MEETING REPORT

This year, the IASC Council Meeting was held in two parts:

- A Closed Session: consisting mainly of internal business issues, and
- An Open Session: presenting issues of wider interest and open to observers and others.
  Participants at the Open Session also received a summary of the outcome of the Closed Session, so they were given all important information and decisions from the Closed Session (see item 2.2. in this report).

Open Session Minutes

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President of IASC, Prof. Patrick J Webber, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and especially Professor Magnus Magnusson, who served as the second President of IASC.

2.1 MAIN ISSUES SINCE LAST MEETING

Many IASC activities and progress have been reported to Council and Regional members previously. However, for the benefit of all participants, the IASC President mentioned the following highlights since the last Council Meeting:

- **Good internal work**
  A very good job had been done at all levels within IASC. This spirit of enthusiasm and hard work has produced good results and commitment, which are both important for the future of IASC.

- **Major planning processes**
  ICARP II (the Second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning) had been initiated as agreed during the ASSW 2003. An ICARP II Steering Group had been appointed, and at their meeting in January they had agreed on 10 scientific themes and 2 crosscutting themes.
  Members of the Working groups for most themes had been nominated and they are likely to start working in the near future.

ICARP II will be an important research planning process, which can be of benefit for IPY, as well as setting the Arctic research agenda for the years to come.
ICARP II will be fully presented during the Project Day of this ASSW.

ISAC
The International Study on Arctic Changes (ISAC) is a more recent initiative, originating in the Open Science Meeting of SEARCH (a major US programme on "Study of Environmental Arctic Change") at which IASC and AOSB were invited to consider establishing an international SEARCH-like planning group.
This initiative was named ISAC and an initial Planning Group will have their first meeting later in this ASSW.
A draft Science Overview Document is expected during late autumn, and will then be considered by AOSB and IASC.

- **The President's Mantra**
  The President repeated his mantra for the work with IASC, which he is implementing when an opportunity arises. His mantra is composed of:

  - **Inclusiveness and Engagement**, such as:
    by the work in our **Strategy Groups**, i.e. smaller groups of about 5 persons giving everybody a fair opportunity to discuss IASC business, or

    by supporting the initiative of the Pacific Arctic Group, which provides a special opportunity for that region of the Arctic.

  - **Science Credibility and Visibility**, through:
    Careful evaluation of IASC project proposals and their progress
    Representing IASC in various fora (Arctic Council, etc.)

  - **Collaboration and Partnerships**
    As for instance: ACIA, ICARP II, IPY, ISAC, CEON, etc.

We have also revised and published the IASC Brochure during the last year, which together with information available on the IASC website can give everyone a good overview of our activities.

2.2 SUMMARY FROM THE CLOSED SESSION (Presented by the Executive Secretary)

The IASC meetings this year were organised in three stages:

- The Strategy Group meeting (about 5 persons in each) feeding their comments into
- Council Meeting – Closed Session which is an internal business meeting session and finally
- Council Meeting – Open Session, which should be of interest to a wider audience.

Although observers would have found it less interesting to attend these previous meetings, the main outcome from the Closed Session may be of interest, and was reported as follows:

- **Ongoing Projects** (see the IASC Project Catalogue)
  Progress of the IASC projects is reviewed twice a year by the IASC Executive Committee. In order to give Council members a possibility to become involved, the Strategy Groups have this issue as a regular item. No major changes were suggested. However, a few critical comments as expressed by the Executive Committee were supported.

- **New Project Proposals**
  Council agreed to support the following proposals:

  - **CEON:** The Circumarctic Environmental Observatories Network, a project idea initiated by FARO, and the Project leadership, had proposed that CEON become a joint FARO – IASC project. IASC Council agreed to adopt CEON as a joint FARO-IASC project.

  - **Marine Transportation**
    The proposal was for a joint sponsorship of a scoping workshop together with the Arctic Council. Provided a clarification of the scientific issues which the workshop should address, the Council was willing to support the workshop.

  - **Arctic Topographic Mapping**
    Not supported at this stage.

- **IASC General Fund**
  The activities of IASC are based on national funding.
  However, an IASC General Fund is established to meet common expenses which cannot be referred to national funding. This Fund is based on annual fees by member organisations and provides seed money, mainly for project meetings. IASC Council is the body who approves the accounts for the past year and revises the draft budget (as presented by the Executive Committee) for the current year.
  This year, IASC Council agreed to support ICARP with USD 120,000 from the General Fund reserves.

- **Application to ICSU**
  Council agreed to apply for International Scientific Associate status with ICSU.

- **Report from the Regional Board**
  The Regional Board has a special responsibility to ensure that the activities of IASC are consistent with the common interest of the arctic countries. They had reviewed the IASC Council agenda and had had discussions on the IASC Secretariat, ICARP II and IPY.
  Dr Olav Orheim had been elected new Chair of the Regional Board.

- **The IASC Secretariat**
  As the present Executive Secretary plans to retire 1 August 2005, a process had been initiated to seek his replacement, as well as clarification of future host of the Secretariat. Council had appointed the Executive Committee, together with a representative of the host institution, to serve as a recruitment committee.
  The offer made by Norway to continue to host the Secretariat had been accepted, noting that the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø would be the host institution.

- **Election of Vice Presidents**
  There are 4 Vice Presidents, two of which are elected every second year. Prof. Louwrens Hacquebord and Dr Byong-Kwon Park were elected.

3 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Every year 2 – 3 projects are presented at Council Meeting, in order to give Council and Regional Board members a better knowledge of IASC project activities. This year the following presentations were made.

3.1 HUMAN ROLE IN REINDEER/CARIBOU SYSTEMS

This project has initiated and implemented several sub-projects, as well as established an informative website at:

http://www.rangifer.net

The presentation was given by Dr Don Russell, Canada and a summary follows:

HUMAN ROLE IN REINDEER/CARIBOU SYSTEMS

Reindeer and caribou are arguably the most important northern wildlife resource across the circumpolar world. This species has contributed to the cultural identity and sustainable economy of many northern peoples. As well, *Rangifer* has been identified as a keystone indicator of ecosystem health in the arctic and a critical element in a program to monitor the impact of global change in the 21st century. The "Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou Systems" is IASC's answer to the need to focus attention on this species in a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach. Our overall objectives are:

1. To provide for the comparability of previous, current and newly established research programs that focus on resilience, adaptation, and sustainability of human-caribou/reindeer grazing systems in Alaska, Canada, Russia, Greenland and the Nordic countries
2. To facilitate the international exchange of scientists, information, ideas, and research results between projects
3. To organize international interdisciplinary research on Human-Reindeer/Caribou Systems that is based on science and local knowledge, and is relevant to formulating public policy

4. To establish an on-going circumpolar monitoring network of Human-Rangifer Systems

Using funding from IASC, the project coordinators have brought together scientists, community representatives and management agencies to develop a multiyear research proposal. The proposed project addresses questions related to the relative resilience of regional Human-*Rangifer* Systems and the implications of differences in regional resilience in the face of climate change, industrial development, and socio-political transformations. The proposed project builds on the IASC "Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou Systems Research Plan" (Kofinas et al 1999) to focus at the pan-Arctic scale. The proposed research is a comparative analysis, focusing on select wild *Rangifer* herds and their interaction with domestic populations, and on the implications of interactions to hunters and herders of North America and Russia. We suggest that resilience can be indexed by measurable factors for individual *Rangifer* at the herd level, and at system level. Climate-habitat-*Rangifer* population studies will relate hemispheric climate patterns with regional- and local-level habitat responses to measure resilience of *Rangifer* at the individual and herd population levels. Resource users and agency managers will participate in the project to assess the capacity of social institutions to facilitate human adaptation. Socio-economic modelling will identify thresholds of change in modes of hunting, herding, and cash economies. Our synthesis component will integrate these activity areas through the development of a linked multi-scale agent-based model, which serves as a discussion tool among research partners and the greater community.

This project will be the first pan-Arctic interdisciplinary analysis of Human-*Rangifer* Systems linking geophysical, ecological, and social factors. The project will relate global- to local-scale patterns in climate to assess *Rangifer* habitat quality, *Rangifer* populations, and quantifiable estimates of resilience. It will be the first research to connect scale dependencies in observations, system performance, and human adaptation. Comparative institutional studies will develop and apply a framework to evaluate social resilience of emergent *Rangifer* co-management systems. Modelling socio-economic processes of change will empirically test hypotheses about transitions of herding and hunting systems. Local properties will be placed in the context of the regional, hemispheric, and global scale heterogeneity to produce analysis tools for cross-scale inter-disciplinary synthesis, which are required to understand and adapt to uncertainty.

