

# Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

# 14th January 2021 16-17 CET / 10-11 am EST / 15-16 UTC

# Telephone conference

# Draft minutes

### 1. Welcome to the call

Lisa Loseto (Chair) welcomed the participants to the meeting, and the participants were introduced. The agenda and list of participants are found in Appendix 1 and 2. The list of documents is found in Appendix 3.

### 2. Review of actions/decision from the call on 14th September 2020

Lisa Loseto summarised the actions and decisions.

### 3. Governance workshop series

Helen Joseph (HCJ Consulting) introduced the workshop that had been held 30th November 2020 on the CON governance. There was a good engagement on the call, and recommendations, notes and presentation had been made available.

There had been three parts in the workshop; for the first part (the mandate of CON), three possible follow-up actions were proposed:

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).

For the second part (membership of CON), three possible follow-up actions were proposed (excerpt):

1. Strong National SAON Committees are needed as the foundation for the SAON CON, as well as for the SAON ADC.
2. 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.
3. The leadership of the CON should consider having a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Past-Chair positions.

For the third part (structure of CON), three possible follow-up actions were proposed (excerpt):

1. Synergies and further collaboration should be developed, between the SAON CON and:
2. the Arctic Council WGs;
3. the Arctic Observing Summit WGs; and
4. the ROADS process.
5. The “combination model” for SAON CON membership should be formalized.
6. Develop a plan to begin taking steps toward the “combination model”.

In the follow-up discussion, Hajo Eicken (USA) proposed that priority should be given to activities related to the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial. Related would be the importance of national inventories as well as the importance of national committees. This was supported by Nadezhda Kharlampieva (Russia) and Heikki Lihavainen (SIOS).

On the relationship with the AOS WGs, Hajo Eicken proposed that each had one or more representative(s) from CON as a member. Of relevance would be WG1 (‘Design, Optimization and Implementation of the Observing System’) and WG5 (‘Arctic Observations in the context of Global Observing Initiatives’). Also relevant would be WG3 (‘Observing in Support of Indigenous Food Security and Related Needs’). He noted that the next AOS would be held in Tromsø, Norway and attracting a representative from the Saami community would be beneficial.

On the relationship with AC WGs, Sarah Kalhok (Canada) explained that all WGs are looking into how to engage with the AC PPs more actively. She mentioned the importance of the opportunities for PPs to be engaged; this should be reflected in the governance structure at relevant levels but also in resources allocated to their participation. She finally added the wish formulated earlier that the work of SAON should be better aligned with the work of AMAP; in the current work plan, the implementation of the ROAS process was mentioned.

In the follow-up discussion, CON members developed this list of prioritized items: 5), 6), 4) and 2).

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON) Secretary explained about the SAON Board initiative to organise the series of workshops and that one of the recommendations, also coming out of the current would be that the next workshop should focus on national SAON organisations.

### 4. Updates from SAON Board and ADC

For the SAON Board, Jan Rene Larsen explained that the paper on the ROADS process by Sandy Starkweather *et al* had been submitted to the journal *Arctic* and was awaiting review and publication. For the ADC, he described the ongoing series of workshops under the heading “Polar to Global Online Interoperability Workshop”; the last was held on 5th November, and the next will be held on 21st January.

**5. EU-PolarNet-2 D6.1: Procedure for ongoing collection and collation of European Polar observing capacities and activities / Addressing SAON CON Objective 1.1: Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities**

The AMAP Secretariat is engaged in organising this deliverable to EU-PolarNet-2 and Jan Rene Larsen explained about the effort to link this to SAON CON Objective 1.1. The first meeting in the group had been held, and there would be a deliverable in autumn 2021. He believed that priority in CON should be given to the question on what is meant by “national observational capacities” and what the incentive should be for the sources to provide this.

Christina Barnard (ArcticNet) emphasized the need for consistent definitions and saw a value of developing inventories also in Canada, Russia and USA in addition to the European effort. She believed that CON should consider establishing a sub-committee to develop these inventories so that also SAON would benefit from such an initiative.

Jan Rene Larsen responded that even though the scope of the deliverable is ‘European’ and ‘Polar’, he would work to ensure that the mechanism developed would also be pan-Arctic and applicable to SAON.

**6. Project/Funding opportunities**

Jan Rene Larsen reported on work done to enable funding for SAON work through submissions to two calls for funding: *Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus* (H2020) and *ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions*.

### 7. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial

Jan Rene Larsen explained that the process on drafting the Joint Statemen was ongoing. It was known that a draft contained formulations in support for the SAON ROADS process, and national representatives were encouraged to engage in the discussion and support these formulations at the national level.

**8. SAON engagement with WMO. Teleconference held 5th January**

Rodica Nitu (WMO) reported that a teleconference had been held between the SAON leadership and the WMO Standing Committee on Cryosphere and Polar Activities. The goal of the meeting was to establish a more systematic relationship between the activities of WMO in the Arctic and SAON, especially in the context of the ROADS process. One driver for WMO is how polar observations fit into global systems and with that the utilisation of standards for the representation of observations, data exchange and data access. One of the topics discussed was on the inventory of observing facilities, and WMO has developed a standard for this. Another topic was that WMO is a facilitator for engagement of national entities, primarily through the meteorological and hydrological services and it was discussed how this can be used in the implementation of the ROADS principles.

