



SAON Board meeting 21st December 2017
Teleconference 16-17:30 (CET) / 10-11:30 AM (EST)
Minutes

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson (Chair) welcomed the participants. 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 list of actions is found in Appendix 4.

2. SAON Strategic Framework

Strategy document

Larry Hinzman (vice-Chair) introduced the Strategy document and explained the idea about splitting the original Strategic Framework into two documents. He believed that the Strategy document would not call for much debate, and he asked the Board to adopt it. He also believed that the Implementation document would probably need more work and debate.

Nicole Biebow (Germany) found that the document was quite well advanced, but wanted to see some final summary as one or two sentences towards the end.

Allen Pope (IASC Secretariat) also wanted to see something about the implementation towards the end and also wanted to see a final style check.

Barbara Ryan (GEO) proposed that the table of contents would be taken out of the document.

Susan File (Canada) asked about the relationship between the Strategy and the Implementation plan. She further explained that Polar Knowledge Canada currently only have limited resources to allocate to SAON.

Larry Hinzman explained that the acceptance of the Strategy would not automatically lead to commitment with regards to the implementation. The SAON countries and organisations would have the freedom to choose which parts of the implementation that they wanted to contribute to.

Hannele Savela (CON Chair) explained about the strategy for the European Polar Board (EPB) and believed that the design could serve as inspiration for the SAON strategy document. It was agreed to use the document as input to a brochure that should be produced.

Antonio Quesada (Spain) proposed to include EPB as one of the organisations mentioned under Goal 1, and the Board agreed to do this.

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary) proposed an outline for the next steps. The Strategy document would be updated in agreement with the decisions made and would also be subject to a language check. A new version would be made available by 1st January and the Board would be asked to approve the updated version through an email process. After approval, the document would be submitted to the upcoming AMAP HoDs meeting in February 2018 with a request to forward the document to the SAO meeting in March 2018. He finally explained that the role of AMAP in this context is not clear, but that he would seek clarification from the AMAP chair.

Implementation document

Larry Hinzman introduced the Implementation document and asked for comments

Barbara Ryan believed that some of the information from the strategy document should be added to the Implementation document.

Eva Kruemmel proposed to have a summary of the strategy document as a preamble/introduction in the implementation document, for context. It could be a similar text that is also developed for information/communication material, for example for the Ministerial meeting.

Larry Hinzman wanted to see the Implementation document as a living document, while the strategy should be more static, and he wanted the two documents to be kept somewhat separate. He supported the idea that a condensed version of the strategy was added to the implementation plan.

Nicole Biebow believed that the document had a good structure, but noted that they were different in the amount of details given. Especially the description of Goal 2 provided more details than other parts, and she asked if a more homogeneous structure could be introduced.

The Board discussed the level of details that would be relevant in the Implementation document and agreed on the principle that the document could be supported by additional, internal documents.

Will Ambrose (USA) believed that it would be of high value to have more details. He saw this as a way of documenting also what effort the countries and organisations would put behind the goals and objectives.

Vito Vitale (Italy) supported this view and explained that with a detailed document he could ask for resources from his Ministry for specific activities.

Susan File (Canada) viewed the Strategy and the Implementation plan as somewhat related. She further explained that Polar Knowledge Canada does not currently have the capacity to coordinate Canadian input into SAON due to other pressing priorities, including assuming responsibility of a major Arctic research station and supporting the co-development of a new Arctic Policy Framework for Canada. She also suggested that in the event that other SAON member countries or organizations do not currently have the capacity to carry out the Implementation Plan, then it might suggest the need for adjustments to the Strategy, and might make it challenging to consider and approve the Strategy and Implementation Plan at separate points in time.

Larry Hinzman believed that nations are going to invest in SAON when it is in their own interest and they should invest as they are able. He did in principle agree with the idea, but did not want countries to be exposed.

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be about implementation.

3. GEO and SAON

A telephone conference had been held between the SAON Chairmanship and the GEO Secretariat. Barbara Ryan summarised the expectations that GEO would have to organisations that are affiliated with GEO: They should 1) have a broad, open data policy, 2) support integrated Earth observations, and 3) be an advocacy for sustained Earth observations.

The proposal is that SAON seeks association at the level 'GEO Initiatives'. As a part of the process, the relationship with GEOCRI should be clarified.

✓ Action (Secretariat): Submit the SAON Strategy to the GEO Programme Board for review.

4. H2020 call: Copernicus evolution

David Arthurs (PolarView) introduced the call text and noted that it is aligned with SAON goals. The call is meant to identify the needs for monitoring the Arctic and includes a space-component. The budget is expected to be 1-2 mio. euros, and the duration is meant to be 2-3 years. A proposal has to be submitted by 6th March 2018.

He discussed the possibility of SAON leading a consortium but explained that also two other groups are known to organise consortia. He had been in contact with a number of organisations, and knows that some institutions are involved in multiple bids. He and Jan Rene Larsen had been reaching out to these with the ideal outcome to collapse all three consortia into one. He saw a role for SAON to bring various organisations together in international cooperation. In his view SAON should play a leading role in this. In order to manage this, SAON would have to lean on other organisations and PolarView has offered to play a major role in this.

Nicole Biebow explained that the lead role is also a matter of strategy, since the European Commission only contacts a consortium through the lead.

David Arthurs was encouraged to continue exploring the possibilities for SAON involvement in the call.

5. Any other business

Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting (AEMM), 11-12 October, 2018

Jan Rene Larsen explained that the meeting invites two-page statements on relevant topics. Statements can be submitted through the AC WGs, and SAON can submit a statement through AMAP. He had drafted a summary of the Strategy, and Board members were invited to provide comments.