The proposal was submitted to the U. S. National Science Foundation in 2003. Reviewers offered strong support for the proposal and made very valuable suggestions on how better to focus the questions. The project members are in the process of addressing those suggestions and will resubmit the proposal in August 2004.

3.2 CAT-B: THE CIRCUM-ARCTIC TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

The broad aim of this project is to quantify and understand the role of biodiversity in arctic and alpine ecosystems, and to evaluate both actual and potential threats to biodiversity.

A Summary of the Project Leader, Prof. Philip Wookey's presentation follows:

CAT-B (IASC Project) The Circum-Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Initiative

Following a scoping meeting in Finse, Norway, in October 2002, the *Circum-Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Initiative* (CAT-B) became an operational project of IASC in 2003. The broad goals of CAT-B are to quantify and understand the role of biodiversity in arctic and alpine ecosystems, and to evaluate both actual and potential threats to biodiversity. The stated mission of CAT-B is to address the key science issues through the formation of a multi-national, circum-Arctic, integrated and standardized research network. CAT-B therefore aims to: (i) identify relevant drivers of change across contrasting regional/local settings, (ii) develop monitoring strategies, (iii) conduct a variety of intra- and inter-site experiments and meta-analyses, (iv) predict the potential impacts of change on biodiversity and ecosystem function, (v) predict the potential impact of changes in biodiversity on ecosystem function and feedback processes to further environmental change, and (vi) provide products to user groups. The first step toward achieving these objectives was the progress made during the 1st CAT-B International Meeting, held in Uppsala from 10-12 November 2003: A full written report of this meeting is available from the IASC Secretariat. CAT-B was also presented to the IASC Council on 22 April 2004 during Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) in Reykjavik.

CAT-B is now gaining pace, and includes 38 participants from 12 countries (including all of the arctic nations). The composition of CAT-B is by no means fixed, however, and the network will evolve and expand in due course to reflect research priorities and developing links with user-groups. At present, however, the core group is considered of optimal size to ensure that meetings have a balanced coverage even when not all participants can be present at every meeting. The expertise covered in this group ranges from soil microbial ecology, through plant and animal ecology, to geomorphology, environmental management, sociology and anthropology of Northern Peoples. The 2nd CAT-B Meeting, to be held in Uppsala between 10-12 May 2004, has 27 participants. Particularly noteworthy is the strong Russian involvement (5 scientists and social scientists) in CAT-B at this stage.

During the presentation to IASC Council in Reykjavik some of the key challenges and opportunities facing CAT-B were identified. Environmental change, for example, has multiple facets (the CO_2 'fertilization' effect; climate change; increased deposition of airborne N-containing compounds; increased UV-B fluxes at the surface due to Stratospheric O_3 depletion), upon which are superimposed direct land-use changes at local and regional level (e.g. exploitation of mineral, fossil fuel, and other resources, and the infrastructure associated with this).

Environmental change drivers thus vary geographically and temporally in their relative importance and intensity. For this reason identifying a simple circum-polar research activity that is meaningful in all contexts is not an easy task, although we do need to think hard about research questions that can only be addressed effectively within the context of international research collaboration. Very broad-based approaches risk losing focus, so that 'umbrella' concepts are necessary. Having identified food webs and functional groups of organisms, together with trophic cascades, as a central focus for CAT-B during the 1st International meeting, these unifying concepts will be refined further at the May 2004 meeting. In addition, biodiversity itself is also multifaceted, allowing CAT-B enormous scope, but carrying with it the risk that focus can easily be lost. An early definition of biodiversity (Edmund O. Wilson, 1988), but one that remains pertinent, is "the totality of hereditary variation in life forms, across all levels of biological organization from genes and chromosomes within individual species to the array of species themselves, and finally at the highest level to living communities of ecosystems". The *Global Biodiversity Strategy* (1992), a document drafted jointly by the World Resources Institute, the World Conservation Union, and the United Nations Environment Programme, states that "Biodiversity is the totality of genes, species, and ecosystems in a region". CAT-B embraces all levels in the hierarchy of biological diversity, from genes to ecosystems.

The future role for CAT-B, consistent with the stated objectives/mission, could be to foster the formation of a few large international networks with common protocols. But CAT-B could equally effectively function as a catalyst for several national/regional initiatives. CAT-B, with it's breadth of expertise, may also play a major role in synthesis activities (e.g. CAFF/ACIA-style) of the future. In practice, a combination of the above is planned, and CAT-B aims to be responsive to appropriate research and outreach possibilities, as they develop, as well as to influence the international research funding agenda. With the latter in mind, the 2nd CAT-B meeting aims at the preparation of review paper to raise the status of CAT-B issues in the science community in preparation for new research initiatives. Another tangible product from CAT-B, to be submitted in the autumn of 2004, will be an application to the EC 6th FP Marie Curie Actions scheme (a Marie Curie Research Training Network). In addition, other national and regional research agencies (e.g. NorFA) will be targeted where appropriate. CAT-B outreach activities (in the form of press releases, articles in popular science publications, such as *New Scientist*, and an interactive web-page) are also to be initiated during the forthcoming CAT-B meeting in Uppsala.

4 COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

The intention of having country presentations is to

- give a very brief overview of arctic research in the country
- in particular to highlight future arctic research activities of possible interest to the circumarctic research community.

4.1 ICELAND

The presentation was given by Dr Kristján Kristjánsson, Head of the Science Division at the Icelandic Center of Research. (Dr Kristjánsson is also the Icelandic member on IASC Council and one of the IASC Vice Presidents).

A Summary of the presentation:

Iceland

The Country

World War II caused a dramatic break in the economic and social development of Iceland. The first elements of science and technology policy emerged in the years immediately before the War, in response to the economic and social distress of the Great Depression and in preparation for an impending war in Europe. The National Research Council was established 1938-1940 in preparation for the war to coordinate scientific effort and secure vital supplies of energy and fodder during isolation.
The economic growth in Iceland in the twentieth century was based on natural resources to a very high degree. These are marine, energy and land (soil) resources. On the basis of these resources, the Icelandic economy emerged from among Europe's poorest in 1900 to the top 10 after 1965. Sustainable use is now a major concern of national economic policies as well as science and technology policies.

Research and Development Statistics

R&D expenditures in Iceland amounted to 250 million € which is about 3.06% of GDP – 1.02% public funding. Iceland ranked 4th of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries when it comes to the R&D/GDP ratio following Sweden, Finland and Japan. Enterprises spent about 150 million € on R&D. This is about 60% of gross expenditures on R & D (GERD). Business enterprises financed by themselves about 46% of total GERD. Public national financing amounted to 34% but as high as 18% came from outside the country. From 1999 to 2001, GERD increased about 40%, which is unique within the OECD. Approximately 80% of the increase was by enterprises, especially in new companies in emerging branches, based mainly on R&D. About 2.900 full time equivalent was dedicated to R&D. Behind this was about 5.200 individuals. Women accounted for around 1.100 or 39% of these.

New Structure for Science, Technology and Innovation

The Althing enacted a new legislation on the organization of science and technology policy, the funding of research and technological development in Iceland at the end of January 2003.

A new Science and Technology Policy Council (SPTC) has been established and is headed by the Prime Minister. The Council provides for the permanent seat of four other ministers, the Minister of Education, Science and Culture, the Minister of

Industry and Commerce, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Fisheries. Fourteen other members are appointed to the Council through nominations.

The administrative service to the operational level of the whole structure is provided by the Icelandic Center for Research – RANNÍS that is the secretariat of the previous Icelandic Research Council. Its mission is to give administrative and operational support to the boards and funding bodies, to manage the international connections, monitor the effects and impacts of policies, and to provide intelligence and informed advice to the STPC and its boards and sub-committees. Thus, RANNÍS will administer all the Funding bodies set up by the new legislation including the Research Fund, the Technology Development fund, the Instrument Fund and Graduate Training Fund and other funding bodies for science that the government may want to assign to it. It will maintain the National Contact Point Coordination and support network to the EU Framework program, the Nordic NOS - organizations and other international bodies in science and technology, such as IASC, AOSB, ESF, IGFA, etc.

