

**Minutes of ANTPAS meeting held at SCAR Antarctic Earth Sciences Meeting,
Edinburgh at 6.15 pm on July 12 2011.**

1. Apologies: Charles Tarnocai, James Bockheim, Mike Goosef, Miguel Ramos.

1. 2. Participants:

Gonçalo Vieira – vieira@campus.ul.pt Co-Chair, Lisbon, Portugal

Mauro Guglielmin – mauro.guglielmin@uninsubria.it Co-chair, Italy

Marc Oliva – oliva_marc@yahoo.com, Portugal – lake sediments and Geomorphology

Philip O'Brien – phil.obrien.ant@gmail.com Australia, Deputy Chair of SCAR GeoScience Standing Committee, Landscape Evolution and marine science.

Paulo Amaral – amaral.paulomaciel@gmail.com Portugal.

Nikita Mergelov – nikvox@yandex.ru Russia, soil scientist.

Sergey Goryachkin – goryachkin@igras.ru Russia, soil scientist

Nicoletta Cannone – nicoletta.cannone@uninsubria.it Milano, Italy, Ecology and Carbon fluxes.

Carlos Schaefer – carlos.schaefer@ufv.br Brazil, soil scientist.

Irina Alekhina – alekhina@omrb.pnpi.spb.ru Russia, microbiologist.

Joseph Levi – jlevy@pdx.edu LTER, USA, Mars analogues.

Rossana Raffi – rossana.raffi@uniroma1.it Italy, ice wedges.

Marco Jorge – marco.jorge@antecc.org Portugal, PhD student, geomorphology.

Carla Mora – carlamora@campus.ul.pt Portugal, snow cover and climate.

Felipe Simas – fsimass@yahoo.com.br Brazil, Antarctic post doc.

Mariano Rodríguez-Arias Fernández – arias@unex.es Spain.

Gonçalo Prates – gprates@ualg.pt, Portugal.

Jeronimo López-Martínez – jeronimo.lopez@mam.es Madrid, Spain, Permafrost and periglacial geomorphology.

Megan (and Errol) Balks – m.balks@waikato.ac.nz Hamilton, New Zealand, Antarctic soils, permafrost – Ross Sea region.

3. Activities of 2010: EGPPE Report to SCAR.

The main aim of EGPPE is to promote international collaboration towards the development of Antarctic permafrost research. The IPY core project ANTPAS has been the main driver of our activities and allowed for the implementation of several nationally-funded projects, many of them with long-term monitoring and research goals. Current activities benefit from ANTPAS dynamics are framed within the project objectives. EGPPE's activities in 2010 included:

i) Two coordination meetings in Longyearbyen (EUCOPIII) and in Buenos Aires (SCAR OSC) that resulted in a revised Steering Committee, with M. Guglielmin (Italy) and G. Vieira (Portugal) as Co-chairs, M. Balks (New Zealand) as Secretary and J. Putkonen (USA) and C. Schaeffer (Brazil) as Communication Officers. A newsletter in order to facilitate communications will be implemented.

ii) A session at SCAR OSC in Buenos Aires on Antarctic Permafrost and Periglacial Environments, which will result in a special issue of Geomorphology edited by M. Guglielmin.

iii) A session was proposed for ISAES 2011.

James Bockheim, former Co-Chair gave a remarkable contribution and has been a key-person at EGPPE. His contribution is greatly acknowledged by EGPPE and at Buenos Aires a decision was made on making him Honorary Member of the group. Mauro Guglielmin and Gonçalo Vieira (Co-Chairs)

4. Regional communications Officers

Two regional communications officers were identified at the meeting held in Buenos Aires in 2010, Felipe Simas (Brazil) and Jakko Putkonen (USA). Their role is to help promoting the Expert Group activities at regional level and to promote input into the newsletter.

5. Publications

Geomorphology special edition

Mauro Guglielmin has been co-ordinating a special issue of Geomorphology following the Buenos Aires 2010 meeting. It is near completion with most referees reports back but still awaiting updated manuscripts from some authors.

Newsletter

Gonçalo has been getting an ANTPAS newsletter out – draft edition was available for the Edinburgh meeting. The aim is to put it out once or twice per year to keep everyone in touch with the activities of ANTPAS members. It is to be informal so not a big effort for anyone to contribute. Please help support this by providing information to Gonçalo for inclusion in the newsletter. A final version will be published after this meeting.

6. Young scientists awards for Edinburgh conference attendance

Gonçalo co-ordinated an effort to use funding from SCAR of €2000 to support student attendance at the Edinburgh meeting – four students were awarded €500 each to contribute to their costs. Gonçalo implemented a clear set of selection criteria and application system to ensure a fair award system, with Mauro Guglielmin and Megan Balks also on the selection panel. The meeting expressed congratulations to the awardees: Luca Paro, Marc Oliva, Marco Jorge and Paulo Amaral.

