



SAON Board meeting 11st November 2020
16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT / 14-15:30 UTC
Teleconference. Minutes

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda

Sandy Starkweather (Chair) welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2 and the list of documents is found in Appendix 3. The meeting was held as a GoToMeeting event, and the 'chat' is found in Appendix 4.

2. The role of the National SAON Committees

Sandy Starkweather (Chair) introduced the agenda item, noting that the topic is an evolving concept that countries are doing a little bit differently. Board members who have some background on what their nations are doing had been asked to share this.

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretariat) made reference to the External Review of SAON from 2016, which had found that "The National SAON Coordination Committees are viewed as a key component of the SAON organizational structure, but in general, are not functioning well". The conclusion was that "The National SAON Coordinating Committees are viewed as a vital foundational component of the work of SAON. It is seen as critical that these Committees be established – or enhanced - in all SAON Member countries as soon as possible. Guidelines, mandates and terms of reference should be developed for these Committees". In order to inspire a discussion about this, countries where national structures exist, had been asked to share their experience.

Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) explained that Finland had established a national SAON committee immediately after SAON was established and that it had held a few meetings in 2011 and 2012. The activities had focused on mapping projects and understanding observational capabilities either in projects or otherwise. The Arctic Council Senior Arctic Official (SAO) had requested that the committee was established, and the SAO had been the chair of the committee. Members had been from public research institutions, like the meteorological institute, the institute for natural resources, for environment and for geology, and the geodetic institute. The committee approached the universities that were active in projects. Over the years, the committee had convened when there were specific items on the SAON Board agenda, and where a national response was requested. He explained that the structure could be revitalised in order to support the ROADS process and a space component would be added. Currently these and other similar institutions were organised in Tulanet. There is a new space organisation in Finland with an earth

observation component, and one of the topics for this is the Arctic. For the ROADS process, he asked for a more clear request about what national committees should do.

Jórunn Harðardóttir (Iceland) explained that Iceland does not have a SAON structure as such, but that there is a committee including universities and national research institutes that have research and monitoring as their mandate. It is headed by the Ministry of Environment and Resources, and CAFF, PAME and IASC are invited as observers. The committee has been established because of the Iceland Presidency of the Arctic Council, but Jórunn Harðardóttir believed that the committee could also serve as national structure for SAON.

Adam Houben (Canada) explained that Canada had a SAON Committee in the past and still recognize the need to coordinate efforts at the national level. Terms of reference had been developed for the Committee and a report on the state of environmental monitoring in the northern part of Canada was produced around 2015. He further explained about the transitions that had been ongoing in Canada going from the Canadian Polar Commissioners to Polar Knowledge Canada and the establishment of the high Arctic Research Station. He noted that Canada is engaged in ADC and CON at the chairmanship level. Within Canada there are efforts to develop an integrated Arctic data management system. Canada has also always contributed to the Arctic Observing Summit and the ROADS process. He believed that Polar Knowledge Canada could play an important role in the future and reported that the Canadian Committee is currently reviewing lines of communication and co-ordination in order to meet the objectives of the SAON Implementation Plan.

Rodica Nitu (WMO) explained that national hydrological and other operational institutions in various countries have formulated a wish to have a closer link with the SAON framework, and especially how it is implemented at the national level. WMO SAON focal points had been appointed and the implementation of the ROADS framework would be discussed at an upcoming teleconference.

3. Committees

3a ADC

Peter Pulsifer (ADC chair) reported on the series of workshops under the heading “Polar to Global Online Interoperability”. A workshop was held 5th November and the topics were federated search and semantics, as well as the analysis of polar data policies. For the document on data policies, he informed the Board that a summary exists that probably fits better in an Antarctic context, since they have a hard deadline for this related to their governance structure. Plans for a 4th Polar Data Forum were presented, tentatively to be held in the week of 20th September 2021. He emphasized the need for a broad cooperation and presence of the science community, the data community, and the indigenous community.

