NEWSLETTER

SCANNET

NO 1. August 2001

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A dog sledge tour over Lake Torneträ sk in Abisko. Photo: L. Mortensen

SCANNET

Editorial

SCANNET is the result of discussions that took place at international workshops organised by the EU ARTERI project and the IGBP-related SCANTRAN meeting. The Chairman of ARTERI, Professor Bill Heal, the Chairman of SCANTRAN, Professor Nils Roar Saelthun and myself led a proposal to the EU and we were very pleasantly surprised to receive funding for the initiative. The idea for SCANNET arose from the need to encourage and facilitate terrestrial research facility managers to make their data sets more readily accessible for themselves and also for a wide range of users. It was also perceived that facility managers are particularly well positioned to implement new or standardised environmental and biological monitoring. Among-site comparisons of global change phenomena are a particularly strong approach to identify and understand global change and its impacts in the highly variable and large range of environments of the lands surrounding the North Atlantic region.

What is SCANNET? It is a network of field site leaders, research station managers and user groups in northern Scandinavia and Europe that are collaborating to improve comparative observations and access to information on environmental change in the North. SCANNET partners provide stability for research and facilitate long term observations in terrestrial and freshwater systems. There are 9 partners but we hope to increase our network and reach out to other related networks.

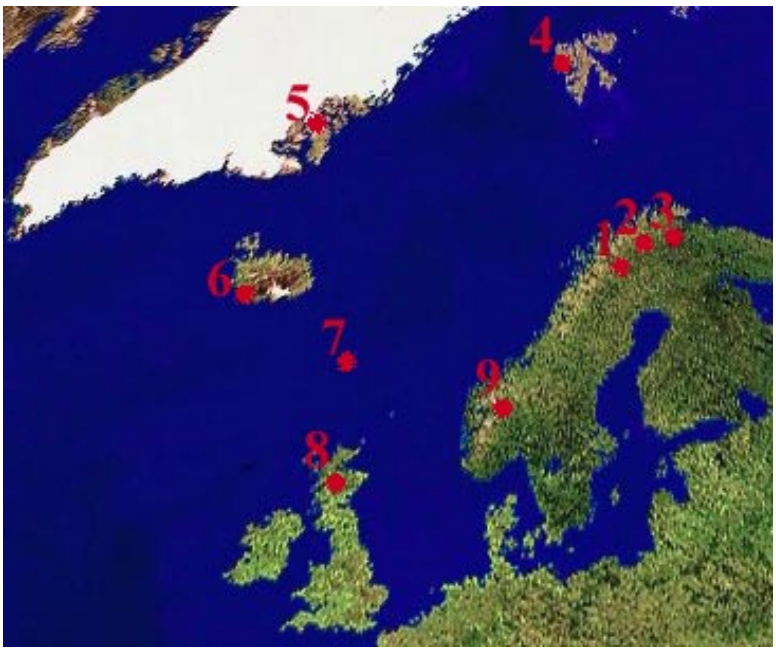
SCANNET was inaugurated at a meeting in February at Abisko, northernmost Sweden. Within a very friendly atmosphere and amid exposure to the local culture and climate (-32°C), the partners developed a constructive dialog and mapped out the activities for the immediate future within work-package "to-do" lists. SCANNET has made progress since this meeting: many (we hope all!) points on the to-do lists have been ticked off and our deliverables to the EU have been delivered. There are new faces that we warmly welcome to SCANNET and we look forward to our next gathering at Ny Ålesund, Svalbard.

This Newsletter No 1 is still an embryo. It sets the scene and provides a framework for you, the SCANNET participants, and you the stakeholders to provide information, comments and views. We invite you to contribute to Newsletter No 2 and we look forward to leaning about SCANNET activities - and others - at your fascinating sites around the North Atlantic Region.

Terry Callaghan, Abisko

Introduction to participants

At the moment there are nine partners in SCANNET.



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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences operates the *Abisko Scientific Research Station (1)* in Sweden. SCANNET is co-ordinated through Abisko. Contacts: Prof. Terry Callaghan (Abisko) and Prof. Bill Heal (advisor)

The *Kilpisjärvi Biological Station (2)* in sub-arctic north-west Finland is owned by the University of Helsinki. Contacts: Dr. Antero Järvinen

The *Kevo Subarctic Research Institute (3)* in Northernmost Finland is operated by the University of Turku. Contacts Dr. Seppo Neuvonen

The Norwegian Institute for Water Research's site *Dovre (9)* is situated in the southern Norwegian Mountains. Contacts: Prof. Nils-Roar Saelthun

The Danish Polar Centre runs the high Arctic *Zackenberg Field Station (5)* in north-east Greenland Contacts: Dr. Morten Rasch

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's Research station at *Banchory (8)* is located in the cold-temperate Cairngorm Mountains. Contacts: Dr. Neil Bayfield

The Norwegian Polar Institute operates the Field Base at *Ny Ålesund (4)*, on high Arctic Svalbard. Contacts: Dr. Pål Pestrud/ Dr. Jack Kohler

The manager of the north Atlantic field bases at *Litla-Skard (6)* in Iceland i.e. the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, and *Sornfelli (7)* in the Faroe Islands, i.e. the Faroe's Museum of Natural History are also part of the network.

