



International Arctic Science Committee

MEMBER COUNTRY SURVEY **OUTCOMES**



Initiation of this report

A letter submitted by the Social & Human Working Group considering disparities in support of Working Group members was submitted to the Council in 2018 for discussion at Polar2018. To address the issues presented in the letter it was decided to send out a survey on how IASC Working Group and Council members are selected and supported.

What is in this report?

All 23 IASC member countries provided responses to the survey. The results – including both the most common responses as well as unique answers and anecdotes – are provided here. This report also aims to build norms within the IASC community, and so common responses and best practices are specifically highlighted. It is intentionally brief to facilitate its uptake. IASC member countries are asked to take these best practices back to their countries for consideration in order to build more equality and engagement in IASC.

Please describe the process your country uses for identifying and selecting Working Group members:

- Most have open advertisement of applications/nominations
- Applications range from just a CV to detailed information about selection criteria and may include statement of interest
- Some restricted nominations or are facilitated by a central body (usually in the smaller/very centralized countries)
- Selection by some national committee or funding agency

What qualities / priorities are used in selecting Working Group members?

- Arctic research expertise (to balance the Working Group and/or to represent country)
- International experience/status
- Ability to connection national research community
- Networking, communication, and leadership skills
- Balancing under-represented groups (see below)
- Financial resources
- Job with a contract covering the term
- Enthusiasm & interest!



How are disciplines for Working Group members selected and/or balanced with topics already covered within the Working Groups?

- Try to balance topics represented in the Country with the expertise already in the Working Groups, which can be difficult with only 2 members per country
- Focus on core WG areas
- Interdisciplinarity
- WG members are asked to broaden their areas of interest

How is career stage taken into account in selecting Working Group members?

- PhD is usually required (which excludes Indigenous knowledge holders)
- A balance of career stages is often attempted
- But this can be at odds with other selection criteria, so mid/late-career are often preferred. In that way, career stage is often ignored, in effect.

Are gender or any other underrepresented characteristics taken into account during Working Group member selection? If so, how?

- A large range regarding gender:
 - Most common: One male & one female (but no countries mentioned nonbinary)
 - Proportional to research community, 40:60
 - Preference to under-represented/female
- Many say no (too small, only science, no policy on gender)
- Indigenous status taken into account
- Balance between large institutions & small institutions

What level of engagement/activity is expected at the national level of Working Group members?

- (Active) Participation in Working Group meetings
- “Strong engagement”, not well-defined
- Reporting back to national community
- Some have a national meeting each year
- Up to 20% time, iterating back and forth communication with Arctic research community

Do you have any process for identifying and/or removing inactive Working Group members?

- Majority: no
- If lack of satisfactory report to national committee (1 year, 2 year, 4 year)
- Interestingly seen as a non-issue in some countries and big issue in other countries

PHOTO: MARIASILVIA GIAMBERINI
A braided river flows from a valley on Spitsbergen, depositing sediment and nutrients into the ocean.

How are Working Group members expected to connect with national Arctic science communities?

- Sometimes no expectation (or formal expectation), often an individual responsibility
- Expected to involve other scientists into WG discussions
- Submitting a report/presentation to a committee
- Email lists / Mailing lists
- Unique Example: IARPC Collaborations Site

What level of funding support is given for Working Group member participation? Please describe or, if possible, give an amount.

- No countries reported salary support
- Ideal: Full travel & subsistence for ASSW (& other WG meetings)
- This is 13/23, although there is a limit to an additional 3/23 (total 70%)
- Some have no funding / to be covered by host institution
- Or will only cover a primary delegate

Is there anything else you would like to add regarding your national IASC Working Group member selection, support, and participation?

- Request consideration of more IASC support for under-resourced national delegations
- Request materials to support national presentations about IASC and IASC WG work
- Encouragement of more diversity & Indigenous representation
- Welcome sharing of best-practices in engagement

Please describe the process your country uses for identifying and selecting their Council member (incl. any consideration of under-representative groups):

- Elected from/by a senior national committee
- Sometimes must be an employee of the adhering body
- A few: Head of / Nomination by head of adhering body
- Sometimes open to a national call
- Some take into account gender balance (in home country or IASC Council itself)

What linkages are there between the Council member and national Arctic policymakers in your country?

- As a leader in the Arctic community, the Council member is often a visible authority for policymakers to contact / attend Ministry meetings
- Irregular contacts are the norm
- Regular contacts are the exception
- More contact in smaller countries, in general

PHOTO: VITALIY ZEMLYANSKIY
Huperzia arctica (Tolm.) Sipliv. - also known as Arctic firmoss - documented in central Yamal.





IASC Member Country Survey Outcomes

Electronic version available at <https://iasc.info/iasc/publications>

IASC Secretariat
Borgir, Norðurlóð
600 Akureyri
Iceland

info@iasc.info | +354-515-5824