

# PAGES SSC 2020 Meeting Minutes

## Online, 23-27 March 2020

### PRESENT

SSC: Mike Evans (MNE, Co-chair), Willy Tinner (WT, Co-chair), Stella Alexandroff (SJA), Asfawossen Asrat (AA), Ed Brook (EB), Cristiano Chiessi (CMC), Aster Gebrekirstos (AG), Lindsey Gillson (LG), Zhimin Jian (ZJ), Darrell Kaufman (DK), Katrin Meissner (KJM), Paul Valdes (PJV), Blas Valero-Garces (BVG), Boris Vanniere (BV), Liping Zhou (LZ). IPO: Marie-France Loutre (MFL), Sarah Eggleston (SSE), Angela Wade (AW).

Invited guest: Fanny Boudet (FB, Future Earth).

Because the meetings were held daily, at various times, several members were unavailable for some sessions.

### ABSENT

SSC: Emilie Capron (EC), Elena Ivanova (EI).

## 1. Introduction and miscellaneous (MNE)

### 1.1 Welcome and new to PAGES and PAGES IPO

Testing video and audio. Everyone introduced themselves. MNE welcomed AG to her first SSC Meeting.

PAGES has a new Finance Officer, Monika Hofer, replacing Alexandra Gerber, and a new IT Manager, Shashika Sedara-Hettige, replacing Christian Telepski.

### 1.2 Approval of the Minutes from 2019 SSC Meeting & outstanding action items

Decision: Unanimous approval.

### 1.3 Approval of the 2020 Agenda

Decision: Unanimous approval.

## 2. Finances (MFL)

### 2.1. Funding overview

MFL highlighted Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) support, starting 2019, joining the Swiss Academy of Science (SCNAT) support.

### 2.2 Budget Overview 2020 and 2.3 Budget Overview 2021 (combined discussion)

Large carryover because received 2019 CAS money in December 2019, which has not been spent yet.

Discussions on funding allocations for OSM/YSM and website upgrade - new items for 2020 budget.

Discussions on potential funding for TSM (still pending, concept there but not launched), more money for workshops, PAGES Award, ECN interview series, PAGES Magazine for teens, database support, paleo lab data management, and individual scientist support.

Regarding individual scientist support, AA mentioned a successful lab exchange program in Africa, which could be used as a guide. AA and AG mentioned their involvement with African Academy of Sciences (AAS).

Discussion on pros and cons of supporting individuals, which has not been part of PAGES' agenda, and how the program would be run/who would be responsible. SSC expects demand would be high.

Discussion about opening exchange program to other countries, but decided to stay small/focused at start.

Decision: 2020 Budget approved.

Action: Look into and see how we can progress and use existing infrastructure.

Action: AA and MFL to work on presentation document for AAS.

Action: Still need to discuss funding allocations for website, TSM, actual amount for African researchers exchange program, magazine for teens, support for database, ECN videos, translation services.

## 3. Review of PAGES Working Groups (All)

PAGES currently has 14 WGs, in various stages, plus the Early-Career Network (ECN). Some WGs will sunset at the end of the year, while some have just started.

### 3.1 Reworking the scientific structure triangle

Currently the PAGES Scientific Structure is shaped like a triangle. An update has been suggested.

Various circular options were shown from SSC members. Discussion about including ecology/biodiversity or changing the three themes climate, environment, and humans.

Action: IPO and co-chairs create a task force, then consult EXCOM, then take ideas to SSC, then to a designer.

### 3.2 Implementation

Several SSC members provided feedback about groups to contact for potential collaboration. The idea was to find groups that could fill current “holes” in our science triangle. The IPO was tasked to contact each SSC member who made a proposal for a new group to contact and to build a strategy for further actions.

Action: MFL has done this and received several feedbacks.

LZ suggested WGs on CO2 and modeling predictions for the future.

Action: MFL to contact LZ about potential WG leaders.

### 3.3 Working group discussion

Discussions were held about various groups, where necessary, and feedback collated for group leaders.

Decision: 2k Network to update Google doc with project progress.

Decision: Praise CRIAS for creating interest in social science and humanities and for their Chinese plans.

