

WASP



The roles of WASP committee members

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Introduction:

The World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP) is a think tank and knowledge hub involving over 30 core specialists/members from around the globe. These include leading national, regional, and international research institutions, implementation agencies, funding organizations, financial sectors, and governance bodies. WASP's core vision is ensuring that **climate adaptation knowledge gaps** are filled to inform evidence-based policies, solutions, and actions for successful adaptation to new climate conditions. Our priority is addressing the **knowledge needs in vulnerable developing countries and providing policy-relevant science for decision-makers.**

WASP is co-led by seven UN agencies: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO, Geneva, Switzerland), the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, Bonn, Germany), the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland), the Green Climate Fund (GCF, Incheon, South Korea), the Global Environment Facility (GEF, New York, USA), the United Nations University (UNU, Tokyo, Japan).

WASP is made up of a Management Group (MG) and two Committees: the Science Committee, and the Policy & Finance Committee. The Management Group is presided by a Chair who is selected from one of the seven supporting UN agencies. Co-chairs of the two Committees (Science Committee and Policy and Finance Committee) also sit on the Management Group. The Management Group and Committees are supported by a Secretariat hosted by UNEP's Science Division in Nairobi, Kenya.

Check our website for more information on the structure of the WASP: <https://wasp-adaptation.org/about-us/who-we-are/management-group>

1. Science Committee (SC)

The Science Committee is composed of a maximum of fifteen distinguished members from the research community and academia. SC members represent diverse disciplines and sectors, reflecting the multiple dimensions of climate adaptation science.

1.2 Mandate and Duties

1. To provide scientific guidance to the MG and the Secretariat, and ensure that up-to-date and rigorous science is appropriately reflected in the development, implementation and communication of WASP outputs;
2. To support and contribute to the exchange of information between the Programme and the climate science community at large, and relevant scientific unions, institutions, agencies and networks at the national and international level;

3. To identify knowledge gaps that could be addressed by either national or international research programmes and specific assessment needs that could be addressed by ongoing assessments;
4. To liaise with and organize relevant communities of practice, prioritize demand-driven research, build research networks and support the work of UNFCCC and IPCC;
5. To initiate support and co-organize, together with the host, funding agencies, partners and other members of the governance bodies, the biennial international climate change *Adaptation Futures* conference series;
6. To provide advice on scientific issues and input into the WASP governance TOR, strategy, workplan, budget, sources of funding and delivery timelines;
7. Any other matters that may be assigned by the MG.

1.3 Composition

Members will need to have:

Expertise in one or more fields of climate adaptation science

Expertise in strengthening the science-policy-action interface and/or science communication

And belong to the:

Scientific/academic research community

Geographical, gender and disciplinary balance will be considered when Co-Chairs invite new members to the Science Committee

At least one third of the committee members are composed of mid-career scientists with 8 to 18 years' experience after receiving their PhD degree.

1.4 Operation Modality

1. The SC will be chaired by Co-Chairs¹. The Co-Chairs, jointly and individually, are responsible for the leadership of the SC and the efficient planning, organization and implementation of activities;
2. Co-chairs are elected by the SC members (by majority) for a two-year period from among the members of the SC;
3. SC members are appointed for a term of 2 years, with the option of one renewal. SC members seeking renewal will be subject to performance review and evaluation of a vision statement for the first term by the co-chairs. Former members can rejoin the SC after at least a three-year break. Before rejoining, they will be subject to performance review and evaluation of a vision statement by the co-chairs;

¹ Exceptionally, the Science Committee can adjust the number of co-chairs as needed. The default is two co-chairs, but the Science Committee may have a single chair, or even have more than two co-chairs, if appropriate.

4. Recommendations and acceptance of SC members are made at MG meetings based on consensus;
5. A quorum consists of two thirds of the members. Individual members must be committed and must ensure continuity in participation of all meetings;
6. The co-chairs preside over the SC meetings. In the absence of one co-chair, the other may make decisions on behalf of both;
7. The outgoing co-chair shall not vote but, if voting on the selection of a candidate member results in a tie, shall then have the casting vote. This election can take place electronically;
8. The SC may invite additional individuals (as advisors or observers) to participate in a meeting of the SC;
9. The membership of the SC will be removed automatically when members miss two consecutive meetings;
10. Working Groups of the SC will be established on an as-needed basis, and will coordinate specific activities under the work plan, on request by the MG;
11. The Secretariat will provide administrative and logistical support to the SC. It will prepare a draft agenda in consultation with the co-chairs of the SC and make it available for information to the governance members in advance of those meetings;
12. The Secretariat will prepare and make available the conclusions and decisions of the SC to the governance members as soon as possible, but not later than four weeks after the meeting;
13. SC members are expected to meet on a regular basis following guidance from co-chairs. Meetings should be planned to minimize travel and cost. Additional meetings may be convened at the request of the co-chairs or at least half members of the SC. Meetings may be conducted in person or by electronic means;
14. Co-chairs of the SC shall report periodically on the progress of the work plan of the group to the MG;
15. The SC and the Policy and Finance Committee will work closely – and for most WASP activities and programmes, joint working groups would be constituted to oversee them.

