

ITEX AT PRESENT: STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

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The following chapter is a brief summary of the structure of ITEX for the time being, with updated lists of field sites, selected species, and project organization. For further information, please consult the ITEX Update newsletters, available from the Danish Polar Center.

Field Sites

At present, there are more than twenty active ITEX field sites (see Fig. 1), and a few more are in the process of being recognized. The level of commitment and participation in ITEX varies among sites and countries, due to various reasons, such as logistics, staff, funding, accessibility, and floristic properties. The following sites are recognized as active at present:

Austria	Franz Joseph Land
Canada	Baker Lake Alexandra Fiord, Ellesmere Island Hot Weather Creek, Ellesmere Island Truelove Lowland, Devon Island
Finland	Kilpisjärvi
Greenland	Disko Island, W Greenland Zackenbergl, E Greenland
Iceland	Hveravellir Skálafell Thingvellir
Japan	Taisetsu Mts., Hokkaido Island
Norway	Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard Finse, south-central Norway
Russia	Mt. Dionisiy, Anadyr Ragoshniy Peninsula, Chukotka Blizni, Taimyr Yamal
Sweden	Latnjajoure (Abisko)
Switzerland	Val Bercla
U.S.A.	Barrow, Alaska Toolik Lake, Alaska Niwot Ridge, Colorado

In addition, sites seem to be underways in Australia and there are also intentions in Bolivia. The first of the Swiss site (Furka Pass, Bidmer) has however been terminated. The Icelandic sites are still at an early stage of implementation. ITEX field work at the Zackenberg site (East Greenland) started in 1995 and the site in Franz Joseph Land will be implemented in the summer of 1996. Several additional high-alpine sites in Japan (Hunshu Island) have also been announced.

Selected ITEX Plant Species

The circumpolar, main ITEX species are given below as Group 1A. The presently most important additional spe-

cies are included in 1B; these are either more locally distributed and monitored at some site(s) only, or they are subject to ITEX-related research projects (e.g., retrospective growth analysis). Thus, the 1B list is more flexible, and the one given here reflects the most intensively studied additional species at the moment.

Group 1A (circumpolar, main target species)

Carex stans (*C. aquatilis* ssp. *stans*)
Cassiope tetragona
Dryas integrifolia / *octopetala*
Eriophorum vaginatum (alt. *E. triste*)
Oxyria digyna
Polygonum viviparum
Ranunculus nivalis
Salix arctica / *herbacea* / *polaris* / *reticulata*
Saxifraga oppositifolia
Silene acaulis

Group 1B (additional species)

Acomastylis rossii
Bistorta bistortoides
Carex bigelowii
Diapensia lapponica
Huperzia selago
Hylocomium splendens
Papaver radicum
Pedicularis lanata (incl. *P. dasyantha*)

Participant Countries and Representatives

Austria	Georg Grabherr, Vienna
Australia	Catherine Pickering, Sidney
Canada	Greg Henry, Vancouver
Denmark	Per Mølgaard, Copenhagen
Finland	Kari Laine, Oulu
Iceland	Ingibjörg Svala Jónsdóttir, Göteborg (Sweden)
Japan	Satoru Kojima, Toyama
Norway	Ørjan Totland, Bergen
Russia	Vladimir Razzhivin, St. Petersburg
Sweden	Ulf Molau, Göteborg
Switzerland	Felix Gugerli, Zürich
U.K.	Phil Wookey, London
U.S.A.	Marilyn Walker, Boulder, CO.

ITEX Steering Committee

The following Steering Committee members were appointed at the Sixth ITEX Workshop, Ottawa, Canada, April, 1995:

