



SAON Board meeting 11th January 2017
9-12 AM (EST) / 15-18 (CET)
Venue: STPI (1899 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C.)

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda

Christine Daae Olseng (SAON Chair) welcomed the participants and the agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2, the list of documents is found in Appendix 3, and the actions are found in Appendix 4.

2. Establishing a Strategic Framework for SAON

Christine Daae Olseng reminded the Board that the last meeting had been a meeting on the external review of SAON, and that this meeting should start a discussion on the four major recommendations given on SAON development:

- Refining its Vision, Mission and Goals
- Improving its Organizational Structure
- Focusing on funding and sustainability
- Increasing outreach and communication efforts

The output from the meeting should be a draft plan for establishing a strategic framework for SAON. In addition, associated documents about plans for SAON funding and outreach should be developed.

Larry D. Hinzman (SAON Vice-Chair) reminded the Board that the recent Arctic Council SAO meeting had asked SAON to develop a strategic plan and to develop its mission, vision and goals. He also reminded the meeting about the expectations to SAON formulated in the outcome of the 2016 White House Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting (WHASM), where SAON was the only organisation that was highlighted. He also noted the expectations formulated by the 2016 Arctic Observing Summit. He proposed that such discussions should also cover SAON's relationship with GEO and WMO.

Lars-Otto Reiersen (AMAP Secretariat) emphasized the need for SAON national structures. He also emphasized the need for establishing funding for SAON.

Attilio Gambardella (European Commission, EC) believed that SAON has an important role as the interface between science and the political level. It could translate messages from the scientific community to the political. This thinking is reflected in the recent EC calls under Horizon2020. He also noted the uniqueness of SAON in a global context.

Peter Sclosser (ISAC) noted that SAON was set up with this uniqueness in mind, but that SAON has not managed to translate this into something operational. He believed that SAON should move forward with Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) as drivers. He added that any plans should be accompanied by metrics.

Vito Vitale (Italy) also emphasized the uniqueness of SAON. The combination of the Arctic Council and the non-Arctic countries is the strength. Everywhere, the problem is that there are so many actors in the Arctic, and that SAON can be the forum to merge all interests, also at the scientific level.

Rodica Nitu (WMO) added that obligations could be formulated in terms of SBAs. These could drive the development of requirements and applications.

Etienne Charpentier (WMO) mentioned WMO's 14 application areas and how SBAs lead to applications. He also mentioned the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) as a forum for operationalisation. He added that WMO's OSCAR system can be used to record SAON requirements.

Sandy Starkweather (USA) believed that SAON's mission is relevant, but an explanation about how to reach this, is missing. She believed that the Board could be the audience for the networks, and that this is not clear from the overall level.

Jim Gamble (AIA) believed that SAON has a potential role in institutionalising Community Based Monitoring (CBM). He believed that there is a lack of consistency around CBM, and that SAON could play a role in this context. The other value of CBM is to connect to the communities; communities want to be involved.

Nicole Biebow (Germany) said that SAON needs a strategic plan and an implementation plan. She asked if the outcome of WHASM can be translated into a mandate to negotiate with the governments. She saw a need to make a decision about the strategic relevance of SAON. Ongoing programmes like EU-PolarNet and INTAROS are building blocks, but SAON should make sure that things are coordinated. She believed that funding for SAON should come from national funding like the European Polar Board and IASC. This would require that SAON documents how it is providing benefits. To establish this, she proposed that the Board meets for a 2 days working retreat.

The Board agreed on investigating this option.

- ✓ Action: SAON Executive to prepare a Board retreat meeting.
- ✓ Action: Jan Rene Larsen to circulate a Doodle for a retreat.

3. SAON Committees

ADC

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary) presented briefly the outcome of the Interoperability Workshop and the ADC meeting in November 2016 in Italy. The main topics of the workshop had been 'Data Discovery and Documentation', 'Data as a Service', 'Cloud Data and Computing Platforms', and 'Social Sciences, Indigenous Knowledge, Community Based Observing'. The report from the workshop will be disseminated to sponsor organizations with the aim of actively seeking resources for the community.

