

Photo: Tommy Roenningen



EXCOM RESPONSE TO ACTION GROOUP ON INDIEGNOUS INVOLVEMENT REPORT

- ExCom acknowledges and strongly welcomes the thoughtful, comprehensive, and deep work of the AGII.
- There are a wide range of recommendations, and these should be welcomed in the light of both the IASC Strategic Plan and ICARP-III Report:
 - “IASC will continue to work with Indigenous and local populations in the Arctic and will continue to finance Indigenous participation in IASC workshops and conferences. Recommendations from the IASC Action Group on Indigenous Involvement will be a basis for this work.”
 - “...greater effort must be made to incorporate traditional and local knowledge and to engage northern and Indigenous communities in setting priorities, co-designing and co-producing research, and to disseminate this knowledge by ensuring access to research data and results.”
 - “It is essential to build long-term human capacity to support relevant observations and research among scientists, decision-makers and Arctic residents, including Indigenous Peoples, through education and effective public engagement, and by adopting shared principles to guide research activities.”

Where to start?

- ExCom discussed that IASC cannot immediately address all the recommendations in the AGII Report
- However, there is a lot that ExCom can can, and should, do - and that those measures should be prioritised.



Where to start? – Part I

- Recognize that Indigenous and Traditional knowledge can inform the work of IASC by adding formal language to the IASC Handbook and other appropriate documents.
- IASC should invite every (Arctic) member state to nominate and fund Indigenous representatives to each Working Group & Council
 - The AGII encourages IASC national adhering bodies to consult with the relevant (inter)national Indigenous Peoples' Organizations when selecting their IASC representatives. (Note: this can include non-Indigenous people representing these organizations, which is another motivator behind a hybrid approach.)
- Include an Indigenous Knowledge and/or Traditional Knowledge keynote, panel, or dialogue in the opening plenary of each ASSW.
- Ensure that Indigenous engagement and involvement is incorporated in the work plans of the Working Groups.

Where to start? - Part II

- Add a question on Working Group proposal templates to document how each proposal will address Indigenous engagement and collaboration.
- Include "Indigenous Knowledge" sessions / track in all possible conferences organized by IASC (including ASSW Open Science Conferences) to make it possible for Indigenous Knowledge holders/researchers to participate. This should not be limited to social science or humanities sessions, but also all other fields. Paired presentation between scientists and Indigenous community researchers should also be facilitated and encouraged.
- Continue and expand the ability to not require (post-event) reimbursement for IASC-funded Indigenous participants.
- Consider multiple rounds of deadlines for Indigenous funding support – both early and late – to welcome a range and breadth of Indigenous participation.
- Explore 6th Indigenous Fellow with partners

Next ExCom response

- Where can an ExCom say yes and recommend now? That's where we start.
- Break down the recommendations by who decides and who implements.
- Capacity for IASC to respond is currently limited – consider this as a difficult, but important, priority
- Invite AGII members / Indigenous partners to contribute to future ExCom meetings



For Council Consideration

- In the light of ICARP-III and the IASC Strategic Plan, ExCom welcomes the report and encourages Council to do the same by acknowledging these “quick wins” and discussing further responses.
- ExCom wants to balance being responsive while also deliberative. It is essential that Council is part of this response.
 - e.g., , Is Council ready to increase the number of WG members by ten?
- Are these the right responses, in both the short term and longer term? Is this appropriately responsive to the priorities of the AGII?
- Will likely need to continue to prioritize recommendations – input from Council can help forming these priorities.