

Minutes from the SSC meeting, July 8-9th 2001, Amsterdam

SSC members present: Pepe Boninsegna, Keith Briffa, Julie Brigham-Grette, Carole Crumley, Patrick De Deckker, Zhengtang Guo, Laurent Labeyrie, Vera Markgraf, Bruno Messerli, João Morais, Daniel Olago, Thomas Pedersen, Dominique Raynaud, Matti Saarnisto, Ashok Singhvi, Thomas Stocker and Ryuji Tada

Office Staff: Keith Alverson, Kaspar Grathwohl, Isabelle Larocque

Guest: Frank Oldfield

Summary of actions to take and important decisions:

- **IPO** to send actions regularly as a reminder to the persons who accepted the mission
- **IPO** to write letters to national funding agencies urging better funding for collaboration with developing countries.
- **Tom Pedersen** to write a letter to funding agencies for better collaboration with developing country scientists and the need to increase access to technology in these countries.
- **Tom Pedersen** to write a letter to Tom Johnson commending him on IDEAL as an example of a PAGES program that is incorporating developing country scientists, not just developing country data.
- **Julie Brigham-Grette** to write a letter to John Dodson for him to increase contact with the scientists involved in the PEP II synthesis and also to regularly inform the IPO on progress.
- **Synthesis editors** to ensure that chapters are in review by the end of August.
- **IPO** to continue pre-screening of the proposals for each SSC meeting. This was appreciated and increased the speed of decision.
- **IPO** to write letter to each focus chair and ask information as to how they plan to organize the activities within their own focus.
- **IPO** to implement a matrix structure of each focus as a column and overarching questions as lines reaching each focus. These questions can be revisited each 4-5 years.
- **IPO** not to change the size of the SSC.
- **IPO** to inform IGBP that Olga Solomina, Frank Siroko, Pingxian Wang and Rick Battarbee are choices to join SSC.
- **OSM committee** (Zhengtang Guo, Keith (and Isabelle or Christoph from the IPO staff as appropriate), Ashok, Laurent Labeyrie and Vera Markgraf as chair) to plan in May 2004 in Beijing
- **IPO** and Matti Saarnisto to discuss with Russians and plan next SSC either in Moscow or Helsinki in Spring 2002.

1. Miscellaneous

1.1 All participants were introduced by Thomas Pedersen. The two new members (Carole Crumley and Ryuji Tada) were welcomed. Thomas Stocker was renewed for a second term and will replace Bruno Messerli as Director. This meeting was last for Bruno Messerli, Keith Briffa, Dominique Raynaud and Guo Zhengtang aoo of whom were thanked for excellent service.

1.2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Clarification on the progress of some actions were asked:

Section 4.2: IDEAL

Daniel Olago mentioned that the situation is changing. Financial support to African scientists can now be obtained from the International START secretariat office. Now it also supports young scientists.

Although the situation is starting to improve, an action should be taken to improve the connection with scientists in developing countries. So far, funding agencies do not care if the work is being done by scientists from developing countries. A better collaboration should be a factor of decision to fund some projects.

Facilities are not being set so far in developing countries. We should try to ask the scientists to teach local people to use facilities and instrumentation. So far, funding agencies as NSF do not fund projects to inject better technology in developing countries.

Action: IPO to write letters to national funding agencies urging better funding for collaboration with developing countries.

Section 4.5 Discussion on PEPII meeting in Singapore. Lack of communication between the leader, John Dodson and the IPO. There are two other meetings in similar topics around the same time. The suggestion brought by Keith Alverson is that Rob Dunbar (ARTS meeting) should contribute one chapter to the PEP II synthesis being developed.

Ashok Singhvi mentioned that PEP II is not generally well felt in India. There is a lack of communication and collaboration between PEP II and Indian scientists.

Keith Alverson mentioned that APN funds meeting such as the one that should be organized by PEP II. The leaders were contacted but only Zhengtang Guo had replied. Isabelle Larocque could write the proposal if needed.

Action: Write a letter to John Dodson for him to increase contact with the scientists involved in the synthesis and also to regularly inform the IPO on progress.

Following the meeting, Julie Brigham-Grette wrote a letter to John Dodson to ask him to increase communication (forwarded to other PEPII key players).

Section 4.6. The PEPIII meeting in Aix-en-Provence has now been successfully funded. There is a need for a PEP III database. Should look for the two European agencies to work together. A lot of databases need coordination. Mark Eakin gave a presentation on the formation of a PAGES data committee.

Section 4.2. Dan Olago mentioned that Ray Bradley gave microscopes and books to the University of Nairobi and that they were very much appreciated. Don Adams (University

of Pennsylvania) let his equipment in Africa after field work. These kind of contributions are highly encouraged. START and IDEAL have programs for summer school.

