



WP 16

Agenda Item: 2.5.3

Person Responsible: M Sparrow

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Report on ISMASS activities since SCAR XXXI (13-25 July 2013, Portland, OR, USA) and related immediate actions

Executive Summary (1 page)

Title: Report on ISMASS activities since SCAR XXXI (13-25 July 2013, Portland, OR, USA) and related immediate actions

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Introduction/ Background: ISMASS, initially established in 1993 became, with the reorganization of SCAR, an Expert Group of the SCAR Physical Sciences Standing Scientific Group. Co-sponsorship by IASC was approved by the Cryosphere Working Group of IASC on 13 January 2011, and endorsed by the IASC Council. On 14 July 2012 an ISMASS workshop was held in Portland, OR, USA, within the frame of SCAR XXXI. On 21 May 2013, WCRP-CliC formally presented a request of co-sponsorship of ISMASS, which should be considered as tacitly accepted in light of the MoA between CliC, IASC and SCAR of 16 April 2013. Nonetheless, a formal endorsement is requested to SCAR EXCOM.

The Portland workshop covered both scientific and organizational aspects. A new Steering Committee (SC) was partially appointed (but not completed). The complete new SC is here presented to SCAR-EXCOM, with the request of formal endorsement.

This new SC will hold its first meeting in Sheffield, UK, on 7 Oct. 2013. The main tasks will be to define updated terms of reference for ISMASS, the strategy of ISMASS and the next steps to be undertaken, as well as clearly define some organizational aspects. Partial funding (total funding to be shared by IASC and CliC) is requested to support this meeting.

Important Issues or Factors: The importance of the subjects to discuss, looking towards a revitalization of ISMASS, recommends a face-to-face meeting.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification:

Endorsement of the co-sponsorship of ISMASS by WCRP-CliC. Justification: Wider co-sponsorship of ISMASS activities. Fits perfectly into the MoA signed by CliC, IASC and SCAR on 16 April 2013.

Endorsement of the new steering committee of ISMASS. Justification: having formal endorsement of newly appointed committee.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: Well defined framework and action plan of ISMASS for the forthcoming years.

Partners: IASC and WCRP-CliC (co-sponsors of ISMASS expert group).

Budget Implications: Budget is required for the first meeting of the newly appointed Steering Committee, to be held at the University of Sheffield, UK, on 7 Oct. 2013. It will involve travel and subsistence (including 2 hotel nights) for 8 people (2 travelling from the UK, 4 from continental Europe and 2 from the USA). The cost will be shared by SCAR, IASC and CliC, so a cost of no more than 9,000 € is budgeted, 3,000 € per organization.

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Main activities of ISMASS since SCAR XXXI

Soon after the Workshop, its main outcomes were made publicly available through the Workshop website (hosted by CliC) <http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/en/events/2012/ISMASS/Home.html>, and announced through the Cryolist and the websites and newsletters of the sponsoring organizations. These included a summary of the main discussions and outcomes (both scientific and organizational), the abstracts of the seven invited conferences and the summary of the three round tables and the organization session held, as well as the full videos of the conferences, round tables and organization session (video recording and editing kindly provided by APECS). Summary reports were submitted to organizers and co-sponsors (SCAR, IASC, WCRP-CliC, IGS, IACS) and ICSU as main sponsor (through an ICSU grant), including ICSU's regional offices.

A report to ICSU was prepared together with SCAR office (the latter taking care of the financial aspects).

The work of ISMASS during the following months focused on the preparation of a review paper commissioned by Nature on the advances in ice-sheet mass balance observations and modelling since IPCC AR4, co-authored by the three members of the interim Steering Committee (Hanna, Navarro, Pattyn), the eight invited speakers and a further researcher providing the expertise missing in a certain area. The paper was published on 6 June 2013. The full reference is:

Edward Hanna, Francisco J. Navarro, Frank Pattyn, Catia M. Domingues, Xavier Fettweis, Erik R. Ivins, Robert J. Nicholls, Catherine Ritz, Ben Smith, Slawek Tulaczyk, Pippa L. Whitehouse & H. Jay Zwally (2013): Ice-sheet mass balance and climate change. *Nature*, **498**, 51-59, doi:10.1038/nature12238.

In addition to the above, the activities of ISMASS have included the completion of the new Steering Committee. It was decided that the definition of the news terms of reference, plan of action, etc. should not be done by the interim SC but by the newly appointed SC, during its first planned meeting.

Action required from SCAR EXCOM: None.

WCRP-CliC as new co-sponsor of ISMASS

CliC was already well engaged in the recent ISMASS activities, including organizational support for the ISMASS 2012 Workshop, for which it provided a dedicated website for information and online registration, and dissemination of the workshop outcomes. On 21 May 2013, WCRP-CliC formally presented a request of co-sponsorship of ISMASS (attached as Appendix). In light of the MoA between CliC, IASC and SCAR of 16 April 2013, this request could be considered as tacitly accepted. In fact, the IASC Secretariat decided that it was not necessary to ask its ExCom for approval but only to "take note". Concerning SCAR, half of its EXCOM members were attending a meeting in Brussels at the time and informally "approved" this partnership. Nonetheless, a formal endorsement is requested to SCAR EXCOM.

Action required from SCAR EXCOM: Formal endorsement of co-sponsorship of ISMASS by CliC.

New Steering Committee of ISMASS

According to the decision taken within ISMASS 2012 Workshop, the new Steering Committee (SC) shall be formed by six people representing the main areas of expertise related by ISMASS (as shown below) plus three ex-officio members appointed by the three co-sponsoring organizations (two at the time of the workshop). Volunteers were asked for during the workshop, but three areas of expertise did not have volunteers among the participants. Suitable possible candidates were contacted and appointed in Spring 2013. The complete listing of members is:

- IS modelling (includes geological constraints & palaeo IS reconstructions): Catherine Ritz, Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de l'Environnement, Grenoble, France.

- Remote sensing: Andrew Shepherd, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, UK.
- GIA: Pippa Whitehouse, Department of Geography, Durham University, UK.
- In situ observations: Dan Dixon, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, USA.
- Interactions with atmosphere (climate & SMB modelling): Xavier Fettweis, Département de Géographie, Université de Liège, Belgium.
- Interactions with oceans: David M. Holland, Center for Atmosphere Ocean Science, New York University, USA.
- Contact person within SCAR: Frank Pattyn, Laboratoire de Glaciologie, Département des Sciences de la Terre et de l'Environnement, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.
- Contact person within IASC: Francisco J. Navarro, Departamento de Matemática Aplicada, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain.
- Contact person within CliC: Edward Hanna, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, UK.

A chairperson (and perhaps a co-chair or vice-chair) will be selected during the first meeting of the SC. It will also be discussed the status of the ex-officio members (whether full members or members with voice but not vote, and with presence not counted for quorum purposes, etc.).

Action required from SCAR EXCOM: Formal endorsement of the new SC.

First meeting of the new ISMASS Steering Committee

The new SC has planned to hold its first meeting at the University of Sheffield, UK, on 7 Oct. 2013. The main tasks will be to define updated terms of reference for ISMASS, the strategy of ISMASS and a plan of action of ISMASS for the forthcoming years, including a clear definition of the organizational aspects. Given the importance of the subjects to discuss, looking towards a revitalization of ISMASS, it was decided that a face-to-face meeting was the best choice.

Action required from SCAR EXCOM: Approve partial funding of the meeting, 3,000 € (rest of funding to be provided, in parts equal to that provided by SCAR, by IASC and CliC –total budget ca. 9,000 €).