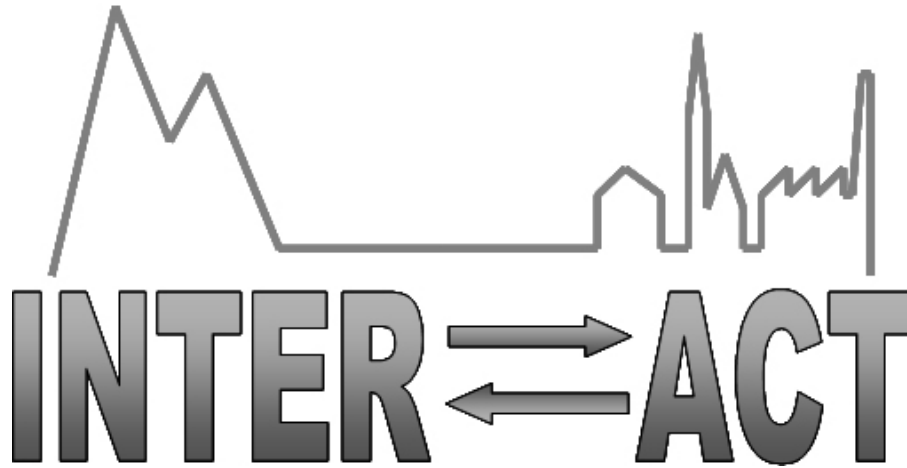


## Combination of CP & CSA



### D2.1 – Minutes from Station Managers' Forum I

Project No.262693– INTERACT

#### FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1

Start date of project: 2011/01/01

Duration: 48 months

Due date of deliverable: 2011/02/28

Actual Submission date: 2011/02/28

Lead partner for deliverable: NERI

Author: Elmer Topp Jørgensen

Dissemination Level		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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## Publishable Executive Summary

The first Station Managers' Forum was held back to back with the INTERACT kick off meeting at the Abisko Scientific Research Station in January 2011 with 37 participants from 13 countries.

The main objective of the Station Managers' Forum is to provide a platform for the exchange of information between INTERACT Station Managers and other participants within INTERACT. The INTERACT Station Managers' Forum was initiated at the INTERACT kick off meeting. Deliverable 2.1 consists of documenting the discussions of the first Station Managers' Forum within formal minutes (page 4-22 in this document).

Following the First Station Managers' Forum, many recommendations were fulfilled and others are in progress.

# Minutes of INTERACT Station Managers' Forum 1

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*INTERACT- International Network for Terrestrial  
Research and Monitoring in the Arctic*



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*18 January 2011*

# Minutes of INTERACT Station Managers' Forum 1

## Practicalities:

**Date:** Tuesday 18 January 2011

**Time:** 14:15 – 16:30

**Venue:** Abisko Scientific Research Station, Sweden

**Minute taker:** Morten Rasch and Jan Elmer Topp-Jørgensen

## Participants:

Brian Barnes, Toolik Field Station (USA)

Luisella Bianco, CLU Ltd. (Italy)

Wladimir Bleuten, Mukrino Field Station (Russia)

Donie Bret-Harte, Toolik Field Station (USA)

Terry Callaghan, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Sweden)

Torben Røjle Christensen, Lund University (Sweden)

Fiona Danks, Sverdrup Station (Norway)

Jan Dick, ECN Site Cairngorm (Scotland)

Bo Elberling, Arctic Station (Greenland)

Hanna Frykmann, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Sweden)

Snorre B. Hagen, Bioforsk Svanhovd (Norway)

Yannis Loannidis, University of Athens (Greece)

Antero Järvinen, Kipisjärvi Biological Station (Finland)

Anne M. Jensen, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (USA)

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Anna Maria Johansson, European Commission (Belgium)

Margareta Johansson, Royal Swedish Academy of Science (Sweden)

Dag Klaveness, Finse Alpine Research Station (Norway)

Kari Laine, Oulnaka Research Station (Finland)

Trofim Maximov, Spaskaya Pad and Chokurdakh (Russia)

