



SAON Board meeting 17th February 2021
16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT / 15-16:30 UTC
Teleconference
Minutes

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda

Sandy Starkweather (Chair) welcomed the participants, wishing all participants a Happy New Year. 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.

2. Committees

2a ADC

Peter Pulsifer (ADC chair) reported on the series of workshops under the heading “Polar to Global Online Interoperability”. Part of the process was the development of a paper aligning polar data policies. Stein Tronstad (vice-chair of ADC and a member of SCADM) had led and introduced the work and explained that the background for the work had been data policies from some of the existing ‘parent’ polar organisations: IASC/SAON/ADC, SCADM and SOOS. In addition, a number of other existing global and regional data policies had been reviewed. The review group had identified a number of policy drivers, including

- The drive towards open data
- Limits to openness and timeliness
- The ‘data deluge’, ‘big data’ and cloud computing
- New costs models and big data infrastructure
- The FAIR, CARE, and TRUST principles
- Ethical considerations
- Demand for transparency in science
- Legal instruments for data sharing
- Metrics

He explained that the objectives behind data policies among others are to safeguard scientific data as a public asset, managed in a way that would maximize the benefit to society. It should also be to provide a framework for the data to be handled in a consistent manner to reach a balance between the rights of investigators, the rights of indigenous peoples and the need for widespread access through the free and unrestricted sharing and exchange of both data and metadata.

The work among the reviewers had led to the formulation of ten Core Principles:

1. Data must be ethically open
2. Data should be free
3. Data must be provided in a timely manner
4. FAIR principles should be applied to the greatest extent possible
5. All data must be accompanied by a complete set of metadata
6. Data should have persistent and globally unique identifiers
7. Data must be labelled as reusable
8. Data should be attributable and attributed
9. Data must be appropriately preserved for the long term
10. Data management and long-term curation must be planned and resourced

He finally explained that one chapter in the document on 'Other important principles' was still open and would address for instance Indigenous Knowledge. Peter Pulsifer added that the focus for the next workshop would be about adding contents to this chapter. One proposal had been to distribute a brief among indigenous peoples' organisations, making them aware of the work.

Sandy Starkweather thanked Stein Tronstad and Peter Pulsifer for the work, noting that the document could also serve as a tool for the National Committees to evaluate national practises against the described principles. This could help the review group formulate recommendations to for instance the AOS and the ASM.

Rodica Nitu (WMO) explained that WMO is in the process of updating and consolidating its data policy and that free and unrestricted access to data is at the core of the policy, especially for data necessary for meteorological and hydrological services. She believed that the WMO data policy could also support SAON work.

Peter Pulsifer informed the meeting that planning for the 4th Polar Data Forum is ongoing and will be taking place end-September 2021.

2b CON

Lisa Loseto (CON chair) reported from the CON meeting in January: The meeting had mainly discussed the outcome of the workshop on CON in the ongoing series of governance review workshops. The agenda had had three components: A) Review of the mandate of CON, B) Existing CON membership, and C) Reporting structure of CON.

A series of actions had come out of the workshop, and the meeting had prioritised these:

1. The **CON Terms of Reference should be updated** (from 2017) and revised so as to reflect the 2018 SAON Strategy and Implementation Plan.
2. The **value and relevancy of the national observation inventories needs to be reinforced** with SAON Board members; in addition, the ASM3 Ministerial Statement could present an opportunity.

3. **Further discussion on the relationship between SAON CON and POAWG should be encouraged** – to capture synergies between the scientific focus on Arctic observing networks (SAON CON) and the focus on an inventory of polar observing assets (POAWG).
4. **Strong National SAON Committees are needed** as the foundation for the SAON CON, as well as for the SAON ADC. This requirement should be brought forward to the two oversight bodies of SAON, namely the Arctic Council and IASC.
5. The upcoming **Arctic Science Ministerial 3 meeting represents an opportunity** to develop and deliver key messages into the Joint Statement that is released by the Ministers. The Joint Statement could be used to restate the need for strong National SAON Committees, if this was deemed a priority.
6. **The leadership of the CON should consider having a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Past-Chair positions.** The Vice-Chair would serve in a support capacity to the Chair and move forward to the Chair position at the end of their term. The Past-Chair position would serve as an advisor to the Chair passing along guidance based on their previous Chair experiences.
7. **Synergies and further collaboration should be developed, between the SAON CON and:**
 - **the Arctic Council WGs,**
 - **the Arctic Observing Summit WGs, and**
 - **the ROADS process.**
8. **The “combination model” for SAON CON membership should be formalized.**

It had been decided to recommend that actions 2, 4, 5, and 6 should be prioritized.

