



# SAON Governance Review Workshop #3 – April 14, 2021

## Developing National Structures/Organizations

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## ***Agenda***

- Introductions
- Reference to the Code of Conduct <https://www.assw2020.is/code-of-conduct>
- Review and confirmation of workshop objectives

## ***Objectives of workshop:***

- 1) To review the intention and purpose of National SAON Organizations
- 2) To review current consideration of, and growing interest from others in, the National SAON Organizations (current national organizations; CON, ADC and ROADS considerations; International organizations considerations)
- 3) To identify a Way Forward with recommendations and next steps



# ***Part A – Background on the Intention and Purpose of the National SAON Organizations/Structures (Jan Rene Larsen)***

Overview of the intention and purpose of National Organizations, as stated in:

- External Review of SAON – recommendations, 2016
- SAON Implementation Plan – roles and responsibilities, 2017
- Results of “State of Readiness” survey of SAON Board members, 2018

## ***External Review of SAON – Recommendations***

Finding: The National SAON Coordination Committees are viewed as a key component of the SAON organizational structure, but in general, are not functioning well.

Recommendation: National SAON Coordination Committees need to be established in all SAON Member Countries. These Committees are critical to the success of SAON and they need to be strengthened with the development of guidelines, mandates and terms of reference. The SAON Secretariat should be tasked with assisting SAON Member Countries in establishing and supporting these national committees.



## ***SAON Implementation Plan – roles and responsibilities***

### Goal 1: Creating a roadmap to well-integrated Arctic observing system

1. Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities.
2. Complete an assessment of adequacy of Arctic observational capacity in support of Arctic Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs).
3. Provide recommendations for a roadmap for future Arctic observational capacities.
4. Create opportunities to develop and implement observations in support of Arctic Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs).
5. Develop a long-term repository for relevant project deliverables.

### Goal 2: Free and ethically open access to Arctic observational data

1. Create a road map outlining the steps towards achieving a system that will facilitate access to Arctic observational data
2. Advance a system to facilitate access to Arctic observational data
3. Establish a persistent consortium of organizations to oversee the development of a sustainable, world-wide system for access to all Arctic data

### Goal 3: Ensuring sustainability of Arctic Observing

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

## *“State of readiness”*

SAON Strategic Objective	Yes - High	Inter-mediate	No - Low
	Frequency (percent)		
<b>Goal 1: Creating a Roadmap to Well-integrated Arctic Observing System</b>			
Objective 1.1: Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities	7 (57)	6 (46)	0 (0)
Objective 1.3: Provide recommendations for a roadmap for future Arctic observational capacities	1 (8)	12 (92)	0 (0)
Objective 1.4: Create opportunities to develop and implement observations in support of Arctic Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs)	0 (0)	7 (57)	6 (46)
Objective 1.5: Develop a long-term repository for relevant project deliverables – establishment of Arctic GEOSS	1 (8)	9 (69)	2 (15)
<b>Goal 2: Free and Ethically Open Access to Arctic Observational Data</b>			
Objective 2.1: Create a road map outlining the steps towards achieving a system that will facilitate access to Arctic observational data	10 (77)	2 (15)	1 (8)
Objective 2.2: Advance a system to facilitate access to Arctic observational data	6 (46)	6 (46)	1 (8)
Objective 2.3: Establish a persistent consortium of organizations to oversee the development of a sustainable, world-wide system for access to all Arctic data	2 (15)	8 (62)	3 (23)
<b>Goal 3: Ensuring Sustainability of Arctic Observing</b>			
Objective 3.1: Develop a strategy for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations	2 (15)	8 (62)	3 (23)
Objective 3.2: Apply the strategy developed in 3.1 to advocate to funding agencies and states to ensure sustainability of Arctic observing	0 (0)	7 (54)	6 (46)
Objective 3.3: Secure funding for international SAON secretariat and operational costs	5 (38)	6 (46)	2 (15)



## ***Part B – Current Considerations of National Structures/Organizations***

*(Mikko Strahlendorff)*

### ***Overview of current National Organizations***

- Four presentations on National Organizations (USA, Canada, Finland and Iceland) were made to the SAON Board in November and December
- Only 1 out of these 4 is currently an active organization
- Wide diversity in approach (flexibility is important)

