

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks - SAON

Committee on Observations and Networks
Ottawa, 9th December 2014

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SAON Secretary**

SAON History

In November 2006, the Arctic Council (Salekhard Declaration) urged all member nations to maintain and extend long-term monitoring of change in the Arctic, with a view to building a lasting legacy of the International Polar Year. Further, the AC requested that the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) work with other AC working groups, the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and other partners in this effort.

The goal of developing an Arctic Observing Network as a legacy of IPY was also endorsed by the WMO XV Congress in May 2007.

SAON History

- The Nuuk declaration (2011) recognizes the importance of the SAON process ‘as a major legacy of IPY for enhancing scientific observations and data-sharing
- First meeting of the SAON Board in Tromsø (2012)
- Terms of Reference for SAON established in Potsdam (2012)
- SAON Implementation strategy established 2014

Current membership: All Arctic nations and PPs, seven non-Arctic nations, several international organizations (EEA, EU, GEO, ICES, IPA, ISAC, PAG, WMO (more...)) and AC working groups

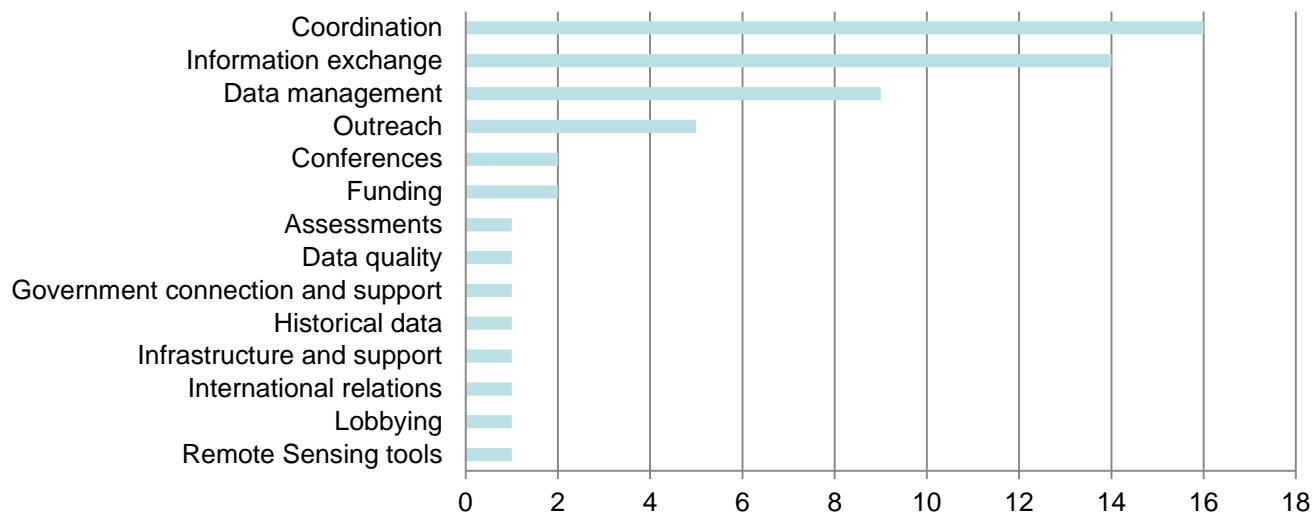
The need for SAON (I)

- Even though there are a wide range of ongoing observing programs, networks and observational platforms, many Arctic observing activities are still fragmented and exist in varying stages of development
- Most existing observations are managed by individual sponsors for specific purposes. Other observations are made on a project basis and may not be readily available.

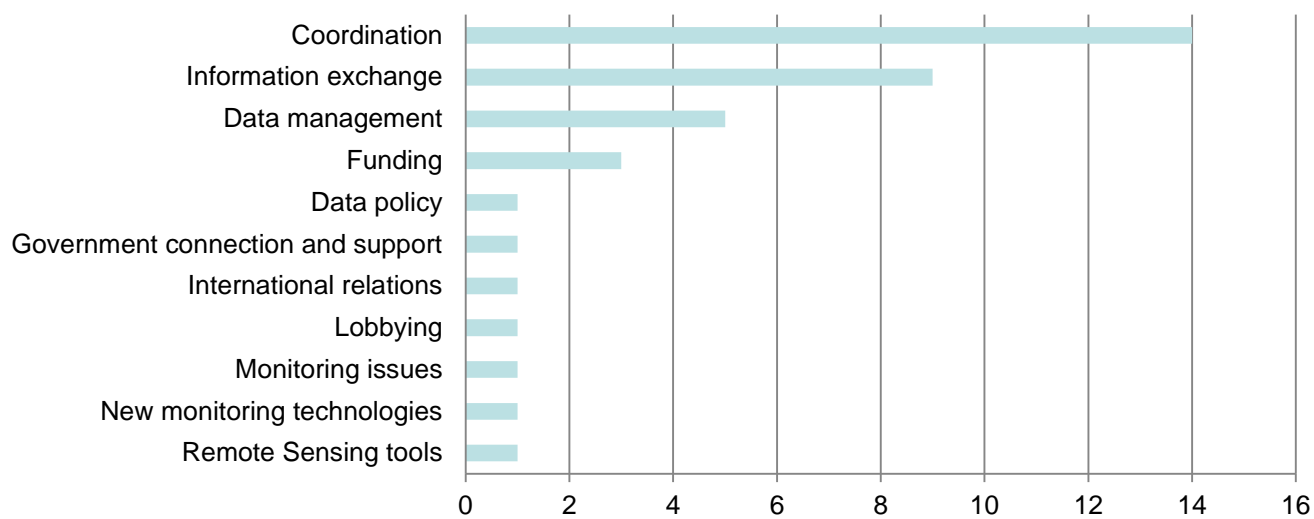
The need for SAON (II)

