



SDM 32
Agenda Item: 7.1
Person Responsible: A Lluberias

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

**Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty Report to
SCAR on the XLI Antarctic Treaty Meeting in
Buenos Aires, Argentina
16-18 May 2018**

Report Author Albert LLUBERAS Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty.

Summary of activities between 2016-18 and any other important matters

The XLI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 16 to 18 May 2018, during which Consultative Parties met for the purpose of exchanging information, holding consultations and considering and recommending to their Governments measures in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty.

Discussions in the ATCM focused on the following issues: operation of the Antarctic Treaty System including Secretariat matters; biological prospecting in Antarctica; update of the Multi-year Strategic Work Plan; inspections under the Antarctic Treaty and the Environment Protocol; and tourism and non-governmental activities (trends, patterns and environmental impact) in the Antarctic Treaty area.

The Meeting adopted a set of Measures, Decisions and Resolutions, including the revision of five of the 75 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs).

The three Decisions were related to the Secretariat Report, Programme and Budget; the renewal of the contract with the Secretariat's auditor; and the Multi-Year Strategic Work Plan.

The five Resolutions pertained to: Guidelines for the assessment and management of Heritage in Antarctica; Revised Guide to the presentation of Working Papers containing proposals for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, Antarctic Specially Managed Areas or Historic Sites and Monuments; Environmental Guidelines for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Antarctica; SCAR's Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica; and Site Guidelines for Visitors.

The Meeting welcomed the invitation of the Government of the Czech Republic to host ATCM XLII in Prague, from 1 to 11 July 2019.

For future planning, the Meeting took note of the following likely timetable of upcoming ATCMs:

- 2020 Finland



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- 2021 France

The Meeting agreed to support that a Declaration by Consultative Parties be made at ATCM XLII to commemorate the 60 years since the signing of the Treaty. It requested SCAR's participation in the drafting of the declaration, to ensure that it reflected and drew the public's attention to the importance of Antarctic science and the relevance of Antarctica to the rest of the world, and also to highlight the many changes that have taken place in Antarctica over the past 60 years.

Recommendations

1. To participate in the ATCM forum on the drafting of the Prague Declaration.
2. To present at ATCM XLII an update to its report contained in WP 2 *Biological Prospecting in the Antarctic* presented at ATCM XXXIII.
3. SCAR to give another lecture on scientific issues relevant to ATCM XLII.



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Report

Specific reference to SCAR in the ATCM XLI Final Report

Item 4a: Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System: Reports by Parties, Observers and Experts

In recognition of its 60th anniversary, the ATCM invited SCAR to address the Parties.

SCAR reported on its history and the exceptional and extraordinary contribution of its members and their scientists during the last six decades. SCAR reminded the meeting that it was a body of the International Council for Science that facilitated science in, from and about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and provided advice to the Antarctic Treaty Parties, to other bodies of the Antarctic Treaty System, and to other organisations.

SCAR noted that in 1957, the International Council of Scientific Unions had established a Committee and asked it to prepare a plan for the scientific exploration of Antarctica. SCAR had held its first meeting from 3 to 5 February 1958 in The Hague, the Netherlands. Since then the scope of activity and membership of SCAR had grown significantly.

SCAR acknowledged the productive working relationships with the Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, the Committee for Environmental Protection, other bodies of the Antarctic Treaty System, Observers, Experts, and civil society. Finally, SCAR noted that it looked forward to further collaboration with the Parties, especially as it addressed the significant science challenges and global responsibilities facing the Antarctic community.

The Meeting congratulated SCAR on its 60th anniversary and COMNAP on its 30th anniversary.

SCAR presented IP 26 *The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Annual Report 2017/18 to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XLI*. This paper noted that SCAR was in the process of developing a new suite of Scientific Research Programmes. SCAR indicated that this was an opportunity to examine ways in which to include the science priorities being discussed by the Parties into SCAR's Scientific Research Programme. The paper informed the Meeting that the XXXV SCAR Delegates Meeting and Open Science Conference would take place from 15 to 26 June 2018 in Davos, Switzerland. The meeting would be held in conjunction with the Arctic Science Summit Week 2018 and the Business Meetings of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and would be known as Polar2018 *Where the Poles Come Together*. SCAR reported some recent developments within its organisation, in particular that: Dr Chandrika Nath would become the new Executive Director in July 2018; SCAR's parent body, the International Council for Science (ICSU), had merged with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to form the



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International Science Council (ISC); and SCAR would hold its XXVI Delegates meeting and Open Science Conference in Hobart, Australia in 2020.

In relation to Article III-2 of the Antarctic Treaty, the Meeting noted the reports submitted from other international organisations under this agenda item. The Chair noted these Information Papers would also be taken as presented, including several papers involving SCAR:

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presented IP 47 *Annual Report 2017-2018*, which described WMO's activities during the period since ATCM XL. It explained that the WMO Polar and High Mountain regions priority activity was to promote and coordinate relevant observations, research and services carried out in the Antarctic, Arctic and high mountain regions by nations and by groups of nations. It informed the Meeting that the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) was foundational to WMO's polar initiatives and its observing component was one of the four essential observing systems under the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems, which also included the Antarctic Observing Network (AntON), maintained by WMO and SCAR. WMO noted that the Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) covered the period 2017-2019 and that a special Observing Period was planned in Antarctica from 16 November 2018 to 15 February 2019 (IP 48). WMO notified the Meeting that it was developing the concept of an Antarctic Polar Regional Climate Centre (PRCC) Network based on the lessons learned from the Arctic PRCC Network, and that a scoping workshop was provisionally planned for May 2019. Both the ATCM and CEP would be invited to send representatives to this workshop. WMO highlighted that the World Climate Research Programme, which WMO co-sponsored, was currently drafting new Strategic and Implementation plans. The climate of the polar regions was a key aspect of these plans. WMO also referenced the launch of the WMO-SCAR Fellowship Program for early career scientists (IP 44).

In addition, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) presented IP 57 *ASOC Report to the ATCM*. This paper briefly described ASOC's work over the past year and outlined some key issues for this ATCM. ASOC noted that over the past year it had engaged with CCAMLR and many partners, including IAATO, SCAR, the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO), and the Antarctic Wildlife Research Fund (AWR), to work broadly towards identifying strengths and weaknesses existing in the Antarctic Treaty System procedures and practices, while suggesting solutions to these gaps.

The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) presented IP 70 Report of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators 2017-18. It reported that during the 2017-18 Antarctic tourism season, the total number of visitors who travelled with IAATO Operators was 51,707, representing an increase of 17% compared to the previous season as well as a new high, having passed the previous peak of the 2007-8 season (46,265). It was noted that recent work and activities included: the launch of a SCAR/IAATO two-year collaborative research project to develop a Systematic Conservation Plan for the Antarctic Peninsula; investment in the assessment of field staff, recognising the importance of their role in



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enforcing Treaty agreements and IAATO standards and guidelines; and work with COMNAP and the United States Automated Flight Following System to improve air safety. It was further noted that, during the 2017-18 season, IAATO Operators cost-effectively or freely transported 211 scientific, support and conservation staff, and their equipment and supplies between stations, field sites and gateway ports.

Item 5: Biological Prospecting in Antarctica

The Meeting recalled Resolutions 7 (2005), 9 (2009), and 6 (2013), agreed to continue its work on the collection and use of biological material next year at ATCM XLII, and noted that the agenda item was included in the Multi-year Strategic Work Plan.

While encouraging Parties to submit relevant Working Papers to continue this work, the Meeting agreed:

- To request SCAR to present at ATCM XLII an update to its report contained in WP 2 *Biological Prospecting in the Antarctic* presented at ATCM XXXIII.

SCAR welcomed the request and confirmed its willingness to contribute to the work of the ATCM.

Item 7: Tourism and Non-governmental Activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area

SCAR recalled ATCM XL - IP 166, which it had co-authored with IAATO, on their intentions to undertake a collaborative effort to develop a systematic conservation plan for the Antarctic Peninsula, particularly with a view to managing the long-term sustainability of Antarctic tourism. SCAR informed the Meeting that this work was progressing.

Item 9: Report of the Committee for Environmental Protection

Summary of SCAR-related matters in CEP 2018

CEP Item 5: Site Guidelines

Under this agenda item, SCAR advised that it was not aware of evidence that a six-hour break, or curfew period, would be beneficial, or otherwise, for wildlife at visited sites, and encouraged further research on this matter.

Also under this agenda item, the Committee noted that SCAR and IAATO were continuing to develop a systematic approach to conservation planning for tourism on the Antarctic Peninsula, and that CEP Members were encouraged to contribute.

CEP Item 7: Reports from Subsidiary Bodies and Intersessional Contact Groups



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The Committee agreed that it would be useful to have a central source of information related to the environmental impacts and benefits of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), especially with respect to impacts on wildlife. The CEP welcomed the offer by COMNAP and SCAR to compile peer-reviewed literature and provide a summary that could be used to inform content to be included in the Antarctic Environments Portal.

