

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON)

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and

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Arctic Council Salekhard Declaration

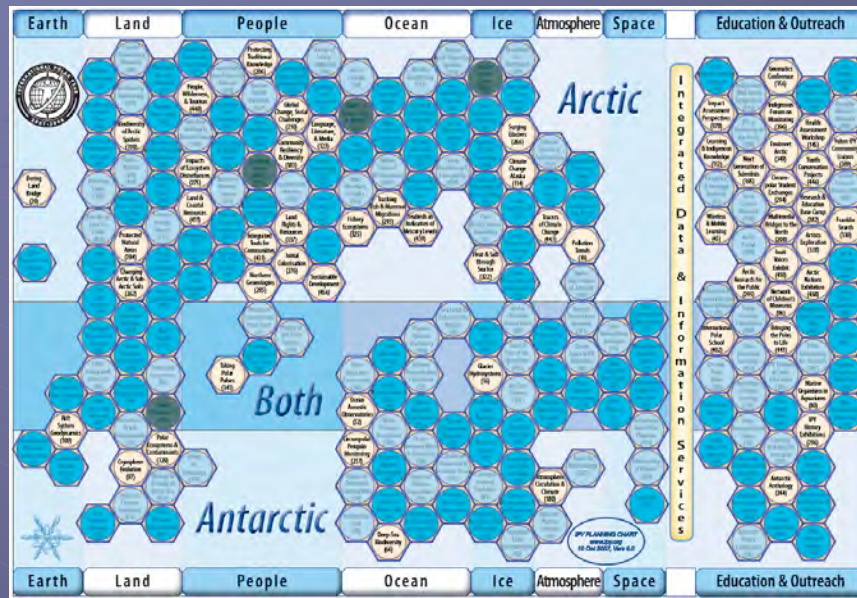
“Urge all Member countries to maintain and extend long term monitoring of change in all parts of the Arctic, and request AMAP to cooperate with other AC Working Groups, IASC and other partners in efforts to create a coordinated Arctic Observing network that meets identified societal needs”



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International Polar Year 2007/2008



2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II)

International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)



SAON Initiating Group

- Informal consultations between AMAP, IASC and IPY IPO during an ICARP II Workshop in Potsdam (November 2006)
- First SAON IG Meeting in Tromsø (Norway), January 2007
- Second SAON IG Meeting, in Hanover (USA), March 2007
- Third SAON IG Meeting in Stockholm (Sweden), June 2007
- ...



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SAON Initiating Group

Purpose: Develop a set of recommendations on how to achieve long-term, Arctic-wide observing activities that provide free, open and timely access to high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and societal benefits

Method: A series of workshops during the IPY:

- Stockholm, Sweden, November 2007;
- Edmonton, Canada, April 2008;
- Helsinki, Finland, October 2008.

Delivery date: The end of IPY = 1 March 2009.

Recipients: Arctic Council, IASSA, WMO/ICSU IPY Joint Committee, governments etc.



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SAON Basic Questions

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

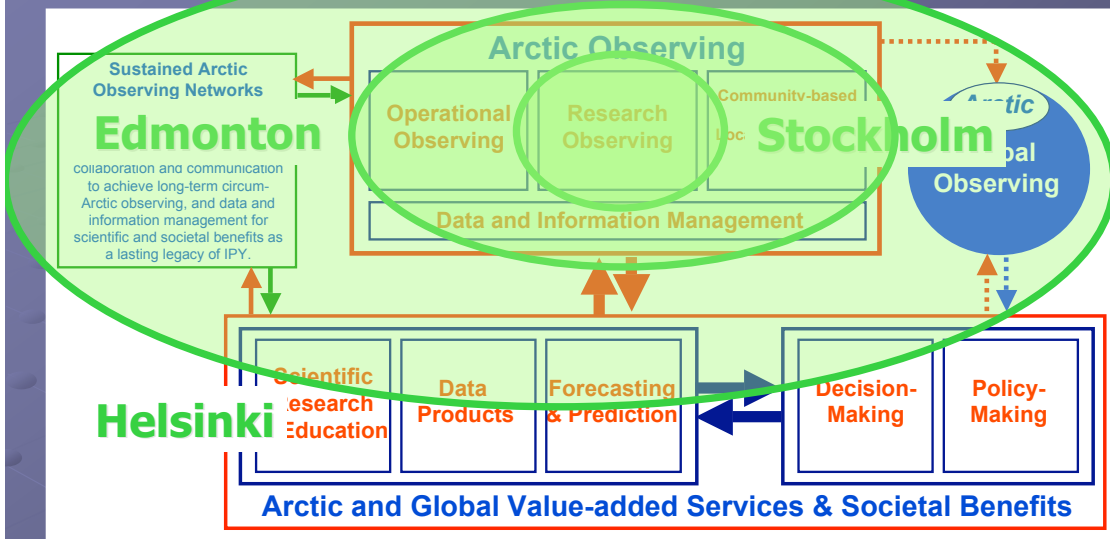
Stockholm: Are current Arctic observing and data & information management activities sufficient to meet users' needs?

