

**Activities of the Global Change Master Directory with respect to the development of the Antarctic Master Directory in the years 2003 and 2004.**

The Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) has been the host of the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) since 2000.

At SCAR XVI in Tokyo the SCAR and COMNAP Executives decided to pay GCMD an annual sum of 40,000 US\$ for the years 2001 and 2002 to set up the AMD at GCMD.

Following the positive advice of STADM at SCAR XVII in Shanghai, the SCAR and COMNAP Executives decided to pay GCMD an annual sum of 10,000 US\$ for maintaining the AMD. This decision is to be reconsidered and renewed at the annual Joint SCAR/COMNAP Executives meeting, after consultation with JCADM and STADM.

At the Joint SCAR/COMNAP Executives meeting in Brest in 2003, it was decided to pay GCMD for 2003. In January 2004, JCADM sent a report advising positively concerning the payment for the year 2004.

Unfortunately and due to various reasons, the payments for 2003 and 2004 were never actually transferred to GCMD.

The SCAR and COMNAP Executives are asked to approve the payment of an annual sum of 10,000 US\$ for the years 2003 and 2004 and to approve a change in the procedures to allow the SCAR Secretariat to pay the annual amount at the end of each year.

The Antarctic Master Directory is the largest inventory of Antarctic dataset descriptions. The dataset descriptions are written in the Directory Interchange Format (DIF) and commonly referred to as DIFs. It's important to notice that a data set can range from a few (but unique!) observations at a particular time and place to millions of observations over many years and large areas.

The number of DIFs in the AMD has grown from 2499 in January 2003 to 3052 in December 2004. It is the task of the National Antarctic Data Centres (NADC) to prepare and send in DIFs. All DIFs are Quality Controlled and loaded into the AMD by GCMD staff. During 2003 and 2004, GCMD has spent a total of 127 days on

- quality control and loading of new DIFs
- quality control, updating and loading of existing DIFs (this includes updating personnel information to be compliant with new ISO standard, adding appropriate spatial coordinates and searching the GCMD database for Antarctic related DIFs not already catalogued in the AMD).

GCMD spent 15.5 days on administrative tasks, such as preparation of quarterly and annual reports with usage and population statistics and preparation of customized scripts for gathering these statistics.

JCADM and GCMD interact in various ways. GCMD has a designated Antarctic Science Coordinator. Questions either by email or telephone are always answered quickly and adequately. In addition to this, GCMD representatives attended the annual JCADM meetings (2003 in Brussels and 2004 in Bremen). During these meetings, the GCMD representatives gave several presentations as well as capacity building workshops for new NADCs. JCADM-GCMD interactions amount to a total of 35.75 days.

At its meeting in Brussels in 2003, JCADM has decided that each nation should have its own national web portal within the AMD. This decision was reiterated at the

Bremen meeting in 2004. GCMD has prepared and built these national portals for 8 nations during 2003-2004. This work, including customization of topic keyword icons and toolbars and also including handling ISO TC-211 compliancy issues, took a total of 20 days.

According to Lola Olsen, Director of GCMD, GCMD has thus dedicated a total of 198.25 days to the AMD during 2003-2004.

The JCADM Review Team (RT) also reviewed the AMD, paying special attention to the contents of the AMD. This resulted in a number of recommendations to further improve the AMD (see JCADM Review document). Quoting from the final draft version of the JCADM Review document:

“The AMD web site has been redesigned and there is a metadata assistant to help enter data. The JCADM Chief Officer noted that the GCMD staff are very helpful – they provide a timely response and they provide quality control on incoming information. The RT agreed that JCADM, and thus SCAR and COMNAP, have a cost effective arrangement with GCMD, which makes use of the existing expertise and infrastructure in place at the GCMD together with quality control of incoming metadata and provision of feedback. The \$10k per year provided to GCMD represents good value for money.”

JCADM recommends the SCAR and COMNAP Executives to approve the payment of an annual sum of 10,000 US\$ for the years 2003 and 2004 and to instruct the SCAR Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements.

On behalf of JCADM,

Taco de Bruin  
JCADM Chief Officer  
Texel, July 6, 2005