

**11th UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership (UKAAP) Steering Committee
Meeting**

Monday 9th December 2019, 1045 to 1500

Room: Aurora Conference Room, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge

Minutes

Participants:

Professor Martin Siegert, Grantham Institute, Imperial College London (Chair) (MS)
Professor Vivienne Jones, University College London (Deputy Chair) (VJ)
Dr Elizabeth Bagshaw, Cardiff University (EB)
Henry Burgess, Head, NERC Arctic Office (HB)
Dr Richard Essery, Edinburgh University (RE)
Vicky Fowler, BAS (UKPN Representative) (VF)
Dr Kate Hendry, Bristol University (KH)
Dr Anne Jungblut, Natural History Museum (AJ)
Dr Erin McClymont, Durham University (EM)
Dr Ingrid Medby, Oxford Brookes University (IM)
Nicola Munro, NERC Arctic Office (UKAAP SC Secretary) (NM)
Professor Gareth Phoenix, University of Sheffield (GP)
Dr Richard Powell, Scott Polar Research Institute (RP)
Jane Rumble, Polar Regions Department (JR)
Jessica Surma, NERC (JS)
Dr Geraint Tarling, BAS (GT)

Apologies:

Professor Sheldon Bacon, NOC
Professor Mike Bentley, Durham
Professor Andrew Brierley, St Andrews
Professor Ian Brooks, Leeds University
Dr Helen Beadman, NERC Representative
Professor Finlo Cottier, SAMS
Dr Duncan Depledge, Loughborough University
Stuart Doubleday, Polar Regions Department
Professor Jane Francis, BAS
Dr Richard Hodgkins, Loughborough University
Professor David Pearce, University of Northumbria
Dr Jennifer Pike, University of Cardiff
Dr Clare Robinson, University of Manchester
Professor David Thomas, Bangor University
Professor David Vaughan, BAS (DGV)
Hannah Wauchope, Cambridge University

1. Welcome and Introductions (PW)

Martin Siegert was elected as new Chair of the UKAAP Steering Committee at the start of the meeting, Viv Jones will continue as Deputy Chair. Apologies from those unable to attend the meeting were noted.

2. Review of Minutes and Actions from SC10 meeting in June 2019 (Papers: UKAAP 11/01)

Review of Minutes from UKAAP 10 (UKAAP 11/01):

MS presented the minutes from the last meeting. No further comments were made and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the tenth meeting of the UKAAP SC. These will now be posted on the UKAAP website.

Review of Actions from UKAAP 10 (UKAAP 11/01):

MS reviewed the actions from UKAAP 10 and noted the following:

- *UKAAP article for Planet Earth*: this is still in progress. **ACTION: HB to discuss further with DGV**
- *List of key stakeholders*: this will be addressed later in this meeting

3. Update from UKAAP Horizon Scanning Session at UK Arctic Science Conference (V. Jones) and discussion on next steps (All). (Paper: UKAAP 11/02)

There was a dedicated UKAAP session during the UK Arctic Science Conference in September 2019 with the aim of identifying what the UK community think are the priorities for Arctic science in the next five to ten years. This horizon scanning exercise included five breakout sessions:

- Priorities for Arctic Terrestrial Research
- Priorities for Arctic Research in the Oceans
- Priorities for Arctic Research in Social Sciences
- Priorities for the Cryosphere
- Priorities for Atmospheric Science

Those unable to attend the meeting were encouraged to use an online 'pin board' to engage in the process. All comments from the meeting and from the boards were collated to form a draft document (see UKAAP 11/02). The Committee agreed that the wider UK Arctic Community should have a further opportunity to comment and a reminder should be circulated via the Arctic Office mailing list.

ACTION: NM to post on UKAAP website and circulate a message to the Arctic Office mailing list, seeking input from the community. Deadline for input: 31 January 2020.

