



# Nieuwsbrief 16

## April 2013

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Maandag 29 april 2013

Ronald Visser

### Onderzoek op Antarctica: een kijkje achter de schermen

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Het kan bijna niemand ontgaan zijn, Nederland heeft sinds kort haar eigen laboratoria op Antarctica. Verschillende onderzoekers zijn deze winter - de Antarctische zomer - aan het werk geweest op de Britse basis Rothera waar de Nederlandse labs staan. Maar wat komt er allemaal bij kijken wanneer je hier onderzoek doet? Welke voorbereidingen zijn nodig, hoe kom je daar eigenlijk en hoe is het leven op een Antarctische basis. Ronald Visser geeft een kijkje achter de schermen van het poolonderzoek.

Hij werkt mee aan het onderzoek *Structuring of marine pelagic microbial communities by glacial meltwater in Ryder Bay, (Antarctica)* van prof.dr. A.G.J. Buma. Sinds enkele decennia trekken gletsjers op het West-Antarctische Schiereiland zich duidelijk aantoonbaar terug. De bijbehorende toename in smeltwater zal mariene gemeenschappen, waarvan microbiële organismen (fytoplankton, bacteriën) de basis vormen, sterk beïnvloeden, maar hoe dit gebeurt is niet bekend. Tijdens twee veldcampagnes wordt de invloed van smeltwater op microbiële activiteit, diversiteit en samenstelling gemeten.

**Wanneer** 29 april 2013

**Hoe laat** 19.30 uur

**Waar** Arctisch Centrum, Aweg 30 (ingang Herman Colleniusstraat)

**Toegang** € 2,- , inclusief koffie en thee, studenten € 1,-

## Activiteiten mei en juni 2013

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### Dinsdag 28 mei 2013

*Climate Change, Polar Exploitation and Geopolitical Consequences*

Afscheidssymposium Louwrens Hacquebord. Zie de symposiumwebsite:

<http://wbpi.webhosting.rug.nl/index.php?nr=208>.

### Maandag 3 juni 2013

Lezing door Miranda Cornelisse over de invloed van toerisme op de Sami-samenleving in Finland.

## Documentatie

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### Illegal trade of polar bears products is on the increase in Russia

Last month, WWF Russia presented study showing that illegal trade in polar bear products had been booming. The environmental group in Moscow has monitored the internet over the last 20 months searching for ads selling or buying polar bear skins. 47 skins for sale have been discovered, some ads offering more than 3 skins, according to the study.

Soviet Union outlawed polar bear hunting in 1957. Most of the skins where put up for illegal sale in Moscow, but WWF has also found skins for sale in Murmansk, St. Petersburg, Chelyabinsk, Kirov, Izhevsk, Dnepropetrovsk and Irkutsk. The study says the average price for a polar bear skin is 600,000 rubbles (€14,940), sharply up compared with black-market prices ten years ago.

There are between 5,000 and 7,000 polar bears in Russia. Those in the Barents Region are partly migrating between the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard and the Russian islands of Franz Josef Land and Novaya Zemlya.

Bron: <http://www.arcticportal.org> , 27 maart 2013.

### NatureGate mobile app version 2 has been launched and is now available now for iOS and Android devices

NatureGate service is based on a worldwide patented species identification tool, enabling you to find fascinating information about hundreds of wild species together with thousands of superb images captured by top photographers. You can view and search for species in various ways – for instance using their English names, their scientific names, or by genus or family.

Their unique identification tools also help you to get to know new species. They make the task of discovering new species easy, fast and fun. Try one of these tools right now! Choose a species group, and find out how to identify unfamiliar flowers, trees and shrubs, birds, butterflies or fish. NatureGate is a global gate to the nature. The web and mobile services are already available in eight languages. Educational material including interactive games tailored for different age groups from elementary school children to academic students is in the pilot phase. NatureGate mainly works in eight languages. Many of our featured species can be found right around the world. Our multilingual web services can benefit millions of people interested in nature, wherever they happen to be. Meer informatie: <http://www.luontoportti.com/suomi/en/>  
Bron: <http://www.arcticportal.org>, 22 maart 2013.

## Rapporten

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Interact Station Catalogue. Catalogus van alle Arctische Onderzoekstations. De catalogus kan gedownload worden van <http://www.eu-interact.org> (Interact: International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic.).

### Ministerial Report: Arctic Mercury Pollution 2011 (AMAP)

Previous AMAP assessments of mercury in the Arctic published in 1997 and 2002, reported that a substantial amount of the mercury in the Arctic arrives via long-range transport from human sources at lower latitudes and that, owing to their traditional diet some Arctic populations receive high dietary exposure to mercury, raising concern for human health. This situation prompted calls by the Arctic Council for global action to reduce mercury emissions.

The previous AMAP assessments also identified fundamental questions regarding what controls mercury levels in the Arctic, and how (and when) these levels are likely to fall in response to controls on emissions. The cycling of methylmercury (one of the most toxic forms of mercury) is paramount in this respect.

The likely impact of future climate change in altering mercury delivery and fate in the Arctic is also extremely important. The effects of mercury on biota may be particularly relevant for species at the limits of their tolerance to other stressors. The overarching goal of this assessment was therefore to update information relevant to answering the question: What controls mercury levels in the Arctic and what are the effects on Arctic biota?

Mercury continues to present risks to Arctic wildlife and human populations. Despite many remaining gaps in knowledge, this assessment confirms the need for concerted international action if mercury levels in the Arctic (and in the rest of the world) are to be reduced. It is of particular concern that mercury levels are continuing to rise in some Arctic species in large areas of the Arctic, despite reductions in emissions from human activities over the past 30 years in some parts of the world.

The human health components of this assessment reflect information on mercury and human health that was presented in the 2009 AMAP Assessment of human health in the Arctic.

Risk communication and dietary advice have been used to reduce human mercury exposure in some regions of the Arctic; however, solutions that are more effective over the longer term still need to be found. Reducing human and environmental exposure to mercury in the Arctic will ultimately depend on global action to reduce the quantities of mercury entering the 'environmental reservoirs', in which mercury has already been accumulating as a result of human activities for several hundred years. It is therefore important that the momentum for global action is maintained.

AMAP Assessment 2011: Mercury in the Arctic. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), Oslo, Norway. xiv+193. Website: <http://www.amap.no>

## Overige activiteiten

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### Noord-Nederland Rusland 2013

Het nieuwe jaar 2013 staat in het teken van de relatie tussen Nederland en Rusland. Gedurende het hele jaar worden evenementen georganiseerd om de relatie tussen beide landen op verscheidene vlakken te verstevigen. Vanwege de speciale banden tussen Noord-Nederland en Rusland zal er in het Noorden een aantrekkelijk festivalprogramma worden georganiseerd: een boeiende mix van economie, wetenschap en cultuur. Voor meer informatie: <http://www.nnr2013.nl/>.

### Tentoonstelling "Gestrand: walvis in Groningen"

Tot 21 april 2013 in het Universiteitsmuseum te Groningen! Geopend van dinsdag t/m zondag, van 13.00-17.00 uur.

### Special Session Arctic Population Geography: Migration in and out of the Circumpolar North

als onderdeel van de International Conference on Population Geographies, 25-28 juni 2013. Zie voor meer informatie de website van de conferentie: <http://www.rug.nl/research/ursi/events/icpg2013/>.