2. Policy and Finance Committee (PFC)

The Policy and Finance Committee is an international panel composed of a maximum of fifteen distinguished members from the policy and finance sectors, including the banking sector, investors, policy leaders, practitioners, etc.

2.1 Mandate and Duties

1. To liaise with relevant policy and finance communities and organizations, support building networks and guiding the Secretariat in doing so and facilitating the alignment of the Science Committee's work with the needs and priorities of the policy and finance communities.
2. To address the knowledge gaps identified by the policy and finance communities and organizations;

3. To support and contribute to the exchange of information between the MG and the policy and finance communities and organizations at large;
4. To initiate support and co-organize, together with the host, funding agencies, partners and other members of the governance bodies, the biennial international climate change *Adaptation Futures* conference series;
5. To provide advice on funding opportunities and input into the WASP governance TOR, strategy, workplan, budget, sources for funding and delivery timelines, including a possible trust fund;
6. Any other matters as may be assigned by the MG.

2.3 Composition

Members will be the representatives (or their alternatives) of:

- Policy-oriented organizations
- Donor agencies and foundations
- Financial agencies
- Banking sector
- Inter-government agencies

Geographical [with at least one UN region], gender and inter-generational balance will be considered when inviting Policy and Finance Committee members.

2.4 Operation Modality

1. The PFC will be chaired by co-chairs². The co-chairs, jointly and individually, are responsible for the leadership of the PFC and for the efficient planning, organization and implementation of activities;
2. Co-chairs are elected from among the membership of the PFC by a simple majority of the PFC membership for a two-year term;
3. PFC members are appointed for a term of 2 years, with the option of one renewal. PFC members seeking renewal will be subject to performance review and evaluation of a vision statement for the first term by the co-chairs. Former members can rejoin the PFC after at least a three-year break. Before rejoining they will be subject to performance review and evaluation of a vision statement by the co-chairs;
4. Recommendations and acceptance of PFC members are made at MG meetings based on consensus;
5. A quorum consists of two thirds of the members. Individual members must be committed and must ensure continuity in participation of all meetings;
6. The co-chairs preside over the PFC meetings. In the absence of one co-chair, the other may make decisions on behalf of both;

² Exceptionally, the Policy and Finance Committee can adjust the number of co-chairs as needed. The default is two, but the Policy and Finance Committee may have a single chair, or have even more than two co-chairs, if appropriate.

7. The outgoing co-chair shall not vote but, if voting on the selection of a candidate member results in a tie, shall then have the casting vote. This election can take place electronically;
8. The PFC may invite additional individuals (as advisors or observers) to participate in a meeting of the PFC;
9. The membership of the PFC will be removed automatically when members miss two consecutive meetings;
10. Working Groups of the PFC will be established on an as-needed basis, and will coordinate specific activities under the work plan, on request by the MG;
11. The Secretariat will provide administrative and logistical support to the PFC. It will prepare a draft agenda in consultation with the co-chairs of the PFC and make it available for information to all governance members in advance of those meetings;
12. The Secretariat will prepare and make available the conclusions and decisions of the PFC to all governance members as soon as possible, but not later than four weeks after the meeting;
13. PFC members are expected to meet on a regular basis following the guidance from the co-chairs. Meetings should be planned to minimize travel and cost. Additional meetings may be convened at the request of the co-chairs or at least half members of the PFC. Meetings may be conducted in person or by electronic means;
14. Co-chairs of the PFC will report periodically on the progress of the work plan of the group to the MG.
15. The PFC and the SC will work closely – and for most WASP activities and programmes, joint working groups would be constituted to oversee them.

How much time will I need to dedicate to WASP as a committee member?

It would be around one or two calls a month (plus prep for the calls), and a few hours to write/review texts, so all together at least 10 hours monthly.