Edmonton: How will Arctic observing and data & information management activities be coordinated and sustained?

Helsinki: Finalizing recommendations for securing support to coordinate and sustain Arctic observing and data and information management activities over the long-term.



SAON Overview Diagram



SAON Mission Statement ?

“ ...to achieve long-term, Arctic-wide observing activities that provide free, open and timely access to high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and societal benefits...”



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NSF
National Science Foundation



“Scientists need everything,
they need it yesterday and
they need it for free!”

Terry Callaghan

First SAON Workshop, Stockholm, November 2007



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Research and observational activities in the Arctic region must lead to predictive skill for:

- Integrated real-time ice-ocean-atmosphere-hydrosphere forecasts for present and future residents and users;
- Ecosystem status and change as the best indicator of overall Arctic health and as the basis for material and cultural wealth;
- Economic and social factors and trends, local and distant, that will require and constrain local, regional and global responses;
- Individual and community health and well-being;
- Impact of a rapidly changing Arctic and global climate on all of the above.



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What will it take to build this predictive skill?

- A sustained effort over decades, with patience in the face of low initial skill;
- Circum-Arctic cooperation;
- Observational capabilities completely and insistently integrated with models;
- Data networks. Fundamental and essential to all the elements above. **SAON starts here!**



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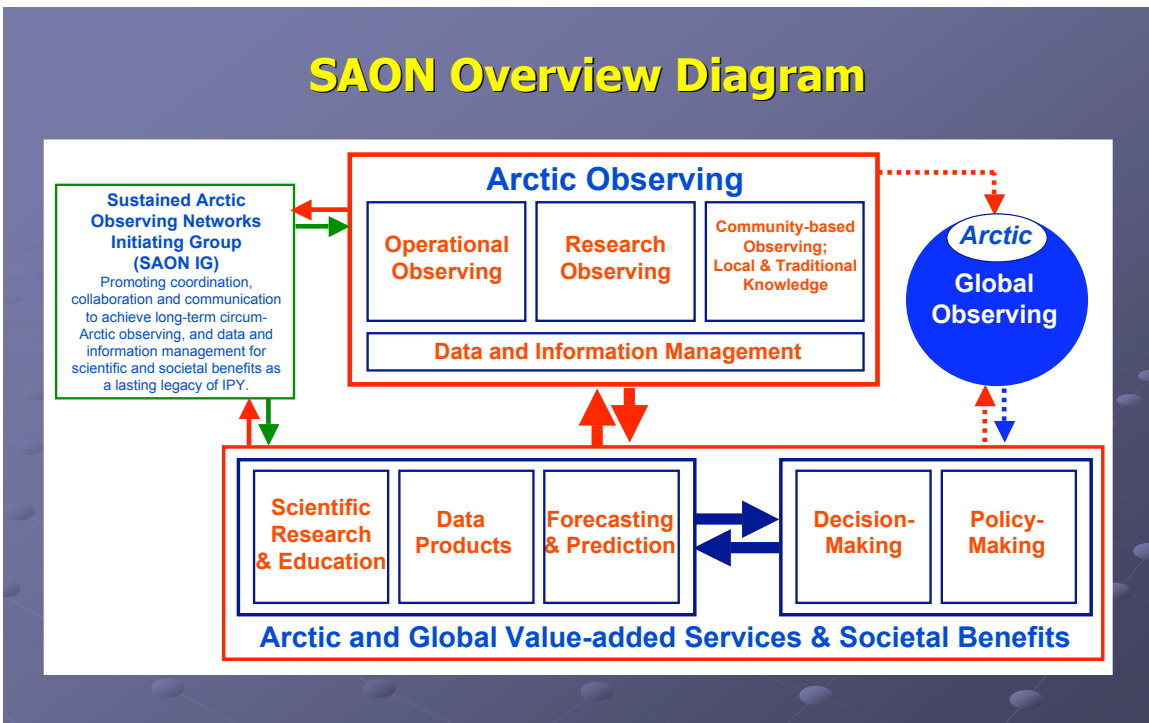
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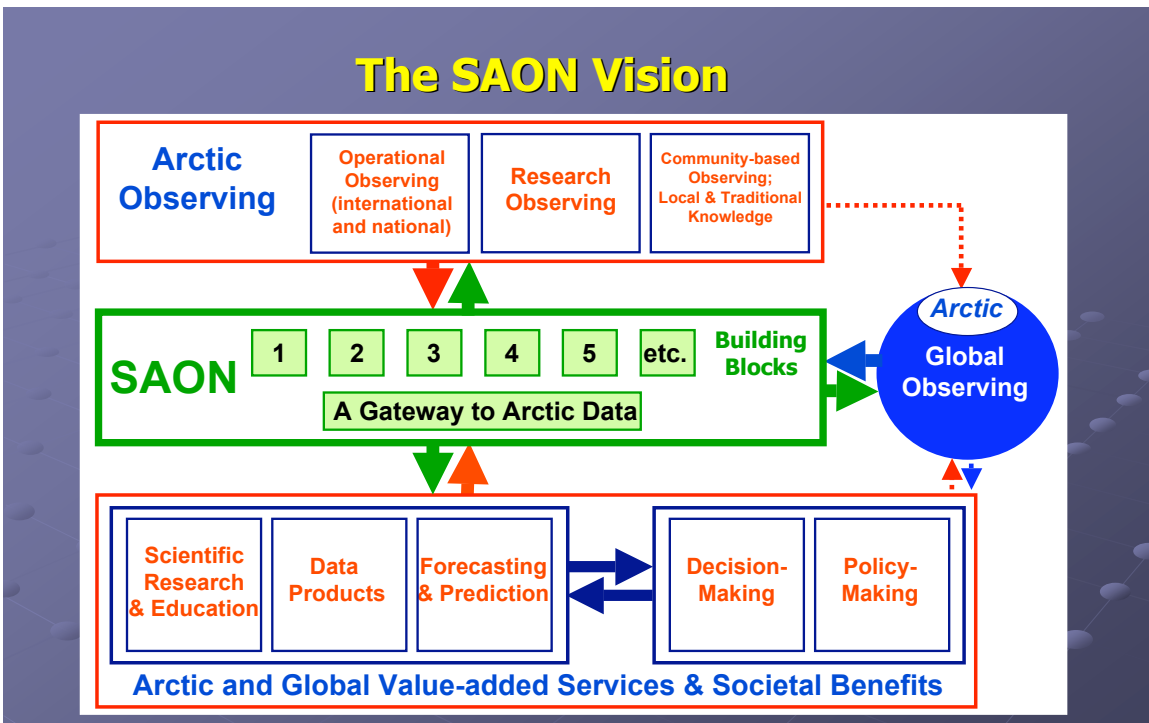
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SAON Overview Diagram



The SAON Vision



Candidates for SAON Building Blocks

Ocean, Sea Ice

- IABP
- Arctic GOOS
- iAOOS

Coasts

- ACCO-Net

Rivers

- Arctic-HYDRA

Terrestrial

- SCANNET
- CEON

Cryosphere

- IGOS
- TSP, GTN-P, CALM
- GLACIODYN

Atmosphere

- IASOA
- WMO Networks

Biodiversity / Biology

- CBMP
- Polar Bear Group
- CARMA

Human Dimensions

- Arctic Social Indicators
- Bering Sea Sub-Network
- ELOKA

etc.



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Concluding Remarks

- At the Helsinki Workshop, SAON has to finalize a **set of recommendations** - SAON should not develop another **Science Plan**
- SAON is **not science** but **coordination and service**
- SAON will require **long-term financial commitments**
- The selling point is that SAON is essential for **building predictive skill**



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