

Minutes

Daily Management Group Meeting

17 January 2024

Attendees: Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Terry Callaghan, Margareta Johansson, Katharina Beckmann, Morten Rasch, Kirsi Latola, Hannele Savela, Luisella Bianco.

INTERACT 3 Second Periodic Report Payments

The payments from the second reporting period have been transferred to the coordinator and we have started to collect banking info and make payments to the partners that do not offer TA. The payments to the partners that offer TA will be made when we have the TA decisions to ensure that the partners that have spent the money are actually the ones who will receive the funds (considering the TA Pool).

INTERACT 3 PR2 recommendations

In the review report of our second reporting period, there is a section on recommendations for the remaining project period. We went through this list and made notes to each of the comments, partly to see if any actions needed to be taken and also to prepare for the final reporting where we should include information about how we have responded to the reviewers' recommendations from the last reporting period. Overall, we had already responded to the reviewers' comments but we need to be even more detailed in our next periodic report to ensure that we communicate what we have done. Two action points arose from the discussions:

- Find out more about ESFRI EIRENE
- Arrange a WP meeting among the ongoing WPs (WP 1, 2, 3, 5, 8) in the spring

TA Applications in numbers

We have received 94 proposals to 32 stations for field work in summer 2024. This corresponds to 3,844 days and 867,500 Euros in travel costs. 2 million Euros has been applied for in total. The TA applications are currently under review and the TA Board will meet in mid-February in Copenhagen to discuss all proposals and make recommendations. By mid-March, the access decisions will be made by the station managers. Based on previous statistics, most likely around 50 projects will be supported.

INPA

Update from Action Groups

Vanessa will be offered a position as a Project Manager in INPA rather than a Junior project manager (which is her current position) due to her leading role in the TA Action group. The Education action

group has met. An outreach activity shared between INTERACT and INPA is the upcoming snow festival in Kiruna, where we have an event planned together with Niklas Labba and Kiruna Lappland. For this event, we are working on the Swedish subtitles for “The Changing Global Arctic”. Subtitles in other languages such as Danish, Greenlandic, Russian, and Polish will follow when the group will have time to prepare these. A suggestion was to prepare educational toolkits for the movies and brochures that will be used this year. Educational material for future donors is also something to work on. The Fundraising group will meet on the 7th February at 13.00.

Web site

The web site is developing rapidly due to Vanessa’s and Katharina’s hard work. We expect to launch the new web site interactassociation.org in the coming months.

New proposals

The new funding opportunity in collaboration with CBMP that was reported at the last DMG meeting did not come through as there were some partners lacking in the consortium. However, there is another funding opportunity that we intend to apply for. It is a smaller grant, only covering international workshops, 75,000 euros each year. Individual Arctic countries are applying. The grant is about the development of how biodiversity assessments can be co-produced. Terry and Elmer have worked on project ideas and will share this with the INPA Fundraising group at the next meeting.

Special issue in Arctic Science

There is an opportunity for INTERACT stations to contribute to a special issue in “Arctic Science” on long-term vertebrate monitoring sites in the Arctic. This project has been initiated to capture the knowledge before some specialists are retiring. Sometimes it is the local authorities that are monitoring the vertebrates. It is not always the responsibility of the stations. But we could contact the stations and just find out who would be interested to join.

How do we make INPA visible in this? We will be mentioned in the special issue. We only need to send out an email to ask if the stations are on board.

- Elmer will contact the initiator and explore further how INTERACT/INPA could possibly contribute to this special issue.

INTERACT meetings

General Assembly 5-7 November

We have submitted an application to the Abisko Station and we have received a preliminary confirmation from them. However, they mentioned that there might be some issues as we are now such a large group but we will await their final decision next month.

- Katharina will keep us posted when she hears something.

Upcoming DMG Meetings

We discussed if we were to hold a physical DMG meeting in May in Italy. However, as we are not sure how much funds are left we concluded to stick to online meetings for DMG to save money. Next meeting is on the 28th February 13-15 CET.

- Katharina will send out invitations

7. External Meetings

ASSW/AOS

INTERACT has a session “How well do we understand change throughout the Arctic and what impact is the war in Ukraine having on this?” on Monday 25th of March 16:00-17:30. We need to plan our session. In addition to the session, INTERACT will have a booth during the whole period.

- Katharina will send material to Edinburgh for the booth
- Elmer will start to work on the detailed programme for the session.

Arctic Congress

We have an abstract invitation. It was decided that INTERACT will submit an abstract to the conference.

- Elmer will write the abstract and Kirsi will give the talk.

European Polar Science Week

This is the Arctic event of the year and INTERACT should contribute to this. It will be held 3-6 September in Copenhagen. We could launch our new publications.

- Katharina will find out/contact them regarding deadlines.

Arctic Circle

As session proposal deadline is 1 May we will get back to this in the coming DMG meetings.

Misc.

Paper on TA

Anastasia has analyzed several projects regarding ICARP and scientific keywords. The same vocabulary is used for the Data Portal. Challenges related to logistics, funding etc. have been mapped. The TA survey has been launched. We have only received 20 responses so far, but hopefully more responses now with the second round. We intend to have all answers in March.

INTERACT in ICARP IV

Hannele, Elmer, Morten and Marie are participating in ICARP IV research infrastructure priority team. The meeting is on the 27th and 28th March. The results of the INTERACT ICARP survey are trickling in. How do we provide IASC with this?

Publication in Nature Climate Change

Aarhus University has prepared a press release for the paper in Nature Climate Change. We could also make a press release. We should prepare links to different releases on our social media as this paper will be a big thing. The title is: "Towards an increasingly biased view on Arctic change". How representative are the research stations for the Arctic and concluding that something is missing. It shows how the monitoring capacity clearly decreases without the Russian stations. There is an embargo on the press release until 22 January 11.00 CET.

- Katharina prepares the day before (Talk to Elmer and Morten) – publish on the 23rd. Use the press release as inspiration, add a nice quote from Terry and run it by Elmer and Morten first. Send it to IASC, EPB, Polar Cluster, EU officer.

Online Station Managers' Forum in the spring

It was discussed if we should arrange an online SMF meeting in the spring. We will get back to this question at the upcoming DMG meetings.