

## IASC ASSW2023

### UK activities in international funding and networking 2022-2023 – a summary for the Terrestrial Working Group

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#### Overview

- The UK has seen new international initiatives established;
- A 2023 UK Arctic Science conference is planned for September;
- UKRI(NERC)-funded arctic research currently supports seven terrestrial projects;
- UKPN, the ECR network aligned with APECS is growing and continues to be active;
- UK-Russia science interactions are suspended.

**New UKRI-Research Council of Norway collaboration agreement:** UK Research and Innovation and Research Council of Norway (RCN) have signed a new 'Money Follows Cooperation' agreement to reduce barriers to cross-border collaboration. This agreement enables Norway co-investigators to be included in UK-led applications and to receive funding from the participating UKRI Councils. The same approach will apply for UK-based researchers within RCN-funded programmes. [https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/collaborate-with-researchers-in-norway/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/collaborate-with-researchers-in-norway/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

**Canada – Inuit Nunangat – United Kingdom Arctic Research Programme – announcement of successful projects (2022):** Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR), National Research Council of Canada (NRC), Parks Canada (PARKS), and the Fonds de Recherche du Quebec (FRQ) have announced the 13 successful projects funded under the Canada-Inuit Nunangat-United Kingdom Arctic Research Programme 2021 – 2025 (CINUK). The CINUK Programme aims to increase understanding of and address the environmental, social, economic, cultural and engineering/infrastructure impacts of climate change in the Canadian Arctic. Further details of the full list of projects and associated investigators can be found here: <https://www.arctic.ac.uk/research/canada-inuit-nunangat-united-kingdom-arctic-research-programme-2021-2025-cinuk/>

#### Conferences

**UK Arctic Science Conference 2022:** This was organised and run by Bob Baxter, Durham University on 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and was attended by ca. 80 delegates in-person, both UK and international. The meeting was postponed for a year due to Covid-19.

**The Next UK Arctic Science Conference 2023:** This normally biennial meeting will be next held on September 11 [start 12:00 pm] to September 13 [end 1:00 pm]. Venue: Aurora Cambridge, High Cross, Maddingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET. <https://www.bas.ac.uk/event/uk-arctic-science-conference-2023/>

#### Current NERC-funded research

##### Roundup of relevant recent awards from United Kingdom Research and Innovation:

- Climate change impacts on global wildfire ignitions by lightning and the safe management of landscape fuels (2022-27): Dr MW Jones, University of East Anglia, Environmental Sciences.
- TundraTime: Plant phenology change as a driver of Arctic greening trends (2022-2026): Prof. I Myers Smith, Edinburgh, Geosciences.
- NI: CONFLUENCE - Disentangling the role of rivers as greenhouse gas conduits (2022-2023): Dr J F Dean, University of Bristol, Geographical Sciences.
- NSFGEO-NERC Collaborative Research: Environmental change and impacts on prehistoric human colonization of Peary Land, northernmost Greenland (2022-2026): Professor D Hodgson, NERC British Antarctic Survey, Science Programmes.

- Nuna: Effective mitigation and adaptation to changing ground conditions for resilient coastal futures (2022-2025): Professor M Lim, Northumbria University, Faculty of Engineering and Environment.
- Renewable Energy Microgrid Integration for Remote, Off-grid Cabins in Nunavut (2022-2025): Mr C Johnstone, University of Strathclyde, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.
- High throughput simultaneous tracking of seabirds to elucidate the environmental drivers of intraspecific competition (2023-2024): Dr S Patrick, University of Liverpool, Earth, Ocean and Ecological Sciences.

#### **Earth-observation initiative**

- UK EO Climate Information Service (UKEO-CIS) (2023-2025; £7.7 M): The project will establish a UK Earth-observation Climate Information Service (UKEO CIS), which will efficiently measure the environment from space in a timely manner, improve the quality of the data being generated, and bring data together to make these as accessible as possible to all users. Most of the climate data will be global, but there is some focus on regions of critical interest for the UK, including the Arctic.

#### **Other activities**

**Oxford University Polar Forum Arctic Horizon Scan 2022:** This group recently held the Arctic Horizon Scan 2022 Workshop in Oxford. Motivated by the urgency of Arctic change, the workshop brought over 100 delegates together—online and in-person—to determine research priorities for the Arctic that will help research meet the needs of the future. A publication is anticipated. <https://www.polar.ox.ac.uk/horizon/>

#### **UKPN (UK Polar Network)**

A new committee of the UKPN was formed for the 2021/2022 academic year, including 38 early career volunteers from across the UK, this is the biggest committee in the UKPN's history. A large and successful project has been run in conjunction with APECS: Arctic Science Priorities (ASPP). This was a webinar series aimed at developing UK-Russia early-career researchers' collaborations for future sustainability 2021-2022.

- Six webinars were held in total, to take place on the final Thursday of each month (except March, which took place on the first Thursday of that month).
- Each webinar involved a discussion and/or presentations on the various challenges faced by UK-Russia scientific collaborations and how to tackle them.
- Each webinar was a live event in both English and Russian languages and was also recorded and available on YouTube to view later.
- Collaboration has been suspended due to the current situation.

Other scientific cooperation programmes have also been halted, for example, the UK-Russia group DIMA (terrestrial palaeoecology).

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