SAON: Status

Arctic Observing Summit 30 April – 2 May 2013



The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON): Status

Background and Governance

SAON was endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Nuuk 2011 and by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). The SAON Terms of Reference outlines the governance structure of SAON: 1) Tasks (projects), 2) National SAON Coordinating Committees, 3) Board, 4) Executive Committee 5), and 6) Secretariat

Tasks

SAON now has 23 different Tasks. These are in different stages of progress, and a summary can be found in the Appendix. In its review of the Tasks at the second meeting of the Board, the Board noted that most Tasks are in a good shape, with good progress, and mostly are well funded.

National SAON Coordinating Committees

The National Committees report to the Board, and the reports have been digitized and are accessible at http://www.arcticobserving.org/networks

Board

The SAON Board held its second meeting in Potsdam, Germany, 1-2 October 2012.

The first order of business centered around brief reports by all of the SAON tasks on their progress to date in achieving their goals, related to either observation assets coordination or integrated data delivery, or both

The second order of business was on the establishment of a high-level SAON strategy for setting overarching goals and objectives over the entire SAON portfolio. This will provide SAON with a short and concise strategic plan that aligns high-level network product generation with the various SAON tasks and ultimately allow for the evaluation of tasks in the context of SAON's strategic goals.

The third and final order of business was to provide an overview of the status of the SAON Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP). This involved the evoking of an 'adaptive management' process in which the existing ToR/RoP would be open for comments and change during each two-year SAON program review, the first of which is slated to start during the late summer or early autumn of 2013.

Executive Committee

The SAON Executive Committee has been established with a composition as described in the RoP. Sweden represents the Arctic countries, while ICC is the member for the AC Permanent Participants.

Secretariat

The AMAP and IASC Secretariats contribute resources to the SAON Secretariat.

SAON web site: www.arcticobserving.org