



SAON Board workshop 27-28 June 2017
Venue: Frascati, Italy
Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

Christine Daae Olseng (SAON Chair) and Larry D. Hinzman (SAON vice-Chair) welcomed the participants and explained that the purpose of the workshop would be to establish a strategic framework for SAON. It would be presented to the AMAP WG, the IASC ExCom and Council, and the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials' (SAOs).

The agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The meeting was attended by 19 participants. The list of participants is found in Appendix 2, the list of documents and presentations is found in Appendix 3, and the list of actions is found in Appendix 4.

2. Workshop scope and expectations

Input to the assignment was given through a series of talks and presentations:

- SAON External Review (Jan Rene Larsen, presentation #1)
- Arctic Science Ministerial (Larry D. Hinzman)
- Arctic Observing Summit (Peter Schlosser, presentation #3)
- Arctic Observing Framework (Jan Rene Larsen, presentation #2)
- Business plan for Arctic observing (Attilio Gambardella, presentation #4)

In the discussion of the scope of the workshop outcome, Larry D. Hinzman said that in the strategic work, SAON has to be ambitious, but also have achievable goals. He saw a need for engaging the nations.

Lars Kullerud (University of the Arctic) noted that the countries invest money nationally, and believed that countries need to spend more money on international cooperation.

Eva Kruemmel (ICC) saw a need for SAON to be specific about the needs (including funding requirements), and believed that this should be a specific outcome of the workshop.

Christine Daae Olseng believed that SAON has to reconnect to the networks. The networks need to see SAON as an important initiative that gives them value. In that context, she saw the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) as a venue for the networks. She also saw a need for engaging members of the board members and also to work nationally.

Halldór Jóhannsson (Arctic Portal) believed that funding was the key question and that scientists are generally poor at 'selling themselves'. In this context, he believed that the SAON mission and vision had to be more clear in order to attract the attention of the funding agencies.

Lars-Otto Reiersen (AMAP Secretariat) also believed that the main problem had been the lack of funding. SAON was established to address two problems: Funding for observation work and to get agencies and universities to work together. He saw the fact that SAON was mentioned in the AC 'Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation' as a new opportunity.

Peter Schlosser (ISAC) believed that the community is ready to engage more actively. It is not looking for help with science plans and similar, but is looking for help to finance their activities. Financial programmes are oversubscribed, but this should be an opportunity for SAON.

Attilio Gambardella (European Commission) believed that SAON is quite consolidated when it comes to the scientific community, but is more unknown to the policy makers. SAON should document to policy makers that SAON is a trust-able organisation.

David Arthurs (PolarView) reminded the meeting about the operational community, noting that a significant part of observational data is obtained by the operational community.

Lars Kullerud added that private sector companies are frustrated about the lack of scientific community to use their data, and believed that should also be part of the mission for SAON. This could also be a message to the Arctic Science Ministerial.

In his presentation, Larry D. Hinzman noted that SAON had been mentioned in the 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial Statement and proposed that SAON should prepare a document (one-pager) for the 2018 Ministerial Meeting.

Attilio Gambardella explained that the next Arctic Science Ministerial will be held 25-26 October 2018 in Berlin and be co-hosted between European Union, Finland, and Germany. The first day will be focused on science and will have reporting of deliverables from the 2016 Ministerial. Themes will still have to be identified, but observation as a theme is likely to stay.

Attilio Gambardella presented information about the European Commission initiative 'Impact assessment on a long-term investment on Arctic observations'. It will provide support for the policy of making observations funding more sustainable and less based on science grants. The scope is both scientific and operational needs at the pan-Arctic level, and SAON will be asked to provide the review. The work will be finalised in July 2018 for presentation at the 2018 Arctic Science Ministerial.

3. Funding

Lars-Otto Reiersen outlined the current funding arrangement for the Secretariat: In the first years of its existence, the Norwegian government had funded a full-time position through the annual contribution to the AMAP Secretariat. In 2017, the support had been reduced to 50%, and he saw a risk that it would disappear.

- ✓ Action: It was decided to establish a task force that should identify possibilities for the funding of the Secretariat. These should be short term as well as long term. Members: Larry D. Hinzman, Nicole Biebow, Sandy Starkweather, Will Ambrose (after 1st September), Yuji Kodama.

Attilio Gambardella believed that the task force should use the Arctic Science Ministerial to secure the resources for the functioning of the Secretariat.

4. SAON Strategy document development

The strategy work was introduced by Allen Pope (IASC). He asked each participant to explain what they considered to be the largest successes in Arctic Observing and why they thought they were successful¹.