- There is a need to fill spatial, temporal and disciplinary gaps in observing records, to strengthen the sustainability of observing programs, and make data more readily available in a compatible manner
- When common scientific interests exist, the synergistic benefits of sharing data are great
- Duplication of acquisition and analysis of data and related information are no longer affordable or acceptable

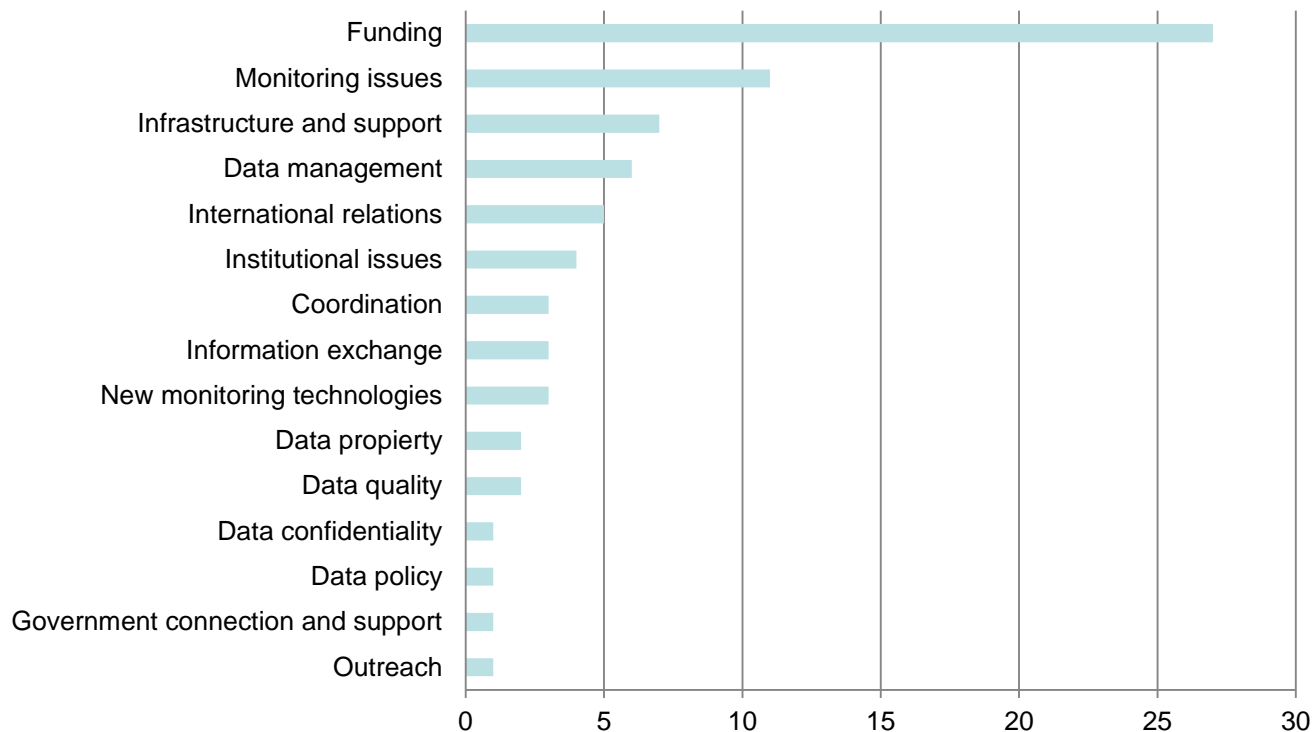
How can SAON best assist you?



What do you see as the role of SAON?



What are the critical issues facing your observing program or data and information management program?



Vision

Providing all users access to free, open and high quality data that will enable pan-Arctic to global value-added services and societal benefits.

Attaining this vision, requires an enhancement of Arctic-wide observing activities through coordination and integration, sharing and synthesis of data and related information.

SAON Framework

- Network-based activities allow bottom-up and top-down identification of needs and program implementation
- SAON will be constructed of several elements:
 - National SAON Coordination Committees
 - SAON Board of Directors
 - Committees
 - Executive Committee
 - Secretariat (AMAP and IASC)
 - SAON Task Teams ('Building Blocks') supporting specific activities that advance the goals of SAON

Purpose and goals of Subcommittees

In order to achieve a leadership role, the SAON Board has recognized the need to establish two SAON Committees focused on

- Observations and Networks (CON)
- Information and Data Services (CDIS)

These Committees shall address issues that transcend individual Arctic observing and data platforms and all scales of organizational capabilities.

