

**LGP SCIENCE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 2 July 2007, Duxton Hotel**

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Vonda Cummings	NIWA
	Jenny Webster-Brown	University of Auckland
	Clive Howard-Williams	NIWA (LSSC Chairperson)
	Allan Green	University of Waikato
	Mark Stevens	Massey University
	Shulamit Gordon	Antarctica New Zealand
	Dean Peterson	Antarctica New Zealand
	Diana Wall	Colorado State University
	Berry Lyons	The Byrd Polar Research Center
	Pete Convey	British Antarctic Survey
Apologies:	Megan Balks (By Phone)	University of Waikato

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**1. Linking LGP work in Victoria Land with Peninsula Research**

- Is it valid to connect the Victoria Land coast (VLC) research with Peninsula research?
- Definitely, but don't want to make any more research umbrellas – EBA should be able to cover this.
- The work is being done in the Peninsula – just need to identify the groups and target them.
- Get the LGP groups to make these links – bottom-up driven linkages.
- Try to generate syntheses between groups of people doing the same kind of work in the different places – we need to facilitate this interaction.
- EBA is also trying to facilitate this.
- Need to create an awareness of these interactions.
- Could get a small workshop together to talk about these interactions. EBA could help support such a workshop. But would need an output from the workshop – joint original synthesis?
- It is not the intention for LGP to 'take this over' – the LGP committee/community is just showing interest in having such linkages – EBA could facilitate these linkages.
- Would be useful to have scientist exchanges – for researchers to see just how different the environments are and apply their theories to reality.
- Antonio Quesada has put an offer out to the community for people to join his IPY work on Byers Peninsula – there has been much interest in this, and LGP work would be very pertinent for this.
- Are we being pulled in too many directions? Want to be careful not to dilute our efforts in the VLC. Don't want to stop collaborations, but also want to keep concentrating on the VLC.
- NSF trying to broaden its base away from the 4 main science disciplines with a new programme – Antarctic Integrated System Science. In its early stages.
- In terms of exchanges, note that NZ has an agreement with Australia and links with Belgium and BAS.

## **2. Key Questions and Their Broader Applicability**

- Could take out the specific references to the VLC to make them more general and more widely applicable.
- Could reduce to 5 questions.
- Noted that there is no gradient mentioned in the General hypothesis.
- Possibly hold a workshop challenging the group to answer one of the questions – then put it to EBA and they can pass this onto Peninsula researchers for a comparison – key question challenge!
- Want to make sure we don't lose the building blocks of research.
- What do we understand now and where is it going – e.g. domains work.
- Could submit joint papers with Peninsula researchers.
- Good idea to pull together what we know about each area into a synthesis – re. INTIMATE project (see LGP workshop notes).
- Spanish are already doing an LGP in the Peninsula
- EBA could put the generalised LGP questions out there and see what links there are.
- Need to identify who is doing what where.
- LGP to service EBA – EBA to spread the information to the Peninsula groups.
- Exchange between scientists does work. Some potential and exiting links are:
  - Allan Green – Leo Sancho
  - Ian Hawes – Antonio Quesada
  - Vonda Cummings – Lloyd Peck/Simon Morley (potential)
  - Jenny Webster-Brown – John Gibson

## **3. EBA at SCAR St Petersburg Meeting**

- Planning on a half day EBA workshop – work package leaders only
- Could also have an LGP workshop with linkages
- In terms of research funding – there is no funding for syntheses.
- LTER has a peer-review panel which looks at the big science questions. NSF forces the synthesis to happen.
- Could possibly have a small group at this workshop who are interested in doing the actual synthesis.
- Could work on preliminary answers to the key questions – INTIMATE – type poster.
- Short statement of where we think Antarctic biology is at?
- SCAR biology meeting in Sapporo, Japan 2009 – more realistic to get better coverage for VLC-Peninsula work
- What is the state of Antarctica and what is its future – need to press this issue.
- Use predictive models – need to look at where change is the fastest.
- John Turner leading an inter programme workshop – Antarctic Climate Impact Assessment.
- Could produce a synthesis volume – e.g. with Ecological Studies, but not rated very highly in citation index.
- Books have a longer shelf life and better regarded by SCAR.

#### **4. Action Points – Shulamit to get underway**

- Take the EBA work packages and put the LGP key questions under these
- Make the LGP key questions more general. Take into account non-biological systems as well.
- Could Ian Hogg coordinate synthesis work under his work package?
- Undertake an EBA ‘accounting’ exercise e.g. INTIMATE.
- Get key questions for different nations – from their programme’s website
- LSSC to put something to EBA – how they would like to see the Antarctic community go about getting the answers.
- Need to identify who is doing what, where.
- Encourage LGP scientists to do their own groundwork with Peninsula scientists.
- Linkages workshop in St Petersburg?
- INTIMATE – type poster to show state of knowledge to date.