



INTERACT III NEWSLETTER #1 MAY 2020

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## **INTERACT III Kick-off meeting**

The kick-off meeting was held in southern Sweden 3-4 February back to back with a Station Managers' Forum for INTERACT II and III. The minutes from the meeting are available at the [INTERACT website](#).





## First TA Call for INTERACT III

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In March, INTERACT III had its very first TA call open for new stations in the network. The stations involved were: Adam Mickiewicz University Polar Station “Petuniabukta” (AMUPS), Arctic Research Station (ARS), Barrow Arctic Research Center (BARC), Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC), International Ecological–Educational Center “Istomino” (ISTOMINO), Lammin-Suo Peatland Station (LAMMIN-SUO), North-East Science Station (NESS), DMI Geophysical Observatory Qaanaaq (QAANAQ), and Uapishka Research Station (UAPISHKA).

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all TA visits in this call has been postponed until 2021. The next call for Trans-National and Remote Access will open in August-September. Stay tuned by following us at [eu-interact.org](http://eu-interact.org), on [Facebook \(EU-Interact\)](#) [Instagram \(@eu\\_interact\)](#), and apply for INTERACT Trans-National Access to conduct research at the coolest places of the North!

## Arctic Week 2019

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INTERACT was presented within “Arctic Week 2019”, where the idea is to create synergies between social and environmental scientists and between scientists and Arctic Indigenous Peoples while also engaging students and youth in these projects. The key lecture at the Opening Session by Terry Callaghan summarized and shared the fundamental INTERACT idea of collaboration in science and in policy-making. Anders Oskal, who has been the WP 9 coordinator in INTERACT II, also gave a presentation at the Opening Session.

Olga M. Shadyko presented the case-study (a collaboration between INTERACT and SecNet) on the western Siberian Kajbasovo Station “Changing land use and global warming as drivers of environmental change in the Siberian taiga: adapting forestry, hunting and fishing, and agriculture”.





## INTERACT at Greenland Science Week

INTERACT was represented at the Greenland Science Week in Nuuk, Greenland from 1 to 5 December 2019. Greenland Science Week is a multidisciplinary Greenlandic Arctic science conference surrounded by research-related workshops and public outreach. INTERACT participated with a presentation about INTERACT, participation as panelist in a panel discussion on international cooperation and with a booth mainly focusing on the INTERACT Fieldwork Planning Handbook and the INTERACT Practical Field Guide.

## Great interest in INTERACT book photo competition

The interest for participating in the photo competition for an INTERACT coffee table book has been quite overwhelming. A total of 780 pictures from a total of 90 photographers have been received.



## INTERACT Webinars

INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science and Stations take place every Tuesday at 14-15 CEST until Tuesday June 30th. Each webinar consists of two 30 min popular science presentations in English, highlighting terrestrial research stations throughout the Arctic and the excellent science done at them with support from INTERACT Trans-National Access.

The link to the webinar is always <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/793501200>

## Data from INTERACT research stations supports snow model development at ECMWF

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Currently, most operational weather prediction centres, including the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) use snow schemes comprising of a single-layer. This, however, may lead to errors in the simulation of snow depth and cover. A state-of-the-art multi-layer snow scheme has been implemented in an experimental version of the ECMWF's forecasting system as part of ECMWF's contribution to the WMO's Year of Polar Prediction ([YOPP](#)) and the H2020 [APPLICATE](#) project. Data from Sodankylä (Finland) and Summit (Greenland) has been used for evaluation and further use of INTERACT station data to identify sources of forecast error is planned by ECMWF for INTERACT III. More info can be found on the [ECMWF science blog](#).



**ECMWF**  
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MEDIUM RANGE WEATHER FORECASTS



## Impacts of tourism

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WP 9 focuses on increasing benefits and reducing impacts from Arctic tourism. The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) aims to enhance the education of tour operators and tourists on the Arctic environment, its ecosystems and peoples, and hopes to work with Field Station Managers and local partners to develop guidelines for tourism at field stations. Labba siida (LS) will work together with local- and indigenous communities in Scandinavia to identify the impacts that arctic nature-based tourism activities have on local and indigenous communities and their livelihoods.

**news from the stations**



## Mukhrino field station - ARCTIS

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The Mukhrino field station and Yugra State University has become a platform for holding the interdisciplinary field course in the Russian Arctic "Arctic Interdisciplinary Studies – ARCTIS". The program of the course included lectures and field training around the main scientific pillars of the Arctic science: atmosphere, cryology, hydrology, terrestrial ecosystems and sociology and human. Two groups each of 25 participants were staying in the Mukhrino winter house for 2 days, having lectures and field excursions. Communication between participants and building scientific cooperation was especially nice during the time in cosy snowed station's atmosphere. More information about the course is available here: [mukhrinostation.com/projects/arctis-2020/](http://mukhrinostation.com/projects/arctis-2020/)



## New facilities at Kluane Lake Research Station

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As part of the 2020 University of Calgary budget, the Kluane Lake Research Station has been awarded funding to dramatically update and increase the capacity of both its wet and dry laboratory facilities. Updates are to include new incubators, drying ovens, and microscopes and the addition of a minus-80 freezer, centrifuges, controlled environmental chambers and plant growth chambers. This new equipment alongside improvements to the building heating and water systems, will enhance the biological, wildlife, atmospheric and environmental research that is ongoing at KLRS and increase our ability to support researchers and the INTERACT TA and RA programs. Please contact the Kluane Lake Research Station if you would like more information about our laboratory facilities and how they could support your research in the Yukon.

