

**12th UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) Steering Committee
Meeting**

Monday 1st June, 1300 to 1500

Online

Attendees:

Professor Martin Siegert, Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, **Chair**
Professor Sheldon Bacon, NOC
Dr Liz Bagshaw, Cardiff University
Professor Mike Bentley, Durham University
Prof Andrew Brierley, St Andrews
Professor Ian Brooks, Leeds University
Henry Burgess, Head, NERC Arctic Office
Professor Finlo Cottier, SAMS
Professor Siwan Davies, Swansea University
Dr Duncan Depledge, Loughborough University
Stuart Doubleday, Polar Regions Department
Dr Richard Essery, Edinburgh University
Vicky Fowler, BAS (UKPN Representative)
Professor Jane Francis, BAS
Dr Lizzie Garratt, NERC
Dr Kate Hendry, Bristol University
Professor Vivienne Jones, University College London (Deputy Chair)
Dr James Lea, Liverpool University
Dr Erin McClymont, Durham University
Dr Ingrid Medby, Oxford Brookes University
Nicola Munro, NERC Arctic Office (UKAAP SC Secretary)
Professor David Pearce, University of Northumbria
Professor Richard Powell, SPRI
Dr Clare Robinson, University of Manchester
Professor David Thomas, Bangor University
Professor Gareth Phoenix, University of Sheffield
Professor David Vaughan, BAS
Hannah Wauchope, University of Cambridge

Invited:

Professor Robert Bingham, University of Edinburgh

Apologies:

Professor Geraint Tarling, BAS

Minutes:

Welcome and Introductions (*Martin Siegert*)

Martin welcomed all to the 12th UKAAP Steering Committee meeting, which was held using Zoom.

Review of Minutes and Actions from SC11 meeting in December 2019 (*Martin Siegert*)

Paper: UKAAP 12/01

Review of Minutes from UKAAP SC 11:

Martin presented the minutes from the last meeting. No further comments were made and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the eleventh meeting of the UKAAP SC. These will now be posted on the UKAAP website.

Review of Actions from UKAAP SC 11:

Martin reviewed the actions from UKAAP SC 11 and noted the following:

- *UKAAP article for Planet Earth: this is still in progress. **ACTION: HB to review and report back at next meeting.***
- *List of key stakeholders: this will be addressed later in this meeting.*
- *NM to post on UKAAP website and circulate a message to the Arctic Office mailing list, seeking input from the community. Deadline for input: 31 January 2020. **DONE***
- *Working group (M. Siegert, V. Jones, A. Jungblut, I. Medby and K. Hendry) to finalise the report. This should be completed by summer 2020 and could be used at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2020. Group to meet once all the comments have been submitted to review (February/March 2020). **DONE***
- *Arctic Office to follow up with Durham and Exeter regarding the decision taken by the UKAAP SC. **DONE***
- *MS to reignite conversation with colleagues at NOC regarding a proposal to the SPF. **DONE***
- *JS to inform MS regarding UKRI Lead for COP26. This is no longer being held in November 2020 and has been moved to November 2021. **To keep on agenda to see how UKAAP can engage.***

Update on the UKAAP Arctic horizon scan report (*Martin Siegert*)

Paper: UK Arctic briefing paper: The Arctic and the UK: Climate, research and engagement

Martin gave an update on the UK Arctic briefing paper (this was circulated to committee members before the meeting) and thanked everyone who had contributed to this. Martin made the point that there is an extended multidisciplinary author list from across the UK, highlighting UK wide interest in the Arctic. The paper is currently under review and any further comments are welcome at this stage. The aim is to have this ready in time for the next Arctic Science Ministerial meeting which is due to be held in November 2020.

UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund proposal for use of the RRS *Sir David Attenborough* in the Arctic (*Martin Siegert*)

Martin updated the Committee on the current status of the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund proposal to use the SDA in the Arctic. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a small working group should meet to further refine the proposal, taking on board the comments made by Committee members and the input given by NERC. It was agreed that further input and support from other Research Councils such as ESRC, EPSRC and AHRC should be sought, as well as from relevant Chief Scientific Advisers before the application is submitted.

ACTION: Martin Siegert to lead a small working group on preparing a proposal to use the SDA in the Arctic through the UKRI Strategic Priorities Fund. This group includes David Vaughan, Henry Burgess, Duncan Depledge, Sheldon Bacon, Stuart Doubleday and Kate Hendry. Martin to arrange an initial meeting in the next few weeks.

