

### SAON Board meeting 7th May 2019

### 16-17:30 CET / 10-11:30 am EST

### Teleconference

### Minutes

### 1. Introductions and adoption of agenda

Sandy Starkweather (vice-Chair) welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2, the list of documents is found in Appendix 3, and the list of actions is found in Appendix 4.

### 2. SAON Strategy and Implementation Plan

### 2a Road Map Task Force (RMTF)

The Task Force had met twice. It had been decided to ask members to present successful models for observing frameworks or roadmaps that could be informative to the SAON roadmap. While the Task Force is aiming for a two-page document, there is also a wish to see a broader compilation in support of the shorter document. The idea is to have a session at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik in October 2019 to develop more substance and outreach around the work in the Task Force and to submit a white paper to the Arctic Observing Summit. The Task Force will meet every second week until June.

### 2b National activities of importance to SAON

National Board members had been asked to provide answers to a series of questions from a national perspective on the implementation of SAON’s Goal 1. Denmark and Germany had submitted contributions but there were no participants present at the meeting for these countries, and the presentations were postponed.

### 3. Committees

### 3a Arctic Data Committee (ADC)

Jan Rene Larsen informed the meeting that the planning of the 3rd Polar Data Forum is continuing according to schedule. Information about date, venue and logistics will be made available from the ADC web site. At coming Board meetings, Peter Pulsifer would be interested in having a closer dialogue with the Board on the scope and the agenda of the Forum.

Mikko Strahlendorff added that one idea for the Forum would also be to have a dialogue or session with ‘funding actors’. A slot in the time table is held open, and this could also be relevant for the *road map* discussion.

### 3a Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

Lisa Loseto (CON chair) informed the meeting that the Committee had been engaged in deliberations on Objectives 1.1 and 1.3, following the request to the countries to give responses on their capacity/capability to engage in these objectives. She was interested in a further dialogue with the Board on how CON could utilise this information.

### 4. Physical Board meeting

Jan Rene Larsen gave an overview of the draft agenda and the meeting documents, including the options for remote attendance through GoToMeeting.

### 5. 2nd Arctic Science Ministerial follow-up. Upcoming call: LC-CLA-20-2020: Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus.

Michael Karcher (AWI, Germany) and Jeremy P. Wilkinson (BAS, UK) had contacted the SAON Secretariat. They represent one of the consortia that are preparing a response to the H2020 call. They had raised a series of questions to SAON on engagement in the call and had been invited to present these to the Board.

Michael Karcher explained that the intention had been to hear the SAON Board’s vision on some of the aspects of the call. The call text was only known as a draft and had not been made available to the SAON Board and Michael Karcher presented some of the main points in the text. He noted that according to the text SAON would be a one of the targets for the outcome of the projects that is formulated in the call text.

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretariat) explained that this was the first opportunity that the Board had had to discuss the call and the questions raised. Moreover, the Board had not discussed how SAON should be engaged with consortia that wanted to respond to the call. He believed that the outcome of the Road Map Task Force could qualify the discussion. The outcome may not give answer to all of the questions, but at least to some of these.

Sandy Starkweather thanked for the questions and believed that they could make SAON formulate a more constructive response to the call. She believed that it could take some time and deliberations to answer the questions but she appreciated that Michael Karcher and Jeremy P. Wilkinson had reached out to the organisation to start the dialogue.

Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) noted that one aspect of the process was that SAON as ArcticGEOSS should be a GEO Initiative. This was an aspect that was still under development.

Eva Kruemmel (ICC) commented upon the questions on engagement of Arctic indigenous organisations and believed that an engagement through the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council should be the mechanism. This could be through the Saami Council and ICC-Greenland, both having a European perspective and should happen early, already in the drafting phase. One of the issues that indigenous organisations always have is capacity building, and engagement should be at partner level and include opportunities for funding. She was further interested in hear more details about the question to have workshops within the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS).

On the latter question, Jeremy P. Wilkinson answered that this had not been developed very far, but he was interested in knowing if certain break-out sessions or activities could serve as discussion forum with regards to the call. He knew that the AOS would attract many experts and believed that it would be worthwhile utilising the opportunity to discuss aspects that had not been thought of before.

