SAON Roadmap Task Force: Organizational strategy and homework assignment

A Roadmap is a planning tool used in science and technology development processes to set the broad conceptual direction for where an [organization, network, widget] needs to go and how the various partners and players are going to work - with specific milestones identified - towards getting it there.

In short, it answers

1. Where do we (or the underlying networks of the Arctic System) need to go?
2. How are we going to get there [implicit in how is "who is going to take these actions"]?

But before this, there should be formulations about

0. An underpinning set of assumptions should also be established to concisely clarify, among other things:

1. Why the [network, widget] etc should be developed.
2. But also the findings/recognitions that are critical to setting the development context, such as the role of indigenous partners in Arctic observing or the need to provide both scientific and operational benefits.

SAON has already done quite a bit of work on the latter, especially well outlined in the guiding principles of the Strategic Plan, but as a stand-alone document, the definition should include or expand upon them.

We need to be careful not to simply rewrite the Strategic Plan for SAON as the Roadmap to Arctic Observing (RAO) is much more focused on the nuts and bolts of assessing the network and developing nuts and bolts requirements.

Homework assignment

For a homework assignment to move towards synthesizing the inputs, everyone should take the materials/inputs (including the national statements) and consider or respond to what they think fits under each header:

0. There are some basic assumptions and rationale that underpin why we are creating a Roadmap and what the Arctic-specific challenges and opportunities of such a proposition entail for how we proceed. List what you think the most critical assumptions are that should be stated in this document:

* (e.g. from Sandven): The SAON Roadmap should acknowledge that Arctic observing (AO) is a complex system with several dimensions. Broadly speaking, AO is driven by the need to support:
* Scientific disciplines: atmosphere, ocean, cryopshere, terrestrial themes
* Societal benefit areas: weather, climate, environment, natural hazards, resources, economic activities, +
* Community-driven requirements: across several scientific and social benefit areas
* (e.g. from discussion) There are already numerous networks (regional, subject-oriented, led by different principles, global networks) that are active and have developed strong strategies. SAON's ROA should not interfere or redefine what these groups are doing, but seek to add value at the "meta-level" to show some unification and system-level integration across these diverse organizational systems.

1. A well-developed Roadmap for Arctic observing should describe "where we are going". Our exercise is not simply to redefine the SAON Strategic Plan but to look specifically at how network requirements should be developed in a way that national funding bodies can understand and react to/fund and that global and regional partners can organize themselves around. What are the types of details and specifics that you think the RAO should include?

* (e.g. from GOOS), Essential Variable frameworks provided a valuable organization system where independent but overlapping expert groups can coordinate existing networks and merge their outputs around specific requirements for spatial and temporal observing scales and point to the specific observing strategies (e.g. ARGO floats) that are needed to get there.
* (e.g. from GOOS), system readiness and technology gaps were explicitly identified along with strategies for promoting their development

2. The inputs provided suggest some strategies for "how to get there". List the examples and ideas from other frameworks that you think provide this strategic framework. How do you think the RAO should adopt, reject or modify these strategies in the Arctic context:

* What role do you think the IAOAF should play in organizing this work?
* (e.g. from GOOS), the community organized into broad subject matter expert panels under specific topics: Physical oceanography, biogeochemical oceanography and used existing partner organizations to lead progress under these expert panels, all following the same expectations for identifying and describing Essential Variables
* What are the specific processes needed in order to bring existing observing networks into an overall framework. What would be requirements to existing networks? How could the framework benefit existing networks?

Comments from Eva:

*I think what I feel is necessary is outlined in the two documents that I provided and gave an introduction about. Some important points:*

* *Arctic Indigenous Peoples need to be recognized as rights holders in the Arctic, and research in their homeland needs to be conducted in partnership with them. This needs to be clearly stated in SAON’s roadmap. Underlying to this approach are guidelines on ethical research provided by Arctic Indigenous Peoples in the various locations, which SAON should point to and recommend that any research in the Arctic adheres to those.*
* *The roadmap should point out that currently monitoring and research activities in the Arctic are fragmented and inefficient. Some things are repetitive, which puts a strain on resources and the people living in the Arctic. SAON should help with the coordination of research and monitoring activities in the Arctic, to avoid repetition and help create synergies, as well as show where the gaps are. This also includes highlighting input from Arctic Indigenous Peoples in terms of what pressing questions are.*
* *The roadmap should include elements that refer to specific objectives and actions that need to be done for the implementation (avoid overlap: some of this might be further outlined in the strategy/implementation and needs to be referred to).*
* *It would be good to include an evaluation plan to measure progress.*
* *Again, as mentioned in my summary of the Inuit documents, questions that should be answered overall include:*
  + *We did this for the SAON framework/strategy already, but probably have to repeat the overall vision, and explain why a roadmap is needed.*
  + *Outline what are the priorities?*
  + *What is the conceptional framework of Arctic observing?*
  + *Research and monitoring: for what purpose? One of the answers should include that “research is a tool for creating social equity” (taken from the National Inuit Strategy on Research).*
  + *How can it be relevant for policy and management purposes?*
  + *What are the dimensions of Arctic observing?*
  + *What are the different fields and topics within those dimensions?*
  + *What is holding it together?*
  + *What are the different actors?*
  + *What is needed for monitoring and research in the Arctic, what are the barriers?*
  + *What should research/monitoring in the Arctic look like? This then includes outlining what guidelines are, ethical conduct etc. It should include descriptions or links that point to answers such as how to deal with data, how we build capacity, how it can be funded sustainably (some of this is part of the SAON strategy and implementation plan, but should probably be referenced in the roadmap to some degree).*