Decision: Encourage DAPS to finalize publications - data assimilation techniques, and data modeling intercomparison project.

Decision: Encourage QUIGS and its upcoming activities. Be aware of INQUA crossovers/duplications.

Decision: Encourage EcoRe3 to make materials from cancelled meeting in Cape Town available online.

Decision: Praise LandCover6k (a large and productive group) and encourage new WG proposal.

Action: Ask 2k Network (DK/SSE) and EcoRe3 (LG) how they see their near future.

Brief discussion about potential problems for WGs with planned meetings that need to be rescheduled because of COVID-19.

Decision: From MFL: If their meeting cannot take place as scheduled because of COVID-19, the money remains available for later (reschedule next year). They also have the opportunity of an online meeting.

Action: Remind WGs that we can offer Adobe Connect and Zoom options if necessary.

Discussion of WGs and AR6 and if review can be done by groups as well as individuals. IPO had contacted WGs about this but no strong response. Some mentioned too busy to coordinate a group review.

Action: Continue this AR6 conversation. AW to make more social media announcements.

## 4. PAGES ECN update (SJA)

MNE congratulated the group for a strong year.

Discussion about SJA’s presentation, provided before the meeting which included information on 2019 activities, the ECN structure and upcoming plans.

Action: SJA to send French, Mandarin and Spanish documents about ECN. *(done)*

Action: AW to add to ECN homepage.

Funding request for interview series.

MNE suggested he would like to write a blog about how to create a working group. Could be blog with Q&A interview and could talk online as well – potential webinar.

Action: SJA and MNE to discuss further. MNE to write blog, could become interview/podcast/webinar.

Planned webinar on applying for jobs in academia. KJM suggested Tim Bralower, Director Penn State.

Action: SJA to contact Tim Bralower. *(done)*

AA pointed out language barriers in English-speaking webinars, e.g. in francophone African countries. SJA suggested budget for translations and transcription of webinars and planned podcasts. Discussion held in chat about allocating money for translations and majority in agreement.

Decision: Funds should be allocated for translation services.

Action: Allocate money for translations – further discussion needed.

Action: SJA to look at Panopto as an option. *(ECN Webinar cluster to look into that)*

MFL mentioned the recent ECN survey and asked about future plans from results. SJA mentioned last year’s suggestion of working group introductory webinars done by the ECN reps. Current barrier – ECRs aren’t confident to approach the WG leaders; this was prominent in survey results.

Action: SJA to relay outcomes once the ECN has met to discussed the survey results.

## 5. Endorsed & Affiliated Activities (All)

### 5.1 Review of Endorsed & Affiliated Activities (All)

Endorsed and affiliated groups provided short 2019 status reports before the meeting. Due to time limitations, not all groups were discussed but general consensus is all are going well and PAGES is happy with the connections.

Brief discussion of PMIP and AR6. DK mentioned reaching out to PMIP groups as additional focus area for a working group. PJV mentioned in short term can make sure groups contribute to AR6 review. In medium term, making sure PAGES and PMIP work together. DK suggests that in 5 years when AR7 is up and coming that PAGES could have helped to organise the data resources for the paleo community. Clear understanding of what major datasets are and what used for ... what is our best shot at Global Mean Temperature. Flesh the table out, opportunity for tighter connection between PAGES and PMIP.

Action: PJV to contact PMIP and appropriate WGs.

## 5.2 Proposals for new Endorsed & Affiliated Activities

Two new projects were proposed - International Paleofire Association (IPA, BV) and Global Climate Indicators (GCI-12k, DK).

Decision: Both groups accepted as new endorsed activities.

Action: No formal letters to be written, as leaders present at meeting.

Action: AW to add new projects to PAGES website when appropriate – liaise with DK and BV.

Decision: IPA should not use the GPWG logo but are welcome to use the PAGES logo.

Action: BV will come back to PAGES with a proposition.

## 6. Proposals for new PAGES Working Groups (All)

Two new working groups were proposed. OSTRATRACE and SPLOSH (resubmission).

SSC members provided written feedback before the meeting and additional discussions were held in the meeting.

Action: EXCOM members to include SSC feedback in decision-making process.