Arctic Research in Iceland
The Stefánsson Arctic Institute (SAI) was established in 1998 and operates under the auspices of the Icelandic Ministry for the Environment. It is located in Akureyri in Northern Iceland and bears the name of explorer and anthropologist Vilhjálmur Stefánsson (1879-1962). The staff at the Stefánsson Arctic Institute includes scientists with broad interdisciplinary research background and experience. The role of the institute is to:

- be a forum for co-operation with regards to multi-disciplinary research
- promote sustainable development in northern areas
- strengthen Icelandic participation in international endeavours in this field
- facilitate and co-ordinate Arctic research in Iceland
- gather and disseminate information regarding northern issues
- advise the Government and co-operate with others internationally
- provide facilities for scholars who pursue research relevant to the institute's agenda.

Currently the main project the institute is working on is the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR). The AHDR will provide an accessible overview of the state of human development in the Arctic that can serve as a benchmark for assessing progress in the future. The report will also identify critical gaps in knowledge that require the attention of the scientific community and it will help to set the agenda and establish priorities for the work of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group.

Icelandic organization/institutes with particular relevance to international arctic science

- The University of Iceland (www.hi.is)
- The Marine Research Institute (www.hafro.is)
- The Agricultural Research Institute (www.rala.is)

- The University of Akureyri (www.unak.is)
- The Icelandic Institute of Natural History (www.ni.is)
- The Icelandic Meteorological Office – IMO (www.vedur.is)
- Iceland GeoSurvey – ISOR (www.isor.is)
- The National Energy Authority (www.os.is)
- The Stefánsson Arctic Institute (www.svs.is)

4.2 CANADA

The presentation was given by Prof. Peter Johnson, who is Chair of the Canadian Polar Commission (Prof. Johnson is also the Canadian member of IASC Council, and has been one of the IASC Vice Presidents).

The Summary follows:

Organization. The organization of Canadian arctic scholarship is fragmented among many communities. A number of federal government departments have responsibilities for some aspect of arctic science but there are weak horizontal linkages even on major issues such as climate change. Over 30 universities and colleges, all members of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, have at least some northern expertise, but there are only four or five with strong concentrations in programs or institutes. In addition the territorial governments, communities and indigenous peoples organizations are responsible for a large proportion of the social and economic research.

There is no central mechanism for the development of science priorities in support of national or international issues through legislation or through a formal strategy. International liaison is maintained at a formal level through a number of mechanisms. For example the Canadian Polar Commission is the adhering body to the IASC and SCAR, the National Research Council maintains membership in ICSU, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans maintains the links to WMO. More often links are maintained through individual program or project levels.

Funding. The funding mechanisms reflect this fragmentation. At the federal government level funding is through individual departments and science in general as well as in the North has been seriously reduced in the last two to three decades. Research has been encouraged in the universities through 3 main granting councils and two foundations, which have structural differences, have created disconnects between operating and equipment funding, and have only limited dedicated northern programs.

Logistics and Infrastructure. With the exception of the funding of the CCGS Amundsen science icebreaker, which still has some operational issues and long term support questions, logistics and infrastructure have seen a serious decline and rust out of equipment. Field stations are not equipped for 21st century science and are not in a position to partner with other circumpolar nations and networks.

Federal Budget Measures. In 2003 the granting councils were directed to put a proportion of new resources into northern research and this has resulted in some small supplements to research grants and student support. In addition the Polar Continental Shelf Project was given some significant new resources in an attempt to revitalize the program. In 2004 the development of a Northern Strategy involving the energy sector, economic development and sovereignty was announced and there should be some significant scholarship spin-off from this initiative. At the political level there has been an initiative to promote a Northern Research Service and a Ministry of Circumpolar Affairs and Northern Research.

5. THE INTERFACE BETWEEN ARCTIC COUNCIL AND ARCTIC RESEARCH

The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental forum for addressing many of the common concerns and challenges faced by the Arctic states and the people of the Arctic. This regional forum addresses the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development. The approach of the Council encourages continuous dialogue among scientists, policy planners, Arctic residents and political level decision-makers.
This approach in which policy and science are linked is always a challenge.

Prof. O W Heal, Durham University, UK explored this challenge by presenting a paper: *The Interface between Arctic Council and Arctic Research: Körner's Dilemma*
His paper follows:

Slide 1

The Interface between Arctic Council and Arctic Research:

Körner's Dilemma

Prof. Bill Heal

Director, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (Retired)

My thanks to a diversity of organisations going back to the International Biological Programme in the 1970s.
My apologies to the atmospheric, marine and freshwater communities for using the terrestrial systems to illustrate the interface between the Arctic Council and Arctic Research.

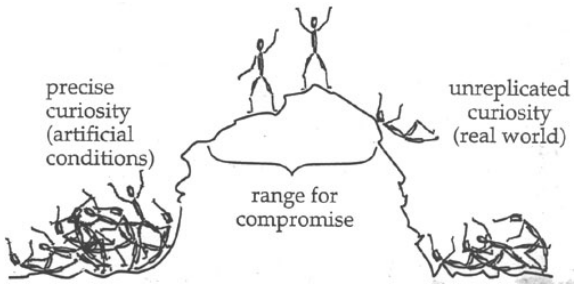
Slide 2

-The Context-

IASC is an observer of the Arctic Council. This provides an interface between the science and policy communities. The relationship is evolving and must accommodate the changing needs of people, globalization and improving science and technology.

Slide 3

The Precision Relevance Dilemma

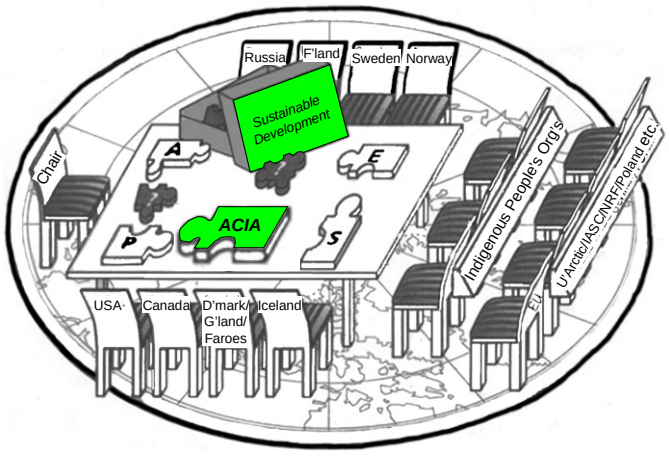


Ch. Körner, 1998

Christian Kõrner expressed the universal problem of communication between research and policy. He distinguishes the Artificial World where researchers seek precision under experimental conditions from the imprecise, un-replicated Real World of the policy maker. The mountainous interface is crossed by few.

Slide 4

Arctic Council



The changing world of the Arctic: Expansion of the AC agenda from AEPS to open the major topics of Sustainable Development and ACIA Growing maturity and confidence of the AC

Slide 5

Arctic Council Priorities = Challenges for Arctic Research

"We need to address both sides of the equation, society and nature, to arrive at **a balanced notion of sustainable development**"
- *Gunnar Palsson, Chair SAO, Arctic Science and Policy Workshop, Arendal, (2003)*

"Ministers also approved..... focussing on the **use of information and communications technology** in the Arctic and **co-ordination of Arctic research**"
- *Gunnar Palsson, Chair SAO, Arctic Science and Policy Workshop, Arendal, (2003)*

"The Arctic Council favors **closer co-operation with international organisations** on issues related to climate change, including the European Union (EU), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) **as well as with non-arctic states**"
- *Benedikt Jonasson, Chair SAO, World Climate Change Conference (2003).*

Slide 6

Arctic Council Priorities = Challenges for Arctic Research

Sustainable development is "…**an analytic framework intended to provide structure and coherence to thinking about human / environmental relations**"
- *Oran Young (1998). Emerging Priorities for Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North. The Northern Review, 18.*

There is much debate on what is meant by Sustainable Development but Oran Young has a sound and sensible approach.

Slide 7

Key Challenges

1. Integration
2. Prediction
3. Infrastructure
4. Communication

The evolution of AC challenges the interface with research in 4 areas

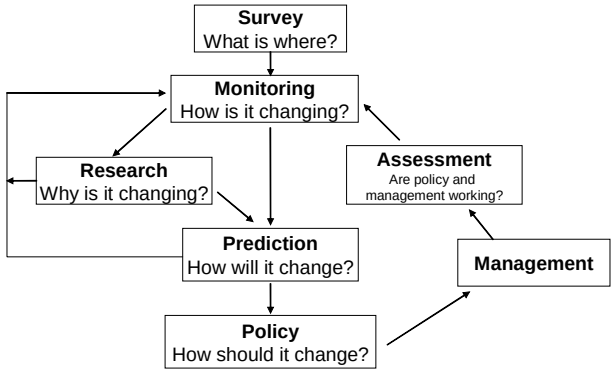
Slide 8

-Integration-

The challenge is to combine subjects and processes that have been traditionally separate.