1.3. Changes at the IPO office. Keith Alverson replace Frank Oldfield. Kaspar Grathwohl has been hired 30%, Christoph Kull 50% for graphic design and a secretary will soon be hired at 30%.

Tom Edwards sabbatical year in the Bern office was supported by the SSC.

1.4 Financial insecurity at the IPO. Both in Switzerland and in the US, new persons have been appointed as decision makers for funding.

The future of IGBP is certain and developing smoothly towards a second evolutionary phase, and so is PAGES. IGBP will actively lobby in favor of the funding security of the IPO.

Action from the IPO (requested by Laurent Labeyrie): Actions should be sent from the IPO regularly as a reminder to the persons who accepted the mission. This would accelerate the work between SSC meetings.

1.5. Major upcoming meetings:

Meeting in Singapore> Dates corrected like in Newsletter (26-29th of November 2001)

Aix-en-Provence> great place. SSC salutes Keith for his work finding financial sources for PAGES meetings.

2.0 Synthesis:

2.1 Book

Three chapters have been sent to reviewers. Three more chapters are unfinished:

Tom Pedersen , Dominique Raynaud and Jonathan Overpeck have to finish their chapter as soon as possible.

Action: The chapters have to be ready for the end of August!

The price of the synthesis book has not been decided yet. The IPO had problems with Elsevier for the QSR hard covers, we got stuck with 300 books. We will try to sell them for 50\$ by the internet, although this gives financial problems since the bank charges 10\$ for each transaction. Any member of the SSC can distribute free copies.

Action: Each SSC member should tell the IPO how many books they want to distribute

2.2. Glossy

1500 copies of the glossy have been printed. The PDF file should be available on the net.

3.0 Workshops

The office pre-screened the submissions. This process was approved by everyone since it accelerates the process of decision.

Action for the IPO: Continue pre-screening of workshop proposals for each SSC meeting.

3.1 Workshops 2001 to be decided:

5 workshops were listed.

3.1.1. ARTS Open science meeting requested 10 000\$. Different views on this case. Pedersen suggested a compromise: 5000\$ were attributed for students or scientists from developing countries. Also a chapter to the PEP II synthesis volume should be a product from this workshop.

Action for the IPO: write a letter to Rob Dunbar specifying the above conditions to the 5000\$

3.1.2. Cuban meeting.

There were concerns from Ashok and Dan Olago that the community was small, and only local participants were invited. Also no students were included in the proposal. Vera Markgraf specified that the community is really small but bringing scientists from developed countries would increase the possible links. As for students, the contacts should be developed later on when the scientists have been linked.

Decision> Willing to give 5000\$ but they have to integrate other countries.

Action for the IPO: write a letter to Geoffrey Seltzer, Raymond Bradley and Henry Diaz with the 5000\$ support if conditions are respected.

Following the meeting, a different letter was sent to the organizers since the meeting was not supported by the other funding agencies. A new proposal may be written for the next SSC if the meeting can occur in 2002.

3.1.3. Chironomid workshop:

5000\$ have been attributed under the conditions that the date would be postponed so the workshop would be advertised and could have a better attendance. The money should be used for students or participants for developing countries.

An important point from Thomas Stocker was raised: Proposals should not be written only from SSC members but include also other leaders to avoid that the SSC is seen as given money to their own participants.

Action for the IPO: Letter to Isabelle Larocque to grant 5000\$ under the conditions mentioned above.

Action for all SSC members: always include other leaders for grant proposal to the SSC.

3.1.4. Paleoecology

4.500\$ were attributed as requested but only for developing country participants.

Action: IPO to write letter

3.2. Workshops 2002 to be decided.

Pedersen: Decisions will be dependant on budget discussion and the letters have to be clear on the uncertainty of next year financial support.

3.2.1. Environmental catastrophes

Many comments on the topics for this workshop. This general idea should be taken for a special issue of the newsletter. 5000\$ were granted.

Action: IPO to write letter

3.2.2. Fire history.

5000\$ should be attributed for developing country participants.

Action: IPO to write letter

These workshops were discussed the following day:

Workshop India: Suggestion support yes, contingent on budget for 2002 but only for local students, no more than 3000\$

Support for Limpacs 2002: Support yes, contingent on 2002 budget, 4000\$ as requested, standard PAGES rules.

4. Finances

Budgets should be looked at carefully.

Action: IPO to find a person responsible for the finances, as soon as possible

After the meeting, Selma Gonheim has accepted the secretary position offered by the IPO. She will start September 1st 2001. A transition period of continued budget uncertainty is considered inevitable, but by the end of 2001 the IPO hopes to have a working internal budgeting system.