## *Overview of current National Structures/ Organizations*

- **Common Elements** (Observations only)
  - Lack of strong interest in/understanding of, the need for National Committees
  - National organizations were in place in the early years of SAON/initial inventory exercise to list observation and project capacities, but interest has waned
  - However, there continues to be interest and participation on the SAON Board
  - Also, seems to be strong interest in how the ROADS process will transpire; is this a wait and see attitude (?)
  - Most nations are engaging in other Arctic observing efforts – e.g. Arctic Observing Summit WGs, Arctic Council WGs
  - Mandate is uneven (some Governmental bodies, mostly Academia)
  - Few references made to the compilation of [National Inventories](#) after initial



## *Overview of current National Structures/ Organizations*

- **Examples of what seems to have worked well? How was this done? (Observations only)**
  - In Finland, a SAO secretary had chaired the SAON National Committee
  - In some cases (Finland, Canada, USA) the committee convened when there were specific items on SAON Board agenda where a national response was requested – e.g. national inventories
  - In Canada, the national organization produced a report on the state of environmental monitoring in their jurisdiction (2015),
  - In USA, the national committee is organized by disciplines - e.g. glaciers, marine and terrestrial ecosystems; also divided into Arctic observing, data and modelling
  - In USA, strong linkages to national policies and research plans (top down driver)

## *Overview of current National Structures/ Organizations*

- **Membership?**

- Generally, the national organization members came from BOTH public research institutions with mandates of research and monitoring (e.g. met services, natural resources, environment, geology, earth observations/space) as well as universities (to varying degrees)
- Very few come from the governments above this level
- AC WGs are usually invited as participants, or observers
- Terms of reference for the SAON national committees have been initiated within some countries (e.g. USA, Canada)

## ***Overview of current National Structures/ Organizations***

**General Discussion amongst workshop participants, as we move forward...**

- Any comments on the intention and purpose of National organizations?
- Are there lessons learned from efforts of National organizations?
- Are there other structures that serve this role without connection to SAON?





## ***Part B – Considerations and Expectations from within*** **SAON**

*(Lisa Loseto, Peter Pulsifer,  
Sandy Starkweather)*

- 1) Considerations from the CON and ADC workplans on what the National Organizations should be/actions they need to undertake
  
- 2) Considerations from the SAON ROADS process on what the National Organizations should be/actions they need to undertake



## SAON CON (Committee on Observing Networks) –

Lisa Loseto

**SAON CON Goal, Tasks and the SAON Implementation Plan Goal 1 and objectives:** require the participation of persons who can speak on behalf of National (and organizational) programs, as well as have the support of a national co-ordination team on observational capacities to effectively participate and guide activities and workplans

### CON goals/Tasks Examples:

SAON GOAL 1, Objective 1.1: Conduct and inventory national observational capacities. *Countries required to have coordination among observational agencies/groups to produce inventories.*

*Foundational support for other goals*

Other goals include assessments and recommendations on observational activities in support of Arctic SBAs – this requires the baseline knowledge (supported with an inventory) of national capacity.



## SAON ADC (Arctic Data Committee) – Peter Pulsifer

Purpose of the ADC is to promote and facilitate international collaboration towards the goal of free, ethically open, sustained and timely access to Arctic data through useful, usable, and interoperable systems.

National Organizations can contribute:

- Assign up to two appropriate national representatives to actively engage ADC activities
- Identify national projects, programs, institutions etc. involved in Arctic data and make ADC aware through the MADE project
- Engage in the development of an effective policy framework to help realize the purpose stated above (i.e. engage in current polar data policy alignment process)
- Assist in identifying appropriate entities/persons to engage in working group activities (e.g. federated search, semantics)

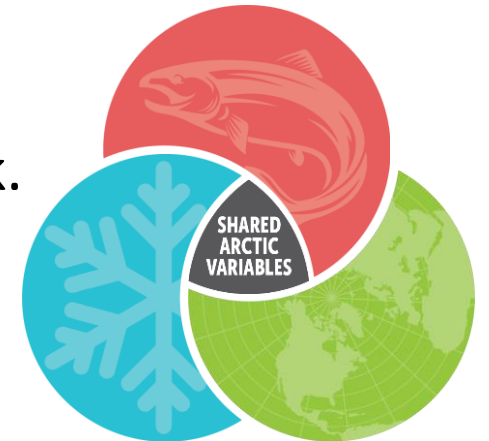
## *ROADS Process – Sandy Starkweather*

### ***Immediate***

- Familiarize funding agencies with plans/structure, get feedback.
- Deliberate structure/composition of Advising Panel.