The ADC meeting had reviewed the ADC Terms of Reference and submitted these to the Board meeting. Christine Daae Olseng noted that both Committees may have to review the ToRs, when the strategic

framework is ready. In the current ToRs, she noted that voting rights are nationally based. She believed that the Committees and the Board should have the same voting rights and that the Committees should consider the voting rights of other participants like the PPs and the organisations (like GEO and WMO).

- ✓ Action: SAON Board to submit comments to the ToR. ADC to update, based on these

CON

Hannele Savela (Finland, co-chair of CON) presented the revised CON Terms of Reference. She noted that the aim was to keep them simple and follow the structure of ADC's.

Birgit Njaastad (Norway) commented that the ToRs defines a clear relationship with ADC, but not vice-versa.

Larry Hinzman believed that CON is not getting the engagement that it requires.

- ✓ Action: SAON Board to submit comments to the ToR. CON to update, based on these

4. US SAON Office

Sandy Starkweather explained that the name of the office is US-AON. NOAA is the driver of the initiative, which is meant to bring US agencies (including NOAA, NSF, EPA, NASA, DOI, USGS) together and to support SAON. The office is currently drafting a concept text stating the needs of the office in terms of SBAs and public services. Arctic Observing Framework meeting would be informative.

The office is also working on a mission statement, balancing between breath and focus. It will work through task teams, that are preferably interagency, but hopefully also related to SAON. It will also focus on data. The relationship with the NSF's Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) has to be defined, perhaps through a letter of agreement.

The relationship with SAON will be part of the discussion about breath. The office will coordinate the US part of SAON and will work to establish relationship with the Committees. The office will have to fulfil international commitment and will do this by linking to SAON. Jeremy Mathis will continue to be the US member of the SAON Board, while Sandy Starkweather may relate with the Committees.

Peter Sclosser noted that the profile of the office may impact the way countries set up national SAON efforts.

5. Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) 2018

AOS2018 will be held in Davos Switzerland, 15-26 June 2018.

Larry Hinzman saw two issues in the current organisation. First of all, he was concerned with the lack of credit that SAON and IASC are getting from the AOS. Secondly, he believed that the SAON Board should be more engaged in organising AOS. AOS currently faces economical challenging to secure the meeting facilities. This requires and upfront payment of \$20K.

6. Next physical meeting

The next physical meeting will be held 7th April 2017 during ASSW2017 in Praque, Czech Republic.

7. Any Other Business

GEO/GEOSS

Hannele Savela and Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) had represented SAON during the GEO-XIII Plenary in November 2016. Hannele Savela is the co-chair of the GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI) and had led a session where SAON's contributions to GEOCRI had been evaluated and discussed. A statement on SAON to the plenary had been provided, repeating the status of SAON as the Arctic liason to GEO. Hannele explained how SAON services could be registered in GEO's facilities.

EU-PolarNet

Nicole Biebow and Jan Rene Larsen gave a brief update on EU-PolarNet with specific emphasis on the three deliverables where the Committees will be asked to contribute:

- Inventory of existing monitoring and modelling programmes
- Roadmap for optimisation of monitoring and modelling programmes
- Data management recommendations for polar research data systems and infrastructures in Europe

WMO

Rodica Nitu made a presentation about WMO polar and high mountain activities with particular focus on Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW). The priorities of WMO within this area are to improve meteorological and hydrological monitoring, prediction and services, and the operationalizing the Global Cryosphere Watch is important in this context. Some of the activities of GCW are 1) refining cryosphere observational requirements, 2) maintaining a network of surface observations, including "CryoNet" , 3) collating/establishing measurement guidelines and best practices, 4) engaging in and supporting intercomparisons of instruments and products, 5) enable access to data and metadata, 6) enable the development and implementation of data/metadata standards, 7) contributing to WMO's space-based capabilities database, 8) producing hemispheric products, 9) engaging in historical data rescue, and 10) building a glossary of cryospheric terms. She recommended that a closer cooperation between the GCW Data Portal and ADC is established.

Rodica Nitu also presented WMO's process for review of requirements for observations, the so-called Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR).

PolarView

David Arthurs (PolarView) presented opportunities for collaboration between SAON and PolarView. These would mainly be that SAON reviews previous ESA reports, sponsors joint workshops and participate in future consultations and studies.

Recent activities between SAON and PolarView include participation in the Polar Data Interoperability Workshop, Polar TEP, Arctic Spatial Data Pilot, and Polaris.

INTAROS

The Integrated Arctic Observing System (INTAROS) is a 5 year project (2016-21), funded by the European Commission under Horizon 2020. The overall objective is to 'develop an efficient integrated Arctic Observation System by extending, improving and unifying existing and evolving systems in the different regions of the Arctic. The project is meant to support SAON, and Peter L. Pulsifer (ADC chair) attended the kick-off meeting in January 2017. Christine Daae Olseng had been in contact with projects leads and discussed how the relationship between INTAROS and SAON can be developed.

Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda
2. Establishing a Strategic Framework for SAON
3. SAON Committees
 - a. Arctic Data Committee (ADC): Reporting and revision of ToR
 - b. Committee on Observations and Networks (CON): Reporting and revision of ToR
4. US SAON Office
5. Arctic Observing Summit 2018 (Davos, Switzerland, June 2018): <http://www.polar2018.org>
6. Next physical meeting: 7th April 2017, ASSW2017 (Praque, Czech Republic): <http://www.assw2017.eu>
7. Any Other Business:
 - GEO/GEOSS
 - GEO-XIII Plenary
 - GEOCRI Tasks
 - EU-PolarNet, including deliverables
 - Inventory of existing monitoring and modelling programmes
 - Roadmap for optimisation of monitoring and modelling programmes
 - Data management recommendations for polar research data systems and infrastructures in Europe
 - WMO
 - Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) Steering Group
 - Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR)
 - PolarView
 - INTAROS

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail	Attendance
Chair	Christine	Daae Olseng	The Research Council of Norway	P.O. Box 564 1327 Lysaker Visting Address: Drammensveien 288 0283 Oslo	+47 91 15 16 23	cdo@forskningsradet.no	In person
Vice-Chair	Larry D.	Hinzman	University of Alaska, Fairbanks	P.O. Box 756 660 Fairbanks, AK 99775 6660	+1 907 474 7331	ldhinzman@alaska.edu	In person
Denmark	Katinka	Stenbojern	Division for Research Infrastructure Ministry of Higher Education and Science Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation	Bredgade 40 DK-1260 Copenhagen K	+45 7231 8289	kas@fi.dk	Remote participation
Finland, co-chair of CON	Hannele	Savela	University of Oulu, Finland	?	?	Hannele.Savela@oulu.fi	Remote participation
Germany	Nicole	Biebow	Alfred-Wegener-Institut fuer Polar- und Meeresforschung	Am Handelshafen 12 GE-27570 Bermerhaven	+49 471 4831 1011	Nicole.Biebow@awi.de	In person
Italy	Vito	Vitale	Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (ISAC) Italian National Research Council (CNR)	Via Gobetti 101, 40129 Bologna	+39 051 639 9595	v.vitale@isac.cnr.it	In person

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail	Attendance
Korea	Yoo Kyung	Lee	?	?	?	yklee@kopri.re.kr	Remotely
Norway	Birgit	Njaastad	Norwegian Polar Institute	Fram Centre NO-9296 Tromsø	+47 77 75 06 36	birgit.njaastad@npolar.no	Remotely
Russia	Igor	Ashik	Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute	38, Bering str., St. Petersburg, 199397	+7 812 352 19 22	ashik@aari.ru	In person
Sweden	Ulf	Jonsell	?	?	?	ulf.jonsell@polar.se	Remotely
USA	Sandy	Starkweather	NOAA	?	?	sandy.starkweather@noaa.gov	
Arctic Council Permanent Participants							
AIA	Jim	Gamble	Aleut International Association	333 W. 4th Ave., Suite 301 Anchorage, AK 99501	Voice: 907-33-ALEUT (332-5388) Toll Free: 877-352-5388 (In Alaska)	aia@alaska.net	In person
Saami Council	Jannie	Staffansson	Saami Council Arctic Environment Unit	P.O. Box 162 N-9735 Kárašjohka/Karasjok Norway	+46 70 227 9878	jannie@saamicouncil.net	Remotely
Organisations							
AMAP	Lars-Otto	Reiersen	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	Gaustadalléen 21 N-0349 Oslo Norway	+47 21 08 04 81	Lars-otto.reiersen@amap.no	In person
AMAP	Jan René	Larsen	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	Gaustadalléen 21 N-0349 Oslo Norway	+45 23 61 81 77	jan.rene.larsen@amap.no	In person
EC (European Commission)	Attilio	Gambardella	European Commission	CDMA 03/124 1049 Brussels	+32 229 93110	attilio.gambardella@ec.europa.eu	In person

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail	Attendance
			DG Research & Innovation Climate Action and Earth Observations	Belgium			
INTERACT	Hannele	Savela	INTERACT Transnational Access	Thule Institute, University of Oulu P.O.Box 7300, FI- 90014 Oulu, FINLAND	+358 294 487 554	hannele.savela@oulu.fi	Remotely
ISAC	Peter	Schlosser	International Study of Arctic Change c/o The Earth Institute Columbia University	405 Low Library, MC 4335 535 West 116th Street New York, NY 10027	+1 845 365 8707 (8737)	schlosser@ideo.columbia.edu	In person
Polar View	David	Arthurs	Polar View	Polar View Earth Observation Limited Electron Building, Fermi Avenue Harwell Oxford, Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 0QR United Kingdom		David.Arthurs@PolarView.org	In person
WMO	Etienne	Charpentier	World Meteorological Organization	7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, Case Postale 2300 1211, Geneva Switzerland		echarpentier@wmo.int	Remotely
WMO	Rodica	Nitu	World	7 bis, Avenue de la		Rnitu@wmo.int	In person

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail	Attendance
			Meteorological Organization	Paix, Case Postale 2300 1211, Geneva Switzerland			

Appendix 3: List of meeting documents and presentations

Agenda item	Document no	Document title	Document author
1	01	Draft agenda, version 6JAN2016	Secretariat
1	02	List of participants, version 6JAN2016	Secretariat
2	07	SAON: Establishing a Strategic Framework	Secretariat and Chair
3	08	Arctic Data Committee Terms of Reference. Draft dated 4JAN2017	ADC
3	06	Terms of Reference for CON. Draft dated 13DEC2016	CON
7	05	List of Tasks under GEO Cold Region Initiative (GEOCRI)	Hannele Savela / GEO Secretariat
7	(Link)	Inventory of existing monitoring and modelling programmes	EU-PolarNet
7	(Link)	INTAROS – Integrated Arctic Observing System	INTAROS
Info	03	GoToMeeting dial-in information	Secretariat
Info	04	Report on SAON to AMAP WG	Secretariat
3 / Presentation	09	Arctic Data and Systems Interoperability: Report on Polar Connections Workshop	Peter L. Pulsifer
7 / Presentation	10	WMO Polar and High Mountain activities - Global Cryosphere Watch - Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR)	Rodica Nitu
7 / Presentation	11	Opportunities for Collaboration	David Arthurs

The documents can be found at <http://www.arcticobserving.org/12-board-meetings/234-saon-board-meeting-fairbanks-2>

Appendix 4: Actions

Action No	Action	Who	When
1	Prepare a Board retreat meeting	Executive	1 st April 2017
2	Circulate a Doodle for a retreat	Secretariat	1 st March 2017
3	Submit comments to the ToRs of ADC and CON	Board	1 st March 2017