4.1. Travel claims and per-diems:

The SSC approved and IPO request to its financial oversees to employ a reasonable (eg ICSU or US NSF rates not Swiss NSF rates) per diem rather than reimbursing small items by receipt. Travel would then be reimbursed only as lodging, travel and per diem.

It was suggested that the IPO not to proceed with this request until after the status of its future funding application with both NSF is known.

5. PAGES communication strategies

5.1 website

This should be a priority for PAGES. Niklaus was doing a good job. With no person taking care of the finances, all website activities have been postponed since Kaspar had to deal with the finances. Maybe Christoph Kull should also do some of the website, as long as Keith and Isabelle in the meantime.

Isabelle Larocque has taken responsibility for all aspects, both scientific and technical, of the website starting August 1st. At some, yet unknown future date, the technical aspects will be taken over by either Kaspar or Selma, however this will have to wait until the finances situation is settled.

SSC approved the idea of putting the PAGES database on the website. Daniel Olago has a database of 1000 African scientists that should be linked to the PAGES database.

Action: Isabelle to make the QSR special issue and new glossy brochure based overheads available on the website, and to prioritize updating and maintaining the community resource.

5.2. Newsletters:

A draft of the PEPII newsletter was distributed for comments.

Other suggested topics: LGM with Labeyrie as major contact.

Bi-polar issue with Julie Brigham-Grette and Matti Saarnisto as contacts.

Approval of the topics suggested by Isabelle Larocque (fire ecology, solar activity, pollution). The next issue 2001-3, will be a special on paleoresearch in mountain regions, as a kick off to PAGES activities in the UN sponsored year of the mountains (2002).

5.3. Publications:

Everyone should inform the IPO when new publications which are directly attributable to PAGES, for example as output of PAGES foci, activities or workshops. Ashok suggested that each publication should have the PAGES logo.

Six posters were produced by Isabelle Larocque, one general and one for each focus. These will be available on the net.

Action: Isabelle Larocque to send the PDF file of posters to all SSC members and to make them available on the PAGES website

6. Foci Reports

6.1 How to get rid of tasks and activities.

Pedersen. We have been good at adding but not at subtracting. We need a strategy, a constructive way to stop these activities. We have not written letters yet.

Decisions: Ray Bradley will have to create a steering committee for PANASH. Vera Markgraf suggested that PANASH should be called PANASH/PEPS

Action: Tom Pedersen to write letter to Ray Bradley

Focus five will need a leader and steering committee. John Deering is the new leader for HITE.

Polar Programs

Action: Matti Saarnisto has to create a steering committee

Action: Tom Pedersen to write letter to each chair what we would like to see, they have to organize the activities within their own focus.

ARTS will be discussed after the meeting with Rob Dunbar, whether it will moved to PANASH or PEP.

Continental drilling, international paleo-data-system, REDIE will be kept in the IPO.

Other activities

The ones to eliminate (unless they prove to be active and ready to make a 5-year plan):

Climate Forcing and Feedbacks

Volcanic Influences on Paleoclimate

Climate Model-Data Intercomparisons

Paleoenvironmental Multiproxy analysis and Mapping Projects

Development of New Proxies

Biome 6000, if still exist, should be grouped under PANASH

Action: IPO to ask Ray Bradley to contact Colin Prentice to see if this task still exists

Chronological Advances, ISOMAP, and Continental Drilling for Paleoclimate should be linked to PANASH if it is ok with Ray Bradley.

6.2 Panash Report we don't have to discuss

6.3 IMAGES

The program is a success and well on his way.

Action Tom Pedersen to write a letter to NSF to encourage American participation on the cruises

6.4 Focus 5

Oldfield introduced focus 5 progress from the Bern meeting held in June. He regretted that the document that had been drawn up for this SSC meeting was not available. Focus 5 has selected a steering group with representatives of the three talks

Limpacs – Battarbee

Lucifs – Wasson

Hite – Dearing

Also from the SSC Carole Crumley

Frank Oldfield is also on the committee

Isabelle is the link to the PAGES office.

A chair has not been chosen. Frank wishes to try to let a leader evolves here in Amsterdam, since all of the steering group will be here. The missing document does set out a series of goals and aims and timelines.

The new focus 5 will feel and look very different from things that PAGES has done in the past. It will have to be based on local case studies. Oldfield stressed that this area of PAGES research is beyond paleoclimatology. Although PAGES SSC has greeted this idea with good will, they have not developed the same sense of identification with this area of science as with other aspects of PAGES work. This is the main point of contact between PAGES and the IHDP

ACTION: Isabelle to distribute the missing report to the SSC and SSC to send Frank feedback.