Jan Rene Larsen added that Michael Karcher and Jeremy P. Wilkinson were the first representatives of a consortium to approach SAON. He believed that SAON would be facing a challenge if approached by other consortia; he believed that SAON should not favour one consortium over another. He wanted to know if there had been deliberations about combining existing initiatives into one consortium.

Jeremy P. Wilkinson answered that the opportunities had been explored, but that this had not been a realistic solution. He knew that there would be at least two consortia and probably more.

Michael Karcher supported the idea of the neutrality of SAON but believed that for instance single members of the SAON Board could be partners in a consortium.

### 6. Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)

Jan Rene Larsen explained that the Executive and Local Organising Committees had been established. A broader theme (*Observing for Action*) and a series of sub-themes had been defined. The next step is to define and populate the Working Groups, and the Board was encouraged to identify members and co-leads. There will be a process where participants are asked to submit white papers in order to inform the discussions at AOS.

### 7. SAON presence

Arctic Circle - China Forum

Jan Rene Larsen informed the meeting that SAON has co-organised a break-out session with the title “Arctic Sustainable Observing System: The Role of Asia”. From the Board, Thorsteinn Gunnarsson (Chair) and Yuji Kodama (Japan) will be attending.

Arctic Circle - Assembly  
Jan Rene Larsen informed the meeting that the SAON Executive has formulated a draft proposal for a session with focus on SAON’s *road map* work.

ISAR-6: Sixth International Symposium on Arctic Research

Yuji Kodama (Japan) informed the meeting about the plans for ISAR-6 and about a session proposed by Volker Rachold (German Arctic Office). Conveners would be Volker Rachold, Hiroyuki Enomoto (NIPR, Japan) and Thorsteinn Gunnarsson. It would have focus on scientific contributions to the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial. He encouraged Board members to spread information about ISAR-6 and the opportunity for scientists to submit papers to disciplinary sessions. The dates of ISAR-6 will be 2-6th March 2020.

### 8a. Request to SAON from AMAP

Jan Rene Larsen reported that the two projects (*Litter and microplastics* and *Radioactivity database*) are still under development and that there was no new information.

### 8b. ArcticGEOSS

Jan Rene Larsen informed the meeting that SAON had submitted an application to GEO to have status as ArcticGEOSS as a GEO Community Activity. In the response, the GEO Secretariat had found it difficult to accept the application in its current form since it represents the strategy and work plan of SAON, noting that SAON is already a Participating Organization (PO) to GEO. Further, it was not clear how the proposed Arctic GEOSS Community Activity would provide additional value above that already being achieved by SAON alone.

Mikko Strahlendorff noted that additional actions had been added to the application. These were pilot services offered as solutions for policymakers. This was probably not expressed clearly in the text part of the application and he believed that it would be worthwhile to expand some of the text in the application. It should also be made clear that through SAON as an ArcticGEOSS there is also a new policy area (Arctic Council) that GEO could be active in.

Vito Vitale (Italy) believed that the key question to ask the GEO Secretariat would be what GEO is currently doing for the Arctic. He saw a role for SAON as an activity within ArcticGEOSS to establish a better connection with the space agencies.

Ingunn Limstrand (Norway) explained that Steven Ramage from the GEO Secretariat would visit Norway and that it would perhaps be worthwhile to discuss with him how ArcticGEOSS and SAON could fit together.

Mikko Strahlendorff believed that there would be no ArcticGEOSS without SAON. In that sense GEO should accept what SAON is doing now. If GEO expects more, SAON would be interested in discussing what that would be.

Eva Kruemmel expressed the view that it would be unfortunate if more players, structures or duplications were established.

Jan Rene Larsen had interpreted earlier conversations with GEO so that there was a preference from GEO’s side that SAON should play a role within the GEO Cold Region Initiative (GEOCRI).

It was decided to accept the invitation to have a teleconference with the GEO Secretariat and propose that in the application 1) certain points are improved, and that 2) certain pilot services supporting policy-making and directed towards stakeholders are highlighted. If this approach is not accepted, then SAON will await the next round of input to the GEO programme in a year. Mikko Strahlendorff, Vito Vitale and Jan Rene Larsen should initiate the conversation with the GEO Secretariat.

