

data collection, their assessment, evaluation and synthesis and, in addition, the establishment of special institutions for the coordination of international monitoring activities and training.

**The biodiversity monitoring system** would need to be hierarchical, complex and open. It would require high level scientific personnel to create a system which is complementary and to which every country may have access. From the territorial point of view the system should include local, regional and global monitoring levels. From the observational point of view a monitoring system should study and ascertain changes on the micro-, middle-, and macro-levels of the ecosystems structure and its functions. The complexity of a biodiversity monitoring system needs to reflect the complexity of the biosphere, the diversity of national approaches to the problem, and the need to include the experience already acquired in existing local or regional monitoring systems. Only a monitoring system that observes the complementary dynamics of the environment and biodiversity will make it possible for a holistic, in-depth study of biodiversity as a natural phenomenon.

**Biodiversity information system (BIS).** The implementation of this monitoring system would create the possibility of obtaining a wide range of environmental, biological and ecological data, which could be shared internationally. For storing and managing the data for their evaluation and synthesis, a special Biodiversity Informational System (BIS)

should be created. This system should include information on the different data sources presently in existence, including maps, remote sensing materials, and results obtained in the field. It should include algorithms for data input and their cleaning, harmonization, evaluation and analysis. The BIS should be able to provide, as output, graphic materials, including different kinds of maps, tables and statistical indices, together with word processing reports.

**Conclusion.** I have presented here proposals for an international programme for monitoring biodiversity. The elaboration of this programme, and its implementation, is of interest to all the continents, including northern areas, all countries and international organizations in their effort to preserve our biosphere for generations to come.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION, NEWSLETTER FALL 1991**

##### **Recent Developments**

On August 23, 1990 the **International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)** was established and held its First General Assembly during the 7th Inuit Studies Conference at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. An Ad-hoc Committee oversaw the establishment of IASSA and the drafting of bylaws. The General Assembly discussed the Draft Bylaws and elected an Acting Council for 1990-92.

The Acting Council consists of following members: Finn Breinholt Larsen

(Greenland), Ludger Müller-Wille (Canada; acting chair), Oscar Kawagley (Indigenous Peoples), Susanne Dybbroe (Nordic Countries; alternate: Lise Lyck), Noel D. Broadbent (USA), Vladimir Pavlenko (USSR, nominated in June 1991); open members: Edna A. Maclean, Igor Krupnik, Nils Jernsletten, Hiroaki Okada, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure (Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, alternate member).

IASSA's objectives are to stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research, to foster public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results, to promote research and educational partnerships with the Peoples of the North and to adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the arctic regions.

The Department of Geography (McGill University) serves currently as IASSA's international secretariat. The Arctic Centre (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland) will play an important role in the secretariat in the future. Close to 400 individuals and institutions have registered as members. IASSA's network is rapidly increasing throughout the circumpolar north and beyond. The response to its foundation has been positive and enthusiastic indicating that there is a need to broaden communication in arctic social sciences.

#### **Membership Fees**

The annual fee is US \$ 10.00. To assure that **your name** is kept on the IASSA

mailing list and that you will receive further announcements and the newsletter check your name and address on the label (correct if necessary) and send your remittance for 1991 (as a new member with address, phone, fax and e-mail numbers) by December 31, 1991 to:

Ludger Müller-Wille  
Department of Geography  
McGill University  
805 Sherbrooke St. W  
Montreal, PQ H3A 2K6  
Canada

#### **First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences in 1992**

In April 1991 the first call for papers (along with the announcement of the preceding 8th Inuit Studies Conference) was sent out to over 800 people. The return has been very encouraging based on submissions of workshops and papers received so far. IASSA will hold the Second General Assembly during ICASS I. The organizing committee members are Ludger Müller-Wille (convener), Louis-Jacques Dorais, Gérard Duhaime, Gail A. Fondahl, Tommy Oweetaluktuk, Bernard Saladin d'Anglure and George Wenzel.

#### **"1992 - Social Sciences in the North" Université Laval, Québec, Canada October 28 - 31, 1992**

The First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, organized by Université Laval's Groupe d'Études Inuit et Circumpolaire (GÉTIC), on behalf of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), will be held in

Québec City, from Wednesday, October 28, to Saturday, October 31, 1992.

You are invited to attend, deliver a paper (20 minutes maximum) and/or organize a session on the theme of the congress or on any other topic pertaining to aspects of arctic social sciences listed above. All papers submitted will be reviewed by a committee that will decide on their final inclusion in the program. The official languages of the congress are English and French, but without simultaneous translation.