## 7. SSC & EXCOM membership and nominations (All)

### 7.1 Current SSC Membership and future structure

End of 2020, DK and BVG will finish on SSC (and EXCOM).

End of 2021, AA, CMC, MNE, LG and KJM will finish on SSC (and MNE and KJM on EXCOM).

### 7.2 Second terms up for renewal

ZJ and EC indicated in writing before the meeting they are willing to serve second terms starting 2021.

Decision: Both approved for second terms.

### 7.3 Nominations for the SSC in 2021

Applications from 13 candidates discussed at length. Discussion about how many candidates should be chosen, plus geographic and gender distributions.

Action: EXCOM members to include SSC member feedback in decision-making process.

### 7.4 Organizational structure EXCOM

Discussions held in person referencing pre-meeting feedback about future EXCOM structure, taking into account new support from Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and contractual agreements.

Main focus was how many SSC members should be on the EXCOM (between 5-7), co-chair structure, and if MFL should have voting rights.

Decision: SSC agreed that EXCOM should be six members, and includes MFL who has the right to vote and is given the tie-breaking vote if needed.

Action: MFL to have voting rights from 2021 onwards.

Action: New EXCOM members to be discussed and decided upon later in year.

## 8. Meeting support proposals and SSC comments (All)

### 8.1 What should PAGES financial support actually cover?

IPO asked for clear guidelines and SSC feedback on how PAGES funding should be spent at approved workshops. There have been some grey areas.

Decision: All agreed majority of funding should continue to go to ECRs and scientists from less-favored countries.

Decision: Same rules apply for independent and piggybacking meetings.

Action: IPO to update notification letters and workshop dossiers to include new information.

## 8.2 Proposals

In this round, PAGES received three PAGES WG applications, four Open Call applications, one Educational application, and one Special Request.

Pre-meeting feedback was reviewed and all non-PAGES WG applications were discussed at length.

Action: EXCOM members to include SSC member feedback in decision-making process.

## 9. PAGES 2021 OSM/YSM Updates (MFL)

No discussions held about the actual event.

Decision: Extend the session proposal deadline by 1-2 weeks.

Action: Announce extension to the community. *(done)*

Mention of the OSM survey to be conducted.

Action: IPO to send OSM survey to SSC again and discuss via a google doc or online meeting.

## 10. Report on EXCOM recommendations (WT)

### 10.1 From the EXCOM meeting

#### **New working groups**

Decision: OSTRATRACE not accepted. Suggested a workshop.

Decision: SPLOSH not accepted. Suggested a workshop.

#### **Meeting support proposals**

Decision: P1 CRIAS supported.

Decision: P2 LandCover6k supported.

Decision: P3 SISAL supported.

Decision: O1 IAL IPA 2021 supported.

Decision: O2 Archaeo-Starch not supported.

Decision: O3 Synergy between paleoscientists supported.

Decision: O4 Environmental histories supported.

Decision: E1 SOLAS Summer School not supported.

Decision: Special Request not supported.

Action: IPO to send notification emails before mid-April and include SSC liaisons. *(done)*

#### **New SSC members for 2021**

Decision: Five nominees will be invited to join the PAGES SSC from 2021. Aixue Hu, Keely Mills, Eugenia Ferrero, Pradeep Srivastava, and Liping Zhou.

Action: IPO to contact all nominees, then send names to Future Earth for approval. *(done)*

Discussion about process for new ECN SSC member to replace SJA. Measures are in place.

Action: Revise wording for proceedings to elect new ECN SSC member and send to SJA. *(done)*

### 10.2 Liaison officers

Despite not being accepted as WGs, WT will still liaise with OSTRATRACE and KJM will still liaise with SPLOSH.

Action: All SSC liaisons to write to their WGs with meeting feedback and cc IPO.

Action: LZ is new CRIAS liaison (replacing outgoing BVG) and will attend September meeting.

## 11. Integrative activities (Various leaders/ reps)

WT explained that IAs are in the middle of the PAGES triangle and should be an overarching project of WG activities. There are three current IAs. All IAs provided an annual report.

LG suggested that maybe we could consider a new integrative activity on Biocultural Heritage.

