INTERACT NEWSLETTER

Newsletter #6 September 2019

Top Stories in this Newsletter

Alaskan bumble bee named after INTERACT

INTERACT III

TA call open until 8 October

Alaskan Bumble Bee Named After INTERACT

Photo: P. Rasmont

We are immensely proud to announce that a TA user group found a new bumblebee species near the Alaskan Toolik Field Station. They accessed through the INTERACT program (ARCTOSTRES), and the bumblebee is now known under the name *Bombus interacti*.

The paper is being published in the Journal of the Linnean Society.

INTERACT III

INTERACT is currently in grant preparation with EU for INTERACT III. We submitted our application to the EU Infrastructure call “H2020-INFRAIA-2018-2020”. The new project, INTERACT III, is fully integrated and the networking activity (the Station Managers’ Forum), the Transnational Access and the Joint Research Activities work together to tackle societal challenges with local and global implications. The project is anticipated to start on 1st of January 2020.

TA Call Open Until 8 October

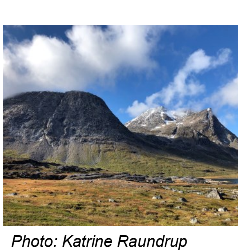


Photo: Katrine Raundrup

The call for Transnational (TA) and Remote Access (RA) is open to 42 INTERACT stations across the Arctic, northern alpine and forest areas in Europe, Russia and North-America. The sites represent a variety of mountain, boreal forest, peatland and freshwater ecosystems, providing opportunities for researchers from natural sciences to human dimension. Transnational Access includes free access (either physical or remote) for user groups/users to research facilities and field sites, including support for travel and logistic costs.

Overall, INTERACT provides three different modalities of access: Transnational and Remote Access that are applied through annual calls, and Virtual Access which means free access to data from stations, available at all times through the INTERACT VA single-entry point.

The TA/RA call is open until 8th October 2019, and it is the last call of our current EU-H2020 funding period. The call is targeted for access taking place between April and August 2020. You can find the TA/RA Call information, stations available in the call, descriptions of stations and their facilities, and registration to the INTERACCESS on-line application system from the INTERACT website.

For any additional information, please contact the Transnational Access coordinator Hannele Savela, hannele.savela@oulu.fi.

Apply for INTERACT Transnational Access to conduct research at the coolest places of the North!

3rd Annual Meeting

Photo: Hotell Forsen

The 3rd INTERACT Annual Meeting was held 10-13 September in north eastern Sweden, close to the research station Svartberget. 18 countries were represented in the meeting that consisted of the fifth Station Managers’ Forum and a General Assembly meeting.

Take a Closer Look at our TA Supported Projects from 2019

Photo: Paulina Wietrzyk-Pełka / CRYPTOSOIL

The summer field season 2019 has seen a record number of projects conducting research with support from INTERACT Transnational Access.

Nearly 60 user groups were conducting research this summer at 33 stations located in the northernmost Europe, North-America, Svalbard, Greenland and Russian Federation, as well as at stations located in north-atlantic, northern alpine and boreal forest regions.

The topics of the TA projects focus on the various fields of research, ranging from ecosystems and biodiversity to biogeochemical cycling and human dimension. A listing of the user groups and their project reports is available on the INTERACT website, and constantly updated as more and more groups finish their access visits during the autumn!

You can also follow the adventures of several groups from the INTERACT Arctic Research Blogs and from our Instagram account @EU-INTERACT.

WP7 - Improving and Harmonizing Biodiversity Monitoring - Fourth Workshop

Photo: Kári Fannar Lárusson

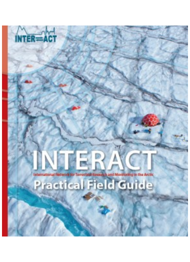
WP7 (Improving and harmonizing biodiversity monitoring) held its fourth workshop in Raufarhöfn, Iceland in June 2019. Updates were provided by each station on developments since the 2018 Workshop with a focus on new developments and identifying potential areas for cooperation and lessons learnt that could be shared across the three stations (Zackenberg, Rif and CHARS). Among the strategic actions that will be taken after the workshop is a memorandum of understanding between the three stations. More detailed information is available in the workshop report available here.

WP 9 - Adapting to Environmental Change - Ongoing Case Study

Photo: Morten Rasch

All three of this work package’s case studies have held and completed meetings together with research stations (Kevo, Arctic Station and Kajbasovo) and local communities or have been in communication with them for the case study reports. The aim has been to hear both science observations from research stations combined to the perceptions from local communities in order to recognize the need for adaptation to environmental change.

New Deliverables Available



INTERACT has submitted 6 deliverables during the last 6 months. Among these is a new version of the Station Catalogue submitted by the Station Managers' Forum (WP3). The deliverable report is available here and the printed version will also be available on the INTERACT website.

The INTERACT Fieldwork Planning Handbook and the INTERACT Practical Field Guide were published earlier this year and both of them are now printed and also available as pdf online.

The other deliverables that have been submitted during the last six months are the 2nd CAWI report, 2nd newsletter issues for teachers; a Promotional brochure and video clip from WP 2 (available here) and a ”Refined action plan including experience from a field trial” from WP 6 (available here).