Update on the Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting (Henry Burgess)

Henry gave an update on the next Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) meeting, due to be held in Tokyo, 21 to 22 November 2020. This will be the third Arctic Science Ministerial meeting and will focus on the theme 'Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'. Henry sits on the Science Advisory Board as the UK representative on IASC but also as the IASC Vice President. Further details are available on the ASM3 website here: <https://asm3.org/>

There are a range of activities being organised in the lead up to the meeting where the UK community can engage. These include two online workshops to allow people to contribute content to the themes. There is also the opportunity to take part in a survey which will assist the board in creating further content for the meeting. The NERC Arctic Office will also take the lead in commissioning information for the national reports and Henry will be in contact shortly with members of the UKAAP SC and IASC UK representatives to feed into this process.

Antarctic 200 Event (Martin Siegert)

Due to COVID-19, this event can no longer take place as planned this year. The planning committee are due to meet at the end of June to discuss how to take this forward. Current ideas include postponing this event until 2021 or having an online event. Martin will report back to UKAAP once a decision has been made. Stuart Doubleday made the point that the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust are still looking to hold various online events to honour this anniversary and that details will be on the UKAHT website.

Update on the next Antarctic Conference (due to be hosted by Edinburgh University, September 2020) and Arctic Conference (September 2021)

Papers: UKAAP 2020-06-01 Next UK Antarctic Meeting, circulated by R Bingham and UKAAP 12/02: UK Arctic Science meeting update

Rob Bingham joined the meeting to discuss options for the next Antarctic Conference which is due to be hosted by University of Edinburgh in September 2020. He circulated a paper before the meeting where he outlined the issues and options to hold the meeting. Durham University have also submitted a paper outlining their plans for the next Arctic Conference which is scheduled for 8th to 10th September 2021. There was a long discussion about what to do about the Antarctic conference and whether to have this online, or to shift both the Arctic and Antarctic conferences by one year. Several options were put on the table, however the Committee agreed to the following:

1. To take a decision about the Antarctic conference in the early autumn, with the view to possibly hosting the Antarctic conference online in early 2021. David Vaughan has agreed to see whether this online meeting can be hosted by BAS. Edinburgh have then agreed to hold the 2022 Antarctic Conference, whether this is in person or an online meeting, depending on what the situation is at that time.

Action: David Vaughan to investigate whether an online Antarctic conference could take place in early 2021.

2. The Arctic conference will therefore be hosted by Durham University in September 2021 as planned, although the dates will need to be reviewed as they currently clash with the postponed Challenger meeting (6th to 10th September 2021).

Action: Henry to ask Bob Baxter whether it is possible to hold the conference the week before so as not to clash with the Challenger meeting. Henry to then report back to UKAAP.

Update on UKNCAR/SCAR activities (Mike Bentley)

Mike Bentley reported that the Royal Society published a priorities research paper last year which has now been circulated to the UKAAP committee members (*Polar Science – Perspectives from the Royal Society Global Environmental Research Committee*). The main activity for this year would have been the SCAR Open Science Conference, which was due to be held in Hobart this summer. This will now be replaced with a modest online version. However a full SCAR delegates meeting will still take place as SCAR delegates will be looking at the next generation of research programmes. There will be a continued focus on capacity building and targeting remaining funds from current programmes due to COVID-19 towards early career researcher activities.

Stakeholder Engagement (Martin Siegert)

Martin reported that he was hoping to expand UKAAP further by including several stakeholders. We do have a list and Martin proposes to reach out to this group over the summer and to engage them in the SPF idea, bringing them into the smaller working group initially.

Stakeholder Reports (written) – NERC (Paper: UKAAP 12/03), NERC Arctic Office (Paper: UKAAP 12/04), UK Polar Network (Paper: UKAAP 12/05)

NERC, NERC Arctic Office and the UK Polar Network all submitted written reports and were invited to comment further during the meeting:

NERC: Lizzie Garrett wanted to promote the COVID-19 related activities that are listed at the end of the NERC report and to ask people to note these.

NERC Arctic Office: Henry highlighted the UK/Canada work and will keep the UKAAP SC updated on progress on this.

UK Polar Network: They are carrying on with trying to hold as many activities online and ask the Committee to continue to help UKPN promote these activities as much as possible.

FCO: Stuart reported that the Polar Regions Team are now back to working on Polar activities. The Antarctic Treaty Meeting has been cancelled for this year but still plan on this taking place in Paris next year. The Arctic Council meeting has been postponed but they are still looking to hold a meeting online later this year. CCAMLAR are still in discussion about their meeting. Stuart also wanted to make the Committee aware of the new Diversity in UK Polar Science initiative which is being run from BAS. Stuart will send details to the Committee and encourages all members to engage with this initiative as much as possible. Donna Frater is the contact at BAS.

AOB

Next meeting: A doodle poll will be circulated for the next UKAAP meeting, end of November/early December. This will be an online meeting again as it will be unlikely that we will be able to meet in person.

The meeting closed with Martin thanking everyone for attending.