

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research and the International Polar Heritage Committee

1 The Parties

The Parties to this MoU are the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC).

1.1 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Science Council (ISC). It was established in 1958 to continue the international coordination of Antarctic scientific activities that had begun during the ISC-led International Geophysical Year of 1957-58. Its mission is to initiate, develop, and coordinate high-quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. In addition it provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica. The decision-making bodies of SCAR are the Meeting of Delegates and the Executive Committee. The day-to-day operations of SCAR are supported by its Secretariat. SCAR's remit covers Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean including the Antarctic Circumpolar Current south of the Subantarctic Front.

The principal objectives of SCAR are:

- to initiate, develop, and co-ordinate leading edge scientific activity in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system;
- to provide objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, instruments of the Antarctic Treaty System (e.g. the Committee for Environmental Protection and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)) and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean;
- to facilitate free and unrestricted access to Antarctic scientific data and information;
- to develop scientific capacity in all SCAR Members, especially with respect to younger scientists;
- to promote the incorporation of Antarctic science in education at all levels; and
- to communicate scientific information to the public.

1.2 International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC)

The International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) is an international scientific committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The IPHC was founded 1 November 2000 and focuses on the preservation and protection of polar (Arctic and Antarctic) heritage. It is a non-political organisation made up of members of ICOMOS from countries with active polar interests. Individual members also have their own wider networks of experts who become an additional resource for others involved in polar heritage

protection. The IPHC's membership includes Antarctic heritage managers, archaeologists, academics and conservators.

ICOMOS is a non-governmental organisation of professional cultural heritage workers, which serves as an advisory body to UNESCO on matters related to world heritage. It was founded in 1965, and now has national committees in more than 100 countries. ICOMOS works to protect and conserve cultural heritage throughout the world. It has over 10,000 individual members in 153 countries, 320 institutional members, 110 National Committees and 28 International Scientific Committees (ISCs), of which the IPHC is one. Among ICOMOS' activities is independent advice to UNESCO on World Heritage matters.

2 Rationale for the MoU

The Parties share common goals of working internationally and across disciplines to increase understanding of polar heritage in the Antarctic context. There are strong grounds for a closer linkage between the two bodies to bring benefits to all parties, in particular in providing advice to policy makers in the context of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings.

There are close pre-existing links between SCAR and IPHC. Several of its members participate in the activities of SCAR's humanities and social sciences community. The IPHC links many of its formal meetings with those of SCAR's Humanities and Social Sciences Standing Committee, to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance accessibility.

The IPHC has been recognised by the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) for its expertise and has provided advice to the CEP intersessional contact group established to develop guidance material for conservation approaches for the management of Antarctic heritage objects (WP 20. XLI, 2018). There is merit in considering a formal linkage between SCAR and the IPHC so that its expertise in Antarctic human heritage governance, management, archaeology (which is also associated with human impact studies) and conservation issues is available to inform SCAR in its advice to the Antarctic Treaty System.

3 Terms of Agreement

This MoU identifies a joint commitment to excellence in the field of Antarctic polar heritage, to the pursuit of scientific advances, public awareness and advice to policy makers as well as professional development of young researchers.

SCAR and IPHC will, by mutual agreement, coordinate their efforts in Antarctic polar heritage to raise the level of impact of both organizations. As well as collaborating in the context of the Antarctic Treaty System, under this agreement the collaboration could extend to other international fora.

4 Financial implications of the Agreement

Parties to this Agreement will continue to be responsible for the costs of their own activities, but this does not preclude one party meeting, or contributing to, the occasional or ongoing costs of another if they so wish. Actual financial contributions to the activities and other

implications of this MoU will be considered and agreed to by representatives of the Parties as they arise, and may be changed in accordance with the Parties' requirements without any effect on the substance of this Agreement.

5 Duration, revision and termination of this MoU

This MoU remains in force for 5 years, at which time it will be reviewed for possible extension. No action by either of the parties will result in the cancellation of this MoU. The MoU may be revised at any time by mutual agreement between the Parties. Either of the parties may propose alterations to the MoU. Parties wishing to withdraw from this agreement should do so by a formal letter signed by the President and head organizational manager (i.e. Executive Secretary, Executive Director or Secretariat) of their respective organization.

Signed 17 April 2019



Steven Chown
President, SCAR



Michael Pearson
President, IPHC ICOMOS