



WP 20

Agenda Item: 4.4.5

Person Responsible: YD Kim, M Sparrow

XXXIII SCAR Delegates Meeting

Auckland, New Zealand, 1-3rd September 2014

Review of SCAR co-sponsored groups and activities

Executive Summary

Title: Review of SCAR Co-sponsored groups and activities

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Introduction/ Background: Noting that SCAR now co-sponsors groups and activities jointly with other organisations, the SCAR Executive decided to carry out an internal review of these co-sponsorships to:

1. Ensure that such co-sponsorships are of benefit both to SCAR and to the groups/activities themselves and make recommendations on a case by case basis as to how such co-sponsorships could be improved
2. Come up with recommendations as to how such groups/activities are best handled within the current SCAR structure

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: Delegates are asked to review the recommendations with regards to the different co-sponsored groups and discuss/approve as appropriate.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: A more consistent framework for SCAR co-sponsored activities

Partners: Various

Review of SCAR co-sponsored groups and activities

Introduction

Noting that SCAR now co-sponsors groups and activities jointly with other organisations, the SCAR Executive decided to carry out an internal review of these co-sponsorships to:

- Ensure that such co-sponsorships are of benefit both to SCAR and to the groups/activities themselves and make recommendations on a case by case basis as to how such co-sponsorships could be improved
- Come up with recommendations as to how such groups/activities are best handled within the current SCAR structure

The review was meant to be fairly “light handed” and not burdensome to the groups involved.

The first stage was to identify which groups are co-sponsorships (see below). Note that this does not cover all activities co-sponsored by SCAR (e.g. SCAR Products, which were only reviewed a year or two ago). It should also be noted that many of these co-sponsorships are already well developed and sit comfortably within the SCAR structure e.g. the joint medical group with COMNAP. A Questionnaire was sent out to all groups and the results collated (see Appendices A and B). All groups except the SCAR/COMNAP joint medical group responded (though note that since this group was recently reviewed and restructured we do not believe this is an issue).

The second stage was to gather feedback both from those within the SCAR Structure to which the groups report to (e.g. the Chief Officers of the Standing Scientific Groups).

The below summarises the outcomes of these discussions and makes recommendations for the Delegates to discuss. Please see Appendix B and the SCAR website (www.scar.org) for additional information.

Discussion and Conclusions

1. The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS)

This is a joint SCAR/SCOR sponsored activity. The group reports directly to EXCOM. SOOS has its own Secretariat (with an Executive Officer, in Tasmania) paid for by Australia. SCAR and SCOR share the costs of the annual Steering Committee Meeting, which come under a SOOS budget line. Several other organisations 'endorse' the SOOS, which is a high-profile activity. See also WP 18.

Time limit - not set (although it could be argued that the SOOS is more like a SCAR Product than an SRP or group).

Website: www.soos.aq.

Contact: Louise Newman <newman@soos.aq>

The CO of LS commented that the SOOS is a high profile activity that also supports SCAR's current SRPs. The CO of PS commented that the SOOS provides an important linkage to the atmospheric and climate interests within SCAR.

Recommendation: SCAR continues to support this high-profile activity as a separate budgeted item. In line with all SCAR activities support of the SOOS should be reviewed after a set time. Suggested time for review would be 2016.

2. The Climate and Cryosphere project of WCRP (CliC)

Although strictly not a co-sponsorship SCAR have an MoU with CliC (and IASC) to carry out joint activities such as ISMASS, ASPeCt and the Southern Ocean implementation panel (see below). There is a separate ~\$2k budget line to allow a representative of SCAR to attend the CliC steering meeting.

Time limit - set by 5 year MoU.

Website: <http://www.climate-cryosphere.org>.

Contact: Jenny Baeseman <jbaeseman@gmail.com>

Recommendation: CliC remain as a SCAR co-sponsorship to ensure connections with this activity of WCRP. To be reviewed at same time as MoU comes up for renewal.

3. The Southern Ocean CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR implementation panel

SCAR co-sponsor (along with CliC and CLIVAR) the Southern Ocean Implementation Panel. Some funds are provided from the co-sponsorship budget line (~\$1-2k a year) to ensure SCAR representation at the meetings.

Time limit: Non currently set

Website: <http://www.clivar.org/organization/southern>.