Action: IPO to ask community for new IA suggestions.

### 11.1 Data Stewardship (DK and SSE)

Discussions were held on the group's activities in 2019, the future of the group and if it should sunset. DK mentioned data is a huge part of what PAGES does, but unsure how to progress. BV mentioned time and funding constraints, but the IA is important. MNE congratulated group on everything achieved so far.

Decision: BV volunteered to join SSE as IA leader, as DK finishes end of 2020.

Decision: SSC to provide further help with future projects of the group.

Action: SSE contacts SJA and LG about possibly joining the leadership team.

### 11.2 Extreme events and risk assessment (BVG)

Discussions were held on the group's activities in 2019 and the future of the group.

Connection with Future Earth Risk KAN and potential meeting topic or TSM topic.

Action: MNE to restart connections and see if people onboard, and investigate FE connections.

Action: BVG to raise this with WGs. Create an OSM session. *(done)*

### 11.3 Thresholds, tipping points and multiple equilibria in the Earth system (Ed/Paul)

Discussions were held on the group's activities in 2019, the future of the group and potential new leaders.

A 2018 Hamburg meeting has resulted in a paper for Nat Geosci about how we can use paleo for future projections. Resubmitted a few weeks ago. PJV suggested an OSM session.

Action: EB and PJV to submit an OSM session. *(done)*

Action: EB and PJV to continue activities with those already heavily engaged in the group.

## 12. PAGES Products and Communication (IPO staff)

### 12.1 PAGES contribution to IPCC AR6

Continue as planned.

### 12.2 PAGES Magazine

SSE discussed current and next issue, and opened discussions for future topics.

LZ mentioned PAGES 30th anniversary and PJV mentioned PMIP 30th anniversary, both in 2021.

LG mentioned 2021 is the start of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration – potential issue on role of paleo in restoration covering different ecosystems e.g. forests, fires, wetlands and other ecosystems.

Action: SSE to follow up on a PAGES anniversary issue. *(done)*

Action: SSE to contact PJV (PMIP) and LG (ecosystems). *(done)*

Action: Keep in mind a potential ECN magazine publication. SSE to discuss with SJA. *(done)*

LZ mentioned potential of a 30th anniversary paper in Nature Geosc. Could ask co-chairs to write it or ask a science journalist. Mention of Future Earth journalists as potential writers.

Action: IPO to identify authors of a potential article about PAGES' 30th anniversary for another journal (Nature/Science/Nat Geosci/etc). *(done)*

### 12.3 Communications wrap

AW briefly summarized Communications presentation sent out before the meeting. Discussion of Wikipedia rejections. Discussions on creating a stump, so open for everyone to add information.

Action: IPO to contact SCNAT and ask for links to PAGES on their site.

Action: AW to resubmit Wikipedia draft with suggested changes and set up stump option.

Action: AW to send Wikipedia draft page link to SSC members to add information themselves.

Action: KJM to add link to her Wikipedia page.

New topic/discussion about People Database and key words.

Decision: On new website, make sign-up page one page (not four tabs) with dropdown sections.

## 13. Upcoming meetings (MFL)

### 13.1 PAGES SSC Meeting in 2021

Because OSM in May 2021, discussion about having an earlier meeting with SSC or EXCOM to lighten the load at the in-person meeting by keeping normal application deadlines in February.

Decision: Normal Appendix M input from SSC members then online EXCOM meeting in March before OSM, just for working group and workshop proposals. No online SSC meeting before Agadir, only EXCOM.

Action: Make arrangements for additional EXCOM Meeting in March 2021.

Brief mention of 2022 meeting and potential to hold the SSC Meeting in Beijing in conjunction with a TSM.

Action: Continue discussions about/plans for 2022 SSC Meeting and an accompanying TSM to be held in China.

### 13.2 AGU, EGU, INQUA, ICP and other general assembly meetings

Discussions on PAGES presence at other larger, upcoming meetings, including 2020 SRI (postponed until 2021) run by Future Earth and Belmont Forum.

Decision: PAGES to have a presence at SRI 2021.

Action: MFL, BV and KJM to continue discussions on PAGES' visibility at event.

