the flexible boundaries and dynamic gradients in a coupled benthic-pelagic ecosystem, as well the Antarctic marine biodiversity through its patterns, processes and trends. The more innovative aspect of this symposium is the outreach and education section, which will emphasize the creation of a communicative link and a positive feedback between scientists and educators in order to achieve a better way to make society understand and take part in polar science.

Justification for funds:

The funds will provide partial travel support to participants and invited speakers to travel to Barcelona (Spain) to attend the SCAR International Biology Symposium in July 2013. Preference will be given to students and early career scientists, and especially to members of under-represented groups. The symposium is a unique opportunity for scientists to present their work and learn about the most recent findings on all aspects of Antarctic organisms and ecosystems, to establish and strengthen international

contacts, and to be actively involved in the development of new directions and the establishment of new frontiers in polar biology. Travel support to students and other young polar scientists will enhance their career development by providing the opportunity of learning about recent advances in Antarctic research, gaining experience in presenting their own research results, and establishing professional relationships with other polar scientists from all around the world. Attending an international meeting such as the SCAR Symposium can be a catalytic experience for many young investigators and can be a significant event in their research careers. In this way support will be also given to the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS-Spain) to organize workshops or after-symposium events in order to put together early career scientists with mentors in a more relaxed and casual atmosphere.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:

Benefits and cross-field outcomes are expected in the economic, scientific, sociocultural and educational fields. The scientific outcomes will be published in high impact science journals like *Polar Biology*, *Scientia Marina*, *Antarctic Science* or *Polar Science*, among others.

One of the aims of the symposium is transferring scientific knowledge beyond the scientific community and letting the general public take an active part in post-symposium hands-on activities, open lectures, seminars, courses and, exhibitions, which will undoubtedly benefit polar science as it will be better known among the Spanish society. Moreover, as mentioned above, one of the days will be fully committed to education and outreach, focusing on the establishment of a network in order to facilitate the dialogue between researchers and teachers. Developing new strategies where teachers may get new educational material from reliable sources, and where at the same time they can enlighten researchers about the methods used daily in classrooms and outreach activities, as well as promoting a positive feedback to open new routes of collaboration between scientific and educative communities to reach students and society and bring them closer to polar science in the best effective way, is one of the challenges of this symposium.

One of the major benefits will undoubtedly be the improving of the visibility of Spanish polar researchers. Spain does not have any institution focusing exclusively on polar issues; however, there are lots of scientists working on Arctic and Antarctic topics all around the country. In this way, the symposium is a great opportunity, particularly for Spanish researchers, to make themselves known among the national and international polar research community. As we all know, Antarctic research needs good and thriving international relationships, and a symposium of this magnitude may help researchers to establish new collaborations, as well as to maintain and strengthen the already existing ones between national and foreign researchers. Moreover, the newly created Spanish Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS Spain) will be the union point for early career students interested in polar research, a communication point between mentors and students to share experiences, ideas and projects, and give them advice and reference guides to start a successful polar career. APECS Spain is going to be highly involved in the symposium by organizing round table sessions and preparing outreach contents.

Partners:

We already have the support of the Spanish SCAR National Committee (Jerónimo López), the SCAR Standing Scientific Group of Life Sciences (Kathleen Conlan), the SCAR programme Evolution and Biodiversity in Antarctica (Peter Convey), and the Spanish Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (Rebeca Zapata). Moreover, we have the support of the proposed new SCAR biology programme (AnT-ERA, Julian Gutt) which is pending of approval during the Open Science Conference in Portland.

Budget Implications:

Of the total amount of \$10,000, we would like to invest \$8,800 to support attendance of students and early career scientists, members of under-represented groups and scientists from countries with less well-developed countries, and \$1200 to support APECS activities during the symposium. The cost of a students' inscription is estimated to be around 200€ (\$260) and 300€ (\$380) for non-students, so about 25 students and 6 non-students will be granted the coverage of the attendance fee which includes coffee breaks and lunch during all the symposium.