Lis Mortensen, Jardfeingi (Faroe Islands)

Hlynur Óskarsson, Litla-Skard (Iceland)

Morten Pejrup, Sermilik Station (Greenland)

Morten Rasch, Zackenberg Research Station (Greenland)

Katrine Raundrup, Greenland Institute of Natural Ressources (Greenland)

Christian Rohder, Uppsala University (Sweden)

Ninis Gunhild Rosqvist, Tarfala Research Station (Sweden)

Glenn Sheenan, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (USA)

Andrew Sier, ECN Site Cairngorm (Scotland)

Martin Sommerkorn, WWF Global Arctic Programme (Norway)

Otso Suominen, Kevo Subarctic Research Institute (Finland)

Jan Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Zackenberg Research Station (Greenland)

Tomas Thierfelder, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden)

Warwick Vincent, The CEN Network, SCANNET Canada (Canada)

## **Agenda:**

1. Introduction of Station Managers' Forum
2. Discussion in break out groups of items of relevance to discuss in Station Managers' Forum
3. Presentation of break out group results
4. Other issues
5. Closing of Station Managers' Forum 1

## **Minutes:**

### **Agenda item 1: *Introduction of Station Managers' Forum***

Morten Rasch, coordinator of Work package 2 *Station Managers' Forum*, introduced the history of the Station Managers' Forum idea, outlined the opportunities of a Station Managers' Forum, and informed about the formal obligations to EU of Work package 2 (Presentation in Appendix 1).

### **Agenda item 2: *Discussion in break out groups of items of relevance to discuss in Station Managers' Forum:***

The purpose of this first Station Managers' Forum was to discuss items of relevance to the Station Managers' Forum other than what was stated in the more formal INTERACT Description of Work. This discussion took place in three breakout groups that were asked to address the following questions:

1. *Are there tasks of relevance to be included in the work plan for the Station Managers' Forum that was not included in the application, i.e. do we want to do more than what we are obliged to?*
2. *Do we need to refine and detail the list of themes for best practices of station management suggested in the application?*
3. *Do you have any specific suggestions in relation to:*
  - a. *The survey of current monitoring and research at INTERACT sites*
  - b. *The catalogue of terrestrial field sites in the Arctic*

### **Agenda item 3: *Presentation of break out group results***

#### ***Report from breakout group 1 (Rapporteur: Brian Barnes):***

**Question 1:** No further suggestions

#### **Question 2:**

##### *Training in safety issues*

- Identify relevant issues for the station (aircraft, laboratories, hiking, driving, helicopter, bears, firearms etc.)
- Identify persons/institutions responsible for the training (training on the research station/ training at another location, training by the institution managing the research station/training by another institution)

##### *Liability and medical services*

- Liability/legal responsibilities of the station in relation to visiting scientists
- How is liability issues communicated to visiting scientists?
- What medical services are available at the research station?
- How do stations cope with evacuations, medivac, Search and Rescue?



- Insurance policies for visitors to the research station

#### *Efficiencies*

- Alternative energy/heat recommendations (use of solar, wind and water power)
- Waste handling
- Recycling
- Avoiding pollution, reducing packaging

#### *Land use issues*

- Separation of activities (zoning of research area)
- Establishment of control areas with no activities
- Develop codes of conduct in relation to land use (to minimise risk of conflicts and impact on environment)

#### *Scientific committee*

- Prioritise between different research projects
- How to prevent / resolve conflicts between research projects

#### *Best available measuring technology*

- Making an inventory of best available field techniques and technologies (observations, sensors, data loggers, automatic cameras etc.)
- Exchange knowledge on best available technology with other research stations
- Establish a “swap-shop” (equipment e-bay)

#### *Best available maintenance technology*

- Buildings
- Equipment

#### *Data back-up / archiving*

- What can be provided by the research station (data, photo, text (papers, reports, etc.)?)

#### *Practical information for running field courses*

- Coordinate with other research stations to offer different courses at research stations

#### *Establishment of ‘community’ feeling among scientists*

- social events, blogs, facebook etc.

