

8.1 Maximizing the Legacy of IPY (*Norway to present*)

Background: At the end of the International Polar Year (IPY), it is paramount to consider the larger implications of the IPY for Arctic countries and communities, as well as the continued development of polar science. While the IPY is bi-polar, and therefore requires cooperation with the Antarctic Treaty system in follow up, the Arctic Council has taken the initial steps in following up on the IPY in the Arctic.

In Tromsø, Ministers “Support(ed) continued international coordination to maximize the legacy of IPY within the following areas: observations, data access and management, access to study areas and infrastructure, education, recruitment and funding, outreach, communication and assessment for societal benefits, and benefits to local and indigenous peoples”, and “Encourage(d) the exploration of ways to continue the innovative forms for IPY outreach and the presentation of outcomes of the IPY, including the use of scientific data and traditional knowledge in future assessments.”

During the Norwegian Chairmanship, an Arctic Council project “Maximizing the Legacy of IPY”, led by Norway, brought together a group of experts to undertake scoping work to identify areas where the Arctic Council might contribute to sustaining scientific cooperation and also promote outreach activities to communicate relevant IPY findings to decision makers and Arctic residents. The group’s final report *Maximizing the Legacy of IPY in the Arctic: A scoping study for the Arctic Council* was delivered to SAOs in April 2009. The report addresses the following four areas: 1) observations, data access and management, 2) access to study areas and infrastructure, 3) education, recruitment and funding, and 4) outreach, communication and assessment for societal benefit. For each of these areas potential follow-up actions for the Arctic Council are identified.

While a number of international bodies will be involved in IPY follow-up (notably, the ATCM, WMO and IASC), the scoping group recommends that the Arctic Council should take particular responsibility for taking the comprehensive perspective on the follow-up of the IPY, and also identify issues that are not considered by other fora. Such initiatives could include:

- A joint Arctic Council/ATCM workshop June 2010 in conjunction with the Oslo IPY Conference to discuss organization and development of long term strategies for polar research, monitoring, and management.
- The AC should welcome the initiative of the WMO Executive Council of an International Polar Decade and work together with WMO, ICSU, IASC, SCAR and IASSA to assess scientific decadal needs.
- The assessment of IPY results: The communication and outreach aspects of the IPY are to a large degree centered on the scientific aspects . The Arctic Council could play a major role in ensuring that the scientific results are placed in the context of society and governance. A potential mechanism is a State of the Arctic Report. Another would be assessment of scientific findings in the context of their relevance for Arctic people and future governance. The ACIA-process could be used as a model for such an assessment. Independent of its nature and timing, this should be a combined effort of the Arctic and Antarctic research community and involve all relevant organizations like IASC, SCAR, ICSU, WMO, and IASSA.

Action: SAOs are invited to consider the recommendations and decide on next steps.