Welcome to new staff

We would like to welcome our new data base manager Annika Pettersson-Björström on board, who will work part time for us for the next three years. Annika is also working part time for Metria (that is a company within the Swedish Lantmäteriet (Land survey), who's task is to contribute to an efficient and sustainable use of Sweden's real estate, land and water).

Activities

1st general meeting

Our first meeting was held at the Abisko Scientific Research Station, northern Sweden. Despite cold weather we had a very successful meeting where we got to know each other and presented our respective field stations/field sites and the work packages. The presentations of the individual work packages resulted in clear "to-do lists". The process in determining these lists and the explicit documentation of these provides a clear platform for the initiation of the work packages.

Work Package 4 (on reviewing land use and society interaction) was initiated during a half-day workshop in which participants took part in a computer-based decision network. The main aim of this workshop was to apply relatively new technology to try and identify the main types of environmental issues that were perceived to be important for the individual sites and for the network as a whole. Also those that were not important. The exercise appeared to be a useful approach to help us compare our sites and the main factors relating to possible environmental change and it provided a record of what our judgements were at that point in time. For further info contact Neil Bayfield, nb@ceh.ac.uk

Participants at the meeting in Abisko are trying to stay warm (-32 °C outside). Photo L. Mortensen

From the presentations, discussions and workshop, it became evident that the SCANNET network of research facilities includes a wide range of geographical, geophysical, climatic, vegetation, faunal, hydrological, soil and land-use conditions. Our locations in the north Atlantic Region gives SCANNET a common northern environment but within this, there are strong environmental and land use gradients that will help us to focus on various drivers of global change. Contact Margareta Johansson for further info, scantran@ans.kiruna.se

Next meetings
A Station Managers' Forum will be held in Ny Ålesund, Svalbard the 1-5th of September 2001 and the next upcoming meeting, where we also invite users, will be held in Torshavn, the Faroe Islands between the 15-18th of November 2001. For further info please contact SCANNET Secretariat, scantran@ans.kiruna.se

Related Activities
ENVINET (European Network for Arctic-Alpine Multidisciplinary Research) is a network of 17 research infrastructures in Northern Europe. It focuses on multidisciplinary environmental research, primarily within atmospheric physics and chemistry, marine and terrestrial biology. ENVINET is funded by EU and managed by the Norwegian Polar Institute. Three of the members in SCANNET are also members in ENVINET, Abisko, Zackenberg and Ny Ålesund. At ENVINET's 2nd General Meeting in Interlaken, Switzerland (April 2001) SCANNET was represented and the two networks are working close together, particularly SCANNET expands the terrestrial ecology and climatology base of ENVINET. For further information see http://envinet.npolar.no

ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment) is an international project organised under the auspices of the Arctic Council. The main aim is to evaluate and synthesise knowledge on climate variability, climate change, and increased ultraviolet radiation and their consequences. Information from the SCANNET sites will be highly relevant to ACIA, particularly to the chapters working with climate, regional climate scenarios, hydrology, permafrost, terrestrial and freshwater ecology, and human dimensions. For further information see http://www.acia.uaf.edu or contact Terry Callaghan for information on the terrestrial ecosystem chapter, terry.callaghan@ans.kiruna.se

At the major international conference on Detection of Environmental Change in London (July 2001) a poster describing the aims, strategy and participants of SCANNET was presented by Bill Heal and an initial version of the SCANNET brochure was distributed to key participants at the Conference (including representatives of the European Environment Agency, the International Long-Term Ecological Research Programme, The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the UK Environmental Change Network, the Finnish Environment Institute and contributors to the EC supported NoLIMITS project). For further information please contact Bill Heal, b.heal@ed.sac.ac.uk

Forum

In this part of the newsletter we would like to invite you to contribute for example if you have any ideas that you would like to discuss etc. We also invite you to present any ideas you might have concerning the newsletter. This newsletter will published every 6th month and the next issue will be published in February 2002. We are looking forward to your contribution.

News from the sites

We encourage site managers to contribute with information to Margareta for the next SCANNET newsletter.

Here at Abisko there are two activities of particularly relevance for SCANNET. We recently hosted a visit from Swedish and Russian WWF-representatives and from the Director of the Protected Areas i Yakutia, Siberia. We discussed the possibility of the "Lena- Nordenskiöld biological station " joining SCANNET activities and also making their own network of northern Russia Research Station Managers. We will discuss this potential at the SCANNET meeting in Ny Ålesund (Sept-2001). Also, the station manager from Abisko (Terry Callaghan) and some Abisko researchers (from the Netherlands, UK and Denmark) will take part in a field trip to Toolik Lake, Alaska, to begin an NSS-funded collaboration. One discussion topic will be how to relate SCANNET to the US LTER at Toolik Lake.

Production of the Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by Margareta Johansson at the SCANNET Secretariat, Abisko, Sweden. Please send contributions and comments to Margareta, scantran@ans.kiruna.se