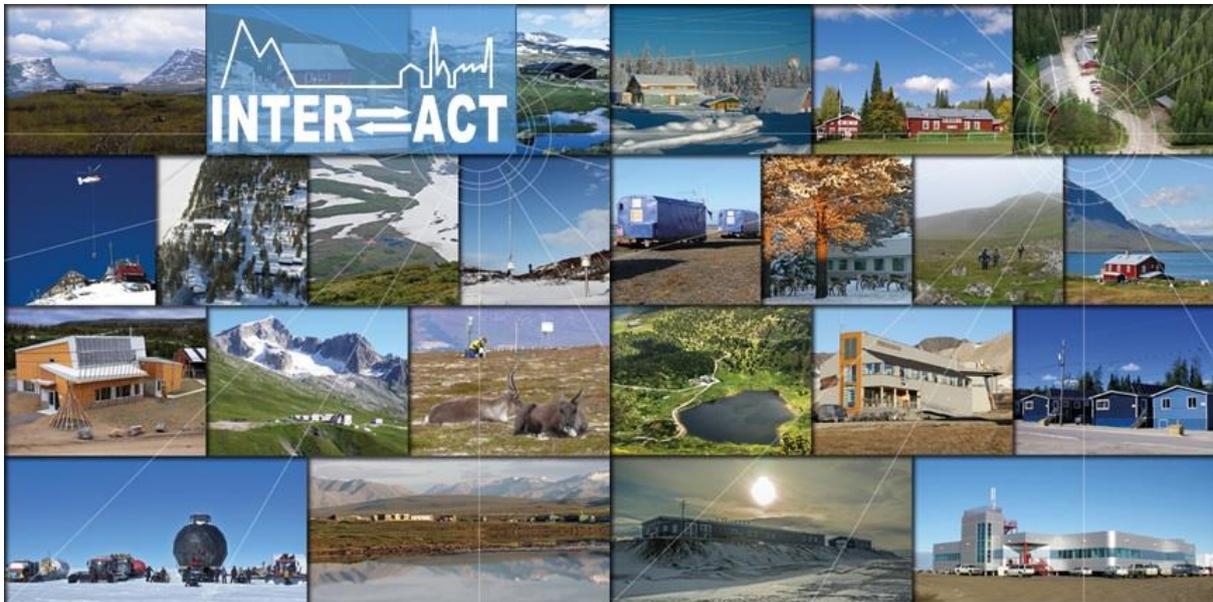




# Minutes INTERACT III Station Managers' Forum III

Online meeting

27 May 2021





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## Minutes

All presentations and videos from this meeting are available online: <https://eu-interact.org/presentations-from-station-managers-forum-iii-in-interact-ii/>

### Welcome

Morten Rasch welcomed all participants to the meeting. Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, this year's Station Managers' Forum was again held online. Hopefully next meeting will be a physical meeting, where it will be possible to share and discuss ideas in person. The meeting was well attended by 55 participants representing 45 stations from 13 countries.

### Activities since last meeting

By Morten Rasch

#### Publications:

- 'Images of Arctic Science'. 800 pictures from 100 photographers was submitted to the photo competition and a big thanks goes out to all who participated. The coffee table book is now available online at the INTERACT website. The SMF secretariat will bring hard copies to the next physical SMF meeting to be handed out.

Two new hand books are ready for publication:

- INTERACT Fieldwork Communication and Navigation Guidebook – cooperation with APECS
- INTERACT Reducing the Environmental Impacts of Arctic Fieldwork

Upcoming products:

- INTERACT Reducing the Environmental Impact of Arctic Research Stations. Ready for layout
- INTERACT Reducing the CO2 Emission from Arctic Science. APECS author group established.

The overall idea with all these books is to make INTERACT the place to seek information concerning fieldwork in the Arctic and run of arctic and northern alpine research stations. The guidebooks will be relevant to both scientists and station managers.

