



Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

The Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA) fosters collaboration between resident Arctic experts and visiting researchers to facilitate the collection, preservation, exchange, and use of local observations and Indigenous knowledge of the Arctic. ELOKA also provides data management and user support to Indigenous communities. [Learn more](#)

### Newsletters are back!

With the expansion of our team last year, we are excited to resume updates and news via newsletters.

This has been a busy start to the year. Read stories about Arctic communities, partner highlights, project updates, and plans for our annual summer meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. We hope you enjoy and thank you for reading.

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[New Article](#)

## Weaving a web of knowledge: Supporting observers of the Arctic



Photo from AAOKH Observer Guy Omnik in Point Hope Alaska, January 29 2023

ELOKA continues to collaborate with the Alaska Arctic Observatory and Knowledge Hub (AAOKH) to support an online community-led observational data hub. Working with Indigenous communities takes time, resources, and patience, but a shift is needed in science to include community voices and observations to widen and deepen our collective breadth of knowledge. [Read more](#)

## News from the Spring



[Partner Feature](#)

### **Tero Mustonen wins prestigious Goldman prize**

May, 2023

Tero Mustonen is president of the Snowchange Cooperative, a Finnish organization and longtime ELOKA partner. This spring, Tero received the prestigious Goldman prize for the work he leads to rehabilitate peatlands in northern Finland,

which are important for storing carbon and mitigating climate change. [Read more](#)



#### Project Updates and Call for Input

### Atlas of community-based monitoring in a changing Arctic - new updates!

Ongoing

In partnership with [Inuit Circumpolar Council \(ICC\)](#), ELOKA is actively updating the [Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring](#).

This atlas was designed to showcase the many community-based monitoring (CBM) and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) initiatives across the circumpolar region. Projects involved with community-based monitoring in the Arctic are welcomed to add to the atlas.

[Add to the Atlas Now!](#)



December Meeting, Anchorage 2022

#### Meeting Planning

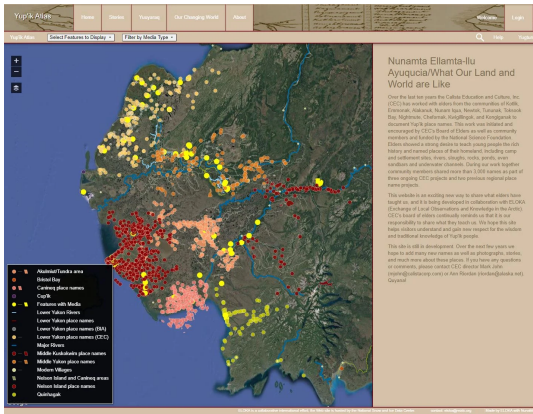
### ELOKA annual summer partner meeting in Fairbanks

August 21 - 24, 2023

This meeting will bring together ELOKA partner projects and organizations to advance shared learning, provide training based on partner priorities, and define next steps and priorities for the network in the coming years. Themes for this meeting were identified at our December 2022 partner meeting as priority topics for

further work. Theme areas are:

1. Sharing and use of knowledge/data (decision-making)
2. Education and youth engagement
3. Learning and evaluation



## ELOKA Team Updates: Yup'ik Atlas Trainings

### Yup'ik Atlas involves youth

April and May, 2023

In partnership with [Calista Education and Culture Inc](#) (CEC), the ELOKA team was invited by the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) to teach high school science students in Cheforanak and Quinhagak, Alaska, how to add place

names to the Yup'ik Atlas, an online product of place names and environmental observations hosted by ELOKA and created by CEC. Students were assigned projects to interview their elders about place names and climate change, and incorporate the knowledge from the Elders into the atlas.

Students were also introduced to the [new climate module](#) which overlays climate change predictions (i.e projections) onto the place names, and provides place-specific context related to climate change. CEC is dedicated to involving youth in place name knowledge, history, Yup'ik language, and working within an online digital atlas platform, and integrating the atlas into the local school curricula!



### Panel Discussion at Alaska Tribal Conference of Environmental Management

### Improving data stewardship and use among Alaskan community-led observing and cultural knowledge products

March, 2023

ELOKA helped organize a panel discussion at the Alaska Tribal Conference of Environmental Management: “Improving data stewardship and use among Alaskan community-led observing and cultural

knowledge products.” This panel brought together ELOKA partners involved with Indigenous-led research and place name documentation to share how they are working to collect, store, and share knowledge for use in education, research, and environmental management.

Key messages included the importance of having community-needs shape the research, and how that research is shared back to knowledge holders, stakeholders, and the public.

The panel was very well attended by conference participants and received positive feedback, including invitations to hold a similar panel at other conferences.

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## Papers from Partners

**Nunaaqit Savaqatigivlugich—working with communities: evolving collaborations around an Alaska Arctic observatory and knowledge hub**

Hauser et al., 2023

This paper is co-produced with research partners and Iñupiaq observers, and describes five core functions that have emerged through Alaska Arctic Observatory and Knowledge Hub (AAOKH).

[Go to paper](#)

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## Other Upcoming Events



November 7 to 9, 2023 Nuuk, Greenland

### Abstracts due September 1st

This year's theme is "*Making Science Matter.*" With its broad scope, the Greenland Science Conference encompasses a wide range of disciplines, and has an emphasis on outreach and stakeholder engagement.

[Read more](#)



March 27 to 29, Edinburgh, Scotland

### Session proposals and statements due September 1st

The Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) is a biennial summit that aims to provide guidance based on the best available knowledge for the design, implementation, coordination and sustained long-term (decades) operation of an

international network of Arctic observing systems. [Submit now](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have anything you would like for us to include in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to reach out.




Best regards,

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