Research Gaps Across Arctic Terrestrial Gradients

IOP science

A new study, led by researchers from University of Helsinki and Lund University, quantifies the distribution of field sampling and citation in the Arctic across major environmental science disciplines. For each of these disciplines, researchers provide detailed maps of potential new sampling locations and a list of high-priority future research areas. New sampling is needed particularly in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, northern Greenland, northern Taimyr, and central and eastern Siberia. Lastly, researchers suggest potential INTERACT stations close to these poorly sampled regions. Read more about the accepted manuscript online here: doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab4291

Meetings where INTERACT was present

INTERACT was either presented or represented at these meetings throughout the last couple of months:

- ASSW Archangelsk, Russia
- EGU Vienna, Austria
- EU Arctic Cluster Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- ENVRI plus, Brussels, Belgium
- Arctic Safety Conference, Longyearbyen, Svalbard
- Polar Educators International Conference, Cambridge, UK

Meet us at upcoming meetings

ARCTIC CIRCLE 2019

INTERACT will also be represented at several meetings in the next couple of months:

- Nunataryuk, General Assembly, Nice, France
- Arctic Circle Reykjavik, Iceland
- Kepler mid-term meeting, Barcelona, Spain
- ArcticNet ASM2019, Halifax, Canada

Czech Arctic Station

The15m long motor/sail yacht RV Clione has travelled more than 2700 miles around the Svalbard archipelago during the summer season 2019 serving as a support vessel for numerous international Arctic research projects. One of those was an INTERACT-funded joint study of Belgian University of Gent and Czech University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. They were investigating the role of environmental factors on microbial diversity of High-Arctic Biological Soil Crusts (BSCs). Specifically, they are interested in BSCs role in terrestrial nitrogen and phosphorous cycle and how are those processes affected by lithology, weathering, and mineralogy. The findings will enable to better predict the development and activity of BSCs in High-Arctic deserts as indicators of the greening of the Arctic.

Adam Mickiewicz University Polar Station (AMUPS)

Photo: Grzegorz Rachlewicz

In Petuniabukta (central Spitsbergen, Svalbard), the field season that started June 20th is about to finish. A core team of Polish scientists and students from Poznan University spent the whole summer at the station realizing environmental monitoring projects and designing experimental research plots. New investigations covered hydro-geological issues, pollution and the extension of a glaciological program. During the expedition AMUPS was also hosting groups and colleagues: geographers, geologists, ecologists and environmental chemists from Czech Republic, Germany, Brazil and other Polish institutions.

CHARS

Photo: Polar Knowledge Canada

The Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) campus in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada, opened officially on August 21, 2019 in a ceremony attended by about 300 dignitaries and local residents. The facility, which is operated by Polar Knowledge Canada, a Canadian government agency, is designed and built to optimize innovation in Arctic science and technology, to welcome visitors, and to provide local, regional, national and international researchers with logistical support and technical services enabling them to perform in-depth scientific analysis without leaving the Arctic. Developed in collaboration with the community of Cambridge Bay, the facility includes spaces where scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders can exchange information and work together, and incorporates many references to the local Inuit culture in its architecture. For more information consult the Polar Knowledge Canada website: https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge.html

CEN

Photo: Pierre Coupel

The Sentinel North International PhD School on Arctic Microbiomes was held at the Centre d’études nordiques (CEN) research station in Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuarapik, Nunavik, Canada, from July 2–12, 2019. During 10 days, 18 early career scientists and 12 internationally renowned professors and experts from multiple fields traveled through various subarctic ecosystems and the edges of the Hudson Bay to better understand the role of northern microbiomes in the Arctic, and to share knowledge with the local Cree and Inuit communities.

Discover the highlights of their endeavour in the participants’ official field report.

WARC

Photo: WARC

Summer 2019 was a busy season at the Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC). In addition to the logistical support, equipment, and experienced technicians that WARC provides this year the Summer Speaker Series was a huge success. Each year the Outreach Coordinator at WARC connects researchers with the community and organizes a speaker series to showcase research in the Western Arctic. WARC also offers opportunities for researchers to give back to the community by engaging youth in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activites. If you are using WARC as a research base next year, please consider giving a talk or spending an afternoon inspiring the next generation of Arctic scientists.

Barrow Arctic Research Center and Barrow Environmental Observatory

Photo: UIC Science

The BARC Science Fair is one part of a larger effort by UIC Science to bring coordination and collaboration to science outreach and engagement efforts across Arctic Alaska. The third annual BARC Science Fair was a huge success. Hundreds of individuals, from both the local community and the science community came together to take part in mutually beneficial engagement.

Villum Research Station

Photo: Niels Bohse Hendriksen

New opportunities for researchers in high Arctic microbial ecology can be found at Villum Research Station. The research station is located at Princess Ingeborgs Peninsula in North East Greenland. It has five laboratories, and one of these is well equipped for microbiological research. Villum Research Station is open year-round and can host up to 14 scientists.

Rif Field Station

Photo: Jónína Sigríður Þorláksdóttir

Rif Field Station collaborated this summer with the Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Institute to establish freshwater monitoring in Melrakkaslétta Peninsula based on CAFF‘s Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP). This included site selection for monitoring of freshwater lakes, ponds and rivers, establishing loggers and developing monitoring protocols. In 2020, the plan is to gain further knowledge on the biodiversity within the peninsula‘s catchment zone through extensive sampling of selected Focal Ecosystem Components according to Rif Field Station‘s monitoring plan.

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