



30 March 2005

Dear Annika Hofgaard

On behalf of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for the International Polar Year 2007-2008 we wish to thank you for submitting an Expression of Intent (EoI #360) for consideration as an IPY activity. The community response to the call for Expressions of Intent has been extremely positive, and over 880 EoIs were submitted. We look forward to seeing these further developed into set of strong, internationally collaborative core projects contributing to the research themes of IPY 2007-2008 in the very near future.

The JC assessed your EoI as one that has potential to make major contribution to the IPY, and to contribute to significant international collaboration. We are pleased therefore to assign preliminary IPY 2007-2008 recognition to your proposal and to invite you to further develop your proposal into one that could become a core IPY project.

Further development of your proposal should include consideration of additional collaboration with other EoIs that have similar objectives. The JC has tentatively grouped your EoI with a cluster of other submissions that address the topic of "Life Under Natural and Anthropogenic Changes: stress, responses and adaptations - Boreal". You will find details of other projects that also relate to this on the IPY website at <http://www.ipy.org>. Details of all the other developing IPY core topics are also available at this site.

We urge you to make contact with other researchers who plan similar activities during the IPY, and to develop scientific alliances that will build a strong collaborative core project addressing IPY research themes. The JC will be calling for the submission of fuller proposals with updated plans and more detailed information on funding and support by 30 June 2005. You will find details of this proposal process at <http://www.ipy.org>. An essential requirement for IPY core projects is that they are managed by a self-organised and self-funded Project Steering Committee, and in the June project submissions, the JC will be assessing the level of proposed collaboration and looking for a viable management plan and organisational structure for such collaboration. We will also be looking for projects that have well developed data management and education and outreach plans [refer to "A Framework for the International Polar Year 2007-2008"].

We look forward to your continued involvement in IPY 2007-2008.

Yours sincerely

Co-chairs of Joint Committee

Ian Allison

Michel Beland