



Workshop terms of reference document

Background

In the Salekhard Declaration (October, 2006) of the Arctic Council, the ministers representing the eight Arctic States agreed to: *“Urge Member States and other entities to strengthen monitoring and research efforts needed to comprehensively address Arctic change and to promote the establishment of a circumpolar Arctic observing network of monitoring stations with coordinated data handling and information exchange for scientific data, statistics and traditional knowledge as a lasting legacy of the IPY (and as the evolving Arctic component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, GEOSS)”*; and also to *“Urge all the Member countries to maintain and extend long term monitoring of change in all parts of the Arctic, and request AMAP to cooperate with other AC Working Groups, IASC and other partners in efforts to create a coordinated Arctic observing network, that meets identified societal needs.”*

Following these recommendations and similar needs identified within the scientific community, AMAP and IASC did together with other organisations form the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network Initiating Group (SAON IG, which is further described in a separate document available at http://www.arcticobserving.org/images/stories/saon_doc_final.pdf). To contribute to the process of making a more coordinated Arctic monitoring a legacy of IPY, the National IPY Committees of Sweden and Canada, and the Finnish Meteorological Institute have offered to host a series of three workshops during IPY.

Workshop aim

The overall goal of the *three* workshops is to answer the following key questions:

- *What Arctic observing sites, systems and networks (activities) currently exist?*
- *What spatial, temporal and disciplinary gaps exist?*
- *How will gaps be filled and the entire effort sustained?*
- *How are these activities to be coordinated and integrated?*
- *How are free, open and timely access to data be achieved?*

The workshop in Stockholm is the first of the three planned workshops. *The theme of the Stockholm workshop is:*

Are current Arctic observing and data and information management activities sufficient to meet users’ needs?

In addition, during thematic sessions (breakout groups) the two first key questions mentioned above will be discussed.

Workshop organisation

Plenary sessions

The **users' needs** will be highlighted during the two first days of the workshop by a series of plenary speakers each addressing one of the following themes:

- Weather and Climate
- Human Health and Well Being, including contaminants
- Biodiversity / Ecosystems
- Social and Economic Development
- Data and Information

There will normally be three speakers on each theme: one from the science community, one representing the governmental needs and one speaking from local / indigenous perspectives.

Speakers are asked to give a talk on user needs for the broad group they represent. The commission to speakers is to talk on a fixed topic like for example "Science community perspectives on user needs within climate and weather", or "Local community perspectives on user needs within biodiversity and ecosystems" – dependant on respective community representation and theme. Speakers are also asked to submit a 1-2 page summary of their presentation to the workshop secretary Anders Clarhäll: (anders.clarhall@vr.se). Please note that only summaries received **before November 1** can be guaranteed to be included in the documentation which will be handed out at the workshop. Speakers are also welcomed to send additional information of relevance for the workshop report to the workshop secretary.

Parallel thematic sessions (Breakout Groups)

Starting in the afternoon of the second day, all workshop participants are asked to be active in one of five **thematic sessions**, representing broad disciplines:

- Atmosphere
- Ocean & Sea Ice
- Hydrology/cryosphere
- Terrestrial Ecosystems
- Human Dimensions

Each session group is asked, within their thematic area to:

- initiate a process to identify which Arctic observing sites, systems and networks currently exist
- initiate a process to identify spatial, temporal and disciplinary gaps
- identify opportunities for new observing networks to integrate into existing networks
- discuss opportunities for better coordination in order to make use of synergies and to avoid overlaps
- comment on the potential for long-term funding by better meeting user needs

Participants are encouraged to develop some priorities; e.g. a short list of essentials for which there is strong rationale and justification.

Workshop participants are encouraged to participate actively in the breakout sessions. They can prepare for the workshop by considering the answers on the above questions within their own field of expertise.

Each session group will be chaired by one or two **session leaders** (co-chairs) assisted by one **rappporteur**. **Session leaders** will have to adapt the above listed questions to the reality in their thematic area, as for instance the Human Dimensions has a different approach as compared to natural sciences. The session leaders will together with the rapporteurs also be responsible for reporting the session outcome in plenary and their respective parts of the workshop report.

Rapporteurs are asked to take notes during the thematic sessions and together with the session leaders report orally in the plenary session at Wednesday afternoon, as well as to directly after the workshop submit a written report that will be edited into the workshop report.

Workshop documentation

Abstract collection

Speakers are, if they have not done so yet, asked to send in a 1-2 page summary on their talk, to anders.clarhall@vr.se. Abstracts received before November 1, will be made available at the workshop home page before November 10. The abstracts will also be printed and handed out to the workshop participants when they register for the workshop.

Poster exhibition

An opportunity has also been open to submit abstracts for posters to be displayed at the workshop. The poster abstracts will be printed and documented at the web page together with speaker's presentation summaries. The deadline for voluntary revision of poster abstracts was set to October 19.

Participants bringing accepted posters are welcome to display these at Hasselbacken, which is the workshop venue November 13 and 14. Thus, there will be no place for posters the first day of the workshop. The maximum poster format is: 1 m wide and 2 m high. **Inform the workshop secretary if you will bring a poster.**

Workshop report

The written reports from the rapporteurs, as well as the information contained in the abstracts, will form the basis for a **workshop report**. The rapporteurs and session leaders will together with one or more editors be responsible for the workshop report.

A preliminary outline for the workshop report is:

- Executive summary
- Introduction
- Thematic reports from the groups on
 - o Atmosphere
 - o Ocean & Sea Ice
 - o Hydrology/cryosphere
 - o Terrestrial Ecosystems
 - o Human Dimensions
- Discussion related to the future process.

The report will be made available on www.arcticobserving.org, well in advance of workshop 2. At least the executive summary of this report will also be printed.

The continued process

The second workshop, to be held in Alberta, Canada, in spring 2008, will be hosted by the Canadian IPY Secretariat. This workshop is planned to address the question:

How will Arctic observing and data and information management activities be coordinated and sustained over the long-term?

The third workshop, to be held in Finland in autumn 2008, will be hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The format and scope of this workshop remains to be determined, but an important element will be a synthesis of the advice and information gathered at the previous workshops into the final set of

recommendations for the coordination and promotion of sustained, integrated Arctic observing activities.

More information about the coming workshops will be announced at: www.arcticobserving.org.

The SAON-IG has provided this framework for a process. However, everybody is encouraged to take part in the process in order to achieve the ambitious goals.