### 9a. Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

Sandy Starkweather explained that GOOS has extended an invitation to SAON to serve as the Arctic region representative in the so-called GOOS Regional Alliance Forum (GRA). The potential for the relationship between SAON and GOOS is that while GOOS is a global initiative, they recognise that they need regional partnerships to advance ocean observing within the region according to regional needs. The SAON Executive had discussed that it would be useful to assign somebody that has subject-matter expertise in ocean science to serve in in a role to establish a connection between the SAON Board and the GRA. It was decided to ask Craig Lee (USA) to serve in this role (It should be noted that in a subsequent communication, Craig Lee accepted to serve in this role).

Mikko Strahlendorff proposed that he would contact Jari Harpala from FMI and ask him if someone from EUROGOOS would serve in this role as a substitute for Craig Lee, when this would be relevant. This proposal was accepted.

### 9b. SAON Secretariat financing

(The topic was not covered).

## Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda (5 min)  
   [*Sandy Starkweather*]
2. SAON Strategy and Implementation Plan.   
   Focus on Goal 1 (*Create a roadmap to a well-integrated Arctic Observing System*). Addressing the question: *How to define the Roadmap* (30 min)
   1. Road Map Task Force *[Sandy Starkweather]*
   2. Tour de table among national Board members: ‘National activities of importance to SAON’, with the ambition to develop participation in CON, by particularly addressing two of the [Objectives under SAON Goal 1](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Strategy_and_Implementation/SAON_Implementation_Plan_version_17JUL2018_Status_approved.pdf):

* *Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities (1.1*)
* *Provide recommendations for a roadmap for future Arctic observational capacities (1.3*)

National Board members have filled in the *capacity/capability matrix* and are asked to report on activities that need coordination and that are relevant to the Roadmap. National Board members are specifically asked to provide answers to these questions with regards to Objective 1.1 and 1.3:

1. *What specifically did you mean here?*
2. *Who is leading that activity?*
3. *Is this well coordinated?*
4. *What specifically are you doing that could be coordinated?*
5. *Are you currently engaged in CON?*
6. *What should the roadmap include from the standpoint of your national funding body?*

*[More guidance is found in document 07 (meeting document from the Board meeting  
13th February).* *National Board members*]

1. Committees (10 min)
   1. ADC *[Peter Pulsifer]*
      1. 3rd Polar Data Forum: 18-22 November 2019
   2. CON *[Lisa Loseto]*
2. Physical Board meeting (10 min)   
   *[Arkhangelsk, Russia, 26 May 2019. Venue: NArFU Intellectual Center. Board members are invited to provide comments to the agenda. Allen Pope]*
3. 2nd Arctic Science Ministerial follow-up (10 min)  
   Upcoming call: LC-CLA-20-2020: Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus.   
   *[The SAON Secretariat has been contacted by one of the consortia, led by Michael Karcher (AWI, Germany) and Jeremy P. Wilkinson (BAS, UK). Michael Karcher and Jeremy P. Wilkinson have raised a series of questions to SAON on engagement in the call and have been invited to present these to the Board. Jan Rene Larsen*]
4. Arctic Observing Summit (5 min) *[Peter Schlosser]*
5. SAON presence at (10 min)

* Arctic Circle: China Forum, 10-11 May 2019 *[Thorsteinn Gunnarsson]*
* Arctic Circle: Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland 10-13 October, 2019
* ISAR-6: Sixth International Symposium on Arctic Research

1. Request to SAON from AMAP
   1. Litter and microplastics
   2. Radioactivity database   
      (5 min) *[Jan Rene Larsen]*
2. Any other business (5 min)
   1. Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) - Regional Alliance forum (GRA). Proposed contact person candidate is Craig Lee [*Sandy Starkweather*]
   * SAON Secretariat financing   
     [*Contributions to the 2019 budget have been received from   
     - Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland  
     - Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Japan  
     - National Institute of Polar Research, Research Organization of Information and Systems, Japan  
     These countries have committed themselves to a financial contribution:  
     - Canada  
     - USA*  
     *Jan Rene Larsen*]
3. Next telephone conference: 8th June 16 CET / 10 AM EST

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

(More details, including affiliation will be added)