Sub-groups were established, and these worked with specific sections of the strategy document:

- Mission and Vision
 - Guiding principles
 - Goal: Strategy and funding
 - Goal: Data
 - Goal: Networks
 - Internal networking
 - External networking
 - Gap analysis
 - Long term home
 - Goal: Justification for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations
 - SAON is not
- ✓ Action: Combine 'Strategy and funding' with 'External networking'
 - ✓ Action: Review the goals in the light up the updated mission and vision statement

Timelines for the finalisation of the document:

- 1st July - 1st August: Executive and Secretariat to prepare an updated version
- 1st August – 15th August: Document to be circulated among Board members for comments/review
- 15th August: Draft document submitted to AMAP WG meeting in Reykjavik 12-14 September
- 1st October: Draft document submitted to IASC ExCom for the meeting after Arctic Circle
- Autumn: Approval at a physical SAON Board Meeting. Could this be Arctic Change, Quebec, 11-15 December 2017?
- Spring 2018: Document submitted to spring SAO meeting

¹ The compiled list [is available here](#)

Appendix 1: Agenda

Tuesday

9:00-9:30

Welcome and introductions (Christine Daae Olseng, Larry D. Hinzman)

9:30-10:30

Workshop scope and expectations, 5 min each. Focus on how they serve as input to the strategic discussion.

[Brief. Focus on discussion – less on presentation. Everybody will be asked to talk about their expectations to the outcome. Less focus on the input documents: these have already been read by the participants]

1. Workshop outcome. What is the need? (Christine Daae Olseng, Larry D. Hinzman)
2. SAON External Review (Jan Rene Larsen)
3. Arctic Science Ministerial (Larry D. Hinzman)
4. Arctic Observing Summit (Peter Schlosser)
5. Arctic Observing Framework (Jan Rene Larsen)
6. Business plan for Arctic observing (Attilio Gambardella)
7. Retreat document - Table of contents ([doc 21](#)) and additional external input (Jan Rene Larsen)

10:30-10:50

Health break

10:50-11:10

Icebreaker Exercise: Successes in Arctic Observing

We want to start this workshop off on the right note – and that means focusing on success! In this Icebreaker exercise, you will get the chance to (re-)introduce yourself to a couple of your fellow meeting attendees and discuss what you consider to be the largest successes in Arctic Observing and why you think they are successful. After each conversation, you will write down the best that came out of the discussion. We will share these back with the group.

11:10-13:00

SAON Goals (Plenary, Allen Pope)

[Instructions:

The list of goals ([doc. 22](#)) will be shown on the screen.

The list will be reviewed by the plenary, and individual items will be categorised according to criteria ([doc 19](#)). Each item will be organised under headings as goals (5-20). Some of the items will be lifted to other sections, like Mission/Vision or Guiding principles, and some may be deleted.

[Outcome: 1) A document with a list of goals with supportive statements 2) Input to Mission/Vision and Guiding Principles documents]

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-17:00

Break-out groups (Introduced by Peter L. Pulsifer)

[Instructions:

The participants will be divided into 3-4 groups, and each group will work with 2-3 goals.

In this session, focus will be on developing descriptions of goals and objectives and evaluate objectives. The groups will be asked to evaluate each objective, using the [quadrant method](#) (doc 20) Each group will work in a template. There will be one document per goal, and each template will be made available prior to the session.

Each group will have a chair/rapporteur. This person is fixed, but it will be considered, if individual members can circulate between the groups in a [‘world-café’ style](#) (page 141).

Another group will rework Mission/Vision and Guiding Principles.

Outcome: 1) A series of posters, each with goals and objectives listed; 2) A series of GoogleDocs documents, one for each goal, each with a series of objectives, and each objective evaluated]

17:00-18:00

Plenary

[Instructions:

Each group presents posters with goals and objectives

Each participants gets three goal post-it, and six objective post-it and put these on the goals and objectives that should be prioritised

Outcome: Goals and objectives ranked on posters]

19:00

Dinner at La Vecchia Frascati: <http://www.lavecchiafrasca.com/>

Wednesday

Break-out groups

[Instructions:

In the groups, further develop the descriptions of those goals and objective that have had the highest rankings the day before. Consider, if the objectives are [S-M-A-R-T](#)]

Develop the urgency and timelines for the goals and objectives. In support of the objectives and goals, describe how these SAON components can support the goal:

