



**SDM** **38**  
Agenda Item: 8.3  
Person Responsible: S Chown/  
Secretariat

**XXXV SCAR Delegates Meeting  
Davos, Switzerland, 25-26 June 2018**

## **The Tinker-Muse Prize**

### **Report Authors**

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### **Summary**

The Tinker-Muse Prize, managed by SCAR on behalf of The Tinker Foundation, has now (including 2018) been awarded ten times.

The Tinker Foundation has advised that the 2018 award is the last formal Tinker-Muse Prize award that they will support.

A residual amount of US\$175 000 remains in the account being managed by SCAR. Negotiations are underway with The Tinker Foundation about this residual amount.

It is proposed that an announcement be made after Polar2018 that the prize will no longer be awarded. A statement about any use of residual funds might then be made shortly thereafter.

### **Recommendation**

Delegates to consider the proposed announcement, proposals for final use of funds, ideas about a new prize, and make recommendations.

### **Summary Budget 2017 to 2020**

No budget implications except that the management task for the prize will now come off the Secretariat workload.



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### **Introduction**

The Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica was established by The Tinker Foundation. SCAR formally proposed to manage the prize on behalf of The Tinker Foundation and by agreement has done so since its inception. The unrestricted US\$ 100 000 prize has been awarded ten times: 2018 – Michael Meredith (UK); 2017 – Matthew England (Australia); 2016 – Rob DeConto (USA); 2015 – Valérie Masson-Delmotte (France); 2014 – Tim Naish (New Zealand); 2013 – Martin Sigert (UK); 2012 – Steve Rintoul (Australia); 2011 – José Xavier (Portugal); 2010 – Helen Fricker (USA); 2009 – Steven Chown (South Africa).

SCAR has benefitted tremendously from the relationship with The Tinker Foundation, which has included major support for the SCAR Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Horizon Scan. SCAR thanks the Presidents of the Tinker Foundation, Renate Rennie and Caroline Kronley for their support across the duration of the Prize.

### **Developments**

In early 2018, The Tinker Foundation indicated that after the award of the 10<sup>th</sup> Tinker-Muse Prize it would seek to cease the award. A variety of reasons, which were discussed with the President and Secretariat, underlie the proposal. After discussion, it became clear that the course chosen by The Tinker Foundation could not be altered. SCAR suggested that announcement of the cessation of the prize would not be made simultaneously with the 10<sup>th</sup> Award at Polar2018, but that it be held off until thereafter. The Tinker Foundation agreed.

### **Residual Funds**

Careful management of administration fees, and some residual from the SCAR Horizon Scan activities mean that the administration account will retain approximately US\$ 175 000 once the 10<sup>th</sup> prize arrangements are concluded and the award made. The Tinker Foundation has made it clear that these funds cannot be deployed without their explicit permission and that they reserve the right to recoup them. A proposal has been made by the SCAR President, after discussion with the ExCom, for deployment of the funds and this proposal is now being discussed with The Tinker Foundation. Because the proposal has several alternative elements, it is not outlined in full here. In summary the proposal has been deployment of the funds for further prizes and for a colloquium of Tinker-Muse awardees and early career researchers.

### **Proposals for Delegates Consideration**

- SCAR and The Tinker Foundation make a joint announcement after July (likely September) that the Tinker-Muse Prize will no longer be awarded.
- The Tinker-Muse prize website be maintained for a year with the information and then closed and archived.
- If The Tinker Foundation agrees, the final funding be deployed in 2019/2020 with SCAR leadership of the process.
- The ExCom set about exploring options for a new prize that is externally supported.



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**Budget Implications**

If The Tinker Foundation agrees to the final use of the residual funds some Secretariat time will be required, but administration funds should cover this time. In the longer term, the time spent on the Tinker-Muse Prize will be freed up in the Secretariat.