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary) proposed that the discussion within the Board should start with action 6 (CON leadership). It was agreed to draft an announcement of the position, ask the Board to review it and also ask for the Boards’ advice on how to advertise it. Announcement could be either within SAON or more broadly.

3. SAON Governance review

Helen Joseph (HCJ Consulting) had developed a draft agenda for a workshop on National Committees/Structures. The workshop would have four main sections:

- Part A – Background on the Intention and Purpose of the National SAON Committees
- Part B – Current Considerations (for the National organisations)
- Part C - New Interest and Challenges in National Organizations
- Part D – Way Forward

For each section, a number background documents were identified and for each section a number of questions had been formulated that would guide the discussion at the workshop.

Mikko Strahlendorff (co-chair) agreed to chair the workshop and proposed that GEO should be engaged in the workshop, also because GEO also has national contact points.

Sandy Starkweather believed that when it comes to participation in the workshop, it should first of all be Board members. Where National Committees exist, Board members should be the lead for these, and where they do not exist, Board members should be the ‘seeds’ for these.

4. Arctic Science Ministerial

4a Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)

Tetsuo Sueyoshi (Japan) reported on the work ongoing to prepare the ASM3 and to finalise the Joint Statement. He explained that the planned structure within each of the four themes is 'Overview', 'Recommended Actions (general)', 'Long-term' and 'Near-term'. The document was currently being reviewed by the countries and was currently not available, but Tetsuo Sueyoshi was able to summarise at an overall level that there were recommendations on support for the ROADS process and SAON under the theme 'Observing'. The document also contained formulations about the Arctic Science Funders' Forum, and Tetsuo Sueyoshi explained that it was believed that the Forum would play a role in following up on the recommendations in the Statement. For the specific recommendations about SAON, it was believed that SAON should have a responsibility for implementing these.

4b Follow-up from ASM2: Arctic PASSION project

Mikko Strahlendorf reported that negotiations on the contract with the European Commission were ongoing. The project is meant to start in summer 2021.

5 Arctic Observing Summit 2022

Peter Schlosser explained that the first teleconference had been held in a small 'AOS 2022 Initiative Group'. The discussion had been around establishing the organising structure (including reaching out to the 'next generation') and defining the themes for the AOS.

6. SAON engagement with WMO. Teleconference held 5th January

Rodica Nitu (WMO) reported from a meeting held between members of the SAON Executive, the leads of the Global Cryosphere Watch and ArctiHYCOS; the latter monitors the influx of fresh water into the Arctic Ocean. One topic was deliberations on a pilot project for the SAON ROADS principles. Another topic discussed was that WMO is interested in participating in the governance workshop on National SAON organisations; WMO has identified national focal points for SAON. There were also deliberations on the WMO facility for Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR) and the GCOS work on Essential Climate Variables. There were finally deliberations on the use of WMO metadata standards in the context of SAON; these are a tool for recording information about observing platforms.

7. The UNDOS process

Craig Lee (University of Washington, USA) presented progress on the Arctic UNDOS process. A draft Action Plan is under preparation and had been reviewed by the Task Force in January. The plan is that the draft will be reviewed by the Working Group chairs through February and the draft is meant to be presented to the public 16th March. The review closes 25th March and the plan will be delivered to IOC on 1st May. The document is meant to be a living document through the decade.

Craig Lee explained that overarching themes had been defined centrally but that the group in addition had identified a number of cross-cutting themes:

- Lack of environmental data/monitoring/knowledge/tools hinders progress towards Ecosystem-Based Management
- Lack of understanding of the value of Arctic ecosystems and involvement of local and Indigenous communities hinders evidence-based, sustainable, and equitable governance
- Safe lives and livelihoods are challenging to achieve in the Arctic, due to lack of knowledge about risks and tools to address it
- Access to data infrastructure and data is often limited and unequal
- Involvement of local and indigenous people and knowledge is essential

The plan currently identifies these Societal Challenges:

- Connecting the Arctic
- Ensuring safety and health in the Arctic
- Valuing the Arctic
- Managing Arctic ecosystems
- Supporting the Arctic

And these actions:

- Connect
- Collaborate
- Map and Discover
- Observe
- Develop
- Manage

One of the concerns raised by Craig Lee and Molly McCammon to the plan is that several of the 'Actions' items are more policy-oriented and less science oriented, for instance the safety and management plan items. Such items should be seen as drivers or outcomes more than actions.

