

**International coordination in the polar regions: SCAR and IASC**

Michael Sparrow<sup>†</sup>; Volker Rachold

<sup>†</sup> Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, United Kingdom

Leading author: [mds68@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mds68@cam.ac.uk)

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) coordinate and facilitate research in the polar regions and provide advice to policy makers such as the Arctic Council, Antarctic Treaty and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As non-governmental bodies of the International Council for Science (ICSU) they provide fora for international coordination, bringing together researchers from many different countries and a range of disciplines to engage in coordinated and collaborative research activities. Overall, both SCAR and IASC promote and support leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the polar regions and their role in the Earth system. SCAR and IASC are also jointly considering how best to preserve and build-on their stewardship responsibilities for the legacies of the International Polar Year in observing systems, data and information management, and mentoring of students and early career scientists. Areas of current and future collaboration between SCAR and IASC include studies related to the cryosphere and to the role of the polar regions in the climate system. SCAR and IASC share common goals with WCRP in seeking to observe, understand, and predict climate variability and change in the Antarctic and Arctic regions, including the surrounding oceans, and thus they jointly cosponsor the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Project with WCRP. SCAR is also a co-sponsor of the CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean Implementation Panel and the International Programme for Antarctic Buoys. WCRP, along with the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, the Global Ocean Observing System and the Census of Antarctic Marine Life also co-sponsor a Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) with SCAR. IASC is developing the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) Programme in partnership with the Arctic Council. For further details see [www.scar.org](http://www.scar.org) and <http://www.iasc.info>