Slide 9

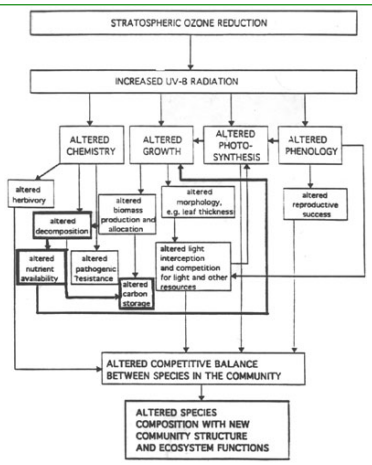
Integration of Research and Policy



Different approaches are needed to address specific questions.
The information from the research community is combined into prediction to be translated into policy and management.
Then there is a feedback loop to the research sequence

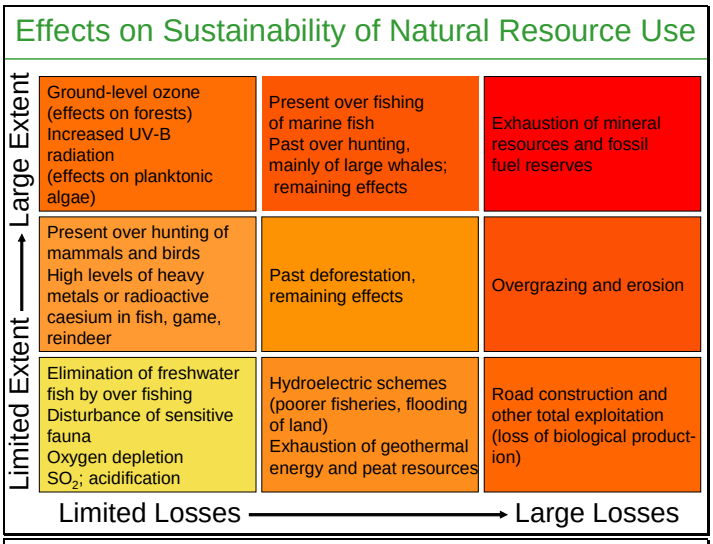
Slide 10

Integration of Physics, Chemistry, Biology



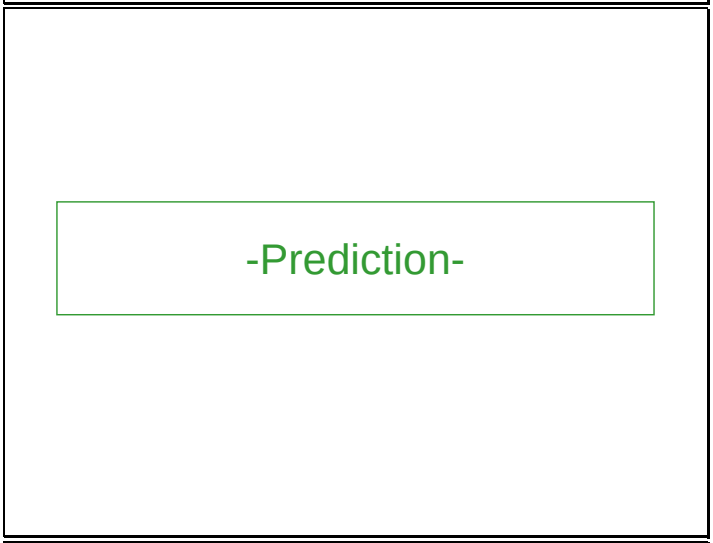
The ozone – UV – vegetation sequence illustrates the integration within the research community.

Slide 11



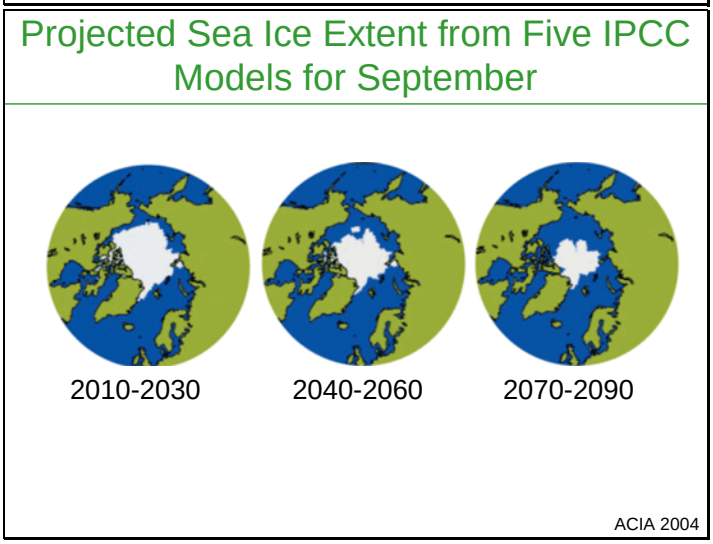
Each researcher believes their topic is the most important.
The policy maker must weigh the relative importance of different topics.

Slide 12



'Prediction' is probably be greatest challenge for researchers, especially ecologists. But there are many approaches

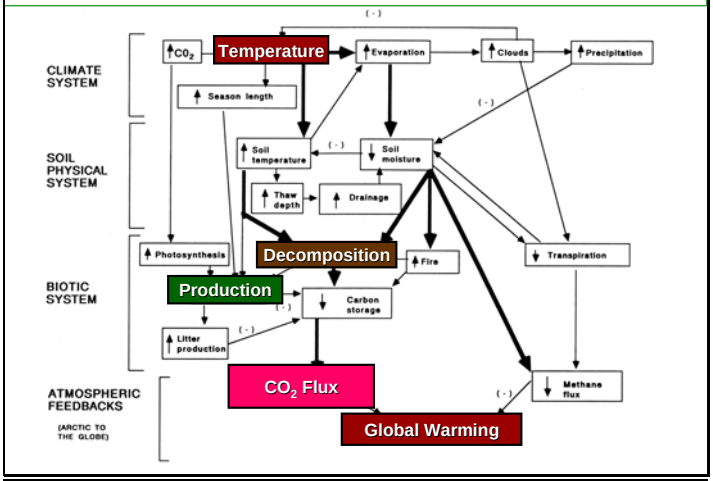
Slide 13



Physical scientists are effective at in prediction.
Spatial mapping emphasizes the integrity of the Arctic – a Mediterranean (sea surrounded by land)

Slide 14

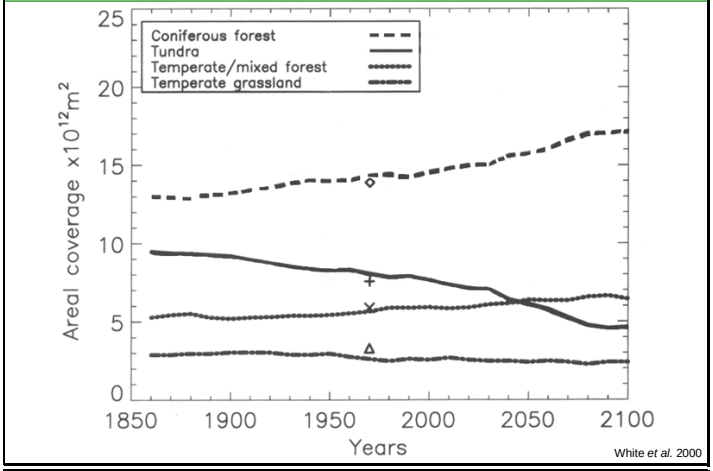
Projected Climate Change Impacts



A 'prediction' of the ecological impacts of climate change. Qualitative integration of the knowledge from different disciplines. (Chapin et al 1992)

Slide 15

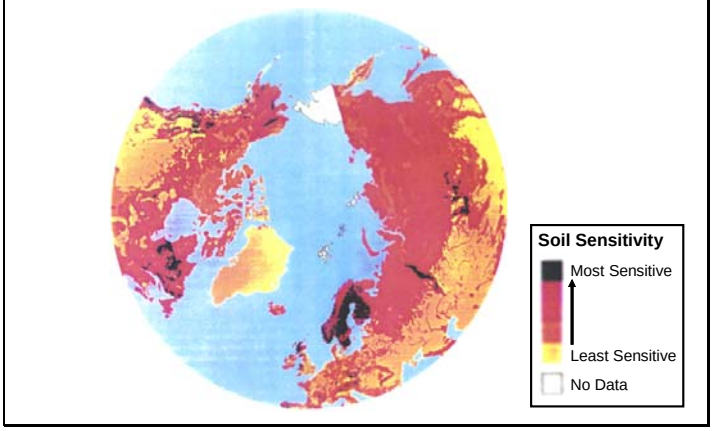
Predicted Vegetation Changes



Results of a formal quantitative model based on plant ecophysiological response to changing climate.
The model was run for 100 years up to present to test its validity.
Extrapolation to 2100 predicts 50% loss of tundra to coniferous forest – treeline will be a sensitive indicator of change.

Slide 16

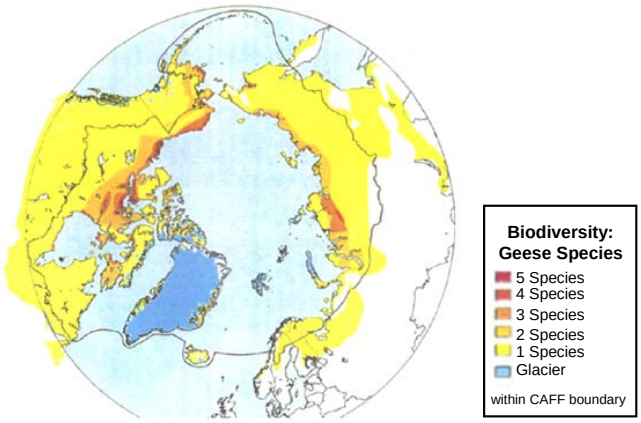
Sensitivity of terrestrial ecosystems to acid deposition



'Critical loads' maps have been particularly effective in communicating with policy makers concerned with atmospheric contaminants.

Slide 17

Arctic Environmental Database



'Biodiversity' has many dimensions. A basic map of species distribution 'predicts' where species are vulnerable – prediction is in space as well as time.

PREDICTION IS SIMPLY A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD – A HYPOTHESIS.

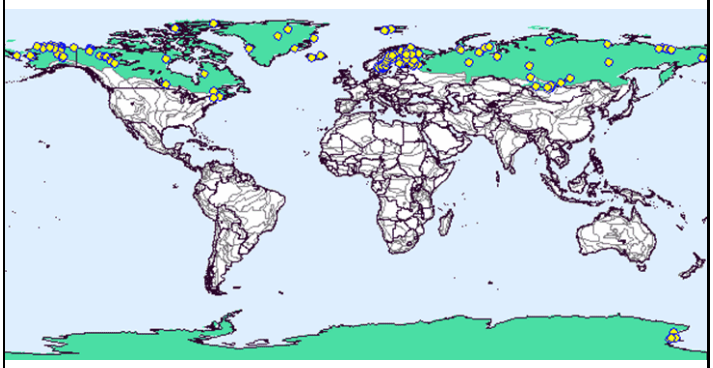
Slide 18

-Infrastructure-

How well do our national infrastructures work for the circum-Arctic system?

Slide 19

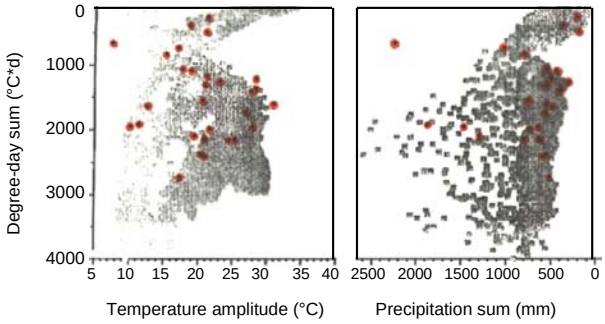
171 Terrestrial Ecosystem Monitoring (TEM) Sites



GTOS (the GLOBAL TERRESTRIAL OSERVING SYSTEM) has identified many field sites in the Arctic.
The site provides a good geographical coverage.

Slide 20

North European Field Stations in Environmental Space



But is there a good coverage of the environment? Examine the distribution of sites within 'environmental space'

Slide 21

International Tundra Experiment (ITEX)

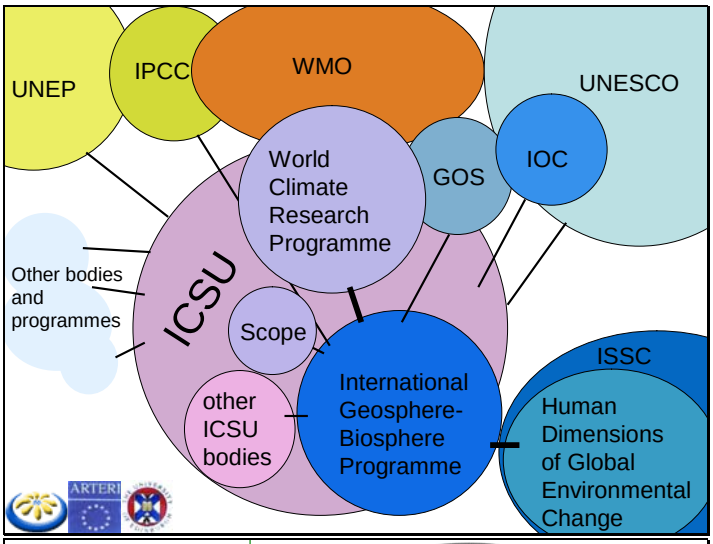
ITEX has applied a standard experiment. It is this that joins the sites into an effective network.

Slide 22

-Communication-

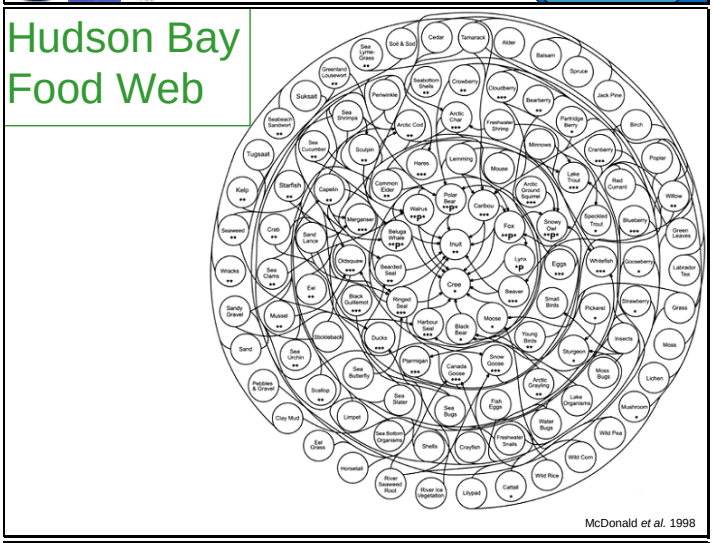
We need to define who should we communicate with!

Slide 23



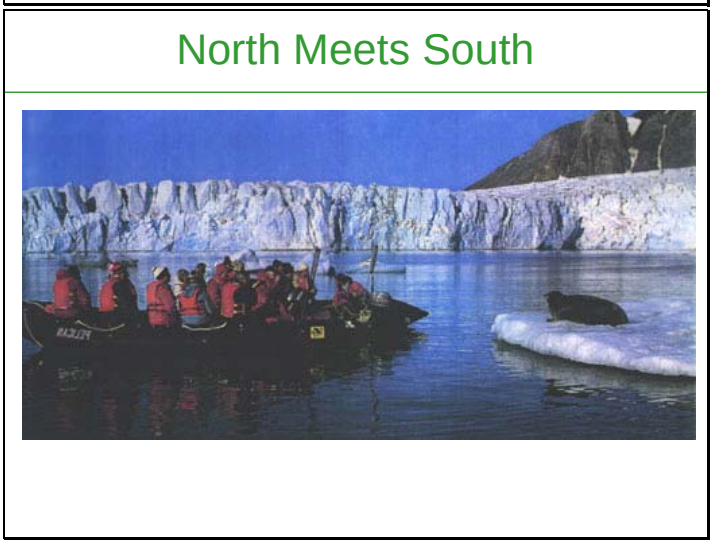
There is a vast range of organizations globally, regionally and nationally.
Each has some relevance, but where are the priorities and what is the communication strategy?

Slide 24



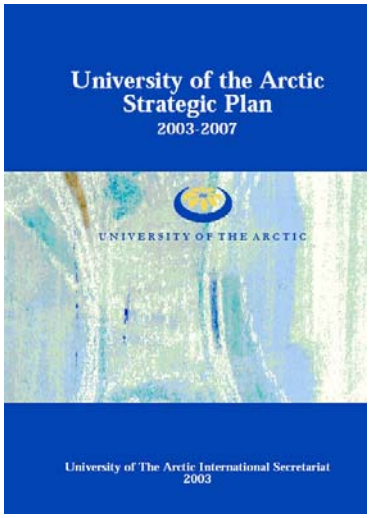
The food web described by the Inuit and Cree around Hudson Bay shows how they can provide different perspectives on ecological relationships compared to conventional research.
Communication between different communities is a priority.

Slide 25



The thermohaline circulation is not the only transport mechanism between North and South!
The links between North and South are increasingly important, but the North will only influence the Southern policies when it is shown to be economically important.

Slide 26



One new mechanism which provide an outreach to northern communities - and the next generation – is the distributed circum-arctic UArctic (www.uarctic.org)

Slide 27

Conclusions

We need to:

- Exploit and extend support **($)** for international and interdisciplinary **cooperation**
- **Integrate** knowledge, information and data through interdisciplinary Working Groups
- Explore ecological, social and environmental consequences of policies, using **scenario models** (= scientific hypotheses)
- Strengthen spatial and temporal observation and experiment systems with flexible **circum-Arctic platforms** (also function as rapid response systems)
- Improve **communication** across disciplines, responsible organisations and communities.

- **We need more one-handed scientists!**

The interface between the Arctic Council and Arctic Research has many dimensions and is evolving rapidly. The research community must respond to changing policy needs by exploiting its full capability – ACIA is an excellent example of the ability of the research community to respond to the challenge, but it is only a start!

6. UP-DATE ON ONGOING PLANNING PROCESSES

Several important arctic research planning processes have been initiated. Members of IASC have been informed directly by being invited to make nominations, and through the reports from the Executive Committee.

ACIA, ICARP II and IPY were more fully presented during the Project Day (which this year came after the IASC meetings).

6.1 ACIA: ARCTIC CLIMATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ACIA is a project of the Arctic Council and IASC.
Three reports were planned:

- The Scientific Assessment
- An Overview document (extended summary of the Scientific Assessment), and
- A Policy Document (the responsibility of AMAP and CAFF)

About 300 scientists have been involved in the assessment, which has finally been reviewed and is close to publication.

ACIA has been discussed in the IASC Strategy Groups, and also briefly at the Closed Session.

The need for follow-up projects to ACIA will be discussed at a workshop later this year.

More information about ACIA is available on their website:

http://www.acia.uaf.edu

6.2 ICARP II: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARCTIC RESEARCH PLANNING

At the last ASSW, this initiative was agreed upon and shortly afterwards an initial planning group was identified and the planning process started.

The International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) is to be a community-wide initiative. The main goal is to initiate a research planning process for future arctic research by:

- selecting 10 research themes
- appointing working groups consisting of about 10 members in each group, to draft initial science plans on cutting-edge research within the agreed theme
- science plans to be discussed and reviewed during a major conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, during the autumn of 2005.
  ICARP is supported by 13 arctic research and user organisations.

Progress made.

- An initial planning group developed a planning structure, terms of reference etc.
- An ICARP II Steering Group (SG) established, chaired by Dr Robert W Corell, USA with 10 members drawn from the circumarctic community.
- ICARP II is served by the AOSB and IASC Secretariats, as well as the Danish Polar Center (conference host).
- The arctic science community, as well as sponsoring organisations, invited to suggest projects themes for ICARP II; about 50 proposals received.
- The broad themes agreed by the SG comprise: Sustainable Development/Arctic Economies; Indigenous Peoples and Change in the Arctic: Adaptation, Adjustment and Empowerment; Coastal, Deep Central Basin of the Arctic Ocean; Arctic Ocean Margins and Gateways; Arctic Shelf Seas; Terrestrial Processes and Systems; Future Trends and Patterns of Change in Climate, Ozone, Ecosystems and other Systems; Vulnerability, Resilience and Rapid Change in the Arctic; Arctic Science in the Public Interest.

Within these broad themes, the working groups will focus on 1 – 2 potential projects under their theme.

- Deadline for nominating members to the working groups was 20 March. Selection and appointments to be made in May.
- In addition to the scientific themes, there will be two joint themes on:
  - Enabling Research Infrastructures, and
  - Resources and Funding to Enable Research
- The ICARP II website is available for more information; please visit it at:

http://www.dpc.dk/ICARP

6.3 IPY: THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007 - 08

The IPY proposal was presented at ASSW 2003 and gained considerable support. IASC had flagged a strong interest in this initiative, and had set aside a small amount of seed money to speed planning.
Since ASSW, ICSU had appointed an IPY Planning Group (IASC contributed with some nominations), which had met three times. The ICSU group had been joined by WMO, so IPY is now a joint ICSU/WMO initiative.

The IPY Planning Group had invited ideas and proposals from the Arctic and Antarctic research communities. These proposals had then constituted important input to their drafting of an initial Outline Science Plan (iOSP), which became available 21 April, i.e. the day before our meeting.

Although participants had had only a few hours to study the Outline Science Plan, the following comments were made.

- **Human Dimension** part of the plan needs considerable improvements. Themes in ICARP II can be considered a possible input, as well as other sources
- **Organisation:**
  The composition of the Planning Group seems to have a bias towards the Antarctic. A better balance should be considered.
  (Later during ASSW, we were informed that the Planning Group may be reorganised into an implementation structure).
- **Political support**
  IPY is gaining political support (AC, ATCM and at national level). Important to maintain and develop this interest.
  ”Opening the Arctic for Science” was one vision expressed.
- **National Committees** had been established in many countries, and the role of IASC (and other, similar international organisations) was raised.

The IPY website gives more information and is found at:

http://www.ipy.org

6.3 ISAC: THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY ONF ARCTIC CHANGE

At the SEARCH Open Science Meeting in October 2003, AOSB and IASC were invited to consider the possibility of an international SEARCH (SEARCH: Study on Environmental Arctic Change), a major research programme developed by the USA and with a circumarctic scope. Their science plan and other information is available at: http://psc.apl.washington.edu/search/index.html

Earlier this year the Chair of AOSB and the President of IASC sent an invitation to members of these two organisations requesting them to consider such an initiative, and to nominate members for an initial planning group. The task of this group is to develop the science idea (not a regular science plan). This science idea document will later be considered by our members.

The response to the request has been positive, and the initial group had been established under the chairmanship of Dr Leif Anderson, Sweden.

The intention is that ISAC should be international and stand on its own. However, it will have a natural link to SEARCH and SEARCH might become a component of ISAC.

The initial ISAC Planning Group held their first meeting later during the ASSW.

7 REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC ARCTIC GROUP (PAG)

The Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) was established at the ASSW 2003 with Martin Bergmann, Canada as Chair and Zhanghai Zhang, China, as Vice Chair.
More information about the mission and goals of PAG at:

http://www.iasc.no/PAG/pag-Mission.htm

Dr John Calder, the Executive Secretary of PAG reported:

Since ASSW 2003, PAG had had a meeting in October 2003, at which PAG proposals to IPY and ICARP II were discussed. “Circulation and Ecology of the Pacific-Arctic Shelves” was agreed as a theme nomination to ICARP II.

The proposal to IPY was a set of regional studies in the Canadian Basin and marginal seas from the Beaufort Sea west to the East Siberian Sea for the purpose of environmental characterisation, establishment of environmental benchmarks against which to assess future environmental change, and ground-thruthing of satellite sensors.

In addition, a PAG role in the development of the international SEARCH had been discussed, and some scientific cruise information had been exchanged.

The next PAG meeting was held later during the ASSW.

8 ASSW 2005 (AND BEYOND)

Last year China offered to host the ASSW 2005, and they confirmed their offer at this meeting. ASSW 2005 will be held in Kunming in SW China (Yunnan Province). Brief printed information about Kunming was distributed.

Kunming is close to 2000 m over sea-level and has a continuous spring climate - around +15°C is expected in April.

- **Date: 18 – 23 April 2005**

Germany confirmed their willingness to host ASSW 2006 in Bremerhaven, Germany.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 CEON

Dr Craig Tweedie informed briefly about the CEON websites:

- http://www.ceoninfo.org/
  The main site of CEON containing all information
- http://www.ceonims.org/
  This site is an array of base maps and satellite imagery, which will continually be including GIS data and this site will be operated by an Internet Map Server.