### ***Future***

- Link national assessments of key observing system needs to identify candidate variables or Expert Panel topics.
- Recommend Expert Panel topics or identify experts for engagement.
- Foster on-going engagement with funding agencies and other partners in ROADS.



## ***Considerations and Expectations from within SAON – from the CON, the ADC and the ROADS Process***

**General Discussion amongst workshop participants, as we move forward...**

- Any comments on the expectations from within SAON?
- What should we keep in mind as we look to renewal/reinvigoration of the national committees? Do we need to expand our networks to do it?







## ***Part B - Considerations from Other International Bodies with National Contact Points/National Organizations***

Emerging Interest in SAON's National Organizations; can these be leveraged? Could national contact points be shared? Are mandates aligned and complementary?

- EU-Polar Cluster - Nicole Biebow
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – Rodica Nitu/ Dominique Berod
- Group on Earth Observation (GEO) – networking for ArcticGEOSS – Doug Cripe

## **How do nations select national contact points? Do you provide guidance/advice on who the contact should be?**

- **Germany** selects national contact points based on the strategic importance of the boards: National contact points for strategically relevant boards are appointed by the national committee (National Committee for SCAR & IASC), institutes appoint national contacts for boards of a lower or more institute-related strategic role and some boards are based on voluntary membership.
- National contact points in **EU-PolarNet** were originally recruited from the EPB and were adapted during the EU project.

## **Is there a requirement for a national committee behind the national contact point?**

No, in general it is not.

### **Roles and responsibilities of your network of national contact points?**

- At a German level, the network of national contact points has mainly an informative role; with an annual meeting to inform and discuss activities
- EU-PolarNet's role as a network of European national contact points is defined in its description of work; mainly to better coordinate and improve European cooperation; final project outcome (EPCO) will be based on national with ToR to be established

### **Are there strategies to keep national contact points engaged and active?**

- German level hosts an annual meeting
- EU-PolarNet is continuously active (as it is an EU project with deliverables)

### **Are there terms of reference?**

- For the German national committee – no
- For EU-PolarNet – yes, consortium agreement

## World Meteorological Organization – Rodica Nitu and Dominique Beroud, WMO Secretariat

### National Contact Points and/or National Organizations:

- How do nations select national contact points? Do you provide guidance/advice on who the contact should be?
  - WMO Focal Points for SAON are nominated by the National Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services and reflect the institutional interest on the potential engagement with SAON;
  - WMO provides the principles of the engagement, e.g. anticipated mutual benefits, while the decision rests with the designating institution which makes the commitment of resources (time) for the engagement;
- Is there a requirement for a national committee behind the national contact point?
  - No requirements for a national committee; the expectation is that the national engagement is driven by an existed of planned project or initiative, which will benefit from the exposure to SAON;
- Roles and responsibilities of your network of national contact points?
  - Not related to SAON; intended to enable linkages between the operational organizations of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the communities engaged in SAON;
- Are there strategies to keep national contact points engaged and active?
  - Not known at this date;
- Are there terms of reference? - general principles shared with SAON, by WMO in 2019
- Any additional advice? – use pilot projects to test the principles of collaboration



## **Group on Earth Observations (GEO) – Doug Cripe, GEO Secretariat**

### **National Contact Points and/or National Organizations:**

- How do nations select national contact points?
  - GEO Member governments are free to select national Principals and Alternates from senior levels of the appropriate Ministry.
- Do you provide guidance/advice on who the contact should be?
  - No.
- Is there a requirement for a national committee behind the national contact point?
  - No requirement, although a number of governments have organized a national GEO regrouping relevant agencies for collective input and decisions.