Hajo Eicken (USA) added that a recommendation from AOS2020 had been to organise a regional workshop for the Pacific Arctic sector that would involve Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) to start defining some of the requirements for observations from local, regional and global initiatives in support of food security in the region.

Nadezhda Kharlampieva explained that since 2015, AARI has used water basin principles as the basis for monitoring in the northern Russian territories, using major rivers. Currently, the work is expanding across these borders in the Barents Sea and the Bering Strait. As a representative for the social sciences, she was currently doing research on combining natural science methods and social science methods. She believed that successful inclusion of indigenous peoples would mean understanding that their minds are connected with rivers.

### 9. Other upcoming events

Events listed on the SAON web site has briefly presented.

**10. Any Other Business**

(There were none)

**11. Next teleconference: Doodle will be circulated**

## Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Welcome to the call  
   [*Lisa Loseto*]
2. Review of actions/decision from the call on 14th September 2020  
   [*Lisa Loseto*]
3. Governance workshop series [30 min]
   1. Outcome of CON governance workshop 30th November *[Helen Joseph]*
   2. Plans for coming SAON governance workshops *[Jan Rene Larsen]*
4. Updates from
   1. SAON Board *[Jan Rene Larsen]*
   2. ADC, including Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon held 5th November *[Peter Pulsifer]*
5. EU-PolarNet-2 D6.1: *Procedure for ongoing collection and collation of European Polar observing capacities and activities* / Addressing SAON CON Objective 1.1: *Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities*. *Jan Rene Larsen]*
6. Project/Funding opportunities
   1. Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus (H2020, LC-CLA-20-2020): Arctic PASSION [*Jan Rene Larsen*]
   2. ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions [*Jan Rene Larsen*]
7. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial [*Jan Rene Larsen*]
8. SAON engagement with WMO. Teleconference held 5th January. [*Jan Rene Larsen*]
9. Upcoming events – see below [*Jan Rene Larsen*]
10. Any Other Business
11. Next teleconference: Doodle will be circulated

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

**List of Participants**

| **Affiliation** | **Name** | **Institution and address** | **Phone** | **e-mail** |
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| **Countries** | | | | |
| Canada | Lisa Loseto | Freshwater Institute  501 University Cres.  Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N6 |  | [Lisa.Loseto@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Loseto@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) |
| Canada | Sarah Kalhok Bourque | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  15 Eddy St.  14th Floor  Gatineau, Québec  KIA OH4 |  | Sarah.Kalhok@canada.ca |
| Canada | Christina Barnard | ArcticNet  1045, avenue de la Médecine Local/Room 4081 Université Laval Québec (Québec) G1V 0A6 Canada | +1 (418) 656-5036 | [christine.barnard@arcticnet.ulaval.ca](mailto:christine.barnard@arcticnet.ulaval.ca) |
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| Norway | Ketil Tørseth | Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)  Postboks 100  N-2027 Kjeller |  | g2m-atmos@nilu.no |
| Russia | Nadezhda Kharlampieva | Saint-Petersburg University  &  Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, AARI |  | n.kharlampieva@spbu.ru |

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| **Organisations** | | | | | |
| 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](mailto:jan.rene.larsen@amap.no) |
| Canada | Helen Joseph | | Helen C Joseph  HCJ Consulting  21241 Seventeenth Road  Dalkeith, Ontario |  | helen@hcjconsulting.ca |
| INTERACT | Margareta Johansson | | Abisko Scientific Research Station  &  Lund University,  Dept. of Physical Geogr. And Ecos. Analysis  SE-981 07 Abisko  Sölveg 12  SE-Lund |  | Margareta.Johansson@nateko.lu.se |
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More information about Committee members and their affiliation is found at https://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/members

## Appendix 3: List of documents

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| Agenda item | Documents |
| 0 | [Draft agenda, version 6th January 2021](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20210114/01_SAON_CON_Telephone_Conference_14JAN2021_Draft_Agenda_version_06JAN2021.docx) |
| 0 | [GotoMeeting dial-in](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20210114/02_GoToMeeting.docx) |
| 3 | [The CON Governance Review was held on 30th November. Draft report](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20201215/11_CON_Workshop_Report_draft_vDec12.docx) |
| 4b | [Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon, held 5th November](https://arcticdc.org/activities/outreach/news-archive/65-polar-to-global-online-interoperability-and-data-sharing-workshop-hackathon-5th-november-2020-outcome) |
| 5 | [EU-PolarNet-2 D6.1: Procedure for ongoing collection and collation of European Polar observing capacities and activities](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20210114/05_EU-Polarnet_2_-_D6.1_-_14JAN2021.pdf) |
| 6b | [ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions](https://eo4society.esa.int/2020/10/01/invitation-to-tender-esa-polar-science-cluster-collaborative-research-and-networking-actions/) |
| 8 | [Engagements between WMO and SAON within the framework of the ROADS process. Meeting date: 05.01.2021. Draft notes](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20210210/01_MeetingNotes_05012021_SAON_WMO.docx) |
| 0 | [GotoMeeting dial-in](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20200914/02_GoToMeeting.docx) |

The documents are found here: <http://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/meetings>