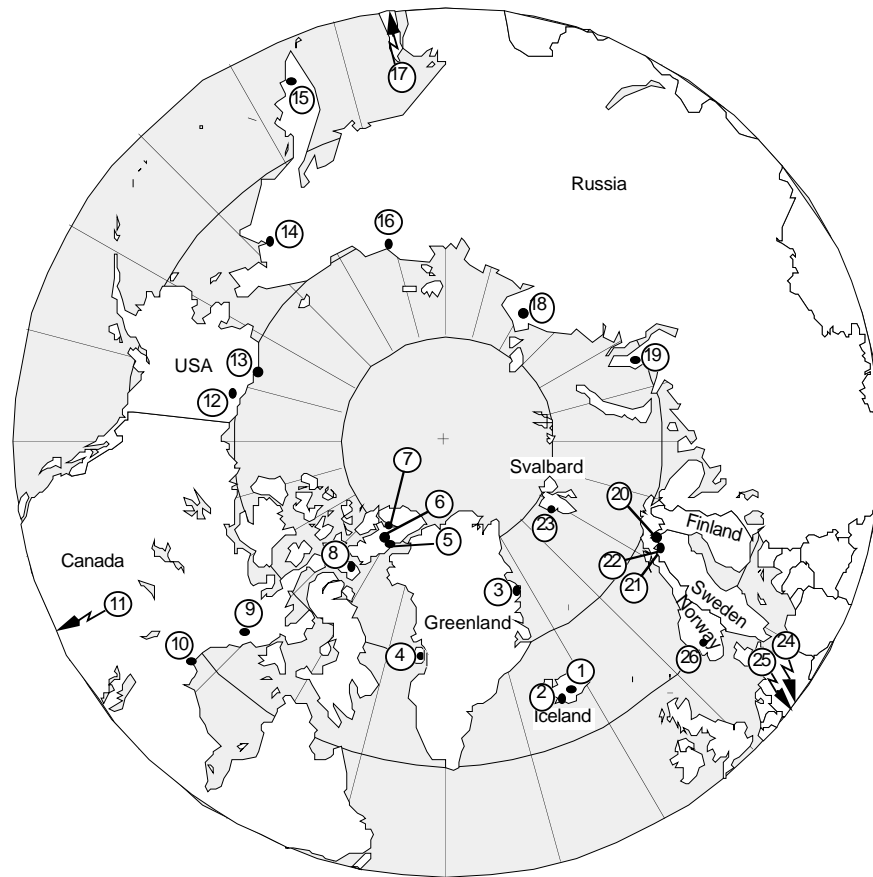
Phil Wookey, UK, *chair*
 Marilyn Walker, U.S.A., *co-chair*
 Per Mølgaard, Denmark, *co-ordinating secretary*
 Greg Henry, Canada, *member*
 Kari Laine, Finland, *member*
 Vladimir Razzhivin, Russia, *member*
 Patrick J. Webber, U.S.A., *member*
 Ulf Molau, Sweden, *member*

Committee), and affiliated with GCTE (Global Change & Terrestrial Ecology), a core program within IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme). Since 1993, ITEX also has a profound collaboration with the International Permafrost Association (IPA).

The ITEX secretariat is since May 1992 hosted by the Danish Polar Center (DPC), Strandgade 100, Build. 1, DK-1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark (phone +45-3288 0100/+45-3288 0118; fax +45-3288 0101). DPC takes care of printing and mailing of the newsletter ("ITEX Update", ca. two issues annually) and manuals, updating mailing list, filing of report forms, organization of ITEX meetings, etc. The administration at DPC is financed by shares from national funding bodies in the participant countries, mainly the national MAB boards.

Affiliation, Administration, and Funding

ITEX was created as a MAB (Man-And-the-Biosphere) initiative in 1990, and is an official research project within MAB-NSN (Northern Sciences Network). Furthermore, ITEX is represented in IASC (International Arctic Science



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|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Hveravellir, Iceland | 14 | Anadyr, Russia |
| 2 | Mt. sSkálafell, Iceland | 15 | Petropavlovsk, Russia |
| 3 | Zackenbergl, Greenland | 16 | Lower Kolyma, Russia |
| 4 | Disko Island, Greenland | 17 | Taishetu Mts., Japan |
| 5 | Alexandra Fjord, Canada | 18 | Taimyr, Russia |
| 6 | Sverdrup Pass, Canada | 19 | Yamal, Russia |
| 7 | Hot Weather Creek, Canada | 20 | Kilpisjärvi, Finland |
| 8 | Baker Lake, Canada | 21 | Abisko, Sweden |
| 9 | Baker Lake, Canada | 22 | Latnjajaure, Sweden |
| 10 | Churchill, Canada | 23 | Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard |
| 11 | Niwot Ridge, USA | 24 | Val Bercla, Switzerland |
| 12 | Toolik Lake, USA | 25 | Furka Pass, Switzerland |
| 13 | Barrow, USA | 26 | Finse, Norway |

Fig. 1. Circumpolar map of ITEX field sites (compiled by Giles M. Marion).