CON Subcommittee proposed activities


The Committee should prepare overall strategies to improve the situation within the Northern areas regarding:

- Collection of data/information from Arctic social, economic, health and environmental sciences and observations, including permission to access geographical areas and platforms, and to present financial options for long term funding of platforms and operations.
- Establishment of a Circum-Arctic set of early warning indicators (an indicators network), focused initially on indicators of climate change that link to existing and ongoing Arctic assessments and provide the Arctic community with a status of the health of specific Arctic natural and human systems

Example (collecting data)

Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring & Traditional Knowledge in a Changing Arctic Focus About Welcome Login

Circumpolar Arctic




search the atlas


Welcome to the Atlas of Community-Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic. Arctic communities are actively involved with observing social and environmental change; this atlas was designed to showcase the many community-based monitoring (CBM) and traditional knowledge (TK) initiatives across the circumpolar region.


If you are involved with a CBM initiative, we hope you will consider joining the atlas.


This site also features a map of Inuit Mental Health and Wellness initiatives.


The atlas was brought to you by these partner institutions:


INUIT


ELOKA

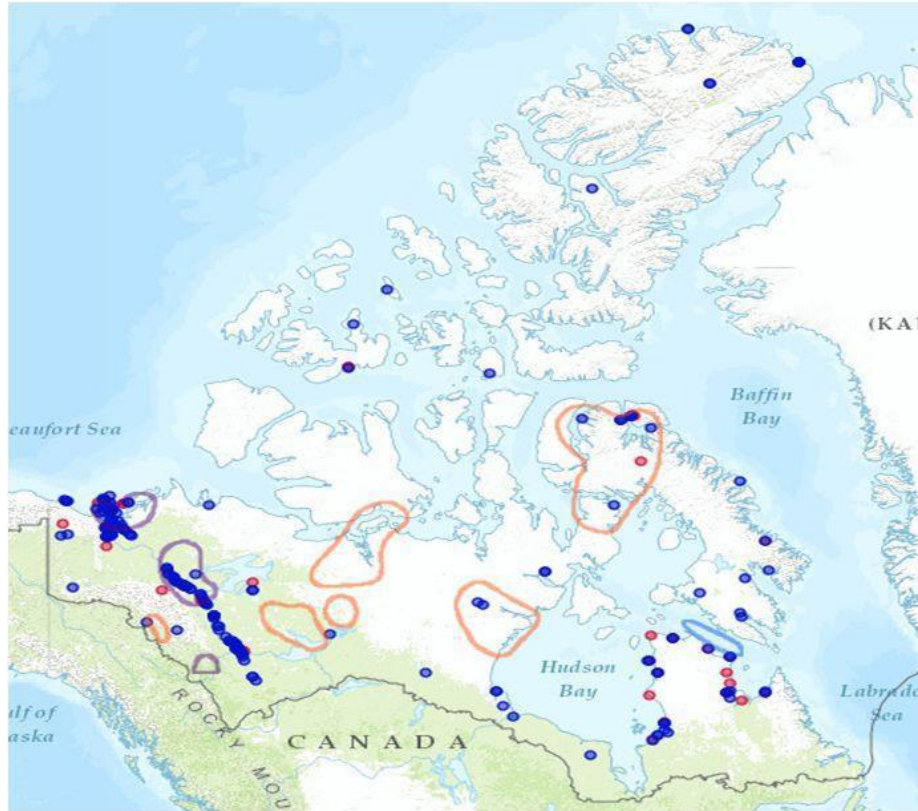

BROWN


Inuit qaujisarvingat
knowledge centre


SAON
SUSTAINING ARCTIC
OBSERVING NETWORKS

Example (collecting data)

Canadian Polar Commission



Example (collecting data)

EU-PolarNet:

“Task 2.3 is dedicated to supporting the coordination and optimisation of existing monitoring and modelling programmes. It will develop strong linkages to relevant modelling and monitoring initiatives. It will perform a strategic analysis of these programmes and will develop a roadmap for optimisation that determines where additional support is needed to ensure the adequate collection of data”

The Task will focus on:

- Preparing an inventory of existing monitoring and modelling programmes.
- Performing a strategic analysis of the monitoring and modelling programmes and related infrastructures.
- Preparing a roadmap for infrastructure optimisation with WP3.

CDIS Subcommittee proposed activities

The Committee should prepare overall strategies to improve the situation within the Northern areas regarding:

- Free and easy access to data and information.
- Integration and dissemination of data and information will be provided through a SAON-led Circum-Arctic Information System (CAIS)



SAON – outside the scope

SAON will not undertake science planning, policy setting, conduct observations, data archival, or funding of these efforts, which will remain the responsibility of the ongoing networks/sites/systems and data centers, the organizations that support them, or appropriate policy officials



More information:
www.arcticobserving.org