## Workshops at MM Kłapa Station

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At the MM Kłapa Station located in the Tatras at Hala Gąsienicowa Meadow (1520 m asl) this year, in addition to standard meteorological measurements, ground surface temperature measurements are also carried out in post-glacial cirques. An almost 100-year measurement series is also under development regarding the thickness of the snow cover and the number of days with snow cover. The results indicate that the average thickness of the snow cover decreased by about 10 cm, and the number of days with snow cover decreased by about 10 days.

Various types of workshops were conducted at the Station. Workshops on „Snow cover research and winter safety” were held for students of Polar and Mountain Exploration in January 2020.



## Modernisation of Arctic Station

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Arctic Station in Greenland is planning a modernisation of the station, to start in the beginning of September 2020. The station capacity will be increased from 26 beds to a little less than 40 beds, and the accommodation and laboratory facilities will be modernized. It is the plan to keep the station closed for guests during the construction work, i.e. from 1 September 2020 to c. 1. May 2021.

## International Ecological Educational Center Istomino offers Transnational access

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For the first time, the International Ecological Educational Center Istomino offers Transnational access within the INTERACT network. For its 20-year history Istomino has welcomed more than



3000 people in the framework of scientific expeditions, conferences and ecological summer schools. The station is located on the shores of Lake Baikal – the deepest lake in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lake Baikal and the surrounding territories attract researchers in the fields of geology, geophysics, atmospheric science, plant science, dendrochronology, ecology, etc. You are welcome to conduct your research on the shores of Lake Baikal!



## New facilities at Abisko Scientific Research Station

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During the winter we replaced one of the three houses in Latnjajaure. This is the most popular of our “outstations” and has been a home of ITEX (International Tundra Experiment) for more than 30 years. The old building was slowly, but surely on its way down into the lake. Besides remediating that problem, the new house will allow a more flexible use of the facilities at Latnjajaure.

## Czech Arctic Research Station

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Czech Arctic Research Station in Svalbard will not be able to operate in full this scientific season. Payer House in Longyearbyen will be open without limitations from June and research boat Clione will start operating at the end of the June. However, the Nostoc field station is likely to remain closed.

Both Svalbard and the Czech Republic are currently restricting the travel (April 2020). Therefore, our logistic team is performing maintenance, planning and preparing improvements for greater convenience at our station. We are completing a website ([cars.prf.jcu.cz](http://cars.prf.jcu.cz)) where you can find all the information about our station. We hope that these restrictions will be lifted soon and we will meet in good health at our station in Svalbard.





## Samoylov: Expedition crisis-management in times of global quarantine

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Since 1998 the research station on Samoylov Island in the Lena River Delta serves as a base for the yearly Russian-German Expedition LENA. By the middle of March, it became clear that the cancellation of the spring expedition to the Samoylov station is unavoidable. Two INTERACT TA projects were approved for their participation in the expedition Lena 2020, but will be carried out next year instead. The absence of the expedition this year provides however an opportunity to improve some long standing shortcomings of the station's facilities. There are also long-term monitoring sites on Samoylov Island which provide rare and invaluable meteorological and permafrost data on a regular basis and this year the Samoylov station staff who live there permanently and sustain the life of the station year-round will carry out these tasks.

## Svartberget Research Station & Swedish Agricultural University

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Recently, the unit for field-based forest research at SLU in collaboration with the Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen) launched a new version of Silvaboreal, a database containing metadata on most of the forestry field trials in Sweden. Currently, almost 4000 trials are registered in the database. The purpose is to increase availability of the information that exists from a broad range of research projects within forestry in Sweden, as well as to increase cooperation between researchers. Researchers can publish data from their trials directly on Silvaboreal, to either be available to the public or only to authenticated users.







## Arctic DTU Research Station

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The activities at Arctic DTU Research Station, Sisimiut is greatly influenced by the close down of the Greenlandic borders due to the corona virus. All international research groups have been forced to postpone their fieldwork. Further, the close down does not only apply to the research itself but also a planned visit of the Danish Minister for Higher Education and Science at the station. A few experiments will be carried out as planned by researches who have chosen to stay in Sisimiut during the close down.

## Research update from WARC

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In the summer of 2019, several long-term monitoring sites were instrumented with ground temperature loggers, taking advantage of the climatic gradient between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. To increase capacity for permafrost monitoring in the region, an observational permafrost monitoring template is being developed. This template will allow Indigenous, academic, and government partners to collect standardized permafrost data throughout the year.



## New stations in the network

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Two more stations have joined INTERACT: [Arctic DTU Research Station](#) in Greenland and [Nicolaus Copernicus University Polar Station](#) on Svalbard. More information about the stations in the INTERACT network can be found at [eu-interact.org/field-sites/](http://eu-interact.org/field-sites/)

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