



Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

**7th June 2016 16-17 CET / 10-11 AM EST
Telephone conference
Minutes**

1. Welcome to the call

2. Welcome our new Co-Chair: Hannele Savela, INTERACT/UofOulu

Lisa Loseto (CON chair, Canada) welcomed the participants to the call and introduced Hannele Savela as the new co-Chair of CON. Hannele is from the University of Oulu and works for University of the Arctic and INTERACT. She is also the co-chair for the GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI).

3. Review minutes from last face to face meeting: ASSW/AOS

The minutes from the 2nd face-to-face meeting in Fairbanks in March 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

4. Updates on Inventory EU PolarNet

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary) introduced the document 'National and organisational reports on inventories for EU PolarNet' and gave a status report on the progress of this task. The document listed contributions from 14 countries and 4 organisations. Information had only been received from 5 countries, and Jan Rene Larsen would contact the remaining 9. The compilation of information is planned to be completed in June, and the draft report is planned to be circulated for review in the beginning of July.

5. Proposal of CBO updates

Lisa Loseto made reference to the proposal on Community Based Observations (CBO) by Lilian Alessa which had been discussed at the meetings of CON and the Board in Fairbanks in March 2016. She explained that CBO is a bit more encompassing than Community Based Monitoring (CBM). The Board had responded to the proposal and asked the author provide more details. Lisa Loseto had had no news from the author.

6. Updates on GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI)

Hannele Savela introduced the document 'GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI) Draft Implementation Plan'. She and Peter Pulsifer had attended the GEOCRI implementation plan meeting in May in 2016 and had proposed SAON involvement in several tasks:

- Identify and document needs and requirements for cold region Earth observation data and information for all users, both within and outside of cold regions. Make regular updates as needs and requirements change and emerge. Coordinate user requirements with WMO and its Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR) mechanism.
- Incorporate cold region databases, such as the Arctic Data archive System (ADS), the SAON data inventory and ICIMOD's Regional Database System, The Arctic Biodiversity Data Service, and the Italian Arctic Data Centre (IADC) into the GCI.
- Advocate defining of cold regions earth observations essential variables (EVs) to more effectively meet the cold region Earth observation needs and requirements of users.
- Develop and maintain an inventory of existing cold region Earth observations initiatives including organizations, programs, projects, networks and systems, particularly those which are active or have impact internationally and regionally.
- Support SAON as the lead organization in defining an Arctic Observing System. Support their existing efforts, share expertise. Leverage GEO's international position to align other initiatives with Arctic Observing System efforts and SAON where this is not already the case, including WMO (EC-PHORS, GCW, PRCC, WWRP etc.) WCRP (CliC), PPP/YOPP, INTERACT, EU-PolarNet and the successful candidate for the H2020 topics BG-09 and BG-10 in 2016 and BG-11 in 2017.
- Identify and map existing cold region Earth observation data and information collection efforts. Identify where there are gaps in cold region Earth observing efforts that must be filled to meet the needs and requirements defined in Activity 1.1

Lisa Loseto asked if funding would be available from GEOCRI, and Hannele Savela responded that GEOCRI work is based on in-kind contributions, although GEO is working to identify some funding.

Roland Neuber (Germany) mentioned that the Knowledge Center for the Svalbard Integrated Earth Observing System (SIOS) may be involved in addressing the questions.

Piotr Glowacki (Poland) said that negotiations are ongoing among 18 institutions in Poland about involvement in GEOCRI.

7. Membership and upcoming board meeting

Lisa Loseto explained about her considerations on the membership of CON. She believed that members should have good connections and overviews of Arctic observational activities within the country or organisation, both in terms of academia and agencies. She encouraged the countries to review their membership of CON and to establish national teams to support the representatives.

Hannele Savela said that it perhaps could be a good idea to see the CON membership in the light of GEO involvement and discuss if CON and GEO membership could be somehow coordinated (i.e. the GEO country representatives could also act as the country representatives in CON).

8. Updates on thematic projects

CBM atlas

There was no new information, except that Lisa Loseto informed the meeting that there is uncertainty about the funding, if it is two or three years.

Atmospheric

There was no new information. Jan Rene Larsen will be in contact with Sandy Starkweather from IASOA and ask for news.

Arctic Ocean Fisheries

Jan Rene Larsen reported briefly from the meeting of the ICES/PAME Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA), which is a potential consumer of this product. Arctic Fisheries will also be discussed at the ICES Annual Science Conference in September. Lisa Loseto informed about the national discussion on this matter in Canada.

9. Next call proposed date/time

It was agreed that the next call should be in September.

10. Other

Jan Rene Larsen gave brief updates on

1. The 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial. The SAON Board has submitted a statement to the Ministerial. Background information about the meeting and the document submitted can be found on the SAON web site¹.
2. SAON is currently undergoing a review. The report from the External Review Committee will be ready 1. September 2016.
3. Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) 2018. It has been decided that the AOS 2018 will be held in conjunction with the 2018 ASSW in Davos. The organization behind the AOS is being established.

Lisa Loseto informed the meeting that the Board has suggested that the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Committees are revisited. The current ToRs have statements about inventories and indicators, and until now focus has been on the inventories.

¹ <http://www.arcticobserving.org/news/206-arctic-science-ministerial>

Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Welcome to the call
2. Welcome our new Co-Chair: Hannela Savela, Interact/UofOulu
3. Review minutes from last face to face meeting: ASSW/AOS
4. Updates on Inventory EU PolarNet (Jan Rene Larsen)
5. Proposal of CBO updates (Lisa)
6. Updates on GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEO CRI) (Hannela/Peter)
7. Membership and upcoming board meeting (Lisa)
8. Updates on thematic projects
 - a. CBM atlas (Eva Kruemmel)
 - b. Atmospheric (Vito Vitale)
 - c. Arctic Ocean Fisheries (Peter/Lisa)
9. Next call proposed date/time
10. Other

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	e-mail
Canada	Lisa	Loseto	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada	Lisa.Loseto@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Canada	Susan	File	Canadian Polar Commission	susan.file@polar.gc.ca
Finland	Hannele	Savela	UArctic Research Area/INTERACT TA Thule Institute	Hannele.Savela@oulu.fi
Germany	Roland	Neuber	Alfred Wegener Institute	roland.neuber@awi.de
Poland	Piotr	Glowacki	Institute of Geophysics Polish Academy of Science, Poland	glowacki@igf.edu.pl
AMAP	Jan René	Larsen	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	jan.rene.larsen@amap.no

The complete CON membership list is available at
<http://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/members>

Appendix 3: List of meeting documents and presentations

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Document title</i>
3	Draft minutes from 14th March 2016
4	National and organisational reports on inventories for EU PolarNet
6	GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI) Draft Implementation Plan

The documents are available at <http://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/meetings>

Appendix 4: Actions

Action No	Action	Who	When
1	Provide information on Arctic observational assets (networks, platforms, programs, projects) according to the CON inventory plan	Nations and organisations	15 th June
2	Consider if CON and GEO membership could be somehow coordinated	Lisa Loseto and Hannele Savela	1 st September