#### *Other issues*

- Policies for under-aged people / families
- Access for artists / musicians
- Ethics for handling of mammals
- Alcohol policies
- Entertainment offered by the station (gym, sauna, games, internet access, possible outdoor activities, etc.)

**Question 3:**

- Check and coordinate with SAON (Sustaining Arctic Observing Network) and CEON (Circumarctic Environmental Observatories Network)
- Survey of types of information used for outreach and education

***Report from breakout group 2 (Rapporteur: Jan Dick):***

**Question 1:**

- Station managers to provide input to selection criteria for projects applying for trans-national access (WP 4)
- Feedback from station managers on experiences with the trans-national access (WP-4)

**Question 2:**

- Need to differentiate between research and monitoring. Priority should be given to monitoring.
- Database on research and monitoring should include both on going, recent and older projects.
- Database should include information on: topic, parameters, geo-reference (including link to other data sites), start of monitoring, end of monitoring, responsible institution and researcher, contact person for data, contact person at research station.
- If possible (and relevant) research stations should include information on facilities and equipment for marine research (but not describe marine monitoring)
- Include sub-stations (satellite stations), marine sites, research vessels and atmospheric monitoring sites linked to the research station in GIS

**Question 3:**

- How to facilitate cooperation with local community/people
- Best practices in relation to instrumentation for scientific measurements
- Discussions of permit issues in relation to access to stations
- Safety issues
- Best practice in relation to handling of research groups versus individual scientists
- Important that we do not only focus on best practices but also 'failed models' of practices

***Report from breakout group 3 (Rapporteur: Christer Jonasson):***

**Question 1:**

- Stronger focus on more effective communication between stations
- Communications between research stations made available on the web-site
- It is important to address the differences in data management between stations (especially between larger and smaller stations)

**Question 2:**

- A clear definition of the Arctic (used in INTERACT) is needed in relation to especially the inventory of monitoring
- Information on monitoring and research activities carried out at the research station (including topic, by whom, why and for what). Indication of character of data (freely available or owned by institution/researcher)
- Distinction between what is being monitored by the site and what is monitored by others
- An inventory of monitoring before 2000 should be made
- GIS for showing location of research station and monitoring sites/projects
- A catalogue of 'satellite' stations related main sites should be included in GIS

**Question 3:**

- Clear description of responsibilities/services
- Reporting systems, both for accidents and 'near accidents'
- Risk and insurance policies
- Waste handling
- Sustainable energy solutions / developing eco-policies
- Education offered by the research station

***Discussion:***

Terry Callaghan suggested that job vacancies related to the stations should be announced on the INTERACT homepage

Morten Rasch and Jan Elmer Topp-Jørgensen (responsible for Work package 2) thanked for the input and promised to refine the working programmes for the different tasks under Work package 2 to include as many as possible of the proposed items to be addressed by the Station Managers' Forum (within the time frame given), and to present a refined working programme in the next Station Managers' Forum.

**Agenda item 4: *Other issues***

After the meeting, Jan Dick has proposed to run a small participatory session at the next Station Managers' Forum aiming at identifying ecosystem services (or proxies for ecosystem services) which the site managers felt were represented at their site but not included in the list already. Jan has been working with this together with the LTER Europe community and has tested the published list now in 15 countries across 35 sites including urban, marine, forest, arable, wilderness and desert – but no polar sites. This LTER Europe study has added to the list and the LTER community is now testing a rapid assessment methodology which does not require quantification of the service only probability of occurrence. Two hours will be allocated for this participatory session on Station Managers' Forum 2.

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### ***Agenda item 5: Closing of Station Managers' Forum 1***

Morten Rasch thanked the participants for their enthusiasm and closed Station Managers' Forum 1.

