Benefits of SAON

1. SAON will develop a reputation for quality that will be recognized by potential funding sources, and by governments, scientific researchers and stakeholders.
2. SAON will act as a clearinghouse for information about pan-Arctic, long-term observing activities.
3. SAON will promote international partnerships and synergies among observing networks and sites, thus reducing duplication and redundancy.
4. SAON will facilitate the use and incorporation of traditional knowledge and promote community based monitoring.

Procedure for SAON Recognition

1. To apply for SAON recognition, submit;
   - A completed SAON Network Inventory form (available from the SAON website), and
   - A statement describing how well the SAON criteria are met now, and what steps are needed to fully meet them.
2. The SAON SG will review the information, including potential synergies with other networks.
3. Recognized activities will be listed on the SAON web site: www.arcticobserving.org
4. Recognized activities will be allowed to use the SAON logo and describe themselves as SAON members.

Dana Ciccarone

Peter J. Aastrup (NERI/AU Denmark)

J. Lang (PCSP NRCan)

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ARCTIC COUNCIL · IASC · WMO

SAON
SUSTAINING ARCTIC
OBSERVING NETWORKS

www.arcticobserving.org

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is a process to support and strengthen the development of multinational engagement for sustained and coordinated pan-Arctic observing and data sharing systems that serve societal needs, particularly related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues.

SAON Vision

The SAON Vision is that users should have access to free, open and high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and provide societal benefits.

To attain that vision, SAON's goal is to enhance Arctic-wide observing activities by facilitating partnerships and synergies among existing 'building blocks', and promoting sharing and synthesis of data and information.

To achieve that goal, SAON is a resource for a broad community that includes governments and operational agencies, scientific researchers, indigenous peoples and northern residents, other stakeholders and the general public.

Implementation

At their meeting in Tromsø in April 2009 Arctic Council (AC) Ministers agreed:

- That the Arctic Council should take the lead in implementing the SAON process together with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- To establish a SAON Steering Group (SAON SG) consisting of representatives of each of the 8 Arctic Council member states, AC Permanent Participants, AC Working Groups, IASC and WMO, to develop an institutional framework and a work plan.

They further recommended that:

- Arctic Council member states should:
  - sustain and increase the current level of observing activities and data and information services.
  - create a data dissemination protocol.

ESA - P. Carril

G. Stoof (AWI)

N. Mikkelsen

- Each Arctic state should create a national inter-agency group, which should form the basis for increased inter-governmental cooperation.
- Arctic states should welcome non-Arctic states to take part in this inter-governmental cooperation and adopt, support and implement the recommendations above.

The SAON approach is to build on existing observing sites, systems and networks (SAON building blocks). SAON is a means for addressing issues that transcend individual networks.

The SAON SG agreed in June 2009 on four priority areas:

- Inventory (survey) of existing networks
- Data access and sharing
- Community-based monitoring
- Multinational collaboration among funding and implementing agencies

Further details and progress are reported on the SAON web site: www.arcticobserving.org

SAON itself will not undertake observations, archive data, or provide funds for these efforts. These efforts will remain the responsibility of either the ongoing networks or the organizations that support them.

S. Agustí

F. Danks

G. Birnbaum (AWI)

How to become a SAON Network?

The SAON SG aims to be a facilitator that serves the needs of existing observing sites, systems and networks, and data and information management activities that wish to be building blocks of SAON.

To achieve this, the SAON SG has prepared a short survey with two questions and an inventory form requesting some basic information about your observing activity. Network leaders are asked to complete the survey and help the SAON to best serve the Arctic observing community of operators and users.

Observing sites, systems and networks, and data and information repositories can be recognized by SAON if they are long-term activities that meet a few specific criteria and submit the SAON Network Inventory form. Such long-term activities include operational observing, scientific research-based observing, community-based observing and traditional knowledge. Short-term, campaign-style activities or process studies are unlikely to qualify, unless they create baseline data sets for future comparative study.

The criteria for SAON recognition are:

1. The activity is currently functioning and not only a plan/idea.
2. There is a defined point of contact and a process for regular dissemination of information (web site and/or newsletter).
3. There is a public mechanism (preferably a web site) for obtaining information (metadata) about the observing activities and data.
4. Data quality control procedures are in place.
5. The principle of free and open data access is being followed to the maximum extent possible.
6. Plans are in place for both medium and long-term data archival at nationally and/or internationally-recognized data repositories.

A. Hormes (AWI)

J. Lang (PCSP NRCan)

Sergey Khvorostov