

SCAR/IPA Expert Group on Antarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments

Minutes - ANTPAS Workshop, SCAR OSC, Kuala Lumpur, 23 August 2016

Participants: Gonçalo Vieira (Co-Chair), Mauro Guglielmin (Co-Chair), Zicheng Yu, Gregorz Rachlewicz, Peter Almond, Fiona Shannun, Cliff Atkins, Jeronimo López-Martínez, Berry Lyons, Jaako Makinen, Chris Carson, Steph McLennan, Pierre Roudier, Christel Hansen, Ian Meiklejohn, Martin Melles, Nicoletta Cannone, Kenny Matsuoka, Angelica Casanova, Carlos Schaefer, Márcio R. Francelino, Milos Bartak.

Apologies: Megan Balks and Joe Levy.

Agenda

0. Presentation of members
1. Informations
2. Presentation of the QuAntarctica project
3. Discussion of the future of ANTPAS
4. Review of structure of ANTPAS

1. Informations

G. Vieira presented the recent activities of ANTPAS, with special reference to the ANTPAS workshop held in Potsdam at the International Conference on Permafrost and explained that the group is going through a process of internal review in order to define the new science priorities. A questionnaire has been distributed to the members, with a first stage of discussion of results being made in the Potsdam meeting, while the current meeting aims at reviewing the questionnaire results and supporting a set of activities.

Note : Attached to the minutes, the powerpoint presentation of the session contains details on the agenda items.

2. Presentation of the QuAntarctica project

The QuAntarctica project, an open access GIS database with offline capacity for the Antarctic research community was presented by Kenichi Matsuoka of the Norwegian Polar Institute.

The project was funded by the Norwegian Polar Institute and supported by SCAR and searches for more involvement from the Antarctic community. The project is open to receive geospatial datasets to be integrated in the current database.

3. Discussion of the future of ANTPAS

G. Vieira presented the synthesis of results of the questionnaire (see document attached and powerpoint presentation) and particular attention was given to the discussion of the SWOT analysis. The group agreed with the issues identified in the presentation and a number of measures were discussed and approved :

- A new text for the mission of ANTPAS was agreed on with the following writing :

- Promoting advances and cooperation on permafrost, periglacial processes and soils research in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic (e.g. Conference sessions, workshops, special issues on key topics, promote new projects).
- Providing expert advice on Antarctic permafrost and soils (e.g. SCAR, IPA, etc)
- Identifying key research topics and facilitate access to funding to members
- Promoting data standardization, archival and sharing (GTN-P, CALM)

- The website needs a revision and updating. Christel Hansen and Fiona Shanahun will work on this and will discuss it with the co-chairs for implementation in 2017. Gonçalo Vieira will provide the login and passwords for editing.

- Action groups with a limited duration will be implemented after proposals by the members, targeting at specific tasks to be performed addressing at key topics in Antarctic permafrost research. A call for action groups will be made in September. Actions for ongoing/urgent tasks, which should become implemented as action groups:

- ANTPAS communications (C. Hansen, F. Shanahun) ;
- State of the Antarctic active layer CALM paper to Polar Geography (M.A. de Pablo) ;
- ANTPAS Permafrost and soils monitoring network – linking with GTN-P and CALM (G.Vieira and M. Guglielmin);
- Permafrost map of the World (IPA) – follow up possible meeting in Sapporo 2017 (G. Vieira) ;
- Project Planning – ecosystem services in Antarctica (N. Cannone);
- Project planning – Brines/Mars environments (M. Guglielmin) ;
- Varese workshop (M. Guglielmin) ;
- Selection of SCAR Horizon Scan questions (B. Lyons) ;
- ANTPAS Terms of Reference (G. Vieira, see 4.).

- ANTPAS should start a discussion on the identification key questions to be addressed and specifically on how to address science questions from SCAR Horizon Scan. Mauro Guglielmin proposed to organize a workshop in 2017 in Varese (Italy) aiming at increasing cooperation, identifying ANTPAS key questions, and with the goal of upgrading ANTPAS from an Expert Group to a SCAR Programme. The proposal was approved and members committed with engaging in action groups. Members, especially from New Zealand, questioned on the possibility to obtain travel funding to participate in the workshop. Mauro Guglielmin explained that requests to funding programmes would be made aiming at obtaining travel support.

- The present ANTPAS Steering Committee members will be contacted in order to assess on their continued interest in continuing as SC members. The committee will be enlarged to other active researchers, willing to be involved. The size of the Steering Committee will be discussed and proposed in 2017 (see point 4.) Ian Meiklejohn, Milos Bartak showed interest in becoming part.

- After the 2017 Varese Workshop, the next ANTPAS meeting will be in 2018 in Davos in the IASC/SCAR conference.

4. Review of structure of ANTPAS

ANTPAS lacks clear Terms of Reference for its leadership, both in structure and mandate. Gonçalo Vieira, Mauro Guglielmin and Megan Balks will put together a small Action Group involving the Steering Committee in order to draft the Terms of Reference, to be discussed and implemented in the Varese workshop.

With nothing more to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.