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| Vito Vitale |  |

## Appendix 3: List of meeting documents

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| ***Agenda item*** | ***Document no*** | ***Document Title*** | ***Document author*** |
| 0 | 09 | [Draft agenda version 4rd May](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/04_SAON_Board_Meeting_07MAY_Draft_Agenda_ver_03MAY2019.docx) | Secretariat |
| 06 | [GoToMeeting dial-in](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/06_GoToMeeting.docx) | Executive |
| (link) | [SAON Board meeting 10th April. Draft minutes version 5th May](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190410/Minutes/SAON_Board_Meeeting_10APR2019_Draft_Minutes_Version_05MAY2019.docx) | Secretariat |
| (link) | [SAON Executive meeting 15th April. Draft minutes version 7th May](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Executive/20190415/Executive_notes_15APR2019_Draft_version_07MAY2019.docx) | Secretariat |
| 2a | (link) | [RMTF meeting documents (teleconferences 23rd April and 6th May)](https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/road-map-task-force-rmtf) | RMTF |
| (link) | [Draft notes from teleconference 23rd April. Version 4th May](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/RMTF/20190506/SAON_RMTF_notes_23APR2019_Draft_version_04MAY2019.docx) | RMTF |
| 2b | (link) | [Role of national SAON organisations Version 20th December 2018](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190213/04_Role_of_national_SAON_organisations_20DEC2018.docx) |  |
| (link) | [Questions to National Board members on G1 Objectives](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190213/07_Questions_to_National_Board_members_on_G1_Objectives.docx) |  |
| (link) | [Questions to National Board members on G1 Objectives - Denmark](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190213/19_Questions_to_National_Board_members_on_G1_Objectives_Denmark.docx) | Helle Poulsen |
| (link) | [Questions to National Board members on G1 Objectives - Germany](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190410/03_Germany_Questions_to_National_Board_members_on_G1_Objectives.docx) | Nicole Biebow |
| 02 | [Compilation of national responses to G1 Objective 1.1](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/02_Overview_Objective_1_1.docx) | Secretariat |
| 03 | [Compilation of national responses to G1 Objective 1.3](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/03_Overview_Objective_1_3.docx) | Secretariat |
| 3 | (link) | [3rd Polar Data Forum: 18-22 November 2019](https://arcticdc.org/meetings/conferences/pdf-iii) | ADC |
| 4 | (link) | [Physical SAON Board meeting 26th May 2019. Meeting documents](https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/350-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-during-assw2019) | Executive |
| (link) | [ASSW 2019 web page](https://www.en.assw2019.science/) |  |
| 5 | 05 | [Questions to SAON on engagement in coming EU H2020](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/05_Questions_to_SAON_on_engagement_in_coming_EU_H2020_call.docx) | Jeremy P. Wilkinson, BAS Michael J. Karcher, AWI |
| 7 | (link) | [Arctic Circle: China Forum, 10-11 May 2019. Programme](http://www.polar.org.cn/acforum2019/program/) The SAON Session is #5: Arctic Sustainable Observing System: The Role of Asia |  |
| 08 | [Arctic Circle: Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland 10-13 October, 2019. Draft proposal](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/08_Arctic_Circle_2019_Side_event.docx) |  |
| 07 | [ISAR-6: Sixth International Symposium on Arctic Research. Draft ASM3 proposal](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/07_Special_Session_Proposals_ASM3.docx) | Secretariat |
| 8 | 12 | [2020-2022 GEO Work Programme for ArcticGEOSS. Application from 22th February 2019 (Word)](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/12_Work_Plan_ArcticGEOSS_version_12FEB2019.docx) | Board |
| 13 | [2020-2022 GEO Work Programme for ArcticGEOSS. Application from 22th February 2019 (Excel)](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/13_gwp2020_Tables_ArcticGEOSS.XLSX) | Board |
| 10 | [2020-2022 GEO Work Programme for ArcticGEOSS. Application response from 2nd May 2019](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/10_ArcticGEOSS_Response.docx) | GEO Secretariat |
| 9 | (link) | [SAON Secretariat](https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/secretariat) | Secretariat |
| 10 | 11 | [List of AMAP HoDs](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/20190508/11_AMAP_HoDs.docx) | Secretariat |

Meeting documents are found at <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/360-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference-8th-may-2019>

## Appendix 4: Actions

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|  | Agenda item | Action | Who | When |
| 1 | 8b | Contact GEO Secretariat on ArcticGEOSS application | Mikko Strahlendorff, Vito Vitale and Jan Rene Larsen | 1st July 2019 |
| 2 | 9a | Identify an additional representative from EUROGOOS to represent SAON at the GOOS GRA level | Mikko Strahlendorff | 1st July 2019 |