9.2 THANKS TO PROF. DAVID GEE, SWEDEN

As this was the last IASC meeting for Prof. Gee, the IASC President thanked him for his positive contributions to our deliberations and presented him with an IASC bag.
In his speech of thanks, Prof. Gee mentioned that a major Earth Sciences Community meeting will be held in Oslo, Norway in 2008.

10 INFORMATION SECTION

10.1 THE IASC FUNDING WEBSITE

This website is now available and can be accessed via the IASC website or directly at:

http://www.arcticsciencefunding.org

Council and Regional Board members are kindly asked to visit this website and examine funding entries pertaining to your country.

10.2 ACIA TESTIMONY

The Chair of ACIA, Dr Robert W Corell, USA, has been invited to make a statement on ACIA before the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation in the United States at their hearing on Climate Change Impacts.

As this testimony is a very good summary on ACIA and as it is a public document,
.\. it is enclosed for general information.

For internal IASC use.

MEETING REPORT – CLOSED SESSION

This year, the IASC Council Meeting was held in two parts:

- **A Closed Session:** consisting mainly of internal business issues, and
- **An Open Session:** presenting issues of wider interest and open to observers and others

Participants

IASC Council and Regional Board members only; see list of participants in .\. **Appendix I.**

1. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT FROM 2003 COUNCIL MEETING

No comments had been received to the final circulated report, which was approved by Council at this Meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

3. REPORTS FROM THE STRATEGY GROUPS MEETINGS

The intention of the Strategy Groups is to involve and engage all Council and Regional Board members, by discussions in the four Strategy Groups. Each group is chaired by a Vice President, thereby providing comprehensive information about the more detailed work in the Executive Committee. The outcome of these discussions to be briefly reported to IASC Council – Closed Session.

This year, the common agenda for the Strategy Groups was:

(I) Project reviews, including any suggestions for new projects

(II) Discussion prior to the Closed Session of the Council Meeting

(III) ACIA: Future Needs, Major Gaps and a proposed ACIA II

(IV) Any other issues (free group discussion).

Oral report by the Vice Presidents (serving as Chairs of the Strategy Groups) were given.

The reports can be summarised as follows:

I Project Reviews

Most project reviews were positive and in line with the recommendations made by the Executive Committee.
However, a few comments or concerns were expressed:

- MAST: MAST's objective is to produce a **M**ap of **A**rctic **S**ediment **T**hickness. MAST has progressed well during 2003 with the development of a meta-data base. The IASC Council emphasised that support of MAST depends on progress in achieving the price objective.
- IBCAO: Their proposal for renewed funding should come from other sources than the IASC General Fund
- CEON: Recommended to become a FARO/IASC project
- MAGICS: MAGICS is a working group, which has initiated and implemented several successful projects. However, the Executive Committee had expressed some concerns about their project reporting. Council shared these concerns, and tasked the Executive Committee to follow-up their comments as well as consider some terms of reference for a working group.

II Council Meeting – Closed Session

There were positive comments supporting the split into two Sessions (closed and open).

III ACIA

Participants felt a need to see the final ACIA outputs, and to be reassured that all review comments had been properly handled.
The need for developing regional models (small regions, down-scaling) before any new initiative was mentioned. Views on the ACIA II position paper were mixed with most discussion concluding that immediate development would be premature. However, when analysis of ACIA I has matured, some important needs and future directions may become more evident, for example, the issue of down-scaling.

IV Any Other Issues

- The need for coordinating present and future planning processes (ACIA, ICARP II, IPY, ISAC) was underlined.
- The continuing role and function of the Strategy Groups was briefly mentioned| and left for the Executive Committee to consider.

Action: Executive Committee

4 PROJECT DISCUSSIONS

4.1 PROJECTS TO BE TERMINATED

No proposals for terminating any on-going projects. However, Council supported the recommendations of the Executive Committee regarding specific progress

requests to "Tundra and Taiga" and "C-FATE", i.e.: No new funding support until draft science plans become available.

4.2 NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS

4.2.1 CEON: THE CIRCUMARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATORIES NETWORK

The CEON idea was initially developed within FARO, and endorsed by IASC Council. Since then, CEON has been presented to a number of potential participating networks and in other fora, gaining positive interest.
In May 2003, an interim CEON planning group was formed, and an initial planning meeting was held in October 2003 in Stockholm, Sweden.
Provided that FARO does not object, CEON is now seeking to become a FARO-IASC project.

The justification for this proposal is that monitoring and research are closely connected ("two sides of the same coin") and it will be necessary to involve both managers and scientists in the implementation of CEON.

The Executive Committee had agreed to recommend to Council strong support for the proposal.
They also advised the CEON Planning Group to:

- focus on creating a circumarctic observatories network building on existing networks as well as other all-year observatories in key areas,
- developing a realistic step-by-step work plan achieving the main goals first, and add the other aspects later,
- CEON can become useful for IPY and vice versa.

Strategy Group II had discussed this proposal and recommended it to Council.

.\. The proposal is enclosed as **Appendix II.**

Decision:

Council agreed to adopt CEON as a FARO-IASC project.

4.2.2 MARINE TRANSPORTATION

A project proposal on "Arctic Transportation" was discussed by Council last year, with the conclusion that the proposal be returned to the proposer because " our current knowledge of the future sea ice conditions is inadequate. In the transportation part, large ongoing (and related) activities are not included".
Both the proposal and process were discussed informally by the Executive Committee at their November 2003 meeting.

The views expressed included:

- An open scoping workshop focussing on the transportation part could be a timely initiative.
  The proposer could be invited to rewrite the proposal focussing on transportation, and aiming at a workshop as mentioned.

- Projections or scenarios for future sea ice in the Arctic should not be a part of a potential project. However, a transportation project would need a sea ice scenario and the ACIA scenarios could be used.
- A separate project on arctic sea ice should be considered, possibly as a joint venture of IASC with AOSB and CliC.

Strategy Group III had been asked to advise on this revised proposal. They noted that the proposal was for a joint sponsorship of a scoping workshop together with the Arctic Council, and that "a small group of international experts will report back to the Arctic Council and IASC with its results and proposals for future research themes". Strategy Group III considered Marine Transportation to be a timely project.

Discussions in Council revealed a positive interest for the initiative. However, there were deep concerns that the proposal did not include the scientific questions to be addressed.

.\. The proposal is enclosed as **Appendix III.**

Decision:

Provided the missing aspects will be satisfactorily addressed (e.g. key scientific issues), IASC could co-sponsor the proposed workshop.

4.2.3 ARCTIC COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

A group concerned with Arctic coastal biodiversity had met during the ACD workshop last year. In agreement with the ACD group, they had proposed becoming a new group linked to the present ACD group. The proposal had been received by the Executive Committee, who had tasked this initial group to formulate a proposal for a science and work plan.
A proposal had been received and had been discussed in, and recommended by, Strategy Group IV prior to Council Meeting.

Decision:

Council agreed to the proposal for establishing a new project group on Arctic Coastal Biodiversity with the understanding that they cooperate with the ACD group. With regard to scientific contents, Council agreed that:

- **marine and coastal habitat classification, and**
- **marine and coastal habitat mapping for biodiversity assessment**

.\. to become the scientific foci (two first bullets in the proposal, see **Appendix X). The initial Project Group to be transformed into a regular group with a balanced composition.**

4.2.4 ARCTIC TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING

.\. This proposal is enclosed as **Appendix IV**, and had been considered by Strategy Group I.

They found the proposal premature as an IASC project, as it should be better defined in relation to science issues, potential partners, and realistic funding needs and opportunities.

Decision:

Not supported.

4.3 CAT-B: CIRCUMARCTIC TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

As the Chair of this group had fallen ill in January, no plans were available for the February meeting of the Executive Committee, hence their plans had to be agreed
.\. upon at this meeting, see **Appendix V.**

The Strategy Group III had reviewed their plans for 2004 together with their funding request and recommended them to Council.

Decision:

CAT-B plans for 2004 agreed.

5 IASC GENERAL FUND

The activities of IASC are supported from national funding. Basic expenses for the IASC Secretariat are provided by Norway and expenses for project secretariats are covered by the countries in which they are located.
The IASC General Fund was established to meet other common expenses which cannot be referred to a specific country (mostly travel for scientists who are unable to obtain national support for participating in IASC project planning groups).

This Fund is supported by annual subscriptions paid by each national organisation affiliated to IASC.