Following a discussion on how this document could then be used moving forward, the Committee agreed that the next step would be to produce a short report similar to the Policy Briefing reports that have been produced by the Grantham Institute (for example: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/grantham-institute/public/publications/briefing-papers/The-Antarctic-Peninsula-under-a-1.5C-global-warming-scenario-.pdf>) JR from the FCO agreed to fund publication of this document and to provide some travel money for people to meet to bring this together. JR also agreed to put this on the agenda at the upcoming Cross Whitehall meeting in January 2020 and to pass any further comments to MS and VJ.

ACTION: Working group (M. Siegert, V. Jones, A. Jungblut, I. Medby and K. Hendry) to finalise the report. This should be completed by summer 2020 and could be used at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2020. Group to meet once all the comments have been submitted to review (February/March 2020).

The Committee also agreed to have a longer document that could then be published as an EOS workshop report.

There was also a discussion about planning for the next Arctic Conference in 2021. HB reported that there had been two offers put forward from Durham University and Exeter University. It was agreed that the offer from Durham should be accepted for 2021 and the 2023 Conference should go to Exeter University.

ACTION: Arctic Office to follow up with Durham and Exeter regarding the decision taken by the UKAAP SC.

The next Antarctic Conference will take place 3 – 5 September 2020 at University of Edinburgh.

4. Update/Discussion focussed on new polar ship science planning (H. Burgess)

H. Burgess gave a quick update: Despite a delay to the schedule, the SDA will be ready soon to carry out trials. The Ship Planning Group is currently reviewing ideas from the Community regarding the use of the SDA in the Arctic, including ideas raised at the UKAAP session at the UK Arctic Conference in Loughborough. Any further ideas should be sent to DGV as main point of contact in the first instance and he can feed these through to the Planning Group.

Further to this, it was agreed that key members should look at submitting a proposal to the UKRI SPF process for the use of the SDA in the Arctic. **ACTION: MS to reignite conversation with colleagues at NOC regarding a proposal to the SPF.**

5. Changing Central Arctic Ocean Policy Proposal (Kate Hendry) (Paper: UKAAP 11/03)

KH was successful with a funding application to PolicyBristol to work with the UK Arctic Office on producing a document on the Central Arctic Ocean. The aim of this was to do a comprehensive overview of past, current and future research activity in the Central Arctic Ocean and to outline the geopolitical and legal structures governing relationships in this region. This was done in discussion with attendees at the UK Arctic Science Conference and with lead authors of the IPCC report. KH also invited input from representatives from FCO, BEIS, Defra and the Scottish Government. (The final document is now available here: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/policybristol/policy-briefings/policy-priorities-in-a-changing-arctic-ocean/>)

The briefing note will be disseminated at Arctic meetings, including the Challenger meeting, via UKAAP and at COP26.

6. Stakeholder reports (Standing Agenda Item)

Update from NERC (J. Surma)

- The call for the next round of highlight topics closes 20th February 2020.
- The NERC delivery plan for UKRI is now on the UKRI website here: <https://nerc.ukri.org/latest/publications/strategycorporate/strategy/>
- Dr Lizzie Garrett has replaced Dr Helen Beadman as the Head of Atmospheric and Polar Science Area (Helen has now left NERC).
- CECs Programme is hoping to release an announcement of opportunity in late January 2020. (Since the meeting, the call was announced on 14th February, with a deadline of 23rd April 2020)

Update from FCO (J. Rumble)

- The inaugural Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly took place in London on 2-3 December 2019 which provided a good opportunity to engage with international Parliamentarians, with 37 attending in total. The statement from this meeting can be found on the UKAAP website. The intention is to continue running this event every two years.
- Arctic Council Chairmanship now sits with Iceland.
- FCO are co-funding a workshop with Iceland and Canada under the PAME Working Group on tourism.
- 2020 sees the 200th Anniversary of the discovery of the Antarctic continent in 1820. There will be several events to mark the occasion. This will be led by the Antarctic heritage Trust.
- FCO have funded a post at BAS (Donna Frater) to look at diversity in polar science and how to better engage people from minority communities in polar science.
- COP26 will take place in Glasgow in November 2020. JR is looking at how polar science can be included and will keep UKAAP informed. **ACTION: JS to inform MS regarding UKRI Lead for COP26.**

