



Happy November!

After our big meeting in August, we had a little bit of time to relax and rejuvenate, and now we are back in full swing with conference planning and reflecting on the things that we learned during our meeting.

We have several updates to share, including highlights from our summer meeting and opportunities from partner organizations.

ELOKA Update

ELOKA Partner Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska



Caption: Attendees of the partner meeting gather for a group photo in front of the Syun-Ichi Akasofu building at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Credit: Matthew Druckenmiller, ELOKA

In August 2023, ELOKA partners gathered at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF), and spent four days learning from one another and shaping future goals and priorities for ELOKA. Partners traveled from different regions in Alaska, British Columbia and Labrador, Canada, and Finland. During the four-day meeting, partners shared perspectives and experiences related to Arctic research, cultural place name documentation, observations, and data management. Many different types of projects and research priorities were represented, bringing unique perspectives and knowledge to group discussions.

Throughout the meeting, attendees reflected on ELOKA as a service provider and a network, and shared what ELOKA has been doing successfully, how ELOKA can improve, and priorities for the future. Some important priorities that emerged were equity in research, Indigenous data sovereignty, involving youth, and the urgency of responding to environmental crises. UAF filmmaker and professor Maya Salganek filmed a large part of the meeting, which will be developed into a short film about the ELOKA network. Overall, the meeting successfully brought partners together to learn from each other and build a sense of community.

[Read more!](#)

[Partner Feature](#)

Chevak Students film and interview Elders



Caption: Elder Earl Atchak speaks to the classroom while being filmed by students. Credit: Seth Baders, See Stories

ELOKA is excited to share a project led by the Chevak Traditional Council, in collaboration with the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) and See Stories in Chevak, Alaska. See Stories, an organization that teaches youth film-making techniques, were invited to teach sixth grade students how to direct, produce, and film interviews with their Elders.

By creating videos that focus on meaningful places, the sixth graders dug deep to tell important stories about their lives, Chevak, and their community. By the end of an intense week of production and editing, 15 two-to-three minute videos were presented to an audience of school and community members, who erupted in cheers like a rock concert whenever images of Chevak appeared.

The videos eventually reached an even larger audience. Six short videos were chosen to enter the Alaska International Film Festival in Anchorage. Two made it for the December 2022 screening. In March 2023, all the videos were presented at the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) in Anchorage. Eventually, the videos will find a permanent home on the Nunaput Atlas, a place name atlas that documents traditional and cultural place names in Chevak.

[Read more!](#)

[Partner Update](#)

ELOKA Shares the Yup'ik Atlas at the Annual Fall Teacher's Conference



Caption: School in Bethel, Alaska where the conference was held. Credit: Tash H-Chavez

Tash Haycock-Chavez, ELOKA network and outreach manager, was invited to attend the 2023 Bethel Teacher's Conference that was attended by 416 teachers from the Lower Kuskokwim School District in Southwest Alaska. Tash taught four different sessions about the Yup'ik Atlas, showing teachers how to use the atlas in the classroom.

[Read more!](#)

Calls for Input and Opportunities



Join the Atlas!

**We are updating the Atlas of
Community-Based Monitoring and
Indigenous Knowledge (ArcticCBM
Atlas)**

Join the Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring and Indigenous Knowledge in a Changing Arctic. If you join by November 30th, you will be entered into a raffle to win an amazing prize, including the art pictured here!

We are also looking for feedback on ways to improve the atlas. Focus group participants will be offered a \$99 Amazon Gift Card or \$250 check. If you are interested in being part of an online focus group, please contact Tash by email at naha6486@colorado.edu. Check out the atlas here: <https://www.arcticcbm.org/index.html>

Add to the Atlas Now!



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS IS NOW OPEN

Deadline: 5 January 2024 at 17:00 CET

Themes: oceans, climate and environment, sustainable economic developments, and people of the North, as well as looking to the future, Arctic Youth and Arctic Indigenous peoples.

www.arcticcongress.com



ELOKA is hosting two conference sessions at the Arctic Congress in Bodo, Norway. We invite you to submit talks to our sessions!

Join us in Bodo, Norway! We have (limited) funding to support community member/partner participation in this conference.

Session Number 561: Strategies from Indigenous-led and collaborative projects for knowledge sharing and data sovereignty in Arctic research

Organizers: Noor Johnson, Tatiana Degai

Brief description: The session will include experiences from the ELOKA network to support the collection, preservation, exchange, and use of local observations and knowledge of the Arctic while respecting Indigenous data sovereignty. [We encourage projects that are Indigenous-led and/or collaborative with an Indigenous community and/or nation.](#)

Session number 659: Strategies and lessons for centering Indigenous voices in Arctic community-led research and co-production of knowledge

Organizers: Natasha Haycock-Chavez, Mariama Dryak-Vallies

Brief Description: We welcome abstracts for talks from researchers and community members in all stages of their career involved in community-led research or co-production of knowledge to share their work, including lessons, stories, and strategies for successful capacity sharing. [We encourage abstracts with an emphasis on how early career researchers working to center Indigenous voices in their research can do so effectively.](#)

[Learn more and submit an abstract!](#)



[Invitation to contribute to a joint statement!](#)

ELOKA session: “Supporting coordination and engagement of Indigenous-led and community-based monitoring programs in the Arctic.”

Conference dates: March 27 - 29, 2023
Edinburgh, Scotland

ELOKA is organizing a session at the Arctic Observing Summit. We invite you to contribute to a statement that will accompany the session. The statement will provide context and "set the stage" for the session. Purpose statement:

This statement is a collaborative effort from the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic to highlight our partners' work to support community-based monitoring (CBM) programs and local use of that data.

We write from the perspective of researchers and community leaders/members who are working to increase the inclusion of cultural knowledge in curricula, and increase the visibility of environmental data from observers for local and regional use. Community knowledge continues to be underrepresented and underutilized by the scientific and governmental community, directly impacting community safety and regional policy.

If you are interested in collaborating on this statement, please email Tash at naha6486@colorado.edu



ELOKA to present a poster at AGU

December 12th, 8:30 AM - 12:50PM
Moscone Center, Poster Hall A-C

Title: Collaborative data management with Indigenous partners: Reflections from the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA)

ELOKA Partners including Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO), Alaska Arctic Observatory Knowledge and Hub (AAOKH), Sustainable Nunatsiavut Futures will present a poster at AGU this year. The poster will share data management and data sovereignty practices from our partners.

Will you be attending AGU this year? Stop by our poster to say hi!

Fall reads

How to tell Real Stories About Impact

Annie Neimand, September 21, 2023

Stanford Social Innovation Review

[Read now](#)

Towards Alaska Native research and data sovereignty: Observations and experiences from the Yukon Flats

Brewer, J. P., Black, J., Stevens, C., & Ancestors, G. (2023)

Environment and Planning F, 2(1-2), 247-263.

[Read now](#)

Job opportunities

Alaska SIKU Outreach Coordinator

Arctic Eider Society

Open until filled

[Learn more](#)

Tribal Liaison and Outreach Coordinator

U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Region

Application Deadline, November 27, 2023

[Learn more](#)




Stay cozy this winter!

Natasha "Tash" Haycock-Chavez Network and Outreach Manager

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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](#)

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