There was some discussion of the awards at the meeting – students requested that in future any travel awards could be finalised prior to the deadline for early/less expensive registration. There was also discussion of the merits of making a smaller number of larger awards, as the award did not cover the full cost of attendance, so some initial awardees had to decline the award as they could still not afford to come.

AGREED: Gonçalo Vieira to approach future SCAR conference organisers to ask if there can be cheaper registration for all students, or especially award recipients.

7. Website:

Because there is difficulty in updating the ANTPAS website as housed at University of Waikato. Gonçalo investigated use of a more accessible website and promoted the setting up a new site on WEEBLY. A student at the University of Lisbon, João Agrela, has designed the new website and will be supporting the Steering Committee for updating it. The new website draft version has been shown and it was agreed to use weebly as server. Joseph Levi suggested the site would have more “credibility” if it had a registered domain name such as www.antpas.aq (aq is the Antarctic domain name). Gonçalo explained that this could be done, but the editing should be maintained within weebly.

AGREED - Change the website server to weebly and to investigate use of new domain name – Megan Balks agreed to pay for domain name if required. Gonçalo will start revising text from previous website and updating it with new information.

8. ANTPAS name

It is evident that there was some confusion over the ANTPAS name, as some associated it just with the IPY project, others with a wider group. It was explained that the history of ANTPAS is that ANTPAS is an umbrella name for affiliation with two groups: the IPA (International Permafrost Association) Working Group on Antarctic Permafrost and Periglacial Environments and the SCAR Expert Group on Permafrost and Periglacial Environments (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research).

It is clear to all participants that it is of interest of the community to maintain the naming ANTPAS as the umbrella to be affiliated with both both organisations. ANTPAS also has strong links to the International Union of Soil Science Cryosol group, where we form a subset of the wider cryosol group because of our interest in the Antarctic.

There is a need to clarify the usage of ANTPAS and to implement common names within SCAR and the IPA.

AGREED: that the ANTPAS name should be used for both the affiliation with SCAR and with IPA to avoid confusion. ANTPAS stands for Antarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments. The IPA interest group name will become IG-ANTPAS and the SCAR Expert Group will become EG-ANTPAS. Gonçalo Vieira to communicate with SCAR, and Megan Balks to communicate with IPA to ensure we are recognised by both organisations.

9. IPA Action Groups

Under the new IPA structure there will be the need for the former Working Groups to apply for interest groups, such as ANTPAS. Such groups can, from time to time apply to IPA for funding to form an action group for a specific purpose. It is understood that an IPA action group funding may be used to provide seed funding to establish collaborative projects, including implementation of workshops. We need to find out if IPA have progressed the timing for any action group establishment.

AGREED: ANTPAS should formalize its implementation as an Interest Group within IPA. It should also investigate the possibility of applying for two IPA action groups: a) one aiming at the publication of the book that Jim Bockheim is leading on Antarctic Soils; b) and another to facilitate future planning to develop “a vision for Antarctic permafrost research” to be led by Gonçalo Vieira. Megan Balks to follow up with Jim Bockheim to determine current state of book project and Gonçalo Vieira to follow up on a “vision” action group.

10. Antarctic data management

There was some discussion of the issues related to storing, protection and availability of Antarctic data. It was decided that this is a major issue that is being addressed by a number of agencies and was beyond the scope of ANTPAS, other than to facilitate communication and co-operation between our members. Gonçalo Vieira explained the existence of a Task Force within the IPA, which he integrates, to work out a new planning for GTN-P. Later this year should be a presentation of the final planning. Jerónimo López mentioned that there is a proposal for a Polar Decade through which the WMO (World Meteorological Organisation) plans to improve management of polar meteorological data. Gonçalo will keep the group informed on developments deriving from the GTN-P Task Force.

11. ANTPAS subgroups

After discussion it was recognised that the subgroups established as a result of the 2004 Madison meeting are now largely inactive. It was considered that the subgroups have a useful role in leading research and promoting collaboration within ANTPAS.

Four potential new subgroups were identified, but should be revised – viz: a) permafrost, b) soilsc) terrestrial ecosystemsd) Geomorphology / Paleoenvironments (2 different groups?).

ACTION: Megan Balks to email everyone – explain updated subgroups and ask for expressions of interest regarding membership, leadership and activities of subgroups. The subgroups should be implemented formally in next ANTPAS meeting in Portland in 2012.

12. Future meetings – 2012 and beyond.

Three possible meetings next year are:

- IPY meeting in Montreal 22-27 April 2012
- TICOP – IPA meeting in Russia 25-29 June 2012.
- SCAR/COMNAP open science meeting in Portland Oregon, 16-19 July 2012

AGREED: Main ANTPAS meeting in 2012 to be in conjunction with SCAR meeting in Portland, but a meeting also to be held for those who attend TICOP in Russia.

Noted – in 2013 there is a cryopedology meeting planned for Poland.

Thanks:

The meeting thanked Gonçalo Vieira for his efforts in co-ordinating the meeting at Edinburgh, including travel awards for students, facilitating a better website solution, and producing the ANTPAS newsletter.

Meeting closed at 7.40PM.