

SWISS POLAR INSTITUTE

New since 2021 - status of Swiss National research infrastructure



Photo : Andrea Baccharini (Polar Access Fund 2018)

SPI funding and opportunities

Funding portfolio

- Research support of **early career scientists, pilot studies, developments of instruments/tech** complementing Research Council funding
- Participation of Swiss groups in **large international expeditions** (eg. MOSAiC)
- **Science and Arts collaboration**

Expeditions

- **Arctic Century** planned in summer 2020-2021 in Russian Arctic in collaboration with Geomar and AARI
- **ACE post-expedition work and data analysis** ongoing. Currently 45 publications, dedicated issue of Antarctic Science under preparation

Services and training

- **Courses for health and safety** in polar regions and remote environments
- **Services:** Field pharmacy, link to telemedicine providers, preparation of health checks



New SPI Flagship Initiatives Programme

An new programme to support Swiss-led polar research

- **Multi-annual** programmes **combining** science and technology projects from different disciplines and research groups in CH around a polar or high-altitude focus region
- **Funding** focused on field campaigns (logistics, safety,...), data management, outreach/publication, programme coordination to provide a **temporary infrastructure**.
- **International** collaboration and synergies with national/international programmes highly valued

Photo: Alexis Berne (Exploratory Grant 2018)



National and International Collaboration

- **Organisation of annual conferences, thematic workshops and training**
- **Outreach and communication programmes** – e.g. Swiss Polar Class
- **Close collaboration** with Swiss funding organisations (SFNS), policy makers and academies (SKPH) to coordinate Swiss positions and interests
- **Collaboration with international/national organisations** to increase reach and opportunities for Swiss science
- **Representation of Switzerland** in fora dedicated to Antarctic and Arctic logistics and operations (COMNAP, FARO) and international/European networks (EU PolarNet II)

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**Stay tuned for an online event late May where we will present
the new Swiss Polar Institute to our international partners!**

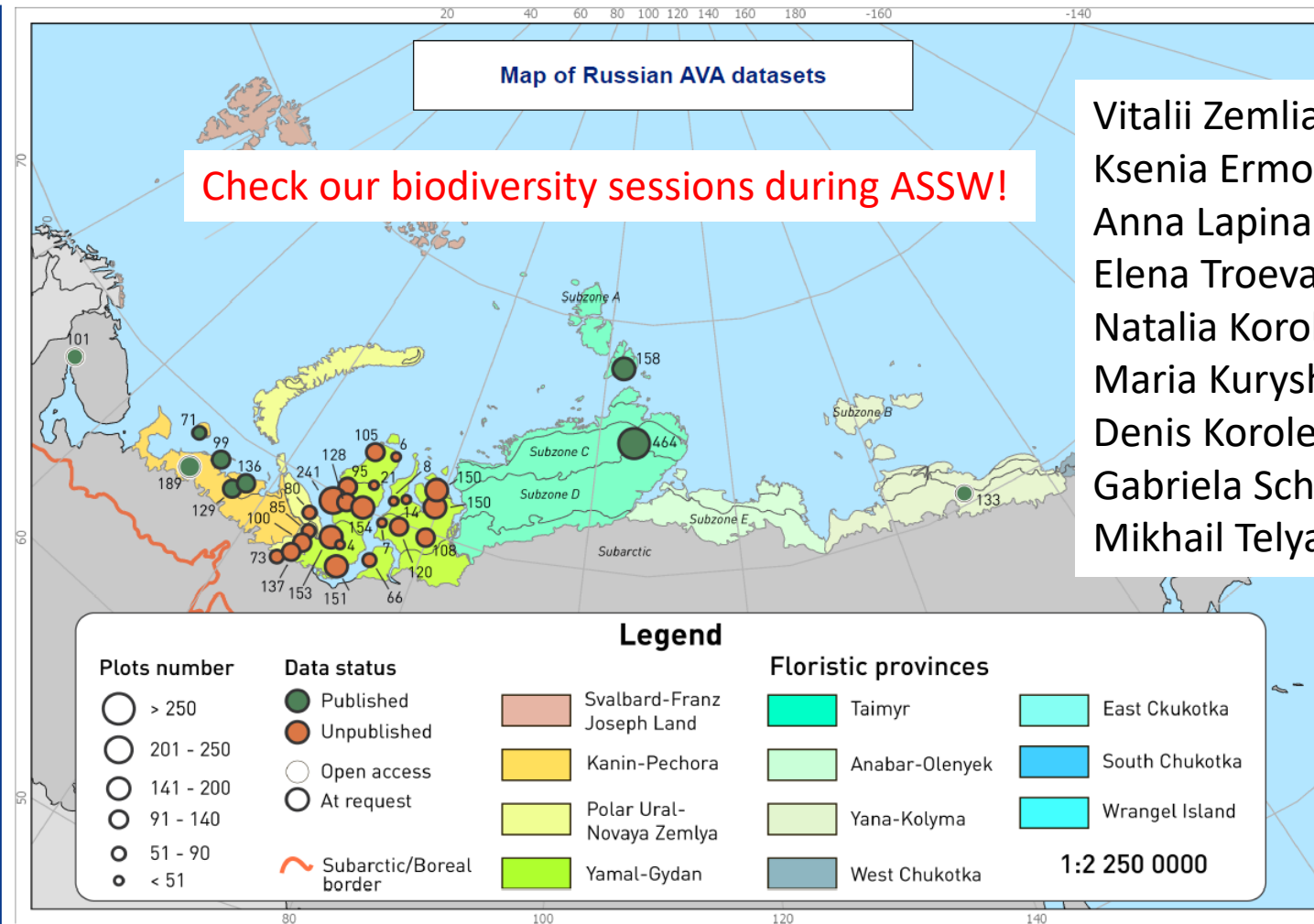
Photo credits: Andrea Baccharini (Polar Access Fund grantee 2018)

Progress of the Russian Arctic Vegetation Archive

The **Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA)** is an effort to assemble pan-arctic vegetation plot data into a publically accessible web-based archive (Walker, 2014). The goal of AVA is to unite and standardize vegetation data from the Arctic <https://www.caff.is/flora-cfg/ava>. The international AVA consists of about 30'000 plots, mostly from North America and Scandinavia.

We here present the development of the Russian section of AVA (AVA-RUS):

- ~ 2500 West Siberian and NE European Russian relevés integrated in 2018.
- ~ 1200 plots with a wider geographical range integrated in 2019-2020 (incl. Yakutia, Taymyr and Kola peninsula, Bolshezemelskaya tundra, Severnaya Zemlya).
- 9 more datasets from Russian authors for potential integration in 2021 (incl. Svalbard, Polar Urals, Gydan and Yamal peninsula, and Wrangel island).
- An overview of integrated data is available at the AVA-RU website (<http://avarus.space>).



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