#### New home page features:

- *Arctic Permit Systems*  
Made in cooperation between INTERACT and APECS. Country information for USA, Canada, The Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.  
The overall idea with the website is to make INTERACT the place to seek information concerning permits of relevance to fieldwork in the Arctic.

#### INTERACT GIS

Recent developments and plans ahead includes restructuring of the system with focus on

- Improved GIS platform (map).
- Station catalogue info integration and search function.



- Simplicity and usability.

Scientific networks and thematic maps will be featured on the website, and an upload function for project metadata will be developed.

**Meetings, Workshops and Thematic Seminars since last SMF meeting:**

- INTERACT Data Team Meeting, 14 December 2020.
- INTERACT Daily Management Group, 18 December 2020.
- INTERACT Seminar on Sustainable Energy Solutions for Arctic Research Stations. 15 December 2020.
- INTERACT Daily Management Group, 25 January 2021.
- Coordination Meeting, EBP Action group on Environmental impact of Arctic Research and Logistics, 2 February 2021.
- INTERACT Daily Management Group, 16 February 2021.
- Coordination Meeting, IASC Action Group on Carbon Footprint, 18 February 2021.
- Joint INTERACT-AMAP Workshop on Contaminant Monitoring and Waste Handling at INTERACT Stations, 10 March 2021.
- Coordination Meeting, IASC Action Group on Carbon Footprint, 16 March 2021.
- Coordination Meeting, EBP Action group on Environmental impact of Arctic Research and Logistics, 16 March 2021.
- Workshop on International Access to Research Infrastructure in the Arctic, ASSW 2021, 23 March – *together with FARO, ARICE and APECS. Joint workshop report expected later this year.*
- INTERACT Daily Management Group, 25 March 2021.
- Coordination Meeting, IASC Action Group on Carbon Footprint, 14 April 2021.
- INTERACT Data Team Meeting, 19 April 2021.
- Coordination Meeting, IASC Action Group on Carbon Footprint, 20 April 2021.
- IASC Workshop on Carbon Footprints in the Arctic, 21 April 2021.
- INTERACT Daily Management Group, 27 April 2021.
- Polar Observing Assets Working Group (SAON initiative), 13 May 2021.
- INTERACT Daily Management Group, 20 May 2021.

## Arctic safety manual – pitching the idea

*By Morten Rasch*

Morten suggested that INTERACT could make an INTERACT Arctic Safety Manual that can:

- Help scientists with information of relevance to the arctic fieldwork and use of arctic and northern alpine research stations.
- Help station managers to improve their station management by using best practices developed in cooperation with other station managers
- Make it easier for station managers to produce station manuals with reference to widely accepted procedures
- Standardise procedures at arctic research stations to make it easier for scientists to understand and implement procedures in their activities

University of Copenhagen has produced an Arctic Safety Manual to be used by their scientists in the field. Morten has as leader of the University of Copenhagen Arctic Safety Committee been the editor



of this book covering all aspects of safety in relation to arctic fieldwork and with a more thorough approach than in the Fieldwork Planning Handbook and the Practical Field guide. Morten suggested that INTERACT may use the manuscript as a start up for producing an INTERACT Arctic Safety Manual with input from all the INTERACT station managers.

The following process was suggested:

- Circulation of UofC Arctic Safety Manual.
- Session concerning revisions on INTERACT III, SMF 4.
- Editing based on inputs.
- Circulation among station managers for review.
- Publication.

There was generally a consensus that it could be a good idea to produce such a manual within INTERACT. As research groups are getting bigger and often include new people without arctic field work experience, the communication and safety is important. It was suggested that in the process, INTERACT should be careful of dividing into core principles and be more specific to some areas – as advice relevant for one site may not be relevant for another site. All stations have their own ways, and therefore the input from SMF will be very important in this process. It was noted that the manual should recommend guidelines only, and no mandatory rules. Different approaches are depending on the location of the station, size of operations and whether the station is responsible for the safety of the guests or not.

The process will now continue and a draft will be sent to all station managers, and this will then be discussed at the next SMF meeting.