In the follow-up discussion, Sandy Starkweather saw the process as an opportunity for SAON and IOC to become more visible to each other. She saw the action plan as a very high-level document and believed that especially the 'Observe' action could be a space for SAON. It was noted that indigenous engagement had been weak. Some attempts had been made but had failed due to lack of connectivity and capacity.

(Remaining agenda items were not covered)

Appendix 1. Agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda. Review of actions from Board meeting 12th December (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. Committees (10 min)
 - a. ADC [Peter Pulsifer]
*[Review of the document *Alignment of Polar Data Policies - Recommended Principles*]*
 - b. CON [Lisa Loseto]
[Outcome of latest Committee meeting. From the CON governance review workshop, CON proposes that these actions are prioritised:
 - . *The upcoming Arctic Science Ministerial 3 meeting represents an opportunity to develop and deliver key messages into the Joint Statement that is released by the Ministers.*
 - i. *The leadership of the CON should consider having a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Past-Chair positions.*
 - ii. *Strong National SAON Committees are needed as the foundation for the SAON CON, as well as for the SAON ADC.*
 - iii. *The value and relevancy of the national observation inventories needs to be reinforced with SAON Board members; in addition, the ASM3 Ministerial Statement could present an opportunity.]*
3. SAON Governance review (10 min)
[Two workshops have been held: One on the ROADS Advisory Panel and one on SAON CON Governance. Proposed theme for the next is National SAON Organisations. The Board is asked for advice on agenda and participants. Helen Joseph]
4. Arctic Science Ministerial
 - a. Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) [Tetsuo Sueyoshi] (10 min)
 - b. Follow-up from ASM2: Arctic PASSION project [Mikko Strahlendorff] (5 min)
5. Arctic Observing Summit 2022 (10 min)
 - a. Initiating process, including appointment of co-chairs
6. SAON engagement with WMO. Teleconference held 5th January [Rodica Nitu] (5 min)
7. The UNDOS process [Craig Lee or Molly McCammon] (5 min)
8. SAON presence at (10 min)
 - a. ASM3 webinars
 - b. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS): Arctic Regional Process. 16-17 March 2021: Online consultation on draft action plan
 - c. ASSW 2021 20-26 March
 - d. Arctic Circle Japan Forum. 7-10 May 2020, Tokyo, Japan
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/japan>
 - e. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial. 8-9 May 2021, Tokyo, Japan <https://asm3.org/>
 - f. Arctic Meteorological Summit 2021. 19th May 2021
 - g. International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X): 15-19 June 2021, Arkhangelsk, Russia. <https://icass.uni.edu/>

- h. Arctic Circle 2021 Assembly. 14-17 October 2020 <http://www.arcticcircle.org/>
 - i. Svalbard Science Conference 2021
 - j. Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (*postponed*)
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/berlin/announcement>
9. Any other business (10 min)
- a. ROADS brochure
 - b. Requests to SAON for Letters of Support
10. Next telephone conference: 10th March 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				
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Organisations				
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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	09	Draft agenda version 16th February	Executive
0	07	GoToMeeting dial-in	Secretariat
0		SAON Board meeting 15th December 2020. Draft minutes version 15th February 2021	Secretariat
2a	(external link)	Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon 21st January 2021	
	05	Alignment of Polar Data Policies - Recommended Principles	
2b	08	SAON Governance Review Workshop #2 – CON Workshop November 30th, 2020. Final report version 5th February	
	(external link)	SAON Governance Review Workshop #2 – CON Workshop November 30th, 2020. Outcomes/actions	
3	10	SAON Governance Review Workshop #3 - National Committees. Draft agenda version 16th February 2021	
	(external link)	The report from the external review of SAON from 2016 (Finding #5 on national SAON Structures)	
	(link to earlier Board meeting document)	Governance review plans Version 10th June 2020	
4	(external link)	ASM3 webinars	
6	01	Engagements between WMO and SAON within the framework of the ROADS process. Meeting date: 05.01.2021. Draft notes	
8	(external link)	ASM3 webinars (8 seminars, including 17th February and 17th March)	
	(link to earlier Board meeting document)	UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS): Arctic Regional Process	
	11	UNDOS: Comments on structure of draft Arctic Action Plan 2021 (McCammon et al)	
	(external link)	ASSW 2021 20-26 March 2020	
	(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/437-10th-february-2021-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference>