



## **Board meeting**

### **8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 9-10:30 AM PT / 18-19:30 CET (Teleconference)**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Introductions**

Christine Daae Olseng (SAON Chair) welcomed the participants, and introduced herself as the new chair of SAON. The agenda was approved (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2.

#### **2. Committee status**

Peter Pulsifer (ADC chair) gave a presentation on the work of the Arctic Data Committee (ADC) (Title 'The Arctic Data Committee: Advancing polar science, research policy and society'. Link can be found in Appendix 3). He reported on the headlines from the Committee's meeting in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in October 2015:

1. Finalizing operational/administrative processes
2. Documenting and understanding the Arctic data management ecosystem
3. Identifying and promoting common metadata elements
4. Engaging in data citation and publication movement
5. Communications, outreach and partnership

He described the general work model of the Committee, aiming for tangible deliverables over a short time frame. Deliverables should contribute to addressing strategic priorities over the short, medium and long term. On the membership he noted that the Committee members are nominated as national representatives, but that the Committee is open to all "interested and engaged" participants. The Committee intends to use existing capacity while working to generate new resources, and mentioned that the Committee had applied for funds from the Belmont Forum. A specific outcome of the recent meeting of ADC was an initiative to establish a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM).

Lisa Loseto (CON chair) presented a draft plan for the Committee's work on inventories of Arctic observational programs, networks, projects and platforms. The background was the document 'Implementation of the SAON Strategy' which states that "The first task of the Committee will be to develop and implement a plan for the establishment of an inventory and related gap analysis of circum-Arctic observational and monitoring assets".

The plan proposes that a three-tier approach is taken:

1. State of National Inventories: SAON countries and organisations are asked to provide a report on the state of their own inventory work. This should be accompanied by simple structured listings of their Arctic observational programs, networks, projects and platforms in a predefined Excel structure.

2. Detailed inventories within a specific Arctic theme: The plan lists four potential themes: 1) Arctic Fisheries, 2) Atmosphere, 3) Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost, and 4) Community Based Monitoring.
3. Consider templates or guidance on the development of such a themed inventory.

Lisa Loseto provided an update on the initiative to establish an indicators network, which is another task for CON. The SAON Executive had had a telephone conference with Mike Kuperberg from the US Global Change Research Programme (USGCRP), who had demonstrated a US framework that had been established in support of a US national initiative within this area. Mike Kuperberg would come back to SAON once the initiative was more developed.

Lisa Loseto finally explained about her considerations on the membership of the Committee and asked the Board to make sure that relevant persons are nominated to the Committee.

### 3 SAON Review

The SAON Executive Committee had drafted a plan for the review of SAON, which was introduced by Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary). The Nuuk Declaration from 2011 states that “The SAOs will review the SAON structure in two to four years’ time and make any necessary adjustments to the structure at that time”. The principle of a regular review of SAON is also reflected in the SAON Terms of Reference stating that “...an external body will review SAON on a periodic basis...”.

Jan Rene Larsen explained that review activities of AMAP, APECS, IASC, and SCAR had been consulted as background for the plan. The review would be based on a survey to be conducted and a package of SAON documentation that should be prepared. The document proposed that the review would be conducted by an independent Review Committee and be completed in September 2016. The Committee should preferably cover these areas:

- (1) Scientific community
- (2) Governmental agency
- (3) Indigenous
- (4) Industry
- (5) Global observing systems

Christine Daae Olseng explained that the review would have two objectives: It would look backward and investigate how SAON has met its mandate in the past, but it would also look forward and give future directions on the development of SAON. The SAON Board was asked to provide their input to the plan and nominate reviewer candidates. The Board was also asked to mandate the SAON Executive to make the final decision on the composition of the Review Committee, and this was agreed.

Volker Rachold (IASC Secretariat) provided information about the recent review of IASC, explaining that this had been of high value to IASC. He explained how the IASC survey had had two entries: A broad entry for a wide community, and a more narrow entry for the IASC members.

Larry Hinzman (SAON vice-Chair) said that he believed that the survey would be of value and that it should focus on future activities.

Nikolaj Boch (EEA) wanted the review to focus on the organizational structure of SAON with particular emphasis on meeting frequencies, intersessional activities between meetings and the cooperation between

the Committees. He proposed that the review had focus on the Potsdam Board meeting in 2012, since work in break-out groups at that meeting had been valuable. He saw a need for SAON to strengthen its capability to deliver and that the review should propose changes to the SAON organizational structure.

