

Minutes

WP leaders Meeting

8th February 2021
Zoom, online meeting platform

Participants: Katharina Beckmann, Jonathan Day, Maria Erman, Margareta Johansson, Niklas Labba, Joseph Nolan, Morten Rasch, Hannele Savela, Simon Wilson

Aim of the meeting

The main aim of this meeting is to give each other an update on progress and to discuss input required from other work packages to ensure progress and proper integration between the different WPs. These meetings are planned to occur every 6th month.

WP 9 – The Arctic Resort: increasing benefits and reducing impacts from developing Arctic tourism

Niklas Labba

Quick progress overview

This work package has not had any physical meetings due to covid. Background: there are no Sami developed guidelines for tourism. The majority of the (INTERACT) stations do not see tourism as benefits but as a challenge, nevertheless many stations are inviting tourists. This is an interesting contrast. How can this conflict of interest be balanced? This question will be brought up at the next SMF – best practices. How can stations learn from each other? A similar problem with i.e. Sami villages being approached by tourism companies.

Additional outcomes from this work package could be a collaboration with WP 6 regarding Artificial Intelligence. For example, wearing goggles and look at a campsite how it looked 100 years ago or how to find out what animal in the herd that should be slaughtered next.

Needs from other WPs

- Input from SMF regarding outcomes from questionnaire



WP 8 – Cleaner Arctic, cleaner world: documenting and reducing pollution

Simon Wilson

Quick progress overview

A questionnaire needs to be developed for a pre-study with four stations. A webinar will be held at the next SMF seminar and this webinar will be used to explain the survey. A suggestion was made to send out the questions beforehand, and use Mentimeter during the seminar. The time difference is a challenge.

Needs from other WPs

- Collaboration with WP 2
- Action point: Discuss Mentimeter with Katharina.

WP 7 – Preparing for a future world: improving education and awareness at all societal levels

Margareta Johansson representing Terry Callaghan

Quick progress overview

Four films will be produced by the Natural History unit of BBC. The sub-contract has been drafted and is in review at BBC. The films will depend on material from INTERACT, photos, videos etc. Niklas Labba from WP 9 offered footage from his Drone team. The book “Stories of Arctic Science II” will be launched soon. An e-book (INTERACT III) is being produced simultaneously. In addition, work with educational outreach material is proceeding well.

Needs from other WPs

- Input (photos and videos) to the four films will be greatly appreciated from all other WPs. The WP will develop a wish list and get back to other WPs.

WP 6 – Climate Action: Making data widely available

Maria Erman

Quick progress overview

Two deliverables are being finished. One regarding the workshop that was held last year and one about the pre-study on how AI can be applied on research. 15 interviews have been conducted. A Master thesis student is currently working with Jan Dick’s (Cairngorms station) dataset.

This work package is also looking for old text material (also handwritten text) to be analysed by machines, not only images. Additional outcomes from this work package may be INTERACT branded brochures.



Needs from other WPs

- WP3 virtual access – sources
- Text documents (including hand written) from research stations (WP2)

WP 5 – Connecting the Arctic: Transport and Communication

Joseph Nolan

Quick progress overview

A deliverable report will be written based on a questionnaire made by APECS in WP2 (due month 38). Iridium is a partner in this WP and there is no deliverable where they are involved. In the end of 2020, Iridium made a survey on needs for knowledge about satellite communication.

Needs from other WPs

- Contributions to questionnaires

WP 4 – Unpredictable Arctic – extreme weather events

Jonathan Day

Quick progress overview

There has been a slight delay in this work package due to covid. The Station Managers and WP 4 have had a joint meeting. A report is being produced on how to document the effects of extreme weather events on the seasonal timing of species migration, range changes and biodiversity, a deliverable report that will be submitted by the end of May. In addition, the work on severe weather event case studies evaluation and implications for monitoring within INTERACT has also started and will result in a report that will be submitted two months late due to covid.

Needs from other WPs

- Suggestions on how to proceed on monitoring of extreme events at INTERACT sites.

WP 3 – Giving Access to the Arctic

Hannele Savela

Quick progress overview

Milestones and deliverables for this work package have so far been reached in time. Tinderact (a newly developed digital tool) has come in very handy: Due to covid there are many postponed projects with new



estimated dates and Tinderact makes it easier to monitor the situation. New TA ambassadors are now on board (and some old are staying). An e-library is now in place.

Virtual Access single entry point (metadata portal) with 29 partners is offering virtual access. This deliverable is 9 months ahead of time. This system will be launched on the 22 March at ASSW. Now promotion of the event needs to be made. An INTERACT Machine Learning algorithm (IMLA) will do the data and metadata sorting. IMLA is now being trained. Station managers and scientists are invited to train the algorithm.

Since the TA call was closed in October 2020, projects for TA are now being selected. By 19th February the projects will know. A challenge is to plan how all projects will be carried out (postponed + new projects).

Needs from other WPs

- Photos for VA promotion
- Exchange ideas on machine learning with WP 6.

WP 2 – Station Managers’ Forum (SMF)

Morten Rasch

Quick progress overview

Station Managers’ Forum is a huge work package with 3 fulltime staff: Elmer, Marie and Morten. Most tasks are connected to this work package. All deliverables and tasks are on time.

To maintain a community feeling, this work package has introduced online seminars (inspired by Hannele’s webinars). The next is planned for 10th March. Ongoing preparations are made for the joint meeting with ARICE and FARO at the ASSW on the 19th March, which will be held online this year as well.

This work package is collecting data for a deliverable – a guidebook regarding crossing borders while doing research. There is new staff at APECS which means that the deliverable is one month delayed (already approved). The INTERACT GIS - interface is now more in line with INTERACT website. Thematic maps (climate zone, permafrost, vegetation etc.) will follow. Face-to-face meetings are planned for the future (at a late stage and hopefully not delayed buy covid). All photos from the photo competition can be used within the project. Three books are in the pipeline: An 80 pages textbook on means of communication and navigation in fieldwork (with APECS); Reducing environmental impact in Arctic fieldwork (same format as the field guide); Reducing environmental impact from an Arctic research station (80-100 pages).

- Action point: Katharina and Morten will elaborate on how to make the other photos available to other WPs

WP 1 – Project Coordination

Margareta Johansson



Quick progress overview

The project is running according to schedule apart from one deliverable that is slightly delayed. The watch dogs for education, innovation and data are monitoring progress and have not reported any problems. Please deliver on time as this is very important for EU. There will probably be an annual meeting online in May, and a physical meeting in Europe in November. We hope to revisit the idea of having a general assembly at Toolik in September 2022.

Needs from other WPs

- Continue to contribute to all tasks that you are involved in and report immediately if any deviations from work plan pop up.

Other

There is a European Polar Board (EPB) action group on environmental impact of polar research and logistics (where Elmer is involved). There is also an action group on infrastructure. The EPB database is using a lot of data from INTERACT GIS and they are working on an automatic connection with INTERACT. The European Polar Board is working with both poles, European facilities and also aircrafts, vessels etc. The access to infrastructure is where Hannele/INTERACT is contributing.

The EU Polar Cluster is becoming more formal. A second draft on its “Vision, mission and terms of reference” is currently being written.

ArcticNet in Canada initiated a wish for a uniform code of conduct in Arctic research. Kirsi Latola is doing something similar in EU PolarNet. Kirsi is hence representing INTERACT. For the moment being, no more details are yet available.

Everybody is kindly asked to promote the Third Arctic Science Ministerial Webinar Series: <https://asm3.org/webinar-series/>