### 13.3 Joint INQUA-PAGES ECR workshop 2020

Short discussion on second joint workshop between INQUA and PAGES for ECRS: <http://www.pases2020.com>  
Progressing well.

## 14. WCRP update

Currently not much contact with WCRP. Background information provided in meeting agenda, but not discussed in online meeting.

## 15. WDS-Paleo (SSE)

Background information provided in meeting agenda, but plans not discussed in online meeting.

## 16. Future Earth update (FB, MFL, others)

### 16.1 Background information

Information provided in Agenda. PAGES is a Global Research Project (GRP) of Future Earth.

### 16.2 Recent developments in Future Earth (video)

MFL thanked FB for providing her video presentation to watch before the meeting. It mentioned the Our Future on Earth Report (three PAGES WG members - Daniele Colombaroli, Thomas Giesecke and Alistair Seddon - wrote paleo perspective for the chapter on “Unravelling web of life” and several others made a brief review of other chapters); Fire Policy Brief; Earth Targets Initiative; Science-Based Pathways; and Future Earth Review (held in early March. Overall message was to focus more on how Future Earth integrates GRPs and KANs.).

MFL mentioned PAGES still receives many requests from Future Earth for contributions, but they arrive too late. There is not enough time given to provide useful responses, as PAGES also distributes requests to the WGs. When more people are involved, more time is needed.

Discussion about how PAGES could contribute to Earth Targets Initiative (too advanced now).

MNE asked if DK's new endorsed group could be relevant to Earth Targets.

**Action: MFL and DK to investigate.**

Discussion about how PAGES could contribute to Science-Based Pathways (still relatively new idea, so still open to contributions). Idea for different countries to have different workshops to co-design pathways with researchers for the four life supporting SDGs. Land, ocean, fresh water, biodiversity – could be opportunities there. PAGES SSC members bring project forward within their own country or organizes a workshop by itself, for example working on biodiversity. Two workshops – biodiversity; freshwater – already held in France.

**Action: Fanny to send list of biodiversity workshop attendees. (done)**

Discussion of a Future Earth request to sign a support letter (with a deadline of 8 hours) today.

**Decision: SSC members can sign individually if they wish. (done)**

### 16.3 PAGES and KANs

PAGES is involved in three KANs – Oceans, Natural Assets and Risks.

FB mentioned some KANs are more active than others. The outcomes of the mid-term review of Future Earth may lead to structural changes of KANs.

WT mentioned one of the main difficulties being involved in the KANs was including the time component/time dimension, as time matters for some processes.

MNE asked if FE could help GRPs work on proposals for similar projects/topics.

BVG asked if PAGES as a group could become a partner in a KAN.

FB noted the suggestions and asked how Future Earth could further help PAGES. Suggestions included integrating the GRPs as the base of Future Earth; connecting individual GRPs; a connection with stakeholders; providing more time for responses for communication requests.

### 16.4 PAGES at COP26 with Future Earth?

FB noted PAGES' interest in being involved in COP26.

*Update 2 April 2020: COP26 has been postponed until 2021.*

**Action: Follow up for 2021 event.**

## **17. Any other business?**

### **17.1 Where do you see PAGES in five years?**

Various members provided written feedback before the meeting. Further discussions were held on these ideas, and additional ideas added in person at the online meeting, such as new projects and funding. Plans for TSMs were also revisited (discussed earlier in the meeting).

**Action: IPO to make a call about TSMs and explain funding is available.**

**Action: IPO to take lead on various ideas to keep discussions going, but decisions will be made by SSC.**

### **17.2 UN Decade of Ocean Science**

Should PAGES be involved and in what way? Various members provided written feedback before the meeting. Further discussions were held on these ideas, and additional ideas added in person at the online meeting.

**Decision: PAGES should be involved.**

**Action: LZ to take the lead on this project, with PVJ, KJM and ZJ to assist him.**

### **17.3 New item – online meeting survey**

SSE created a survey for feedback on how SSC members think these five days of online meetings went.

**Action: All SSC members encouraged to fill out by 9 April. *(done)***

**Action: Collate results and use them for 2021 meeting ideas. *(done)***

**End of meeting**