3b CON

Helen Joseph (HCJ Consulting) reported on work to organise a workshop on CON in the ongoing series of governance review workshops. The agenda had three components: A) Review of the mandate of CON, B) Existing CON membership, and C) Reporting structure of CON. The Board was asked to share their views on who should be invited to participate, with the restriction that the group should not be too big. It was

proposed to invite 1) Current CON members, 2) AOS Executive, 3) Indigenous participants, and 4) Board members.

4 Invitation to Tender: “ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions”

Jan Rene Larsen explained about a call for funding that had been issued by the European Space Agency (ESA). Helen Joseph had prepared a draft concept paper on how SAON could potentially be engaged and it proposed that the engagement should be under two of the three described themes: *Interdisciplinary Networking Actions* and *Local Communities Co-design Actions*. The funding should support the development of the *Advisory Panel* of the ROADS process and in particular secure the engagement of indigenous participants. One aspect of the application would be to document the network of SAON and Board members were encourage to formulate a Letter of Support to reflect this. The funding structure would be that the SAON Secretariat (through the AMAP Secretariat) would be the beneficiary of the funding and would from the funding be able to support mainly indigenous participation in the project.

Helen Joseph added that the paper reflected the thinking that a critical success factor for ROADS is the equitable inclusion of Arctic indigenous peoples in the design and development process and that the purpose of the project in general would be to advance the human side of the ROADS process and try to build up capacity.

- ✓ Action: Board members are asked to provide a Letter of Support by 18th November to support this application; a template had been provided.

5 Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)

Larry Hinzman (USA) explained that the ASM3 is different from earlier in several ways, and one is that the organisers are focused on action oriented activities. In their concept paper, they have explicitly noted that, that they want to promote the implementation of an Arctic Observing Network and data management system. The drafting of the joint statement from ASM3 is ongoing, and it could be beneficial for SAON if a joint message especially from member countries should be formulated. This would involve that national Board members identify their representative to the ASM3 and ask them to push one sentence into the Joint Statement. He added that this mechanism had worked for ASM1 and believed that it would work again. He proposed that the statement should be “Our nation supports the efforts of SAON (Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks) in establishing a Pan-Arctic observing network with accompanying data management system and encourages the Third Arctic Science Ministerial to endorse and promote implementation of the ROADS process.”

- ✓ Action: Board members are asked to contact their ASM3 representatives and propose the mentioned statement.

6 SAON Governance Review Workshops (15 min)

(Was not covered)

7 SAON presence at

Sandy Starkweather summarised SAON presence at a couple of past events: Arctic Science Co-Operations (AASCO) and the Workshop about SIOS core data, harmonization of measurement protocols and essential variables.

7c Arctic Council: Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting 19th November

Larry Hinzman (USA) noted that there have been presentations to the SAOs earlier, mainly reporting on ongoing activities. He proposed that all Arctic State Board members would contact their national SAO and that there should be a coordinated request to ask SAOs to support the ROADS process. An alternative could for instance be to ask the SAOs to implement an assessment of the Arctic observing networks and develop a pathway forward, perhaps specifically asking the Arctic Council Working Groups AMAP, CAFF and PAME to be engaged.

Vito Vitale (Italy) believed that the AC WGs and SAON works in parallel, emphasizing that SAON is different, mainly from the AC Observers point of view.

Sandy Starkweather added that the ROADS process is still in its formulating phase, including defining the advisory process, and at this stage it is important to define the engagement process, including the engagement of AC WGs, but it may also be too early to define specific contributions.

- ✓ Action: Board members are asked to provide this message to their SAO: “Our nation supports implementation of an international Arctic Observing network and data management system. We ask the Arctic Council to direct the Working Groups (especially AMAP, CAFF, PAME) to promote and facilitate the ROADS Process”.

8 Any other business

Maribeth Murray (ISAC, AINA) made reference to the presentation by Adam Houben on the development within Canada to develop the engagement in SAON and to mobilise the research, the academic, and the observing community. She is drafting a white paper for the journal *Arctic* on the subject and would like to ask SAON Board members for their permission to use earlier statements on countries’ capacity and capability to address SAON goals and objectives.