✓ Action (Board): Submit comments to the AEMM document by 1st January 2018.

Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO)

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson had been invited to attend the Annual Meeting of POGO; POGO is a Participating Organisation to GEO. Peter Pulsifer offered to follow up on this with the view of either attending or doing a presentation remotely.

Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda
[Thorsteinn Gunnarsson]
2. SAON Strategic Framework
*[Minor changes have been introduced to the version from 30th November, and the document has been divided into 'Strategy' and 'Implementation'.
Larry Hinzmann]*
3. GEO and SAON
*[The Chairmanship has had a telephone conference with Barbary Ryan, GEO Secretariat Director. The proposal is to seek application as a GEO Initiative with the name 'ArcticGEOSS'.
Barbara Ryan / Jan Rene Larsen]*
4. H2020 call: Copernicus evolution – Mission exploitation concepts / Monitoring of the Polar Regions, notably the Arctic, specifically for sea ice and environmental conditions
[David Arthurs]
5. Any other business
 - a. Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting, 11-12 October, 2018, Rovaniemi, Finland
*[SAON can submit a 2-pager through AMAP.
Jan Rene Larsen]*
 - b. Invitation from *Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO)* to attend the Annual Meeting, which will take place at Scripps Institution of Oceanography from 23 to 24 January 2018.
[Thorsteinn Gunnarsson]
6. Next telephone conferences

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
Countries						
Chair	Þorsteinn	Gunnarsson	The Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNÍS	Borgum v/Norðurslóð IS-600 Akureyri	+354 515 5800 +354 899 3290 +354 460 8519	Thorsteinn.Gunnarsson@Rannis.is
Vice-Chair	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
Chair for ADC (USA)	Peter L.	Pulsifer	University of Colorado Boulder	449 UCB Boulder CO 80309	+1 613 620 7195	peter.pulsifer@colorado.edu
Chair for CON (Finland)	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
Canada	Susan	File	Polar Knowledge Canada			susan.file@polar-polaire.gc.ca
Denmark	Helle	Poulsen	Division for Global Coopertion on Research and Higer Education Ministry of Higher Education and Science Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation	Bredgade 40 DK-1260 Copenhagen K	+45 72318247	hypo@ujm.dk
France	Marie-Noelle	HOUSSAIS				marie-noelle.houssais@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr
Germany	Nicole	Biebow	Alfred-Wegener-Institut fuer Polar- und Meeresforschung			nicole.biebow@awi.de

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
Iceland	Halldór	Jóhannsson	Arctic Portal	Skipagata 12 - 600 Akureyri	Tel: +354 461 2800 / Gsm + 354 899 2828	halldor@arcticportal.org
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	Birgit	Njåstad	Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø			Birgit.njastad@npolar.no
Poland	Agnieszka	Beszczyńska-Möller	Institute of Oceanology PAS Physical Oceanography Dept.	Powst. Warszawy 55 81-712 Sopot	+48 58 7311914	abesz@iopan.gda.pl
Spain	Antonio	Quesada	Secretaría Técnica del Comité Polar Español Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Competitividad		+34 91 603 79 58	cpe@mineco.es
USA	Sandy	Starkweather	NOAA Climate Program Office	Washington DC	+1 301 427 2471	sandy.starkweather@noaa.gov
USA	Emily	B. Osborne	NOAA Arctic Research Program Office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research	1315 East West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910	(p) 301-427-2467 (c) 703-606-9846	emily.osborne@noaa.gov

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
USA	Will	Ambrose				wambrose@bates.edu
Arctic Council Permanent Participants						
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
Organisations						
AMAP (SAON Secretariat)	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
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	Barbara	Ryan	Group on Earth Observations (GEO)		+41 22 730 85 80	bryan@geosec.org
IASC	Allen	Pope	International Arctic Science Committee	Borgir, Norðurlóð 600 Akureyri	+3545155824	Allen.pope@iasc.info
PolarView	David	Arthurs	PolarView			David.Arthurs@PolarView.org
WMO	Etienne	Charpentier	World Meteorological Organization	7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, Case Postale 2300 1211, Geneva Switzerland	+ 41 22 730 8482	rnitu@wmo.int

Appendix 3: List of meeting documents and presentations

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Document no</i>	<i>Document Title</i>	<i>Document author</i>
0	01	GoToMeeting dial-in information	Secretariat
0	05	Draft agenda, version 18th December 2017	Secretariat
2	03	SAON Strategy, version 15th December 2017	Drafting teams
2	04	SAON Implementation, version 15th December 2017	Drafting teams
2	06	SAON Strategy, version 15th December 2017 Comments from Vito Vitale, Italy, from 19th December 2017	Vito Vitale
2	07	SAON Implementation, version 15th December 2017 Comments from Vito Vitale, Italy, from 19th December 2017	Vito Vitale
3	(link)	GEO Initiatives	
3	09	GEO and SAON	Secretariat
4	08	SAON Involvement in LC-SPACE-02-EO-2018	David Arthurs
4	(links)	H2020 call: Copernicus evolution – Mission exploitation concepts / Monitoring of the Polar Regions, notably the Arctic, specifically for sea ice and environmental conditions	
5a	10	Draft document for the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting, 11-12 October, 2018, Rovaniemi, Finland	Secretariat
5b	(link)	Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans	

The documents can be found at <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/293-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference-21st-december-2017>

Appendix 4: Actions

No	Text	Who	When
1	Revise the SAON Strategy and circulate for comments to Board	Secretariat	1 st January
2	Submit the approved SAON Strategy to AMAP	Secretariat	7 th January
3	Submit the SAON Strategy to the GEO Programme Board for review	Secretariat	7 th January
4	Submit comments to the AEMM document	Board	1 st January