Contact: Jennifer.riley@noc.ac.uk

Recommendation: Need to ensure linkages are kept up to date with this activity. Should ensure that funds used for this activity involve a SCAR nominated person attending the meeting to ensure improved two-way communication. Should continue as a co-sponsored activity, though also be reviewed in the future, perhaps when MoU with CliC comes up for renewal.

4. Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics (ICED)

There is an ICED Expert Group under LS and PS and so ICED reports to both SSGs. However ICED originally came out of IGBP and SCOR. Occasional funds come out of the co-sponsorships budget line.

Time limit: There is a limit for the ICED EG, but if continued as a co-sponsorship should be reviewed in the future.

Website: <http://www.iced.ac.uk>.

Contact: Eugene Murphy <e.murphy@bas.ac.uk>

The CO of LS suggests that ICED be counted as a co-sponsorship and the EG be wound up, since it has its own secretariat.

Recommendation: ICED should no longer be an EG of LS, but should continue as a co-sponsored activity. A time for this activity to be reviewed should be set (perhaps 2016 at the same time as the SOOS).

5. International Partnership in Ice Core Sciences (IPICS)

IPICS receives some funds from co-sponsorships budget line. It reports to SSG-PS as an EG.

Time limit: Set by lifetime of EG.

Website: <http://www.pages-igbp.org/workinggroups/endorsed-and-affiliated/ipics>.

Contact: Eric Wolff <ew428@cam.ac.uk>

Recommendation: IPICS should continue as an EG under PS. Once the lifetime of the EG comes to an end a decision will need to be made as to whether it continue as a co-sponsorship. See also the recommendation under ISAES.

6. ASPeCt (Antarctic Sea Ice Processes and Climate)

Originally a SCAR group in the 1990s, ASPeCt reinvigorated itself recently - it now sits under AntClim21 (before it was under AGCS) and is co-sponsored by CliC. It reports to SSG-PS.

Time limit: Not set

Website: <http://aspect.antarctica.gov.au>.

Contact: Marilyn Raphael <raphael@geog.ucla.edu>

The CO of PS commented that ASPeCT provides an important link to the sea ice community. ASPeCT has a relatively high profile under CliC but there is an issue with having a SCAR group that has carried on for such a long period of time with no proper home (i.e. it is not an EG or AG).

Recommendation: SSG-PS should discuss if ASPeCT should become a SCAR EG under PS with a defined lifetime.

7. ISMASS (Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level)

Originally a SCAR EG under SSG-PS it is also now co-sponsored by IASC and CliC. Its funding comes from SSG-PS.

Website: <http://www.scar.org/ssg/physical-sciences/ismass>

Contact: Frank Pattyn <fpattyn@ulb.ac.be>

The CO of PS commented that ISMASS deals with ice sheet mass balance, a major concern for Antarctica, so it is good to maintain this group in the SCAR structure.

Recommendation: ISMASS should continue as an EG of PS until the end of its allotted lifetime.

8. ITASE (International Trans Antarctic Scientific Expedition)

Originally a PAGES group, ITASE became co-sponsored by SCAR. In the SCAR system like ASPeCt it sits under AntClim21 and so reports to SSG-PS.

Time limit: Not set.

Website: <http://www2.umaine.edu/itase/>.

Contact: Paul Mayewski <paul.mayewski@maine.edu>

The CO of PS commented that IPICS and ITASE both deal with ice coring, a major activity in Antarctica. He commented that it might be good to merge these two together.

Recommendation: SSG-PS to discuss if an AG/EG should be formed merging ice-core activities.

9. Antarctic and Subantarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments (ANTPAS)

ANTPAS is an Expert Group under SSG-Geosciences and is combined with the equivalent Working Group of the International Permafrost Association.

Website: <http://www.scar.org/ssg/geosciences/antpas>

Contact: Mauro Guglielmin <mauro.guglielmin@uninsubria.it> and Gonalo Vieira <vieira@campus.ul.pt>

Recommendation: ANTPAS should continue as an EG of SSG-GS.

10. Joint SCAR/ COMNAP Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine (JEGHBM)

Jointly sponsored by SCAR and COMNAP. Reports to SSG-LS and is well established within the SCAR Structure.

Website: <http://www.medicalantarctica.com>

Contact: Jeff Ayton <jeff.ayton@aad.gov.au>

Recommendation: No further action required at this stage.

Appendix A: Questionnaire for co-sponsored groups:

Not all questions may be relevant to every group/project. Please answer as best you see fit. The person responsible within SCAR for the co-sponsorship will then be asked to comment on the completed questionnaire (e.g. for ICED this would be the CO of SSG-LS). Please try to keep the full reply to a couple of pages or so.

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity</p> <p>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent</p> <p>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity</p> <p>Please state the lifetime of the activity.</p>
<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general?</p> <p><i>a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all</i></p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?</p>

7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?

8. General Comments

Please comment how the group's relationship with SCAR could be improved.

Appendix B: Results of questionnaire for co-sponsored groups

1. The Southern Ocean Observing System

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity The Southern Ocean Observing System</p>
<p>1. Aims Mission and objectives at: http://www.soos.aq/index.php/about-us/mission</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity SOOS is a joint initiative of SCAR and SCOR. Both these governing bodies provide sponsorship of the annual SOOS Scientific Steering Committee meeting. SOOS benefits greatly from SCAR sponsorship. Specifically, access to the SCAR networks for expertise, communication and dissemination of products and activities is vitally important. SCAR also provides SOOS an avenue into intergovernmental agencies such as the Antarctic Treaty, and into key organisations like CCAMLR and COMNAP. Support from the SCAR secretariat, in the form of advice and guidance has also been very important, particularly in the initial development of SOOS. The financial support that SCAR provides for the annual SOOS SSC meeting is imperative. Without this support (and the SCOR support) the SOOS International Project Office (IPO) annual working budget would be almost entirely consumed by the one SSC meeting.</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent SOOS has a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), comprising international scientists across all spheres of SOOS science. The SSC is overseen by the SOOS Executive Committee (presently Mike Meredith (SOOS Co-Chair, BAS), Oscar Schofield (SOOS Co-Chair, Rutgers), and Louise Newman (SOOS Executive Officer, SOOS IPO). See: http://www.soos.aq/index.php/about-us/ssc/currentsscmembers</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity SOOS was officially launched in August 2011. The IPO is hosted by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS, University of Tasmania), agreed until August 2016. SOOS recently published its vision, with a realistic but tight timeline of 20 years. At present, SCAR governance of SOOS is secure up to 2019 (8 years), with a midway review in 2015. SCOR governance recognises that SOOS objectives are unlikely to be met within the next decade and has not defined a sunset deadline, subject to regular reviews.</p>
<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general? <i>a. very much</i></p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit? See point 2</p>

7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?

8. General Comments

I think the communication and coordination between SOOS and SCAR is very successful and currently operates at a level that is perfect for SOOS (and hopefully also SCAR). The present structure enables autonomy for SOOS to operate and achieve what it needs to without too many added layers of administration, whilst still providing governance and oversight.

2. The Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project of the WCRP

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity CliC</p>
<p>1. Aims <i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i> www.climate-cryosphere.org</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity <i>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</i> Until 2013, SCAR was a co-sponsor of CliC. Currently we have an LoA between our efforts to help us work together efficiently. I'm not exactly sure how we fit into the SCAR structure at this point.</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent <i>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</i> Not sure</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity <i>Please state the lifetime of the activity.</i> At least until 2020</p>
<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general? a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all</p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of</p>

<p>benefit?</p> <p>Having SCAR as a co-sponsor for many years gave credibility to CliC, from what I understand (this was before my time at CliC). Having a continued link between our organizations will be critical as we are now starting to become more active and making sure our efforts are synergistic and not happening in parallel.</p>
<p>7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?</p>
<p>8. General Comments</p> <p><i>Please comment how the group's relationship with SCAR could be improved.</i></p> <p>At present, I think things are moving along okay. I am able to talk with Mike when things come up and he is very efficient at putting me in touch with the appropriate SCAR person to help with whatever the task may be.</p> <p>We are also co-sponsoring ISMASS, which is working fine. I would like to discuss the current state of ASPeCt and the Southern Ocean Panel – I think these co-sponsorships need to be evaluated and discussed a bit further.</p> <p>I do hope that SCAR continues to a lot funding to support participation in CliC activities – having someone from SCAR at our annual SSG meeting is very important to making sure we are familiar with SCAR activities and SCAR is informed of our activities.</p>

3. The CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean Implementation Panel

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p> <p>CLIVAR/CLiC/SCAR Southern Ocean Panel</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>The Terms of Reference of the CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean Panel are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design a strategy to assess climate variability and predictability of the coupled ocean-atmosphere-ice system in the Southern Ocean region. 2. Engage and interact with the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) programme on Southern Ocean sustained observations and model experiments needed to meet the objectives of CLIVAR, CliC, SOOS and SCAR. 3. Work in concert with relevant CLIVAR panels (e.g. regional panels, numerical experimentation groups), ACSYS/CliC Panels (DMIP, OPP, NEG) and other groups (e.g. Ocean Observation Panel for Climate, Argo Science Team) to integrate Southern Ocean observations with those in neighboring regions to ensure the objectives of CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR are met and resources are used efficiently. 4. Enhance interaction between the meteorology, oceanography, cryosphere, biogeochemistry and paleoclimate communities with an interest in the climate variability of the Southern Ocean region.

5. Serve as a forum for the discussion and communication of scientific advances in the understanding of climate variability and change in the Southern Ocean region.
6. Work with the CLIVAR, CliC, SCAR, SOOS and WCRP Data Council data systems on issues related to distribution and archiving of Southern Ocean observations.
7. Advise the CLIVAR, CliC, SOOS and SCAR SSGs on progress achieved towards implementation.

For more information please see www.clivar.org/organization/southern

2. SCAR’s role and importance in the group/activity

Please (i) briefly outline SCAR’s role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)

SCAR jointly sponsors this panel with two WCRP projects: the Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR) and the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) projects. SCAR does not have an official representation on the panel. Panel activities are communicated to SCAR as appropriate and vice versa. SCAR provides annual financial support to panel meetings, and the group does gain additional networking from having SCAR as a sponsor.

3. Scientific Committee or equivalent

Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)

Matthew England (co-chair) University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Lynne Talley (co-chair) Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA

For more details on panel membership please visit:

<http://www.clivar.org/organization/southern/about-us/members>

4. Lifetime of group/activity

Please state the lifetime of the activity.

This is a core CLIVAR panel and as such the lifetime of the activity is for as long as the panel meets to core objectives of CLIVAR science. For more information on CLIVAR science please see:

<http://www.clivar.org/imperatives>

5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group’s activities in general?

- a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all*

6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?

It ensures that the Southern Ocean Panel is able to keep in touch with a wider sphere of researchers specialising in Antarctic Research. Both CLIVAR and SCAR have been instrumental in supporting the initial phases of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Plan.

7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?

<p>8. General Comments</p> <p><i>Please comment how the group's relationship with SCAR could be improved.</i></p> <p>A formal SCAR representation in the panel membership would ensure that communication between both communities is effective and joint activities could be better planned.</p>

4. The Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics (ICED) project

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p> <p>ICED – Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Southern Ocean</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>The ICED vision is to develop a coordinated circumpolar approach to better understand climate interactions in the Southern Ocean, the implications for ecosystem dynamics, the impacts on biogeochemical cycles, and the development of sustainable management procedures.</p> <p>See www.iced.ac.uk</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity</p> <p><i>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</i></p> <p>We are an expert group within SCAR SSG-LS and SSG-PS.</p> <p>We receive a small amount of finances on occasion but our main gains are from being connected to the SCAR network, including programmes with complimentary objectives (including. AntEco, AnT-ERA, & SOOS).</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent</p> <p><i>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</i></p> <p>Chair: Eugene Murphy</p> <p>Executive Officer: Rachel Cavanagh</p> <p>Programme Manager: Nadine Johnston</p> <p>Scientific Steering Committee: Richard Bellerby, Andrew Constable, Dan Costa, Eileen Hofmann, Walker Smith, Zhaomin Wang, Dieter Wolf-Gladrow, Jose Xavier</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity</p> <p><i>Please state the lifetime of the activity.</i></p> <p>Formally established in 2008 to run for at least ten years.</p>

<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general?</p> <p><i>a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all</i></p> <p>Between a) and b) but we would like to improve on this...see below</p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?</p> <p>We have received small amounts of funds that have helped us with core activities of relevance to both SCAR & ICED and we benefit from being part of, and connected to, the wider SCAR network. The feedback from SCAR to ICED has helped us refine our priorities and approaches in developing our integrated circumpolar research.</p>
<p>7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>8. General Comments</p> <p><i>Please comment how the group's relationship with SCAR could be improved.</i></p> <p>Mike Sparrow attended our last SSC meeting and we discussed improving the links between SCAR and ICED. In particular we discussed the need to clarify the role/position of ICED within SCAR; work to improve links with AntEco, AnT-ERA and SOOS in particular to promote collaboration and avoid duplication of effort in the areas of data rescue and analyses, modelling and fieldwork; and to work together with SCAR and CCAMLR to develop a more formal role for SCAR and ICED within CCAMLR. There are many areas of overlap that will benefit from improvements in how ICED and SCAR link together. ICED has recently submitted a proposal to SCAR for funds to improve relationships with the SCAR network and achieve mutually beneficial objectives. Activities include 1) development of our existing fieldwork map to guide future international collaborative fieldwork and science activities and 2) a collaboration with SCAR (SOOS, Antarctic Biodiversity and other relevant data portals, such as NASA Ocean Data and the Australian Antarctic Data Centre) to compile a list (of existing open source and un-mined) key ecological databases to provide evidence of regional change and validate ecological models, with the future aim of linking them and making them accessible to the ICED community. ICED also welcomes any suggestions that SCAR has to improving our relationship.</p>

5. The International Partnership in Ice Core Sciences (IPICS)

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p> <p>International Partnerships in Ice Core Sciences (IPICS)</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>Planning of future activity, and coordination of the international ice core community.</p> <p>See http://www.pages-igbp.org/workinggroups/endorsed-and-affiliated/ipics and pages</p>

<p>below that, including white papers of priority projects and information about meetings.</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity</p> <p><i>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</i></p> <p>SCAR is one of 3 bodies that have endorsed IPICS – PAGES representing the palaeoclimate discipline, IACS representing the cryospheric topic, and SCAR representing the most important geographical targets for IPICS. We value all these links, which give our members the understanding that we have the confidence of the main international organisations to carry out the coordination work. SCAR has also provided funds, eg for our Open Science Meeting in 2012.</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent</p> <p><i>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</i></p> <p>Co-chairs are Ed Brook (Oregon State University, USA) and Eric Wolff (University of Cambridge, UK). Under the IPICS constitution we were recently re-elected for a further 4 year term. The Steering Committee, consisting of representatives of each of the 22 IPICS nations, plus extra subject experts, can be found at http://www.pages-igbp.org/workinggroups/endorsed-and-affiliated/ipics/steering-committee</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity</p> <p><i>Please state the lifetime of the activity.</i></p> <p>IPICS is ongoing as a coordination activity. The priority projects are expected to evolve or alter with time. However the most ambitious of them, "Oldest ice" has a timeframe of at least a decade.</p>
<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general?</p> <p><i>a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all</i></p> <p>I'd say (b).</p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?</p> <p>It gives SCAR the confidence that it is involved in ice core activities without having to invent another body, and it gives us the kudos and endorsement of the Antarctic science community.</p>
<p>7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?</p>
<p>8. General Comments</p> <p><i>Please comment how the group's relationship with SCAR could be improved.</i></p> <p>I think the relationship is fine. There is generally at least one member of the IPICS SSC involved with the major SCAR committees and therefore able to report. Of course the availability of more funds for meetings would be welcome, but I don't see a fundamental issue with the current arrangement.</p>

6. Antarctic Sea Ice Processes and Climate (ASPeCt)

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p> <p>Antarctic Sea Ice Processes and Climate (ASPeCt)</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>The overall aim of ASPeCt is to understand and model the role of Antarctic sea ice in the coupled atmosphere-ice-ocean system. This requires an understanding of key processes, sustained observations from vessels and coastal stations, and analyses of remote sensing imagery, for the determination of physical, chemical, and biological properties of the sea ice zone.</p> <p>http://aspect.antarctica.gov.au/</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity</p> <p><i>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</i></p> <p>ASPeCt was initiated as a SCAR activity and is currently jointly sponsored by SCAR and CLiC (Climate and Cryosphere) of the WCRP. SCAR provides an important framework within which ASPeCt is supported. SCAR provides important intellectual networking resources, ties to national programmes and institutes, as well as seed financial resources to fund workshops where ASPeCt members could meet, formulate research plans and report on progress with those plans. SCAR's support is necessary for ASPeCt's survival.</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent</p> <p><i>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</i></p> <p>Co-Chairs are Prof. Stephen Ackley and Prof. Marilyn Raphael</p> <p>http://aspect.antarctica.gov.au/</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity</p> <p>In its first iteration, ASPeCt had a projected lifetime of 10 years as a SCAR only programme. In its renewed form with co-sponsorship by CLiC it has a projected lifetime until 2025. This period coincides with the implementation period of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) when a sustained observation network for Antarctic sea ice (and the Southern Ocean) is expected to be in place</p>
<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general?</p> <p>It is clear that ASPeCt or a similar international coordination group for Antarctic sea ice would not have been started nor allowed to be sustained, without SCAR sponsorship initially and continued SCAR co-sponsorship into the next decade.</p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?</p> <p>Financial aid – support for running workshops, travel etc for scientists to attend same</p> <p>Framework – SCAR provides intellectual support for ASPeCt through connections to past</p>

and ongoing SCAR projects such as GLOCHANT, Antarctica in the Global Climate System and upcoming activities through initiatives such as SCAR Horizon.
<p>7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>8. General Comments</p> <p>Being part of SCAR and providing sustained effort on sea ice has helped to take SCAR into the oceanic realm, important for near-term climate change problems of the earth system that have gained increasing importance in the last two decades. The recent notice that there is now an email list where Chairs of groups can communicate or post is an important avenue for improving all groups' relationship to SCAR and interrelationships within SCAR.</p>

7. Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMASS)

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p> <p>ISMASS: Antarctic ice sheet mass balance and sea-level</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>ISMASS was established in 1993 as a SCAR-tasked group on Antarctic mass balance and sea-level contribution, which has since become bipolar. ISMASS is international and interdisciplinary across the spectrum of relevant ice-sheet mass balance disciplines, and is a self-governing expert group sponsored by SCAR, IASC and CliC. ISMASS aims primarily to assess the status of research on interactions between ice sheets and the climate and Earth system and serve SCAR, IASC, CliC, research sponsors and other organizations as a source of knowledge on ice-sheet mass balance and propose directions for future research in this area.</p> <p>Further details and Terms of Reference can be found on http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=123&Itemid=726 as well as http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/physicalscience/ismass.html. CliC is currently updating this website.</p>
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity</p> <p><i>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</i></p> <p>ISMASS is presently co-sponsored by SCAR (representing the Antarctic science community), IASC (representing the Arctic science community) and WMO CliC (representing the polar climate science community), to reflect the renewed focus on both polar ice sheets. SCAR enabled the organization of an ISMASS workshop at Portland prior to the SCAR OSC. ISMASS is equally reporting to SCAR SSG in Physical Sciences. SCAR co-sponsors essentially organization of workshops and meetings.</p>

<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent</p> <p><i>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</i></p> <p>The ISMASS Steering Committee consists of nine scientists, including the SCAR, IASC and CliC representatives. It is currently chaired by Catherine Ritz. Frank Pattyn is the SCAR representative, and Francisco Navarro and Edward Hanna represent IASC and WCRP CliC, respectively. Other members are Dan Dixon, Xavier Fettweis, David Holland, Andrew Shepherd, and Pippa Whitehouse.</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity</p> <p><i>Please state the lifetime of the activity.</i></p> <p>ISMASS was established in 1993 and revitalized during the Portland Workshop in 2012. No end date has been put forward.</p>
<p>5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group’s activities in general?</p> <p><i>a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all</i></p>
<p>6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?</p> <p>Facilitating links with the multidisciplinary Antarctic scientific community. Providing funding/support for workshops. Providing visibility at an international level.</p>
<p>7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?</p>
<p>8. General Comments</p> <p><i>Please comment how the group’s relationship with SCAR could be improved.</i></p>

8. International Trans Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE)

<p>1. Name of Group/Activity</p> <p>International Trans Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE)</p>
<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity’s aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>The International Trans Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE) was formed with the goal of understanding the past 200-1000+ years of physical and chemical climate over Antarctica and adjacent reaches of the Southern Ocean. ITASE has resulted in an array of ice core records, increasing the spatial resolution of observations of recent Antarctic climate variability by more than an order of magnitude. This array provides the basis for assessment</p>

of past and current change and establishes a framework for monitoring future climate change in the Southern Hemisphere. This comes at a critical time as global record warming, stratospheric ozone depletion and other impacts are noted in the Southern Ocean, the Antarctic Peninsula, and on the Antarctic ice sheet.

For more detail re ITASE see: <http://www2.umaine.edu/itase/content/Science/overview.html> and <http://www.icereader.org/icereader/>

2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity

Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.).

- (i) SCAR sponsorship through AGCS and Antarctic21
- (ii) Umbrella for attracting 21 nations, workshop sponsorship, megadata and data coordination under IceREADER, joint publications.

3. Scientific Committee or equivalent

Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent).