## INTERACT GIS - <https://interact-gis.org/>

*By Elmer Topp-Jørgensen*

48 stations are now registered in the system and there is hope that more stations will join. The INTERACT GIS will be the place to enter all information that has previously been collected in excel files.

A management organisation is established and has since autumn 2020 been looking at

- Restructuring of the system with focus on:
  - Improved GIS platform (map).
  - Station catalogue info integration and search function.
  - Simplicity and usability.
- Scientific networks and thematic maps features.
- Development of upload function for project metadata.

There is limited focus on the Application Module, but there will be looked into ways of simplifying the system and make individual station adaptations easier.

The revised structure of the INTERACT GIS website has a new front page with four headings: Stations, Research Projects, Access and About. The stations page includes a search function for scientists, where searches can be made among key information about the station location, environment, facilities and science activities. A search function for projects is already available, but page need to be populated with project information from the stations (currently only available for



three stations). Project metadata is captured by the Application Module (currently only used by two stations), but an up-load function for stations that have their own application system will soon be available, so all stations can upload project metadata (preferably at least annually). The system will include all information from the station Catalogue and Research and Monitoring Report, either as part of the search functions or in the individual station descriptions. Link to station publications will also be made available on the station description page.

The station manager workspace (where stations enter their information) has five headings: 1. Station profile, 2. Climate, landscape and the environment, 3. Facilities, 4. Science, and 5. Permissions.

All stations need to fill out information about their station according to the five new headings, and a guide and an upload tool will soon be available for station managers to enter this information (science, monitored variables at their station etc.). Much of the data is already in the system, so missing data mainly refers to the new categories. Most of the information will just be collected as 'tick boxes'.

There is no cost in using the INTERACT GIS for station managers, and it is never too late to join! Get in touch with Elmer Topp-Jørgensen ([jetj@bios.au.dk](mailto:jetj@bios.au.dk)).

## Arctic permit systems and barriers to arctic science

*By Elmer Topp-Jørgensen and Svenja Holste (APECS)*

Presentation of an 'Arctic Permit Systems' feature for the INTERACT homepage (process, contents and future efforts) <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/arctic-permit-systems/>

The inspiration to make an INTERACT overview of permit systems and barriers came from Arctic Council's Agreement on Enhancing International Scientific Cooperation that should facilitate and improve scientific research cooperation among the eight Arctic States. The agreement was ratified by all parties and entered into force in May 2018. Among the key words for the agreement is access - access to areas, infrastructure and data.

Areas covered by the agreement:

- Intellectual property and other matters.
- Entry and exit of persons, equipment, and material.
- Access to research infrastructure and facilities.
- Access to research areas.
- Access to data.
- Education, career development and training opportunities.
- Traditional and local knowledge.
- Laws, regulations, procedures, and policies.

The agreement has resulted in the implementation of a reporting system for citizens of Arctic countries, where they can report barriers to their national point of contact when experiencing bottlenecks when working in other arctic countries. There is currently no reporting system for scientists in non-Arctic states, but the agreement holder (Denmark) is looking into different options - one of these being through an arctic organisation (e.g., IASC).



Together with APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists), the SMF team has looked into what could be relevant for research stations and which topics to cover. A draft list of topics covered and country examples were made in December 2020, and after a review from country representatives, a final template was developed in January 2021.

Input was received from selected research stations in all countries and APECS refined and standardised the text. It is now available on INTERACT website and includes the following topics:

- Cross border travel.
  - People.
  - Instrumentation (import/export).
  - Samples (import/export).
  - Chemicals (import/export and use).
- Access to specific areas.
  - Protected areas.
  - Remote areas.
  - Restricted areas.
- Fieldwork and sample collection.
  - Permits to conduct research.
- Field Instrumentation.
  - Installation of equipment/instrumentation.
  - Drone use.
- Safety related permits.
  - Weapons.
  - Radio permits.
- Regional/local level permits.

Included are a Disclaimer and a report function (the pages need regular attention to prevent dead links and ensure updated information).

