

Steering Committee for the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers

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1. Background and Aim

Worldwide collection of information about glacier changes was initiated in 1894, with the foundation of the International Glacier Commission at the 6th International Geological Congress in Zurich, Switzerland. Since 1986, the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), based in Zurich, has continued to collect and publish standardized information about ongoing glacier changes and distribution and was in charge of the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G), in close collaboration with the US National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) in Boulder, and the Global Land Ice Measurements from Space (GLIMS) initiative. The WGMS is a service of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS/IUGG), having the formal status of an IACS Standing Group, and the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS/ICSU). The NSIDC is one of the World Data Centres for Glaciology. GLIMS is recommended to become a Standing Group of the IACS.

A GTN-G Steering Committee is established to coordinate, support, and advise the WGMS, the NSIDC, and the GLIMS initiative concerning the monitoring of glaciers and ice caps. The GTN-G Steering Committee consists of:

(a) an Executive Board that is responsible for (i) the development and implementation of the international observation strategy for glaciers and ice caps, (ii) providing standards for the monitoring of glacier fluctuations (e.g., length change, mass balance) and for inventories, and (iii) the compilation and distribution of such information in a standardized form, and

(b) an Advisory Board that is to (i) support, (ii) consult, and (iii) periodically evaluate the work of the Executive Board and its three operational bodies concerning the monitoring of glaciers and ice caps.

2. Generic structure of the *GTN-G Steering Committee*

GTN-G Executive Board

- 1 Representative of the WGMS
- 1 Representative of the NSIDC
- 1 Representative of the GLIMS coordinating institutions

GTN-G Advisory Board

- Division Head for Glaciers and Ice Sheets of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
- 1 Representatives of data producers (field observations)
- 1 Representatives of data producers (remote sensing)
- 1-2 Representatives of data users (glaciological community)
- 1 Representative of an international umbrella organization (e.g., CliC, GCOS, GTOS, ICSU, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO)

3. Terms of Reference

- The GTN-G Steering Committee aims to coordinate, support and advise the WGMS, the NSIDC and the GLIMS initiative concerning the monitoring of glaciers and ice caps. It frames and adapts the monitoring strategies and standards for glacier and ice cap monitoring in the context of existing and new developments in nature, science and technology.
- The GTN-G Executive Board meets approximately annually to:
 - assess the state of the international monitoring of glaciers and ice caps,
 - coordinate the cooperation between the WGMS, the NSIDC and the GLIMS initiative,
 - establish the issues and agenda about which the Advisory Board shall be consulted,
 - and reports annually on the GTN-G activities to the GTN-G Advisory Board as well as to the funding agencies and umbrella organizations of the WGMS, the NSIDC, and the GLIMS initiative.
- The GTN-G Advisory Board:
 - is chaired by the Division Head for Glaciers and Ice Sheets of the IACS,
 - consists of the chair and a maximum of six representatives as described in the generic structure above,
 - advises the WGMS, the NSIDC and the GLIMS initiative concerning present practice and future developments of the monitoring of glaciers and ice caps, and also on the delivery of datasets to the wider glaciological community,
 - and periodically (approximately eight-year interval) evaluates the work of the GTN-G Executive Board and its three operational bodies concerning the monitoring of glaciers and ice caps by a process that consists of a self-evaluation report of the GTN-G Executive Board, a site-visit at one of the body's location, and a final evaluation report from the GTN-G Advisory Board.
- The members of the GTN-G Advisory Board are jointly nominated by the IACS Bureau and the GTN-G Executive Board, will serve for four-year renewable terms, and will normally communicate electronically.
- The GTN-G Steering Committee members communicate electronically on a regular basis; meetings of the full GTN-G Steering Committee may be called if:
 - (a) Requested by the Executive Board, or
 - (b) Requested by a majority of Advisory Board members.