## Appendix 1:





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### History:

**2002:** A Station Manager Forum was established as an integrated part of SCANNET (EU 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme). Unfortunately the project ran out of funding in 2004

**2003:** A Station Manager Forum was established as an integrated part of ENVINET (EU 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme). Unfortunately the project ran out of funding in 2004

**2009:** A Station Manager Forum was suggested as an important component of the INTERACT project

**2010:** The Station Manager Forum was included in the application to EU 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

**2011:** Here we are at the first meeting in a Station Manager Forum with a circum-arctic representation of leaders of terrestrial field sites

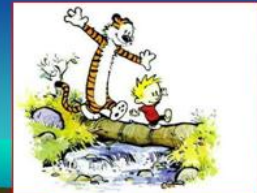




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### We have the chance to:

1. Establish a network for exchange knowledge of station management
2. Strengthen our mutual knowledge about terrestrial field sites in the Arctic
3. Facilitate terrestrial research and monitoring cooperation across the Arctic
4. Play an active role in the establishment of an internationally more coordinated terrestrial research/monitoring in the Arctic, for example by disseminating the knowledge imbedded in our network to important international organisations/initiatives like IASC, AMAP, CAFF, CBMP and SAON
5. Establish a common monitoring programme including selected parameters
6. Strengthening our influence on national and international issues of relevance by acting as a group
7. Support the establishment of a SAON by making an overview of the long-term monitoring/research being carried out at terrestrial field sites throughout the Arctic and by suggesting best practices of station management
8. Improve our services to the scientists by exchanging knowledge embedded in our network on best practices of station management
9. Make it easier for scientists to decide which arctic research site is most appropriate for their field work
10. Establish a chat room for online advice of each other on pending everyday issues
11. And, probably many other good and relevant things





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### **We are obliged to:**

1. Have regular meetings in this Station Manager Forum
2. Produce a catalogue of terrestrial field sites in the Arctic
3. Coordinate monitoring and research between our site
4. Make a survey of the research and monitoring being carried out at INTERACT sites and produce a report disseminating this knowledge
5. Discuss best practice of station management and produce a report/manual concerning this
6. Interact with local stakeholders and representatives from international organisations and to include their input in the catalogue of terrestrial field sites in the Arctic and the report on research and monitoring being carried out at our field sites







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It is important that we keep momentum also between the meetings. Staff employed at NERI and AWI are going to synthesise the information provided by us, but they can only do so if they timely receive relevant information from you.





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### Tasks to be discussed at this Station Manager Forum:

1. Are there tasks of relevance to be included in the work plan for the Station Manager Forum that was not included in the application. i.e. do we want to do more than what we are obliged to?
2. Do we need to refine and detail the list of themes for best practices of station management suggested in the application?
3. Do you have any specific suggestions in relation to:
  - a. The survey of current monitoring and research at INTERACT sites
  - b. The catalogue of terrestrial field sites in the Arctic





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In the INTERACT application it is stated that INTERACT will produce best practice manuals including, foreexample:

- *Regulation of access to infrastructure*
- *Administration and protection of the study area*
- *Data policy in relation to external and internal users of infrastructure*
- *Balancing between service level and user payment*
- *Marketing (how to make scientists aware of what the station can offer)*
- *Outreach (how to keep the general public local to each station aware of the science there)*
- *Contact with local stakeholders and policy makers*
- *Practices in relation to maintenance of long-term monitoring programmes*
- *Facilitation of cooperation between logistics, monitoring and research*
- *Facilitation of cooperation between different projects and across science disciplines*
- *Safety issues*
- *Press Policy*

*Are all these issues relevant? Can we refine and detail them (sub points)? Have we forgotten something?*





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### Tasks to be discussed at this Station Manager Forum:

1. Are there tasks of relevance to be included in the work plan for the Station Manager Forum that was not included in the application. i.e. do we want to do more than what we are obliged to?
2. Do we need to refine and detail the list of best practices of station management suggested in the application?
3. Do you have any specific suggestions in relation to:
  - a. The survey of current monitoring and research at INTERACT sites?
  - b. The catalogue of terrestrial field sites in the Arctic?
4. Can you suggest means to secure that we maintain momentum between meetings.





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**Break out groups:**

1. *(rapporteur):*
2. *(rapporteur):*
3. *(rapporteur):*

*We meet here again at 9:40*