Registration fees have provisionally been fixed at CAN \$80 (\$40 for students, unemployed and retired), or \$120 (\$60 reduced rate) for a joint registration to the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences and the 8th Inuit Studies Conference (Université Laval, Québec, October 25-28, 1992). Fees will have to be paid only after receipt of the second notice. In all cases, these fees do not include federal and provincial taxes

I wish to attend the First International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences \_\_\_\_\_  
I propose to deliver a paper (title and abstract - 150 words - included) \_\_\_\_\_  
I propose to organize a session (details included) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Send by December 31, 1991 to:  
Ludger Müller-Wille, Geography, ICASS I  
McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke St W  
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3A 2K6

(14.49%). We would appreciate that you **do not** propose the same paper to both conferences.

To receive the Second Notice of ICASS I fill out the section below and mail it to the address given.

#### IASSA DRAFT BY-LAWS

Adopted at the First General Assembly in Fairbanks (Alaska) on August 23, 1990 including amendments submitted in writing. The Final Draft will be tabled at the Second General Assembly in Québec (Québec) in October 1992.

#### Preamble

The Arctic is defined as all Arctic and sub-Arctic (circumpolar) regions of the world. Arctic research is defined as all research relating to these regions. The social sciences encompass disciplines relating to human behavioral, psychological, cultural, anthropological, archaeological, linguistic, historical, social, legal, economic, environmental

and political subjects as well as health, education, the arts and humanities, and related subjects.

### 1. Objectives

The objectives of the IASSA are:

- \* To promote and stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of the social scientists in national and international arctic research;
- \* To promote communication and coordination with other related organizations;
- \* To promote the active collection, exchange, dissemination, and archiving of scientific information in the Arctic social sciences. This may include the compilation of registers of Arctic social scientists and research projects and the organization of workshops, symposia, and congresses;
- \* To increase public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results;
- \* To promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and the Peoples of the North while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups;
- \* To promote the development of research and educational partnerships with the Peoples of the North;
- \* To facilitate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate education in the North, including training in social sciences;
- \* To adopt a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic.

### 2. Membership

There are three (3) categories of membership. **Regular Membership** is

open to all scientists concerned with Arctic social sciences research and issues. Associations and institutions may adopt **Affiliated Membership** and will be individually included on IASSA mailing lists. **Associate Membership** is open to all individuals interested in Arctic social sciences. Only regular members who have paid the annual fee are entitled to voting privileges.

### 3. Administration

The IASSA is directed by the Council and the General Assembly.

### 4. The Council

4.1. The **Council** consists of eleven (11) representatives, all of whom will be **Regular Members**. One representative will be chosen by national caucus for each of the following five (5) countries/regions: Canada, USSR, USA, Greenland, and the Nordic Countries. One additional member will be chosen by the indigenous members to represent the northern indigenous community. The five (5) remaining memberships in the **Council** are open and will be chosen by the General Assembly. The former **Chair** of the Council will serve as an ex-officio member for a period of one year.

4.2. Members of the Council are elected for the period between two meetings of the General Assembly, about four years. The Council elects amongst its member a **Chair**, a **Vice-Chair**, a **Secretary** and a **Treasurer**.

4.3. The Council meets at least once during each calendar year. The Council is responsible for organizing international meetings of the IASSA and the General Assembly.

4.4. The Council serves as an executive group to facilitate the work of the IASSA between the meetings of the General Assembly, and to take appropriate actions in agreement with the policies and decisions of the General Assembly. The Council is responsible for recommending a dues schedule. At the meetings of the General Assembly, the Council presents a report of actions taken and recommendations for further activities.

4.5. The Chair of the Council serves as a representative of the IASSA in dealing with other bodies. In the event of the Chair being unable to serve in the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall serve in this capacity.

4.6. The Secretary and Treasurer are under the general direction of the Chair and the Council and are responsible for conducting the regular business of the IASSA and for keeping its general records, including minutes of meetings of the Council and the General Assembly and the financial reports and the budgets for approval by the General Assembly.

4.7. Decisions by the Council are by a simple majority of affirmative or negative votes of those present and taking part in the vote. In the event of tie votes, the Chair has a deciding vote. Bylaws of the IASSA can only be amended with the approval of two-thirds majority of the regular membership. These voting procedure will be accomplished by written ballots.

#### **5. The General Assembly**

5.1. The General Assembly meets in connection with the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences

organized at three- to four-year intervals by IASSA. The Assembly consists of all regular members of the IASSA attending the meeting. The Chair of the General Assembly shall be chosen by the General Assembly. Each regular member of the Assembly has one vote. All decisions are by simple majority.

5.2. The General Assembly approves the Council's reports of the activities and the Treasurer's financial statement and budget recommendations, and considers other matters.

5.3. The General Assembly elects among its members five (5) members of the Council and two (2) auditors for annual checking of the accounts.

#### **6. The Secretariat**

Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi (Finland) has agreed in principle to house the secretariat.

Comments on IASSA's activities and by-laws are welcome and should be send to me for consideration by the Council.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many people and the MAB Northern Science Network for the help and support they have given IASSA during its first year of existence. I hope to see most of you at the first congress and second general assembly in October 1992.

Montréal, September 1991  
Ludger Müller-Wille