

SAON Governance Workshop #1

ROADS Advisory Panel – Mandate and Composition July 30, 2020



SAON Governance Workshop #1

- On July 30th, the first virtual SAON Governance workshop was held
- Excellent engagement and participation was seen from sixteen participants; cross-section of SAON
- Two broad objectives:
 - to provide a high-level overview of governance considerations surrounding observing initiatives so as to “set the stage” for both this workshop as well as the upcoming workshops on SAON governance review; and
 - to develop a draft mandate and composition of the proposed ROADS Advisory Panel

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Part A: High-level overview of governance considerations

Presentations were made (and recorded for future use) from three perspectives:

- Global observing initiatives – Peter Pulsifer
- Connecting with community observing initiatives - Eva Krummel
- Regional and national observing initiatives - Sandy Starkweather

General Discussion and Key Messages on Governance considerations:

- the process of the current EU Horizon2020 call LC-CLA-20-2020 to establish an Arctic Global Earth Observation System of Systems (Arctic GEOSS) could help address SAON needs; results from the EU Call will be enable full-time staff to be assigned to SAON
- Arctic Science Ministerial, scheduled for May 2021 is an important opportunity for SAON

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Part A: High-level overview of governance considerations

General Discussion and Key Messages on Governance considerations (cont'd):

- The importance of having solid National Committees in member countries as a foundation for SAON and ROADS was emphasized
- The inclusion of Indigenous knowledge holders in the evolving framework and at all levels of governance structures was seen as very important; adequate financial support needed to enable this
- Observing and data systems are “interwoven” and need to be considered together
- ROADS process provides framing power for sustained observing activities, to build-upon and unite a diversity of interests

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Part A: High-level overview of the governance considerations

General Discussion and Key Messages on Governance considerations (cont'd):

- Need to make use of existing structures for Indigenous engagement – need to involve the Permanent Participants of Arctic Council, as well as other Indigenous organizations and groups (e.g. AOS Food Security Working Group)
- Having one Indigenous representative on a committee is not sufficient
- SAON sits at the cross-roads of a complex of mid-scale activities, where its influence is moderated by many considerations
- ROADS Advisory Panel provides a mechanism to mediate and unite diversity of interests, but it's legitimacy to guide framing across activities will be contingent on its composition and mandate

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Part B: Mandate and Composition of the Proposed ROADS Advisory Panel

High Level Considerations

- The integrity of the overall SAON structure needs to be maintained
- Needs to complement, not duplicate, existing initiatives
- Needs to fully engage with Permanent Participants in meaningful manner/ equitable inclusion of Indigenous expertise
- Should report to a body that will assist with motivation and forward drive

ROADS Advisory Panel – Mandate (Part 1 of 3)

- **Guide and advise** on the implementation of the SAON Roadmap for Arctic Observing and Data Systems by adding value to the process; the Panel should assist, rather than own the SAON Roadmap
- Be knowledgeable of ongoing efforts from a range of possible partners (from global to regional to local) so as to **communicate** ROADS efforts and to encourage linkages with others
- Ensure **connections** are made with other Arctic observing efforts that are working to identify and implement Essential Arctic Variables
- **Complement and create** synergies where possible and avoid duplication of efforts with existing initiatives

ROADS Advisory Panel – Mandate (Part 2 of 3)

- Fully engage with Permanent Participants in a meaningful manner; ensuring equitable inclusion of Indigenous expertise
- Report to a body that will support the ROADS process by providing motivation and forward drive
- Mobilize international participation and collaboration with global networks
- Consider innovative approaches to communicate and promote the implementation of ROADS – for example, development of a “ROADS Year” achieved in close collaboration with partners
- Work with relevant funding agencies and organizations to advance financial support for ROADS efforts, including the Expert Panels
- Act on specific tasks, as required, including actions under the upcoming Horizon 2020 Arctic GEOSS project where there will be very concrete, operational task assignments coming up within the next four years (e.g. in relation to identification of Essential Arctic Variables)
- Maintain the integrity of the overall SAON structure

ROADS Advisory Panel – Mandate (Part 3 of 3)

- Advocate and promote SAON's Mission and Guiding Principles in the ROADS efforts:
 - SAON Mission: SAON facilitates, coordinates and advocates for coordinated international pan-Arctic observations and mobilizes the support needed to sustain them.
 - SAON Guiding Principles – the design and operation of the Observing System will be guided by a balance between bottom-up and top-down needs and priorities; the Observing System will utilize Indigenous and local knowledge; implemented and sustained through open cooperation among/with all those committed to Arctic observations under a common SAON umbrella

ROADS Advisory Panel – Mandate specific to Expert Panels

With respect to the proposed ROADS Expert Panels, the ROADS Advisory Panel should:

- Support alignment between and across Expert Panels at each phase of their progress
- Support the implementation of activities, once those implementation strategies have been collectively identified by the Expert Panels
- Support the Expert Panels in communication of implementation strategies back to partners to increase awareness and understanding making sure that the people who are going to act on these implementation strategies are engaged (e.g. range of partners from EU Commission to communities)
- Provide a neutral standing body to assure that each Shared Arctic Variable is identified, defined and follows an implementation strategy that is consistent with ROADS principles
- Foster integration with other panels; and work to cultivate consensus approaches across panels
- Mobilize international participation and collaboration with global networks
- Work with relevant funding agencies and organizations to advance support for Expert Panel efforts
- Interact with Expert Panels following the multi-phase process proposed and described within the SAON Roadmap (e.g. Initiate; Phase 1; Phase 2; Phase 3)
- Assist with any future evaluation and assessment undertakings of the ROADS process

ROADS Advisory Panel - Composition and Membership

General Considerations:

- Panel should be small in number (less than 10) to be manageable and adaptable
- Members need to be of outstanding calibre so that there is legitimacy seen in their advice and guidance
- Data and information users or “end users” (e.g. private sector or local decision-making governments) should be represented

ROADS Advisory Panel - Composition and Membership

Membership to consider representation from the following:

- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- Both the Committee on Observations and Networks (CON) and the Arctic Data Committee (ADC)
- A sub-set of existing observing initiatives (as outlined in the landscape presentations) including Global, Regional/National, Community and Indigenous members
- Indigenous representation
- End users of Arctic data and information (e.g. private sector or community decision makers)
- Funding opportunities/agencies

ROADS Advisory Panel - Reporting Structure

- Panel should report to a body that will not only support it but provide guidance and direction
- Proposal:
 - Advisory Panel report to the SAON Board; both the Arctic Data Committee and the Committee on Observing Networks already report to the SAON Board and that the Advisory Panel would need to work closely with these other two committees
- It was clarified that perhaps the SAON governing bodies – the Arctic Council and IASC should be consulted on this discussion.
- The question was asked, for possible future discussion, as to where the ROADS Expert Panels should report (e.g. to the Advisory Panel or the CON and ADC)?

Thank you

Questions?



Annex Slide: SAON Governance

