

# Rapid response to environmental emergency alerts. An INTERACT Initiative.

Alexandra Bernardova<sup>1</sup>, Marie Sabacka<sup>1</sup>, Josef Elster<sup>1</sup>, Terry V. Callaghan<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic <sup>2</sup>University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup>Tomsk State University, Russia

## What is INTERACT?

INTERACT - International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic is an infrastructure project funded by the EU under the Horizon 2020 program. Its main objective is to build capacity for identifying, understanding, predicting and responding to diverse environmental changes throughout the wide environmental and land-use envelopes of the Arctic. It encompasses a circum Arctic network of 83 terrestrial field bases (and is growing) as well as stations in northern alpine areas. INTERACT makes data storage and accessibility more efficient through a single portal. New communities of researchers are being offered access to terrestrial infrastructures while local stakeholders as well as major international organisations are involved in interactions with the



## What are the most important risks in the Arctic reported by the scientific stations?



## The "Red Phone"



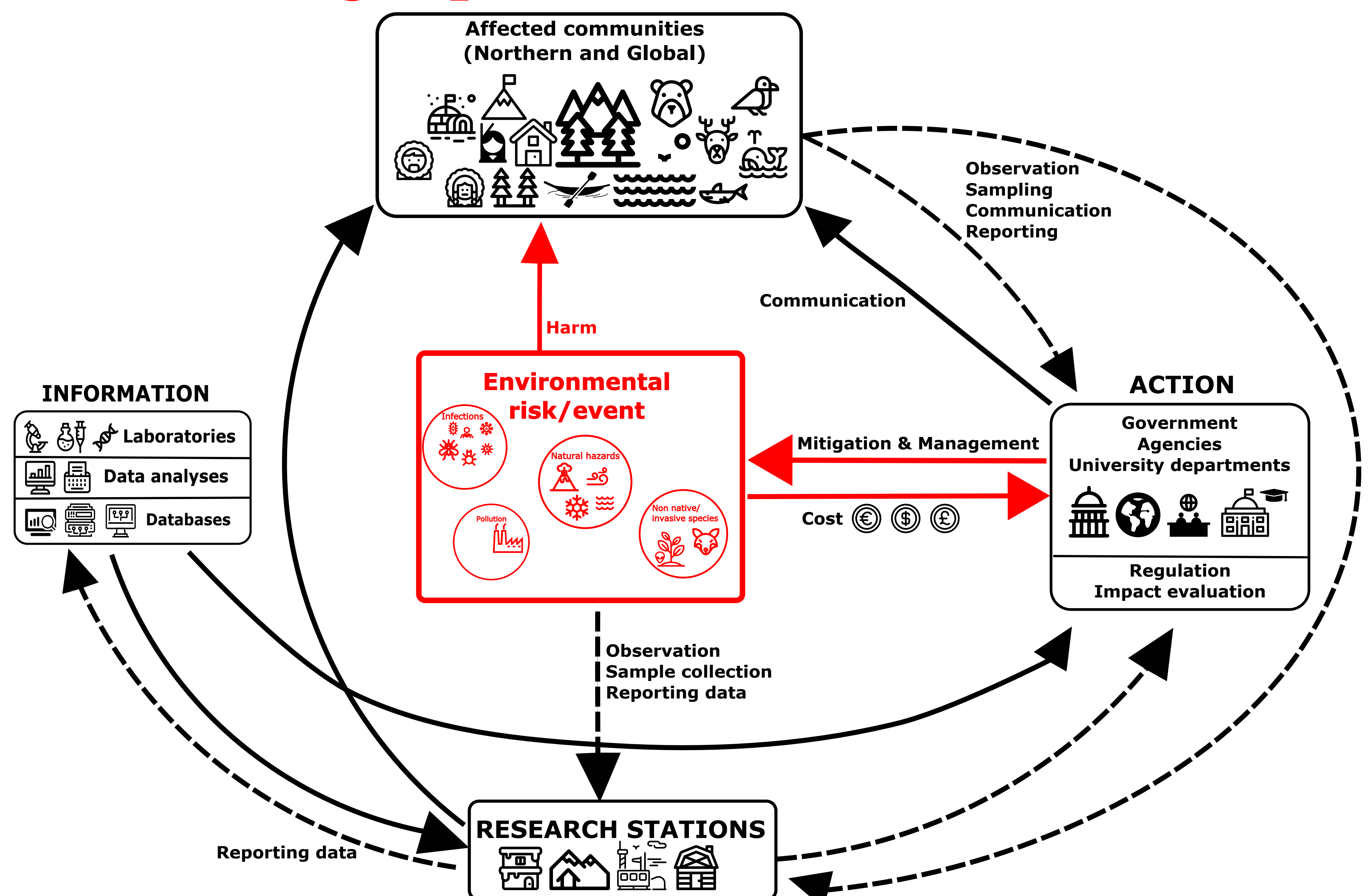
The "Red Phone" is a work package within INTERACT with a main goal to help protect the Arctic and global residents from potential environmental emergencies or risks.

The Red Phone's main output will be the development of protocols for monitoring of any potential environmental risks and hazards and a subsequent implementation of an alert system for Arctic research stations and adjoining territories.

## Main objectives

- to help protect Arctic and global residents from the risks of potential future environmental emergencies
- to establish a process starting with alerting research station staff to possible environmental emergencies via an one-stop-shop
- to provide protocols on how to make infrastructure wide observations and/or sampling, sample transport or data submission and collection
- to secure long term sustainability

## The INTERACT one-stop-shop system for early warning of potential environmental risks



## Outputs

- identification and documentation of potential risks, collecting information from stations and locals
- working with relevant agencies and organisations
- sampling/observational protocols
- trial run
- setting up of an alert system
- outreach in popular science language