SAON Implementation

## Goal3: Ensuring sustainability of Arctic Observing

Goals 1 and 2 can only be successful if the need for improved coordinated Arctic observation and sharing of data and resources are supported by all relevant stakeholders over the long term.

Goal 3 has three objectives:

1. Develop a strategy for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations;
2. Apply the strategy developed in 3.1 to advocate funding agencies and states to ensure sustainability of Arctic observing; and
3. Secure funding for international SAON secretariat and operational costs

### Objective 3.1: Develop a strategy for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations

Description:

SAON has the mandate to mobilize new/additional resources to meet observing needs as well as promote cooperation and coordination among existing initiatives.

SAON shall develop a short and concise engagement strategy to ensure long term support and engagement for Arctic Observations. The strategy will address:

* A short list of key rationales for why long term – sustained – observation is needed (including examples of successful sectors, e.g. – remote sensing, meteorology – and where the advantages are obvious, such as community-based monitoring.)
* A set of arguments why existing observation system benefits from cooperation, infrastructure and data sharing (eg quality of data, necessity of circumpolar coverage, cost saving etc.)
* Create an overview of observation strategies of existing actors and identify places where cooperation would help
* Create an overview of observation strategies to identify gaps
* A discussion on the challenge of national priorities vs circumpolar coordination priorities, and assessment of the benefits of Arctic coordination for the respective national observation priorities
* A summary with main societal benefits of long-term monitoring in the Arctic
* A list of key actors that would benefit from improved observation cooperation – with concrete ideas on advantages
* A list of agencies/organizations that can be approached for support
* A break-down of costs needed for which activities.

Existing meetings and projects can be used to gather information that support this objective. Examples are the Arctic Science Ministerial in 2018 and the IMOBAR[[1]](#footnote-2) project.

Urgency: High

Timelines: 2018-19. The strategy will be revised according to needs to ensure that the goal of sustained Arctic observing can be achieved.

Board: Lead and appoint a task force for rapid implementation

Committees: Identify and contribute information

Networks: Contribute and identify targets

National SAON organisations: National/regional nodes must be established within 2018. Should nominate experts and contribute to the implementation

Relationship with international/other organisations: Statements of support of the importance of the activities of SAON. Could involve in-kind support.

Involvement of Permanent Participants/Indigenous organisations; Indigenous/Local knowledge: PP’s will have experts in the task force

Outreach: To be determined as part of the strategy

Resources and funding: Board with support from the Secretariat

### Objective 3.2: Apply the strategy developed in 3.1 to advocate to funding agencies and states to ensure sustainability of Arctic observing

Description:

SAON has the mandate to mobilize new/additional resources to meet observing needs. SAON will play the liaison/advocate role between the research communities and policy makers.

Develop a prioritized action plan in 2018 – 2019 after Objective 3.1 is finished that targets specific gaps and work with relevant funders to address those.

Urgency: High

Timelines: An ongoing and long-term activity central to the SAON mission with immediate actions to be implemented according to the outcome of Objective 3.1.

Board: The SAON member nations (Board members) will name the individual responsible to provide essential information and provide required resources.

Committees: None

Networks: Provide information of costs of ongoing and projected activities. Provide input to planning

National SAON organisations: The SAON member nations (Board members) will name the individual responsible to provide essential information and provide required resources. Review plans on national support to implement SAON objectives.

Relationship with international/other organisations: Arctic Council Working Groups, ESA, GEO, IASC, ICES, WMO, and others as identified in the outcomes of 3.1.

Involvement of Permanent Participants/Indigenous organisations; Indigenous/Local knowledge: To be part of the activities.

Outreach: Success stories and engagement messages to be contributed for SAON’s outreach activities. Acknowledge the contributions of supporting entities.

Resources and funding: Outlined in objective 3.1.

### Objective 3.3: Secure funding for international SAON secretariat and operational costs

Description:

SAON as a networked organisation will need a minimum core capacity to ensure progress and implementation of the SAON Strategy.

Member countries are required to contribute to the operational costs of the Secretariat.

Urgency: High

Timelines: Funding for SAON secretariat must be secured during 2018.

Board: Has established task force in 2017 to address the issue.

Committees: None.

Networks: None.

National SAON organisations: The SAON member nations (Board members) will name the individual responsible to provide essential information and provide required resources. Board members should facilitate contact with their appropriate national funding agencies.

Relationship with international/other organisations: Board members from organisations will facilitate the contact with their respective organisations.

Involvement of Permanent Participants/Indigenous organisations; Indigenous/Local knowledge: PP organizations to appoint members to the task force.

Outreach: Acknowledge the contributions of supporting entities.

Resources and funding: Board member contribution

1. The Impact Assessment on a Long-Term Investment on Arctic Observations (IMOBAR) is a European Commission initiative: ‘It provides the elements to build the "business case" for sustaining in the long-term Arctic observations (…)’. The work is meant to be finalised in 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)