## **Group on Earth Observations (GEO) – Doug Cripe, GEO Secretariat**

### **National Contact Points and/or National Organizations:**

- Roles and responsibilities of your network of national contact points? Are there terms of reference?
  - From the GEO Rules of Procedure:
  - All GEO Members and Participating Organizations should designate, at the senior-official level, one GEO Principal and not more than two GEO Principal Alternates to represent that Member or Participating Organization in the Plenary, and to receive and submit all official communication to, and from, the Secretariat. A designated GEO Co-Chair will also serve as the GEO Principal on behalf of his or her respective GEO Member. GEO Principals are encouraged to attend each GEO Plenary, and do not serve in their individual institution's capacity but rather as representatives of their entire government or Participating Organization. GEO Principal and Principal Alternate designations, including complete and current contact information are the responsibility of the GEO Principal, and are to be provided to the Secretariat annually.



## **Group on Earth Observations (GEO) – Doug Cripe, GEO Secretariat**

### **National Contact Points and/or National Organizations:**

- Are there strategies to keep national contact points engaged and active?
  - Participation encouraged in Regional Caucus and Executive Committee, as well as annual Plenary and periodic Earth Observation Summits.
  - Updates on GEO Work Programme activities originated by national agencies and institutions.
- Any additional advice?
  - Important to systematically update contact information when there is a change of government.
  - Messaging with GEO Principals should be concise and targeted (avoid email fatigue).

## ***Considerations by Other International Bodies***

**General Discussion amongst workshop participants, as we move forward...**

- Can any of these other networks be leveraged?
- Could national contact points be shared?
- Are mandates aligned and complementary?





## **Break – 10 minutes**

**After Break – Discussion on Way Forward  
(remember the Tour de Table question that was  
circulated for your response....)**



## ***Part C – Way Forward***

***Discussion and identify practical steps that will advance the National Structures/Organizations***



## ***Tour de table question***

*In your opinion, what is one key action that needs to be taken to re-invigorate the SAON national organizations and that will lead to their success?*

## Way Forward for National Structures/Organizations

### Possible Discussion Questions:

- How to motivate stronger and more active participation?
- How to design the National Organizations to more clearly “get benefits back” for effort invested?
- What might be 2 or 3 practical “tasks” for the National Organizations to focus on (e.g. drawing from CON and/or ADC workplans; specific task(s) from ROADS process; from the current National committees?)

## Way Forward for National Structures/Organizations

### Possible Discussion questions

- How best to increase Indigenous participation in the National Organizations (as an introduction to SAON; means of engagement and capacity building, and future recruitment to leadership roles?)
- Would it be valuable to have the Senior Arctic Officials more active? If so, what might be possible actions/steps?
- Is there are need at this time for “guidelines, mandates, Terms of Reference” at this time?



## Way Forward for National Structures/Organizations

### Possible Discussion questions

- Are there other opportunities to be leveraged to help?
- How might the international interest in the National Organizations be a benefit?
- Is there are need at this time for “guidelines, mandates, Terms of Reference” at this time?



# ANNEX SLIDES

## ***SAON National Organizations - Possible components of Terms of Reference***

- ***Description of Purpose and Objective***
- ***Description of Responsibilities***
  - ***To engage with, and inform the SAON Board representative of national observing and data management activities – so as to ensure that they are prepared to present the national perspective at SAON Board meetings***
  - ***To provide input and advice, from a national perspective, into aspects of SAON, to help guide SAON's development and help the initiative meet its goals (including SAON ROADS process)***
- ***Statement about Composition and/or Membership***





## ***US Arctic Observing Network Terms of Reference***

- To provide processes for realizing US AON Vision and Goals, and criteria for membership to the US AON Board
- Includes US AON structure and governance, roles and responsibilities, relationships, and means for tasking, reporting, and review
- Current US AON Board activities include contributing to the next IARPC Arctic Research Plan, implementing a Communications Strategy, and recruiting additional agency representatives

## ***Canada – SAON National Committee – Draft Terms of Reference***

- *Introduction/Context*
- *Responsibilities*
- *Composition/Membership*
- *Meetings*