Prof. Paul Mayewski, University of Maine, USA, Co-Chairman

AProf. Ian Goodwin, MacQuarie University, Australia, Co-Chairman

Prof. David Bromwich, Ohio State University, USA

Dr. Qin Dahe, Lanzhou Institute of Glaciology and Geocryology, China

Prof. Per Holmlund, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Dr. Elisabeth Issakson, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway

Dr. Massimo Frezzotti, ENEA, Italy

Dr. Michel Fily, Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Geophysique de Environnement, France

Dr. Volodia Lipenkov, The Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Russia

Prof. Heinz Miller, Alfred Wegner Insitute fur Polar und Meeresforschung, Germany

Dr. Fumihiko Nishio, Chiba University, Japan

Prof. Jefferson Simoes, LAPAG Insitute Geociencias, Brazil

4. Lifetime of group/activity

Brief history of ITASE

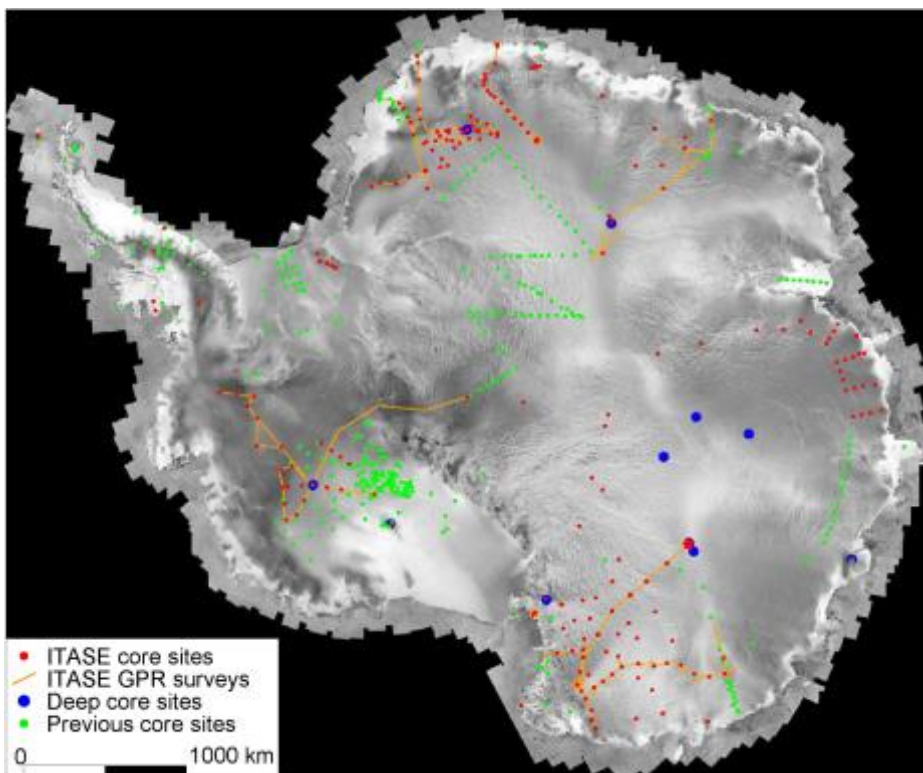
A concept for the preliminary implementation of ITASE (ITASE Planning Document, 1992), including proposed national components, was formally recommended to XXII SCAR (Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research) at the 1992 meeting in Bariloche, Argentina by the Working Group on Glaciology. At this meeting the SCAR delegates approved ITASE as Recommendation Glaciology XXII-5. Further it was clearly established at this time that ITASE could make notable contributions to the six main SCAR initiatives dealing with the crucial role Antarctica plays in global change. ITASE was subsequently formally accepted under one of SCAR's primary initiatives, GLOCHANT (Global Change in Antarctica) during the XXIII SCAR Meeting in Cambridge, England. ITASE has carried on through AGCS and Antarctic21 themes.

ITASE was formally adopted as a Past Global Changes (PAGES) project in 1993 under

PAGES Focus II on Paleoclimate and Environmental Variability in the Polar Regions, within the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP).

International ITASE representatives have met several times to discuss national traverse plans; coordinate efforts; synthesize results; develop statistical techniques for interpretation; and interact with the broader scientific community. These all-ITASE meetings started with a workshop that led to the development of an international Science and Implementation Plan for ITASE (Mayewski and Goodwin, 1997) followed by meetings in Durham, New Hampshire (1999), Potsdam, Germany (2002), Milan, Italy (2003), Hobart, Australia (2006), an NSF-SCAR sponsored workshop in Maine (2008) and a SCAR ITASE climate reconstruction workshop in Maine (2012). These meetings have provided the opportunity for ITASE researchers to meet and exchange information.

