

IACS



International Association of Cryospheric Sciences

Terms of Reference of IACS Working Groups (WGs), IACS Standing Groups (SGs) and Joint Bodies (JBs)

Drafted by the IACS Bureau during its meeting in Vienna, Austria, on April 12 and 13, 2008, and finalized after discussion among Bureau members via electronic mail on May 23, 2008

Preamble:

The Statutes of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences, IACS, define 'Working Groups' and 'Standing Groups'. The Association wishes to attract both young and established members of the international cryospheric community to contribute to the progress of snow and ice sciences through initiating and participating in Working and Standing Groups.

Proposals from any person or group active in the cryospheric sciences, and who wish to pursue innovative research through an IACS Working or Standing Group, are welcome at any time and will be considered by the IACS Bureau in a timely manner.

IACS Working Groups

Working Groups address scientific problems of the cryosphere that are timely and well-constrained. Working Groups shall have explicit aims, objectives, milestones and deliverables. They should be international in composition. They shall define the instruments, for example workshops and conferences, which they will use to achieve their aims and objectives. Working Groups will normally be limited to up to four years duration. They may be renewed, with suitable justification, for up to a further four years in exceptional circumstances. Working Groups report annually to the Bureau through the appropriate IACS Head of Division.

IACS Standing Groups

Standing Groups address scientific problems of the cryosphere that require medium- to long-term reflection. Standing Groups shall have well considered aims, objectives, milestones and deliverables. They should be international in composition. Standing Group activities could include, for example, monitoring, databasing, and dissemination of cryospheric information. Standing Groups will normally have a life-time of at least eight years. They may be renewed, with suitable justification, for further periods of eight years. Standing Groups report annually to the Bureau through the appropriate IACS Vice-President or other Bureau member and may also be subject to external expert evaluation at appropriate intervals.

Support for IACS Working and Standing Groups includes:

- Formal IACS endorsement of activity.
- Representation on IACS web pages.
- Funding applications to IUGG and ICSU grant programmes that require formal IACS involvement.
- Formal letters of support for funding applications to national and international funding agencies.
- The possibility of applying for IACS seed money of up to US\$1,500 per year, subject to a brief, suitable case for support (which may be submitted at the time of initial application for Working or Standing Group status).

Joint Bodies

The IACS Bureau may also approve, from time to time, Joint Bodies to carry out a joint venture between another international organization, or organizations, and an IACS Working Group, an IACS Standing Group or a similar form of activity (or vice versa). The justification for such joint activities should be similar to that for IACS groups. The Bureau may also approve other forms of IACS joint activity, where an IACS representative is appointed by the Bureau in a bilateral or multilateral initiative with another international organization or organizations.