- ✓ Action: Board members are asked to raise concern about the use of the information in this table: https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190213/04_Role_of_national_SAON_organisations_20DEC2018.docx in a journal article.

Appendix 1. Agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda. Review of actions from Board meeting 21st October (5 min)
[Please note that the session will be recorded. The recording will not be shared, but only used for the preparation of minutes. Sandy Starkweather]
2. The role of the National SAON Committees (45 min) *[Selected Board members have been invited to present their experiences. The National Committees are asked about their thoughts for supporting the ROADS process nationally]*
3. Committees (10 min)
 - a. ADC [Peter Pulsifer]
[The latest Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon was held 5th November. Plans for the next Polar Data Forum; there is an invitation from the European Polar Board for September 2021. Scheduling the annual ADC teleconference, and inviting Board members to attend]
 - b. CON [Lisa Loseto]
[A draft agenda for a Governance Review Workshop has been prepared. National Committees' engagement in the CON governance workshop]
4. Invitation to Tender: "ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions" (15 min) [Jan Rene Larsen]
5. Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)
[The drafting of the joint statement from ASM3 is ongoing. A joint communication from SAON should be formulated. This involves that national Board members identify their representative to the ASM3. This would be either national science or environment ministers. You should ask them to push one sentence into the Joint Statement. The formulation is to be agreed, but could be "Our nation supports the efforts of SAON (Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks) in establishing a PanArctic observing network with accompanying data management system and encourages the Third Arctic Science Ministerial to endorse and promote implementation of the ROADS process." Larry Hinzman]
6. SAON Governance Review Workshops (15 min)
7. SAON presence at (10 min)
 - a. *[A summary from the meetings since the latest Board meeting]*
 - b. WMO Data Conference 16-19 November
 - c. Arctic Council: Senior Arctic Officials meeting 19th November
 - d. Marine Arctic Data Portal 27th November
 - e. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS): Arctic Regional Process
 - f. ASM3 webinars (8 seminars, including 3rd December and 20th January)
 - g. ASSW 2021 20-26 March 2020 *[Including a physical Board meeting and a session on the ROADS process]*
 - h. Arctic Circle Japan Forum. 7-10 May 2020, Tokyo, Japan
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/japan>
 - i. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial. 8-9 May 2021, Tokyo, Japan <https://asm3.org/>

- j. International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X): 15-19 June 2021, Arkhangelsk, Russia. <https://icass.uni.edu/>
 - k. Arctic Circle 2021 Assembly. 14-17 October 2020 <http://www.arcticcircle.org/>
 - l. Svalbard Science Conference 2021
 - m. Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (*postponed*)
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/berlin/announcement>
8. Any other business (10 min)
9. Next telephone conference: 15th December 16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT / 15-16:30 UTC.

Appendix 2. List of participants

Affiliation	Name	Institution and address	Phone	e-mail
Countries				
Chair	Sandy Starkweather	NOAA Climate Program Office US Arctic Observing Network (US AON) Boulder, CO	+1 303.497.5247	sandy.starkweather@noaa.gov
Vice-Chair	Mikko Strahlendorff	FMI, Finland	+358 50 359 3795	Mikko.Strahlendorff@fmi.fi
Chair of ADC	Peter L. Pulsifer	National Snow and Ice Data Center Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science (CIRES) University of Colorado 449 UCB University of Colorado Boulder CO 80309 USA	Boulder tel: +1 (303) 619-4560 Ottawa tel: +1 (613) 620-7195	Peter.Pulsifer@Colorado.edu
Canada	Lise Thibodeau	Polar Knowledge Canada		Lise.Thibodeau@polar-polaire.gc.ca
Canada	Helen Joseph			helen@hcjconsulting.ca
Canada	Adam Houben	Polar Knowledge Canada	+1 613-293-3441	adam.houben@polar.gc.ca
Denmark	Jonas Rømer	Aarhus University Department of Bioscience		jkr@bios.au.dk
France	Marie-Noëlle Houssais	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Sorbonne Université, 4 place Jussieu, 75252 Paris Cedex 05, France	+33 (0) 1 44 27 61 02	marie-noelle.houssais@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr

Iceland	Jórunn Harðardóttir	Icelandic Met Office		jorunn@vedur.is
Italy	Vito Vitale	Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (ISAC) National Research Council Via Gobetti 101 40129 Bologna	+39 051 639 9595 Cell: +39 348 408 6782	v.vitale@isac.cnr.it
Japan	Yuji Kodama	National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) Arctic Environmental Research Center (AERC) 10-3 Midori-cho Tachikawa-shi Tokyo, 190-8518	+81 42 512 0927	kodama.yuji@nipr.ac.jp
Norway	Ingunn Limstrand	Environment Protection Agency	+47 91 57 70 96	ingunn.limstrand@miljodir.no
Russia	Nadezhda Kharlampieva	Saint-Petersburg State University Bering Street 38, St. Petersburg, Russia		nkhar2014@gmail.com nkhar@aari.ru
USA	Hajo Eicken	University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center Department of Geosciences University of Alaska Fairbanks	+1 907 474-7280	heicken@alaska.edu
USA	Larry D. Hinzman	University of Alaska, Fairbanks P.O. Box 756 660 Fairbanks, AK 99775 6660	+1 907 474 6000 +1 907 460 0552 (Cell)	ldhinzman@alaska.edu

Organisations				
AINA	Maribeth Murray	Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) University of Calgary		murraym@ucalgary.ca
AMAP (SAON Secretariat)	Jan René Larsen	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat Visiting: Hjalmar Johansens gate 14, 9007 Tromsø Postal: The Fram Centre, Box 6606 Langnes, 9296 Tromsø	+45 23 61 81 77	jan.rene.larsen@amap.no
European Commission	Larisa Lorinczi	European Commission DG Research & Innovation Climate Action and Earth Observations CDMA 03/124 1049 Brussels Belgium		Larisa.Lorinczi@ec.europa.eu
European Commission's Joint Research Centre	Srdan Dobricic	European Commission's Joint Research Centre		srdan.dobricic@ec.europa.eu
IASC	Gerlis Fugmann	International Arctic Science Committee Borgir, Norðurlóð 600 Akureyri	+3545155824	gerlis.fugmann@iasc.info
ICC	Eva Kruemmel	Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Suite 1001 75 Albert Street Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7 Canada	+1 613 563 26 42	ekruemmel@scientissime.com

WMO	Rodica Nitu	World Meteorological Organization 7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, Case Postale 2300 1211, Geneva Switzerland	+ 41 22 730 8482	Rnitu@wmo.int
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More details about the participants can be found here: <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-members>

Appendix 3. List of documents

Agenda item	Document no	Document Title	Document author
0	05	Draft agenda version 10th November 2020	Executive
0	06	GoToMeeting dial-in	Secretariat
0		SAON Board meeting 21st October 2020. Draft minutes version 7th November 2020	Secretariat
2	(external link)	The report from the external review of SAON from 2016 (Finding #5 on national SAON Structures)	External review group
3a	(external link)	Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon 5th November 2020	ADC
3b	03	SAON Governance Review Workshop #2 – Governance of SAON’s Committee on Observations and Networks. Draft agenda version 8th November	CON chair and Helen Joseph
4	(external link)	ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions	
	04	Proposed engagement Version 8th November	
	07	Draft Letter of Support. Version 11th November	
6	(link to earlier Board meeting document)	Governance review plans Version 10th June 2020	Board
	(link to earlier Board meeting document)	SAON Governance Review: Workshop #1 – ROADS Advisory Panel. Draft Workshop Notes. Version 10th August 2020	Helen Joseph
7	(external link)	Arctic Circle: The Global Arctic Today. 11th November	
	(external link)	Arctic Circle: Sweden's brand new Arctic Policy. 16th November	
	(external link)	WMO Data Conference 16-19 November	
	(external link)	Arctic Council: Senior Arctic Officials meeting 19th November	
	(external link)	Marine Arctic Data Portal 27th November	
	02	UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS): Arctic Regional Process	
	(external link)	ASM3 webinars (8 seminars, including 3rd December and 20th January)	
	(external link)	ASSW 2021 20-26 March 2020, including a physical Board meeting and a session on the ROADS process]	
	(external link)	Arctic Circle Japan Forum. 7-10 May 2020, Tokyo, Japan	
	(external link)	3rd Arctic Science Ministerial 8-9 May 2021	
(external link)	International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X) June 15-19, 2021		

	(external link)	Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, Iceland, October 14-17, 2021	
	(external link)	Svalbard Science Conference, 2-3 November 2021	
	(external link)	Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (postponed)	

Meeting documents are available here: <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/428-11th-november-2020-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference>

Appendix 4. "Chat log"

Chat Log C:\Users\X\Documents\ChatLog SAON Board 2020_11_11 17_35.rtf

Larisa Lorinczi, DG Research & Innovation (to Everyone): 16:03: I am filling in for my colleague Nicolas Segebarth.

Maribeth Murray (Private): 16:07: Hi Jan - I can speak under AOB regarding the white paper from Canada

vito vitale CNR Italy (to Everyone): 16:29: ca a maske a commnet

AMAP Secretariat - Jan Rene Larsen (to Maribeth Murray): 16:30: Agree

Larry Hinzman (to Everyone): 16:34: There are only 8 Senior Arctic Officials... it would be appropriate for the SAON Board member from each of those nations to ask their SAO to put forward this recommendation.

Our nation supports implementation of an international Arctic Observing network and data management system. We ask the Arctic Council to direct AMAP, PAME and CAFF to promote the ROADS Process.

vito vitale CNR Italy (to Everyone): 16:37: I consider WGs very relevant for the ROADS process., but they need special resources to drive this initiative

vito vitale CNR Italy (to Everyone): 16:38: Sorry my message was set before well formulated But we need to better understand

vito vitale CNR Italy (to Everyone): 16:40: I agree with Larry sentences. But we need to understand at which level we like to engage WGs in the process

Maribeth Murray (to Everyone): 16:42: I can do that Sandy

Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada (to Everyone): 16:45: the mic test worked at login

Sandy Starkweather (to Everyone): 16:45: Thanks, Maribeth

Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada (to Everyone): 16:45: perhaps another nation goes first while i try another mic

Eva Kruemmel (to Everyone): 16:45: Adam, you can check under settings if the right mic is selected.

Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada (to Everyone): 16:47: Hello, i've now called in via phone, whenever ready

AMAP Secretariat - Jan Rene Larsen (to Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada): 16:47: Adam, we can hear you

Rodica Nitu (to Everyone): 16:55: May I make a comment, please

vito vitale CNR Italy (to Everyone): 16:58: I have a comment

vito vitale CNR Italy (to Everyone): 16:59: ok skip

Rodica Nitu (to Everyone): 17:00: I have to leave now, for another call. thank you. have a nice rest of the day.

Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada (to Everyone): 17:18: Can you repeat the timeframe for providing LOS?

AMAP Secretariat - Jan Rene Larsen (to Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada): 17:21: Thanks Adam, there will be an email on this from me tomorrow

Mikko Strahlendorff (to Everyone): 17:25: No, good sentence Larry, thanks!

Maribeth Murray (Private): 17:28: I can skip the AOB and do it over email if you prefer Jan to respect the time constraint.

AMAP Secretariat - Jan Rene Larsen (to Maribeth Murray): 17:29: I believe it would be good if we hear from you - just to explain the context

Maribeth Murray (Private): 17:29: okay

Jórunn Harðardóttir (to Everyone): 17:33:

https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20200812/03_ASM3_New_Project_Developable_Template_Version_31JUL2020.pdf would this document be the best one to include as a short intro into the ROADS process when approaching the ASM3 national committee?

Maribeth Murray (to Everyone): 17:34: Thanks. everyone

Larisa Lorinczi, DG Research & Innovation (to Everyone): 17:35: Thank you!

Adam Houben - Polar Knowledge Canada (to Everyone): 17:35: Thanks!