National and international ITASE field programs started in 1992 and have continued to present. ITASE activities span a considerable portion of the continent - see figure below.



9. Antarctic and Subantarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments (AntPAS)

1. Name of Group/Activity

Expert Group on Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments (ANTPAS)

<p>1. Aims</p> <p><i>Briefly summarise your group or activity's aims (this should be short and reference a webpage or similar for further details).</i></p> <p>http://www.antpas.org</p> <p>The combined IPA working group and SCAR expert group on Antarctic Soils, Permafrost and Periglacial Environments, in close working relationship with the IUSS cryosols group, have launched the ANTPAS initiative to address some of the current shortcomings and research needs. The overall aim is to develop an internationally coordinated, web-accessible, database and monitoring system on Antarctic permafrost and soils.</p> <p>Specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A common, web-accessible repository for permafrost temperature, active layer thickness and soils data. - The production of thematic maps on Antarctic permafrost and soils. - A system of boreholes providing data on permafrost and soils properties, records of past environmental change, and recording permafrost responses to climate change. - A well-designed monitoring system recording active layer and periglacial process responses to climate change along selected environmental gradients. Launched as an IPY activity the database and monitoring project will continue as an ongoing activity of the supporting associations. - The development of multidisciplinary and multinational research projects to analyse of the impacts of climate change on permafrost ice-free areas of Antarctica in cooperation also with Ant-Era and Ant-Eco.
<p>2. SCAR's role and importance in the group/activity</p> <p><i>Please (i) briefly outline SCAR's role in the group/activity e.g. SCAR jointly co-sponsor this activity through SSG-PS with an Expert Group...(ii) outline what the group/activity gains from being part of SCAR (e.g. networks, finance etc.)</i></p> <p>The group is currently an EXPERT GROUP within SCAR, jointly sponsored by the IPA.</p> <p>See specific comments in 6.</p>
<p>3. Scientific Committee or equivalent</p> <p><i>Please state who the Chief Officers (or equivalent are) and a link or similar to a scientific steering committee (or equivalent)</i></p> <p>Co-Chairs: Mauro Guglielmin (Italy) and Gonçalo Vieira (Portugal)</p> <p>Secretary: Megan Balks (New Zealand)</p> <p>Webmanager: Felipe Simas (Brazil)</p> <p>Geomorphology: Jeronimo Lopez Martinez (Spain)</p> <p>Ecosystems: Joseph Levy (USA)</p> <p>Permafrost: A. Abramov (Russia)</p>
<p>4. Lifetime of group/activity</p> <p><i>Please state the lifetime of the activity.</i></p> <p>No lifetime defined.</p>

5. Do you think co-sponsorship by SCAR has been of benefit to your group's activities in general?

a. very much b. somewhat c. minor d. not at all

very much

6. If you chose a or b, can you specify how SCAR co-sponsorship has been of benefit?

SCAR framed the workgroup activities within their OSC and ISAES and special interdisciplinary sessions have been prepared, which have resulted in special issues of ISI journals. There has been some funding available for partial travel support for co-chairs and also to provide for travel awards to students. The fact that ANTPAS exists within SCAR facilitates continued interaction between group's members and also the integration of new students. Such sessions have promoted the development of significant new collaborations since the IPY.

Framing EG activities within SCAR is also important since it allows to promote interaction and networking. At the national level in some countries the fact that members are involved in a SCAR EG increases scientific impact of projects and may facilitate access to funding.

7. If you chose c or d, can you specify how the relationship could be improved and what possible additional support could assist your group or activities?

8. General Comments

ANTPAS is the SCAR Expert Group on permafrost, soils and periglacial environments and as such, should be a consulting body for SCAR needs related to permafrost related issues in Antarctica. The group should also be the liaison with the International Permafrost Association, but it has not really been consulted during the MoU signature between SCAR and IPA. We would like to improve such a relationship by increasing synergies between the know-how from this interdisciplinary expert group and SCAR.

We have also to underline that after Portland OSC the communications from SSG and SCAR to ANTPAS were less frequent and less efficient especially regarding the funding that SCAR allocated for EG activities.