

**Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research  
(SCAR)**

**LIAISON REPORT TO ISO/TC 211**

November 2002, Gyeongju Plenary

**Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research – BACKGROUND**

SCAR, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, is a committee of ICSU, the International Council for Science, and it is charged with the initiation, promotion and co-ordination of scientific research in Antarctica. SCAR also provides international, independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty system. As part of its role, SCAR acts to coordinate the acquisition and dissemination of geographic information, formerly through the Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information (**WG-GGI**), and now through the Geoscience Standing Scientific Group (GSSG). SCAR has promulgated cartographic standards for use in Antarctica since 1961, shortly after its formation, as a response to the International Geophysical Year in 1957. As Antarctica is mapped by agencies in many nations, the use of and adherence to agreed standards is of obvious value to all those who work on this continent. From 1996 the adoption and use of TC211 standards for geographic data has been encouraged by the **WG-GGI** and the GSSG [we did not discuss these issues during any formal session of the GSSG so perhaps you should finish the sentence after WG-GGI].

In May 2002, SCAR became a Class A liaison organization to TC 211, and this is the first formal liaison report.

**Contact persons:**

SCAR has appointed Mr A Paul R Cooper of British Antarctic Survey as its liaison with TC211. Mr Cooper has been involved in mapping Antarctica since 1979, and is currently Geographic Information Systems Manager at **the** British Antarctic Survey. Mr Cooper is data manager for the SCAR Antarctic Digital Database, a vector topographic database covering the whole of Antarctica.

Mr Larry Hothem of the United States Geological Survey is liaison officer from TC211 to SCAR.

**ISO TC211 related activities**

The following SCAR projects are incorporating ISO TC211 standards into their work:

- The Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management (JCADM) will be migrating its records to the ISO TC211 standard. More information can be found at: [www.jcadm.scar.org/standards1.html](http://www.jcadm.scar.org/standards1.html)
- The King George Island GIS (KGIS) project of the Geoscience Standing Scientific Group. More information about the project can be found at [www.geographie.uni-freiburg.de/ipg/forschung/ap3/kgis/new/guest/index.php](http://www.geographie.uni-freiburg.de/ipg/forschung/ap3/kgis/new/guest/index.php) and

the standards in particular at [www.geographie.uni-freiburg.de/ipg/forschung/ap3/kgis/new/guest/Standards.php](http://www.geographie.uni-freiburg.de/ipg/forschung/ap3/kgis/new/guest/Standards.php)

- The Australian Antarctic Data Centre is working on the SCAR Spatial Data Model and Feature Type Catalogue in cooperation with a number of other SCAR member nations, including Germany, Chile, the UK and the USA. More information can be found at [www-aadc.aad.gov.au/gis/model/](http://www-aadc.aad.gov.au/gis/model/)
- [Instituto Geográfico Militar - IGM](#) and [Instituto Antártico Chileno - INACH](#) are jointly cooperating in projects that involve SCAR. INACH Project N°: 153: *Mapping surveys and GIS of the South Shetland islands* aims to incorporate a number of ISO TC211 standards and will have input into the King George Island GIS (above).
- The online [Cybercartographic Atlas of Antarctica](#) is part of the Geospatial Information Group work programme for 2002-04. The final report from the Cyberatlas workshop held in May 2002 in Ottawa, Canada, can be found at [www.scar-ggi.org.au/geog/ottawa/finalreport.htm](http://www.scar-ggi.org.au/geog/ottawa/finalreport.htm).
- British Antarctic Survey currently manages the SCAR Antarctic Digital Database ([http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/magic/add\\_home.html](http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/magic/add_home.html)), a seamless vector topographic database of medium-scale map data for the whole continent. When it becomes technically feasible, this database will be revised to incorporate TC211 standards.

## **Conclusion**

SCAR has a long history of promoting standards in Antarctic geographic information. As a result of this commitment, SCAR is actively involved in implementing TC211 standards in Antarctica wherever these are appropriate.