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Groningen, 22 March 2006

Dear Emily,

I have read your IPY proposal POLAR ECOHEALTH “Quantifying, monitoring, understanding and predicting climate change impacts on the northern terrestrial ecosystem from satellite imaging to microscopic soil properties and everything in between”. It is an ambitious project and I am very pleased with the part on bird health. That item fits perfectly in the international IPY-endorsed project "Health of Arctic and Antarctic bird populations" (BIRDHEALTH) and can complement this project by use of a standardized protocol and data sharing. The embedding of the goals of BIRDHEALTH in a wider ecosystem context will show further relevance of this item on other ecosystem levels and for mankind. As initiator and international coordinator of BIRDHEALTH, I look forward to collaborate further on this issue.



Tomorrow, we have a workshop in the Netherlands where we will further develop a protocol and a structure for organising the analyses. I will disseminate the results of this workshop a.s.a.p. via the project website www.birdhealth.nl, so we can benefit from your comments again. The success of your project can help us to get a circumpolar coverage in sampling and the necessary background on the fitness of the sampled individuals.

All the best,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maarten Loonen".

Dr. Maarten J.J.E. Loonen