Update from the NERC Arctic Office (H. Burgess)

- UK/Canada Arctic FIC: The Cross council bid to UKRI last year for a UK/Canada Arctic programme was successful. Funding will be for three years. Following extensive discussions, we now have a range of partners in place from across Canada at a national and provincial level. A team is now working on putting out a call in due course and this will be announced widely. HB reported that having links to communities in the North is going to be vital. In order to be eligible to apply for these funds when announced, proposals must show how the science is linked directly with these groups etc. The call will be focussed around the human, social and environmental impact on existing communities.
- UK/Canada Arctic bursaries: Funding from BEIS to continue this programme for a fourth year has been secured. So far 40 teams have been supported. Call closes early January.
- The Arctic Office continues to work with the Embassy in Moscow, and there have been several meetings in Newcastle, Southampton and Scotland in recent months. The UK/Russia bursary programme has been well received and 10 projects have been funded through this to help establish links with partners/potential data sets/visiting field sites etc.
- MOSAIC: The PolarStern is now in the Arctic and seven UK teams have been funded to take part in this project over the course of the next year.
- IASC: All the new Working Group representatives are now in post. The Arctic Office will be announcing a call for a Terrestrial Working Group representative in the near future so if anyone is interested, please contact the Office.
- ASSW: This will take place in Akureyri, Iceland in March 2020.
- UK Arctic Station will be open for business as usual for this coming year. We will be hosting an Arctic Station Day on 27th February 2020 at BAS. This was well received last year and so we are hoping to generate even more interest this coming year.

Update from UK Polar Network (UKPN Representative – V. Fowler)

- 52 new members have signed up to UKPN in recent weeks.
- A lot of work has gone into promoting Antarctica Day with over 300 flags from school children received.

- UKPN members have carried out nine school visits and have had 11 classes sign up to the Pen pal scheme.
- The UKPN have attended several events over the summer, including WOMAD and the Polar Pint of Science events. They have also contributed to the map/information sheet produced by the Arctic Office and the BAS MAGIC team. They have also organised two workshops, including one held during the Arctic Conference with 30 participants.
- VF is also involved in organisation of the Arktis 2020 course in Khanty Mansysk. This is a week-long workshop with a focus on cryosphere, atmosphere and humanities. Each day will look at a different aspect of this. The main aim is to bring together UK and Russian early career scientists.

7. Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting (H. Burgess)

The 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial meeting will take place in Tokyo 21 – 22 November 2020. This is being jointly organised by Japan and Iceland. Work has gone into making sure the various funding bodies are also engaged with this event and also keen to get a senior minister to go to Tokyo. This is an important platform as the UK is able to participate equally with other nations.

8. Antarctica 200 event (M. Siegert)

There are several events being planned to mark the 200th Anniversary of the discovery of the Antarctic Continent. The Antarctic Heritage Trust are leading on the events and organising an event on the 27 to 29 January. MS has also spoken to the Royal Geographical Society about having an event in November 2020 as well. MS also keen to engage the orchestra for the Earth – this is a student based orchestra. The US Embassy support this initiative and hoping to engage support from other nations as well. This should also be a good opportunity to involve ECRs and the UKPN.

9. Report from 'Students on Ice' event (M. Siegert)

Students on Ice organises educational expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. This year, two UK academics (Rachel Carr and Ingrid Medby and 2 students) took part in the expedition to the Arctic. There were 130 students representing 18 different countries. SOI will have another expedition next year which will celebrate the 20th anniversary expedition around Canada.

10. Membership (Standing Agenda Item)

Several members have stepped down as their membership term on the Committee has ended. We now need to actively seek new members and to include key stakeholders.

ACTION: NM and MS to review membership and invite key stakeholders.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London. **ACTION: Date to be confirmed via doodle poll.**

12. AOB

None raised.

MS thanked those who participated the meeting.