CEP Item 8: Five-Year Work Plan

SCAR introduced WP 1 *SCAR's Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica*. The CEP recognised the broad and extensive consultation undertaken in the review and revision of the non-mandatory Code of Conduct, and agreed to encourage the dissemination and use of the Code of Conduct when planning and undertaking terrestrial scientific research in Antarctica. The Committee endorsed SCAR's Environmental Code of Conduct for Terrestrial Scientific Field Research in Antarctica, and agreed to forward to the ATCM for approval a draft Resolution on encouraging its dissemination and use.

Also under this agenda item, the Committee agreed to a proposal jointly prepared by Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Chile, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, SCAR, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to convene a joint SCAR/CEP workshop on further developing the Antarctic protected area system. The agreed terms of reference for the workshop were: review the current status of the Antarctic protected area system; identify information and resources relevant to designating ASPAs within a systematic environmental-geographic framework; identify actions that could be taken to support the further development of the Antarctic protected area system; and prepare a report for consideration by the CEP.

In other developments, SCAR advised that the list of CEP science needs would be helpful for SCAR in its consideration of new scientific research programmes. The CEP noted SCAR's interest to work with Members to incorporate the CEP's science, knowledge and information needs into its new research programmes.

SCAR also submitted IP 28 *Anthropogenic Noise in the Southern Ocean: an Update*. This paper reported on progress in the 2017-18 intersessional period on the SCAR review of anthropogenic noise in the Southern Ocean for the CEP. A comprehensive literature review had been completed, an expert panel convened and consulted, and input from a variety of sources considered. These inputs had been combined in a draft Background Paper that would continue to be revised and refined until final submission to ATCM XLII - CEP XXII in 2019.

CEP Item 9: Cooperation with Other Organisations

Under this agenda item, SCAR submitted IP 33 *Update on activities of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS)*. This paper summarised key activities of SOOS



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(www.soos.aq), highlighted future efforts and identified challenges facing SOOS in the coming year. It noted that SOOS is a joint initiative of SCAR and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) aimed at facilitating the collection and delivery of observations on dynamics and change of the Southern Ocean through cost-effective observing and data delivery systems.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked COMNAP, SCAR and SC-CAMLR for the collaboration and contributions to the work of the CEP, and congratulated SCAR on its 60th anniversary and COMNAP on its 30th anniversary.

Also under this agenda item, WMO noted that it would jointly launch with SCAR a WMO-SCAR Fellowship Program for early career scientists.

CEP Item 10: General Matters

SCAR drew the Committee's attention to the conclusions of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, and specifically to the conclusion that warming in the climate system is unequivocal and that the human influence on the climate system is clear. SCAR also noted the rapid growth of scientific knowledge about the role of Antarctica in the climate system, the extent to which the Antarctic system is changing and impacts on Antarctic ecology. SCAR further reported that it would continue to contribute advice about those matters on an annual basis, both to the CEP, and, in keeping with Article 10.2 of the Protocol, to the ATCM. The Committee welcomed the commitment from SCAR and WMO to continue to bring forward relevant scientific advice to inform the Committee's discussions.

Together with New Zealand, SCAR submitted IP 3 *Antarctic Environments Portal: Progress Report*. This paper reported on the development of the Antarctic Environments Portal including an attached update to the Portal's Content Management Plan. SCAR and New Zealand encouraged Members to provide feedback on the Content Management Plan and to nominate a representative to fill a vacancy on the Portal Editorial Group.

Item 10: Preparation of the 42nd Meeting

The Meeting welcomed the kind invitation of the Government of the Czech Republic to host ATCM XLII in Prague, from 1 to 11 July 2019.

For future planning, the Meeting took note of the following likely timetable of upcoming ATCMs:

- 2020 Finland
- 2021 France

The Meeting agreed to support that a Declaration by Consultative Parties be made at ATCM XLII to commemorate the 60 years since the signing of the Treaty. It agreed that it was important that the Prague Declaration also highlight the many changes



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that have taken place in Antarctica over the past 60 years. It requested SCAR's participation in the drafting of the declaration, to ensure that it reflected and drew the public's attention to the importance of Antarctic science and the relevance of Antarctica to the rest of the world and also highlight the many changes that have taken place in Antarctica over the past 60 years

The SCAR Lecture:

Taking into account the valuable series of lectures given by SCAR at a number of ATCMs, the Meeting decided to invite SCAR to give another lecture on scientific issues relevant to ATCM XLII.

Secretariat (ATS) matters of interest:

A new ATS website is under construction, with inputs to be provided by the ATCP. Below are the initial samples:

<http://clientes.agenciaego.com.ar/TRATADO/Presentacion/HTMLHome/index.html>
<http://www.frionina.com/clientes/ats/>