The Executive Committee is responsible for formulating a draft budget, and for tabulating the accounts for the previous year, and Council is responsible for approving both.

5.1 ACCOUNTS FOR 2003

.\. The accounts for 2003, as recommended by the Executive Committee, are enclosed as **Appendix VI.**

The end result was a surplus of **USD 22.100**, against a budgeted deficit of **USD 83.738.**

The income had been higher than expected (all outstanding membership contributions had been paid), and expected expenses lower for various reasons – see comments to the various items.

The total amount (previous savings) as of 31.12.03 was: **USD 238.953** (see IASC General Fund – Status 2003).

Decision:

Council approved the Accounts for 2003.

5.2 BUDGET FOR 2004

.\. As most expenses are related to project planning, Project Leaders are asked for funding requests together with details of their needs. These requests are listed in the column "Requests 2004", see enclosed Budget in **Appendix VII**. The Executive Committee considers these requests, comparing them with project plans for the coming year and progress made during the previous year. Their conclusions regarding the budget appear in the "Proposed 2004" column, see enclosed Budget, and represents their recommendation to Council. (Their comments on individual projects are found in the report from the Executive Committee held in early February each year, which is sent to all Council and Regional Board members, and which also constitutes a basic document for discussions in the Strategy Groups.)

During Council discussions new items may be proposed.
This year such proposals were for the following new projects/initiatives:

- CEON USD 5.000
- Arctic Coastal Biodiversity USD 15.000, and
- Arctic Transportation (conditional) USD 10.000

.\. The amended draft budget is enclosed as the revised budget **Appendix VII.**

During the discussion there were three main points:

- The proposed budget is too expansive and allocations exceed projected income.
- In 2004, we plan to draw on our reserves to support the planning of ICARP II (See 5.3 below).
- There should be a critical review of our budget procedure, including which activities to support.

Comments by the Executive Secretary:

- We operate a seed money budget, i.e. IASC only partially funds the activities listed, and Project Leaders and others are encouraged to seek money from other sources. Our travel rates are lower than governmental rates, so there is a built-in motivation for savings. However, Project Leaders need a minimum of secured funding in order to call a meeting (or a workshop) before working on other funding sources.
  This practice of over-allocation of funds has served IASC well and the considerable and successful activities we initiate and partly operate can be attributed to this.
- Our budget contains more uncertainties than a traditional budget. However, the budgeted amount for each item is a maximum amount of support, which is a part of the explanation of why we can budget with a deficit and end up with a surplus (see Accounts for 2003). Experience has shown that few projects over-expend and rather more, have considerable under expenditure. For example, it is the Secretariat's experience that a budget deficit of approximately USD 75.000 will give balanced accounts.
  However, good stewardship includes having sufficient reserves to meet any deficits as has always been the case in the past (see Item 5.5 on IASC General Fund Reserves).

Decision

Council approved the revised draft budget for 2004, and tasked the Executive Committee to consider our budget procedures.

5.3 IASC GENERAL FUND RESERVES

Over the years savings have accumulated. These reserves have been discussed previously and it has been agreed they should be used for two purposes:

- as a contribution to future ICARPs, and
- serve as a buffer in any year with a deficit.

As of 31.12.03 the total reserves were: **USD 238.953.**

As an ICARP II is in planning the Executive Committee proposed to use **USD 120.000** of our reserves as a contribution to this planning process.
This will bring our reserves down to **USD 118.953.**

These reserves should, therefore, meet the worst-case deficit in our budget for 2004 (USD 120.450.)

6 APPLICATION TO ICSU

At our last Council Meeting "Council agreed to explore establishing a relationship with ICSU, and tasked the Executive Committee to clarify benefits and conditions".

We have contacted the ICSU Secretariat and received the enclosed information; see **Appendix VIII**, which can be summarised as follows:

- The IASC option for a relationship with ICSU is to become an International Scientific Associate
- Annual dues are USD 500
- Four obligations to ICSU
    1. to support ICSU's objectives and adhere to ICSU's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, especially Statute 5 which sets forth the principles of the universality of science and the corresponding ICSU position of non-discrimination:
    2. to maintain links with the activities of the ICSU family;
    3. to submit annual reports by 31 March of the subsequent year (this does not apply to National Scientific Members and National Scientific Associates);
    4. to pay annual dues to ICSU: Members select their own categories in a scale which begins at $1000. International and Regional Scientific Associates pay $500 annually. National Associates pay no dues.
- No voting right
- IASC can also consider becoming a "Regional Scientific Associate", see definitions on page 2 of the enclosure
- An application requires support from at least 9 adhering organisations of ICSU.

The benefits to IASC of becoming an associate of ICSU are limited and are more in the category of becoming more visible in the world of science both nationally and internationally.

At their November 2003 meeting, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to Council that IASC should apply to become an International Scientific Associate of ICSU.

Decision:

Council agreed to apply for International Scientific Associate status with ICSU.

7 REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL BOARD

The Chair of the Regional Board, Dr Niels Einarsson, reported from their meeting held earlier during the ASSW 2004.
They had briefly reviewed the activities of Arctic Council close to the interests of science, and noted with pleasure that the President of IASC was now representing IASC at Arctic Council meetings, as recommended last year.

The Regional Board had reviewed the IASC Council agendas, as they have a special responsibility to ensure that the activities of IASC are consistent with the common interest of the arctic countries.

They had discussed the following issues:

- IASC Secretariat
  They welcomed the offer from Norway (see section 5.3). There should be no constraints in the selection of a new Executive Secretary. Neither did they see any problem if the IASC Secretariat be located in a non-Arctic country, at some time in the future.
  Some ideas were expressed on the FARO Secretariat being separated from the IASC Secretariat (for FARO to consider).
  Council/Executive Committee could review the use of the IASC General Fund (and possibly include some secretarial support).
- Major new initiatives:
  They appreciated that ICARP II had included several human dimension themes, and recommended ICARP II to observe and cooperate with other planning processes, such as IPY, follow-up to ACIA, AHDR, ISAC, etc.
  They welcomed the IPY Outline Science Plan, and expressed strong support for a major human dimension theme to be included.

  They are still struggling with the "Role and Function of the Regional Board", which will be their main discussion item for next year.

  Dr Olav Orheim was elected new Chair of the Regional Board.

8 THE IASC SECRETARIAT

As the present Executive Secretary plans to retire 1 August 2005, a process has been initiated to seek his replacement as well as a clarification of future host of the Secretariat.

These issues had been discussed by the Executive Committee, based on a short
.\. discussion paper, see **Appendix IX.**

1. **Relocation of the Secretariat**
   As the Secretariat has been hosted by Norway from the beginning, informal contact had been made with the Ministry concerned. Their comment was that it would be reasonable that other countries were asked about their interest in

hosting the Secretariat. If there should be no other candidates, Norway would consider hosting the Secretariat, but in all probability it would then be moved to the Polar Environmental Centre in Tromsø.

Following the Executive Committee meeting in February, an e-mail letter had been sent to all Council and Regional Board members enquiring about their interest in hosting the Secretariat.
The only firm offer received was from Norway.

In introducing the Norwegian offer, Dr Orheim mentioned that the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø would be the host and funding institution. He reminded those present that the SCAR and COMNAP secretariats were based on joint funding. There was no condition attached to the Norwegian offer that a similar model should apply for the IASC Secretariat. However, Dr Orheim wished to raise the issue of whether the IASC General Fund might contribute to the operation of the Secretariat in some way.

Decision

Council received the offer made by Norway, with appreciation, and noted that the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø would be the host institution.

2. **Recruiting a new Executive Secretary**

There will be a need for a recruitment committee to formulate a job description, advertisement, evaluation of candidates, consider sufficient time for overlap etc.

Decision:

Council appointed the Executive Committee together with a representative of the host institution to serve as a recruitment committee.

9 ELECTIONS (VOTING RESTRICTED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS)

Two Vice Presidents (Hacquebord and Johnson) had completed their first term. Prof. Johnson had informed the Executive Committee that he would be retiring in a few years, and would therefore not stand for re-election.
A Nominating Committee consisting of Peter Johnson and Dieter Fütterer had been appointed by the Executive Committee. There were 3 candidates: Hacquebord, Manzoni and Park.

The result of the election was: Prof. Louwrens Hacquebord and Dr Byong-Kwon Park.

Prof. Webber welcomed the newly elected Vice Presidents to good teamwork in the Executive Committee, and announced that an informal meeting of the new Executive Committee would be held later during the ASSW.

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