The experiences have shown that no country has a single entry point for Scientists, although Svalbard comes close. Additional resources are needed to coordinate efforts. Some countries have initiated internal processes following our contact.

In many cases, information and application documents are not available in English, and research stations often fill the role of advising scientists on what permits are required.

The full draft text will soon be available for comments within the INTERACT Station Managers' Forum and Forum of Arctic Research Operators (National Points of Contact), and all input and comments are welcome. By starting this process, we can push the countries and support the scientists in their needs for this information to be available. Hopefully, the document will be a help for many scientists working in the Arctic.

## [Input for future survey on barriers to arctic science](#)

*By Svenja Holste (APECS) and Josefine Lenz (APECS), Joseph Nolan (EPB) and Renuka Badhe (EPB)*

One of INTERACT's Tasks is to make a Report on Barriers to Arctic Science, based on experiences from research stations and TA users perspectives. The purpose of the survey is to collect information



on challenges to international cooperation in the Arctic as experienced by INTERACT station managers (a similar survey will also be conducted among INTERACT TA users). This information is relevant for Arctic Council's Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation. The results of the survey will be passed on by the European Polar Board to decision makers and other stakeholders.

To make a relevant survey for station managers, input from SMF on topics and questions is needed. Svenja presented the draft survey contents and requested input from SMF on the topics and questions included in the draft survey. The final survey is planned for INTERACT General Assembly in November (Workshop).

Link to 'Padlet' where input to the survey can be provided:

<https://padlet.com/svenjaholste1/o53962mag9f8vc1s>

The effort need not to take more than 10-15 minutes, and the posts are anonymous.

Deadline for input via padlet: 2 June 2011

## Station presentation: Summit station

*By Jennifer Mercer*

Summit Station is located on the middle of the Greenland Ice Sheet and is a year-round observing station. Summit Station is suited for studies of atmosphere, cryosphere, astrophysics, surface mass balance, radiation measurements, and remote sensing validation studies, etc.

The station opened in 1989 and now supports a wide range of research, including meteorology, glaciology, atmospheric chemistry and astrophysics. Summer population is up to 50 while winter crew is only 4 people.

## Pocket guide CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction in Arctic Science

*By Svenja Holste (APECS)*

Svenja introduced the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), which is an international and inter-disciplinary organization for early career researchers working in the Polar and Alpine Regions and the wider Cryosphere. The APECS council has 140 members from 43 countries. Specifically, APECS aims to create a network of polar researchers across disciplines and national boundaries to meet, share ideas and experiences, and develop new research directions and collaborations.

Together INTERACT and APECS will develop a pocket guide on how to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in arctic science. The APECS Project Group consists of 13 Council/ExCom members who will work on this until December 2021.

The guiding question will focus on travel: How to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to transportation of scientists without compromising international cooperation and career opportunities?

The overall goal of this guidebook is encouragement and creation of awareness. The pocket guide should target all scientists working in the Arctic. This includes identifying ways in which CO<sub>2</sub>



emissions from research travel to field sites can be reduced without compromising international cooperation and science efforts.

Draft content:

Introduction  
Personal Stories  
Facts about CO2 emissions  
CO2 emissions in Arctic Science  
    Calculating CO2  
    Travel  
Field trip  
Conference trip  
Day2day trip to the lab/university  
    Role of institutions and funding agencies  
Offsetting  
    Outreach (creating awareness)  
Conclusion  
Checklist

The project group welcomes ideas for best practice examples, expert contacts, etc., so please contact Svenja at [svenja.holste@apecs.is](mailto:svenja.holste@apecs.is) if you have something to contribute.

Discussion:

Suggestions to include uncertainties in the calculation of the carbon footprint.  
Compensation of CO<sub>2</sub> emission will also be included (off setting schemes).

## Discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying

*By Done Bret-Harte*

An example from Toolik Field Station - why work to promote an inclusive work environment in the field?

In a study from Clancy *et al.*, 2014 (Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE): Trainees Report Harassment and Assault), 64% of respondents reported sexual harassment in the field; 20% reported sexual assault. More women than men reported harassment and assault and it happened mostly when they were trainees (students, postdocs). This study was a wake-up call for the station and therefore they started to provide training to raise awareness about this. Everyone who comes to Toolik Field Station must now take a short, online training and answer a quiz prior to arrival about:

- General code of conduct and expectations.
- Guidelines – behaviours that violate the Code of Conduct.
- “Ask once” if a person says no, do not pursue them.

The station has not had many complaints since they started this training, and the station has both a female and a male scientific leader so people can choose who they feel most comfortable talking to.

Toolik is working to address other forms of discrimination more explicitly such as racism and bullying. Efforts are coordinating with Arctic LTER Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity Committee to develop better



resources for young scientists and improve diversity and continuing to promote a culture of respect and caring. Toolik is also participating in the URGE program (Unlearning Racism in Geoscience) - to work towards an anti-racist community at Toolik.

There is optional training for staff and researchers at Toolik using

- Hollaback! offers virtual, interactive harassment prevention & bystander intervention trainings: <https://www.ihollaback.org/>
- Green Dot Bystander Intervention: <https://cultureofrespect.org/program/green-dot-etc/>

Donie stressed that until you start looking into these things, you do not necessarily know what is going on, and you can make a difference and improve the environment at your station, even though it may be only small things.

Donie will share the quiz with the SMF community.

Discussion:

During the discussion, it was also noted that bullying can also come from far away – for example via emails.

It is good to be aware of discrimination and harassment issues on all research stations regardless of their differences (e.g. location, size of operations, etc.). But increase awareness and try to find out if this might be a problem at your research station is a start. It was noted that CEN just started to work on a Code of Conduct for its research stations and the presentation by Donie brought up some good ideas.

## Technical staff workshop – establishing a coordination team.

*By Elmer Topp-Jørgensen*

Subtask 2.0.2 will increase the mutual knowledge on station management at INTERACT stations through share-of-knowledge seminars on environmental, operational, technical and safety aspects for station managers and/or technical staff. One Milestone is a Technical Staff Workshop that is due in Month 25 (January 2022).

For the planning of the workshop a group will meet before the summer and start the process. Following people volunteered for this planning group:

Dirk Mengedoht (AWIPEV, Samaolov), Morten Rasch (Arctic Station), Scott Johnson (CHARS), Mickaël Lemay (CEN) and Wlodek Sielski (Hornsund).

The group will discuss the format of workshop, timing and location and identify potential topics to cover and start develop agenda.

The group is welcome to invite their technical staff to join in the planning of this workshop.



## Open Floor

All presentations are available on the INTERACT website.

### Ny-Ålesund Research Station - New website, Newsletter and GIS system

<https://nyalesundresearch.no/>

*By Christina Pedersen, NPI*

The website contains information about Covid, Researchers' Guide, research, infrastructure and NySMAC. Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee (NySMAC) was established to enhance cooperation and coordination among researchers and research activities in Ny-Ålesund. As a major initiative to promote international collaboration, NySMAC contributed to the development of the four Ny-Ålesund flagship programmes. The flagship programmes have regular meetings and are open to all scientists who are either actively engaged in studies in the area, or who wish to develop new insights based on monitoring and research in the area. The four flagship programmes are: Atmosphere, Glaciology, Kongsfjorden System and Terrestrial Ecosystems.

It is possible to sign up for a newsletter and follow Ny Ålesund Research Station on Facebook. Svalbard Kartet is an interactive themed atlas of Svalbard, supplemented with a rich dataset of environmental data layered on top of a detailed topographical base-map. It is available at <https://geokart.npolar.no/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=Svalbardkartet>.

It was suggested that on the next SMF meeting we could discuss different site manuals and learn from each other.

### M&M Klapa Research Station - Short movie about M&M Klapa

*By Zofia Rączkowska*

Zofia Rączkowska showed a short video of the facilities and the research conducted at the M&M Klapa Research Station . The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaH-nu-yu3U>

Everyone is encouraged to come and visit the station.

