Evaluation of the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G): Concept and Results

Samuel U. Nussbaumer, Richard Armstrong, Florence Fetterer, Isabelle Gärtner-Roer, Wilfried Haeberli, Martin Hoelzle, Jeffrey S. Kargel, Frank Paul, Bruce H. Raup, & Michael Zemp*

World Glacier Monitoring Service, Zurich

samuel.nussbaumer@geo.uzh.ch

The Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G) is the framework for the internationally coordinated monitoring of glaciers and ice caps in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is a system of networks that provides an umbrella for existing and operational monitoring services, facilitates the exchange of information, and addresses issues such as data access, as well as the standardization of observation methods. GTN-G is authorized under the Global Climate/Terrestrial Observing System and is jointly run by three operational bodies: the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), the United States National Snow and Ice Data Center, and the Global Land Ice Measurements from Space initiative. A GTN-G Steering Committee was established in 2009, under the lead of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences, to coordinate, support, and advise these three operational bodies concerning the monitoring of glaciers and ice caps.

As part of the Terms of Reference for GTN-G, the GTN-G Advisory Board periodically (at approximately eight-year intervals) evaluates the work of the GTN-G Executive Board and its three operational bodies regarding their monitoring of glaciers and ice caps. The process consists of a self-evaluation report of the GTN-G Executive Board, a site visit at one of the bodies' location, and a final evaluation report of the GTN-G Advisory Board.

Within this talk, we present the concept and the evaluation procedure of GTN-G, and report on the outcomes of the present evaluation with special emphasis on WGMS. Taking these experiences and gained knowledge into account, an outlook of future key tasks is given.