- Committees
- Networks
- National SAON structures
- Relationship with international/other initiatives
- Indigenous/Local/Traditional knowledge
- Outreach
- Resources and funding

Input are documents 25-30]

Plenary

Reception (17h at ESRIN)

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
Chair	Christine Daae	Olseng	The Research Council of Norway	P.O. Box 564 1327 Lysaker	+47 91 15 16 23	cdo@forskningsradet.no
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Japan	Yuji	Kodama	National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) Arctic Environmental Research	10-3 Midori-cho Tachikawa-shi Tokyo, 190-8518		kodama.yuji@nipr.ac.jp

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
			Center (AERC)			
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USA	Peter	Schlosser	The Earth Institute Columbia University	Hogan Hall, 2910 Broadway, Level A Mail Code: 3277 New York NY 10025 Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, 61 Route 9W, Palisades, NY 10964-1000 USA	+1 845 365 8707 8737	schlosser@ldeo.columbia.edu
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Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
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Arctic Portal	Halldór	Jóhannsson	Arctic Portal	Skipagata 12 600 Akureyri Iceland	354 461 2800 / Gsm + 354 899 2828	halldor@arcticportal.org
EC (European Commission)	Attilio	Gambardella	European Commission DG Research & Innovation Climate Action and Earth Observations	CDMA 03/124 1049 Brussels Belgium	+32 229 93110	attilio.gambardella@ec.europa.eu
IASC	Allen	Pope	IASC Secretariat	Borgir, Norðurslóð 600 Akureyri	+354 515 5824	allen.pope@iasc.info
Polar View Earth Observation Limited	David	Arthurs	Polar View Earth Observation Limited		Phone (UK): +44 (0) 1865 981320 x1 Phone (Canada): +1 613 680 2282	david.arthurs@polarview.org

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
					x1	
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Appendix 3: List of meeting documents and presentations

Document no	Document title
Meeting documents	
37	Agenda, version 26JUN2017
31	Introductory note, version 22JUN2017
19	Definitions: Vision, Mission, Goals, Objectives, Guiding principles
20 (link) (link)	Methods: - Quadrant - The World Café (page 141) - S-M-A-R-T
34	Goal development template
Retreat output document	
21	Table of contents
18	SAON Mission & Vision
22	SAON Goals
25 26 27 28 29 30	SAON Guiding Principles, Means, Methods, Resources, Tools: - Networks - Committees (work plan) - National coordination - Involvement/role of Arctic Indigenous Peoples in SAON - Resources and Funding - Communication and Outreach
23	SAON Background
24	SAON is not
42	'Ice-breaker' outcome (version 11AUG2017)
Logistics	
11	Logistics, including hotel reservation, transportation and registration
2	Form for hotel booking
36	List of participants, version 22JUN2017
5	ESA Polar Science meeting agenda
16	GoToMeeting dial-in information
Background reading - external documents	
(link)	2016 Arctic Science Ministerial Statement
(link)	Arctic Observing Summit 2016 Conference Statement
(link)	The International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework
(link)	The Declaration from the 2017 Fairbanks Ministerial (Note article 30 and 33)
(link)	Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation (Note pre-amble)
Background reading - SAON documents	
(link)	External review of SAON (summary)

	External review of SAON (full report)
(link)	Current SAON Mission, Vision, and Goals
(link)	Plan for the Implementation Phase of SAON (February 2011)
Background reading - SAON Committee documents	
(link)	ADC Terms of Reference, version 4JAN2017
12	ADC Work Plan, version 5JUN2017
(link)	CON Terms of Reference, version 5MAY2017
(link)	CON Work Plan, version 5MAY2017
Presentations	
38	SAON External Review
(link)	Development of an International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework
39	Additional external input

Presentations

No	Title
1	SAON External Review
2	Development of an International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework
3	The Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)
4	Impact assessment on a long-term investment on Arctic observations (IMOBAR)

The documents and presentations can be found at
<http://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/236-saon-retreat-27-28-june-2017-frascati-rome-italy>

Appendix 4: Actions

Action No	Action	Who	When
1	Update strategy document: ✓ Combine 'Strategy and funding' with 'External networking' ✓ Review the goals in the light up the updated mission and vision statement	Executive and Secretariat	1 st August
2	Establish a task force that should identify possibilities for the funding of the Secretariat	Larry D. Hinzman, Nicole Biebow, Sandy Starkweather, Will Ambrose (after 1 st September), Yuji Kodama	1 st October 2017
3	Invite stakeholders like INTAROS and UArctic to the next Board meeting	Executive	Autumn 2017