



EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD

Photo: Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research



Dr R BADHE, Executive Secretary, EPB

ASSW 2019, Arkhangelsk



Background

Formed in 1995 as a strategic advisory body to European Science Foundation. Became independent legal entity hosted by NWO in Den Haag since January 2015

EPB is a Dutch legal entity and an “Organisation for Public Benefit”





Strengths

- **Bipolar vision** - Arctic and Antarctic - 27 Member Organisations from 19 countries
- **Composite and comprehensive membership**, including both research and infrastructure organisations - a mix of scientific competence and management skill
- Actions to support scientific cooperation, networking of polar facilities and field operations





EPB Action Groups – some examples

Action Group on Environmental Impact of Polar Research and Logistics

To develop practical guidelines for the EPB Members to minimise the environmental impact of their polar research and logistics activities, including both terrestrial and marine activities, in collaboration with partner organisations

Action Group on Polar Infrastructure

Oversee the transfer and further maintenance the EU-PolarNet Polar Infrastructures Catalogue/Database





Minimising plastic use and waste in polar research and logistics

EPB's work so far includes:

- First workshop at POLAR2018
- Arctic Circle breakout session
- Establishment of EPB Action Group
- Next steps



Workshop at Polar2018

POLAR2018 workshop
Davos, June 2018

*“Minimising plastic use
and waste in polar
research and logistics”*



Invitees: EPB Members, national programme and logistics managers, scientists, operators





Workshop breakout groups

- Logistics (Packing, biosecurity, transport, etc.)
- Scientific equipment and consumables (Lab and field)
- Field equipment (Clothing, camping gear, food, safety, etc.)
- Domestic (Catering, cleaning, medical, personal, etc.)





Workshop statement

Workshop statement, and detailed report available at www.europeanpolarboard.org



**Statement from the European Polar Board
workshop "Minimising plastic use and waste in
polar research and logistics"**

16th June 2018, POLAR2018, Davos, Switzerland



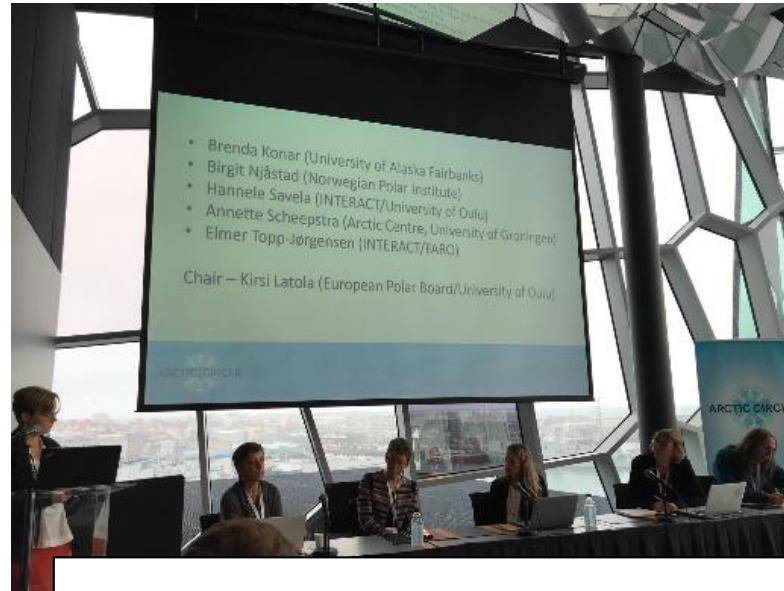
Minimising the footprint of Arctic Research

Joint EPB-INTERACT session at Arctic Circle Assembly 2018, Reykjavik

Environmental impacts, including plastics, and social impacts

Antarctic experience in Arctic context

Report available:
www.europeanpolarboard.org




INTER \neq ACT




INTER \neq ACT

Minimising the footprint of Arctic research

Arctic Circle Assembly 2018 Breakout session co-convened by the European Polar Board (EPB) and INTERACT

Sunday 21st October, Reykjavik, Iceland



Minimising the footprint of Arctic Research



Recommendations from panellists:

- Improve sharing of information, experience and best practices for infrastructure and research management, including between poles
- Better open sharing of data and observations – avoid duplications
- Minimise field presence with new technology, remote and virtual access, and preparation
- Work to increase efficiency of all research activity and operations
- Combine environmental and social impact assessments



Minimising the footprint of Arctic Research



Recommendations from panellists:

- Improved communication, trust-building and engagement with local communities at all stages of research process
- Bottom-up and top-down approaches to managing impacts
- Strengthened communication between polar research and logistics communities, better use existing capacity, develop standards
- Require environmental/social pre-assessments for all Arctic field campaigns as standard, as in Antarctica



EPB Action Group

Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research and Logistics

- Established at EPB Autumn Plenary Meeting in November 2018
- Developing best practice guidelines for EPB Members and others
- Cooperating with partner organisations
- Action Group to include EPB Plenary members and invited experts





Next steps

- Action Group will build on outcomes of workshops and sessions
- Developing best practice guidelines for programme managers, operators, infrastructure managers, scientists, technicians and experts
- Initiative focused on all environmental impacts of polar research and logistics – not only plastics
- Collaboration with partner organisations [including INTERACT, FARO, COMNAP]





Thank you

For further information

Website, join our mailing list:

www.europeanpolarboard.org





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