

# AMAP/EU-PolarNet Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs on Arctic Biology and Terrestrial Ecosystems

Rovaniemi, Finland, 12 October 2018

## Background

The Arctic Council Working Group the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the EU Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action EU-PolarNet will co-convene a Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs on Arctic Biology and Terrestrial Ecosystems in association with the Second Arctic Biodiversity Congress in Rovaniemi, Finland. AMAP has coordinated monitoring and assessment activities in the Arctic for over 25 years and EU-PolarNet is a five-year project with the ultimate objective of developing an Integrated European Polar Research Programme (including also the Antarctic) together with an implementation plan based on extensive consultations with scientists, governments, businesses and other relevant stakeholders.

AMAP, as a partner in EU-PolarNet, is responsible for promoting trans-Atlantic research activities between EU countries and the USA and Canada and, as one aspect of this, to hold stakeholder workshops to determine common research needs that can be provided as input to the central EU-PolarNet requirement of developing an Integrated European Polar Research Programme together with an implementation plan. An important aspect of EU-PolarNet is 'connecting science with society', under which dialogue and cooperation with relevant Arctic stakeholders will ensure their input to the formulation of this research programme. One of AMAP's roles in this project is to organize four annual stakeholder workshops to identify and formulate key Arctic research needs. The fourth and final workshop will be held on 12 October 2018 in Rovaniemi, Finland in association with the Arctic Biodiversity Congress. The central theme of this workshop is research needs for a better understanding of Arctic biology and terrestrial ecosystems and the factors that influence their functioning, including the many human uses of this area, in the light of the various changes occurring in the Arctic associated with climate change. The workshop will follow on the day after the Arctic Biodiversity Congress to be able to draw from the information and ideas presented at the Congress as a background for further discussion and identification of relevant research needs and ideas.

There are many challenges affecting Arctic biology and terrestrial ecosystems, from the rapidly changing climate to the increase in human activities. These challenges have been addressed in three Arctic regions in the recently completed Arctic Council project Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA). However, opportunities are also arising as the Arctic is opening up to new activities. Papers will cover such topics as:

- Arctic terrestrial ecosystems and their living resources, including reindeer and other subsistence animals and plants, and their vulnerability to increased human activities and climate change;
- Arctic freshwater and coastal ecosystem changes and impacts on biota;
- The influence of ongoing changes in the cryosphere on Arctic species composition and diversity and on terrestrial ecosystems; feedbacks from ecosystem changes that affect the climate system;
- Influence of climate-related changes in phenology on Arctic flora and fauna and reproduction;
- Influence of human activities (for example, mining, oil and gas extraction, tourism) on Arctic ecosystems.

In addition to the presentation of the results of research, papers will lead into an identification of gaps in knowledge that need to be explored or related new issues that require research.

## Format of the event

The AMAP/EU-PolarNet Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs on Arctic Biology and Terrestrial Ecosystems stakeholder workshop will be a half-day event held on the morning of Friday, 12 October, near the end of the Arctic Biodiversity Congress. The aim is to attract participants representing not only scientists and the research community but also various other stakeholders with interests associated with Arctic ecosystem services, including Indigenous and local communities, mining and other industries, and tourism.

The agenda for the stakeholder workshop is attached.

The workshop will be held at:

Santa's Hotel Santa Claus, in meeting rooms 'Poro' and 'Riekko'  
Korkalonkatu 29  
FI-96200 Rovaniemi  
<http://www.santashotels.fi/en/hotelsantaclaus>

There is no fee to attend this workshop, but registration is requested to reserve a place at the workshop and receive the report when it is ready. Please send your registration to: [amap@amap.no](mailto:amap@amap.no) or to [jpawlak@dahm.dk](mailto:jpawlak@dahm.dk)

Further information on this event may be obtained from:

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Co-Chairs: Nicole Biebow (Germany), Joseph Culp (Canada), Willem Goedkoop (Sweden)

Time	
	<b>Opening and welcome</b> <i>Rolf Rødven, AMAP Executive Secretary</i>
8:30 – 8:50	<b>Context of the workshop: Research needs for EU-PolarNet work</b> <i>Nicole Biebow, AWI, Project Manager EU-PolarNet</i>
	<b>Aims and outcome of the workshop</b> <i>Janet Pawlak, AMAP Secretariat – Rapporteur</i>
	<b>Summary of research needs on terrestrial ecosystems and climate-related ecosystem changes from the Arctic Biodiversity Congress</b> <i>Eefje de Goede, Leiden University, The Netherlands</i>
8:50 – 10:10	<b>Research needs on terrestrial ecosystems and their living resources; impact of climate change</b> <i>Eeva Soininen, University of Tromsø, Norway</i>
	<b>Research needs on Arctic biology and biodiversity</b> <i>Helen Wheeler, Anglia Ruskin University, UK</i>
	<b>Research challenges in Sápmi in the light of climate change and cumulative effects</b> <i>Katarina Inga, Saami Council</i>
	<b>Discussion</b>
10:10 – 10:40	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<b>Summary of research needs on Arctic biology/biodiversity and freshwater ecosystems from the Arctic Biodiversity Congress</b> <i>Joseph Culp, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>
10:40 – 11:50	<b>Research needs on Arctic freshwater systems and freshwater biology; impact of climate change</b> <i>Willem Goedkoop, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences</i>
	<b>Research needs on ecological consequences of a climate driven fragmentation of arctic species communities</b> <i>Fredrk Dalerum, University of Oviedo, Spain,</i>
	<b>Discussion</b>
11:50 – 12:40	<b>Panel discussion – Research needs for Arctic biology and ecosystems</b>
12:40 – 13:00	<b>Final remarks and closing of meeting</b>