



UARctic
Thematic Networks

Year In Review

Thematic Network on Frozen Arctic Conservation

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Conserving the Frozen Parts of the Planet

The many activities reflect the rapid growth in international recognition of the state of the climate – we are past 1.5°C above pre-industrial, and now in overshoot. This has brought a new set of scientists, funders and public on board with investigating if any measures might help conserve the frozen parts of the planet.

Activities

- The UARctic review of interventions posted its first three reviews for public consultation on October 10, and comments will be collected until December 4, 2026. The three reports are the expert panel reviews of sea ice, ice sheets and atmospheric interventions. The reports were publicized in a packed meeting room at the Arctic Circle Assembly. www.climateinterventions.org
- The Real Ice and Arctic Reflections group with members from Cambridge University continued their research in Cambridge Bay with expanded sea ice thickening. They also tested an underwater drone in Finland capable of penetrating through pack ice and spraying water from below. A paper on the progress reviewing changes in ice albedo and its physio-chemical composition was published (DOI:10.1029/2025EF007894) and new results are being written up.
- The Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland Oct 8-10 included about 8 sessions on geoengineering – a remarkable increase on previous years which reflects the reality of the planetary emergency. In addition there was an invitation-only round table organized by ACA (only one or two a year are held), that included about 30 people and 10 or so observers. The Round Table sought to elicit views on how the Arctic might be different from the rest of the planet in terms of political structures, local issues – such as Indigenous rights, and feasibility of research into interventions including both solar radiation management and targeted interventions.
- Following the ACA, an invitational 3-day meeting was held the “Global Risk and Stabilization Summit” including 250 people, many of whom were new to the Arctic. Attendees included folk from the financial services sector and numerous international funding bodies. Members of FAC contributed to broad discussions on sea level and also the role of civil society.

The impact of the activities and future directions

- Members contributed to the Nordic publication on AMOC collapse, which was motivated by Iceland's declaration that AMOC is national security issue. DOI:10.6027/temanord2026-504
- The fact that for the first time Arctic Circle Assembly held a large number of climate intervention sessions, and that sessions were in general received calmly and with respect for the speakers suggests that most people are looking at the research with more open minds than previously.
- The 250 persons attending the Global Risk and Stabilization Summit were keenly aware of the importance of the Arctic systems, and left with a clearer roadmap of how research can be funded and the field expanded. This is not of course due to the activities of the TN, but represents a broad realization that the activities of the TN are highly relevant and likely to be ever more so in coming years.



The release of the UARctic interventions reviews at ACA, Reykjavik, October 2026 (credit, J.Moore).

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<https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/frozen-arctic-conservation/>