### Hornsund Research Station - Short movie about Hornsund

*By Wlodek Sielski*

Wlodek showed a video of Hornsund Polish Polar Station recorded by station staff.

### CEN Research Station Network - Update from Qaujisarvik

*By Mickaël Lemay: Qaujisarvik - CEN's Research Station Network*

There are currently nine research stations of which five are located in communities and four in remote locations. One research station offers Transnational Access (Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik Station) and nine offers Virtual Access.



Qaujisarvik is growing with two new research stations in Nunavut: Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik, terrestrial oriented research) and Qikiqtarjuaq (marine oriented research). Further one expansion/construction project is ongoing in Umiujaq (Nunavik).

Consultation and partnership with the community has contributed to the reports 'Sharing Workshop on Ecological Monitoring Summary Report', and 'Consultation on Ecological Monitoring in the North Baffin Region'. The reports are available at: <http://www.cen.ulaval.ca/bylot/en/report.php>

Question: How do you secure the long-term funding for the CEN Stations?

Answer: Long-term funding is difficult to secure but PolarKnowledge provides five years of operation in the grant. All stations are always looking for new funding.

## Wrap up of meeting / Morten Rasch

Morten Rasch thanked all participants and hereafter closed the third SMF meeting in INTERACT III.

## Appendix 2. List of participants

Name	Family name	Organisation
Angelo	Viola	CNR
Anna	Wielgopolan	"Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences"
Anne	Morgenstern	Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research
Christina A.	Pedersen	Norwegian Polar Institute
Christopher	Andrews	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Cornelya	Klutsch	NIBIO
Dan	Mercer	Iridium Communications Inc
Dirk	Mengedoht	AWI
Elke	Ludewig	Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik
Elmer	Topp-Jørgensen	Aarhus University
Erika	Hille	The Western Arctic Research Centre
Frank	Rack	
Giorgio	Resci	INKODE
Hanna Maria	Kristjansdottir	Sudurnes Science and Learning Center
Hannele	Savela	University of Oulu
Harry	Penn	The Artic Institute of North America
Hlynur	Oskarsson	Agricultural University of Iceland
Iain	Rudkin	UKRI BAS
Jan	Dick	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Jennifer	Mercer	NSF
Jens	Haga	
Jonny	Day	ECMWF
Josef	Elster	University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Faculty of Science, Centre for Polar Ecology
Josefine	Lenz	APECS
Joseph	Nolan	European Polar Board
Jørgen	Skaftø	Aarhus University
Katharina	Beckmann	Lund University
Katrine	Raundrup	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
Kim	Lindgren	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Krzysztof	Rymer	AMU
Leena	Leppänen	Finland Meteorological Institute
Lis	Mortensen	FINI
Luisella	Bianco	4PM
Magnus	Augner	
Margareta	Johansson	Lund University
Maria	Erman	AFRY
Marie Frost	Arndal	Aarhus University

Markus	Skogsmo	AFRY
Martin	Breum	Martin Breum
Matthew	Ayre	KLRS
Maurizio	Azzaro	The Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
Mauro	Mazzola	The Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
Melissa	Nacke	AECO
Mickaël	Lemay	UNIVERSITE LAVAL
Morten	Rasch	University of Copenhagen
Nick	Cox	UKRI (British Antarctic Survey)
Nicole	Biebow	Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research
Nicoletta	Ademollo	
Niklas	Labba	JNL
Olga	Morozova	Tomsk State University
Otso	Suominen	University of Turku
Pedro	Rodrigues	
Piotr	Glowacki	Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Rainer	Prinz	University of Innsbruck
Renuka	Badhe	European Polar Board
Scott	Johnson	
Simon	Wilson	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat
Svenja	Holste	APECS
Syndonia	Bret-Harte	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Torben R.	Christensen	Aarhus University
Wlodek	Sielski	Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Zofia	Rączkowska	Polish Academy of Sciences - geography Dept
		Arctic Lab Yamal