Halldór Jóhannsson (Arctic Portal) proposed that the Review Committee should conduct interviews with persons that had been involved in SAON since the beginning, since this could provide insight into the relationship between the SAON mission and SAON's historical activities. He also proposed that the Review Committee should address the question of funding and sustainability of SAON.

Vito Vitale (Italy) asked about the nature and volume of information that should accompany a nomination as a reviewer. The response was that a nomination should be followed by a brief justification, especially on how the candidate fits into the five categories above.

#### **4. SAON Board meeting: 16-17 March 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska**

As agreed at the Board meeting in June 2015, the SAON Executive has arranged that the next face-to-face Board meeting will be held during the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) in March 2016. While Fairbanks has sufficient hotel capacity to host the guests in this period, the flight carriers' capacity is more limited, and the Board members are encouraged to book their flights soon.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

##### ***Arctic Observing Summit***

Larry Hinzman explained about the history of the AOS and the ongoing activities to prepare for the Annual Science Summit Week (ASSW) and the AOS in March 2016 in Fairbanks.

##### ***Group on Earth Observations (GEO)***

At the Board meeting in June 2015, a group had been established to develop SAON's relationship with GEO. Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) had provided a brief report to Jan Rene Larsen, who was asked to contact Mikko Strahlendorff for a further discussion on this.

##### ***EU-PolarNet***

Nicole Biebow (Germany) gave a status on the work, explaining that the EU-PolarNet has worked together with the European Commission on implementing the Transatlantic Research Alliance and on intensifying the cooperation with ESA. The aims are to identify user needs and high-level requirements for the next generation observing systems for the Polar Regions.

EU-PolarNet will host its next General Assembly during the ASSW in Fairbanks (13th March 2016), and all interested are welcome. Three major deliverables will be presented at the meeting:

D2.1: Report on prioritised objectives in polar research with a focus on European research objectives.

D3.2: "European Polar Infrastructure Catalogue" giving an overview about Europe's infrastructure in the Arctic and Antarctic

D4.5: "A Stakeholder map" identifying the stakeholders with whom we will work in the future

Christine Daae Olseng closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their contribution.

## Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Introductions (Christine Daae Olseng)
2. Committee status (ADC: Peter L. Pulsifer; CON: Lisa Loseto)
3. SAON Review (Christine Daae Olseng, Jan Rene Larsen)

*Annotation:* The Board is asked to provide comments on and input to the process described in document no. 2. The Board is also asked to consider persons that should have a seat in the described Review Committee.

4. SAON Board meeting: 16-17 March 2016, Fairbanks, Alaska (<https://assw2016.org>)

*Annotation:* The Board is asked to provide input to the agenda

5. Any Other Business, including
  - a. Arctic Observing Summit (Larry Hinzman)
  - b. GEO (Mikko Strahlendorff, Jan Rene Larsen)
  - c. EU-PolarNet (Nicole Biebow, Jan Rene Larsen)

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

Name		Affiliation	Email
Beszczyńska-Möller	Agnieszka	Poland	abesz@iopan.gda.pl
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Hinzman	Larry	SAON vice-Chair, University of Fairbanks, Alaska, Canada	ldhinzman@alaska.edu
Johansson	Halldor	Arctic Portal	halldor@arcticportal.org
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Larsen	Jan Rene	SAON Secretary, AMAP Secretariat	jan.rene.larsen@amap.no
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More information about the participants and their affiliation is found at <http://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-members>

### Appendix 3: List of meeting documents

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Document no</b>	<b>Document title</b>
1	1	<a href="#">Draft agenda</a>
2	-	The Arctic Data Committee: Advancing polar science, research policy and society: <a href="https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/483417/temp/Pulsifer_Arctic_Data_Committee_Dec82015_SAON.pptx">https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/483417/temp/Pulsifer Arctic Data Committee Dec82015 SAON.pptx</a>
2	3	<a href="#">CON work on inventories</a>
3	2	<a href="#">SAON Review Draft Plan</a>
5c		<a href="#">EU PolarNet</a>

The documents can be found at  
<http://www.arcticobserving.org/12-board-meetings/152-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference-8-december-2015>

## Appendix 4: Actions

Action No	Action	Who	When
1	Provide input to the review plan	Board	15 December 2015
2	Nominate reviewer candidates	Board	15 December 2015
3	Contact Mikko Strahlendorff and discuss how the relationship with GEO can be further developed	Jan Rene Larsen	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016