7.0 PAGES structure

Alverson> many people have complained about the lack of problem driven tasks and activities at PAGES.

Brigham-Grette> each foci should develop a set of questions and deliverables.

Labeyrie> We need both the focus structure but also the problem driven actions.

Messerli> 80% of the world lives in the tropics yet in our problems that we seek to address we seem dominated by Europe and the USA. Look at CLIVAR/PAGES obsession with the north Atlantic. We need an integrated cross focus approach to problems that effect people. UNDP is asking “what is vulnerability.” We need to address this too.

Stocker: We need to think of a matrix. Without destroying the foci that have been developed there should be cross cutting problem driven questions (such as the monsoon). Such Cross cutting themes can be implemented with the help of modeling.

Briffa: strong support for the idea of cross cutting problem driven actions.

Oldfield> we should do this. It is a good way to respond to these criticisms head on.

Accepted: that we adopt this matrix structure.

Pedersen: lets discuss the issue of a potential focus 6 on modeling. This was discussed at length and a consensus was reached.

Consensus: we do not add a specific focus 6. PANASH is to embrace existing modeling efforts and we have to keep an eye on the inclusion of conceptual modeling, as for example that done at LUCC.

Concensus: matrix is a good idea.

Raynaud: we need to have a few cross cutting topics otherwise it is too sparse. We need to have a meeting on each cross cutting theme every few years. These need to be coherent with the IGBP, food water and carbon themes.

8.0 SSC and Excom replacement.

All agreed that Russian members were needed. Messerli reintroduced 2 Russians for discussion that were suggested by the Russian IGBP committee. The cv's were passed around. Olga Solomina will be approached to be on the SSC.

Action: IPO to write IGBP a letter nominating Olga Solomina

German members were also needed. Saarnisto reiterated his support for Jörn Thiede based on his personal knowledge of Thiede and his science. He has arctic specialty and also contacts with Russia. Alverson mentioned Von Storch and Negendank. Frank Siroko was also suggested although he refused previously. It seem he would be available now. Von Storch was dropped, there was no overwhelming support. So, vote on the two: Sirocco and Thiede.

Vote: Just Saarnisto is for Thiede, all the other members vote for Siroko.

Action: IPO to write IGBP a letter nominating Frank Sirocko

Data Committee:

The discussion about SSC members was postponed to hear Mark Eakin present the need for databases. The SSC decided to support such database although no concrete financial support can be offered since the financial situation is unsure.

After the SSC, the key people in database had a meeting supporting the idea of creating a database board with database managers from the existing database and focus leaders who are interested in such activities. This meeting should be held in Bern in February 2002.

Action: IPO to work with Mark Eakin and other data players to arrange this meeting.

SSC members (continued)

Wang Pingxian was nominated to replace Guo Zhengtang next year. It was agreed that a terrestrial Chinese scientist should be added at a later stage and Guo Zhengtang has sent CVs to the IPO.

Rick Battarbee was nominated to replace Keith Briffa.

Action: IPO to send IGBP letters to nominating Wang Pingxian and Rick Battarbee

Decision: The size of the SSC should remain the same, as a general rule only one member should come from a given nation with the exception of the US and Switzerland as the main supporters of PAGES.

SSC forgot to renew Thomas Stocker for a second term, but the general assumption, given that he was nominated to ex-com, was clearly that this happens.

9.0 Open Science meeting:

Everyone agreed that we should have an OSM.

Format of the OSM: Pedersen suggested to have the same format as the OSM 4 years ago, plenary in the morning and early afternoon, then poster session every day. This was highly successful.

Consensus: agreed

After long discussion about competing meetings, the approval was that the meeting should be held in **May 2004 in Beijing**.

Pedersen> We need a steering group with a chair. A local as well as a international one.

Organization of local steering group is up to Guo. The international group will be composed of Zhengtang Guo, Keith (and Isabelle or Christoph from the IPO staff as appropriate), Ashok, Laurent Labeyrie and Vera Markgraf as chair.

ExComm members

Pedersen> Bruno Messerli and Keith Briffa will retire from Excom. Thomas Stocker and Ashok Singvi will be there at their positions. (Just information)

10. Timing for the next SSC meeting:

A meeting in Moscow would increase contacts with Russian scientists. But it would be unfair to ask Olga Solomina as a first task to make such a big meeting. She will be contacted during the Global Change meeting. If it is not possible, then Matti Saarnisto suggested that the meeting can easily be organized in Helsinki at the last minute if the Russian venue does not work out.

Action: IPO to arrange a meeting in Russia with Solomina, Kolmogrov, Saarnisto, Raynaud all in the loop),