

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks - SAON

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Salekhard Declaration

In November 2006, the Arctic Council urged all member nations to maintain and extend long-term monitoring of change in the Arctic, with a view to building a lasting legacy of the International Polar Year. Further, the AC requested that the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program work with other AC working groups, the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and other partners in this effort, to meet identified societal needs.

The goal of developing an Arctic Observing Network as a legacy of IPY was also endorsed by the WMO XV Congress in May 2007.

Arctic Council Ministers in Tromsø 2009:

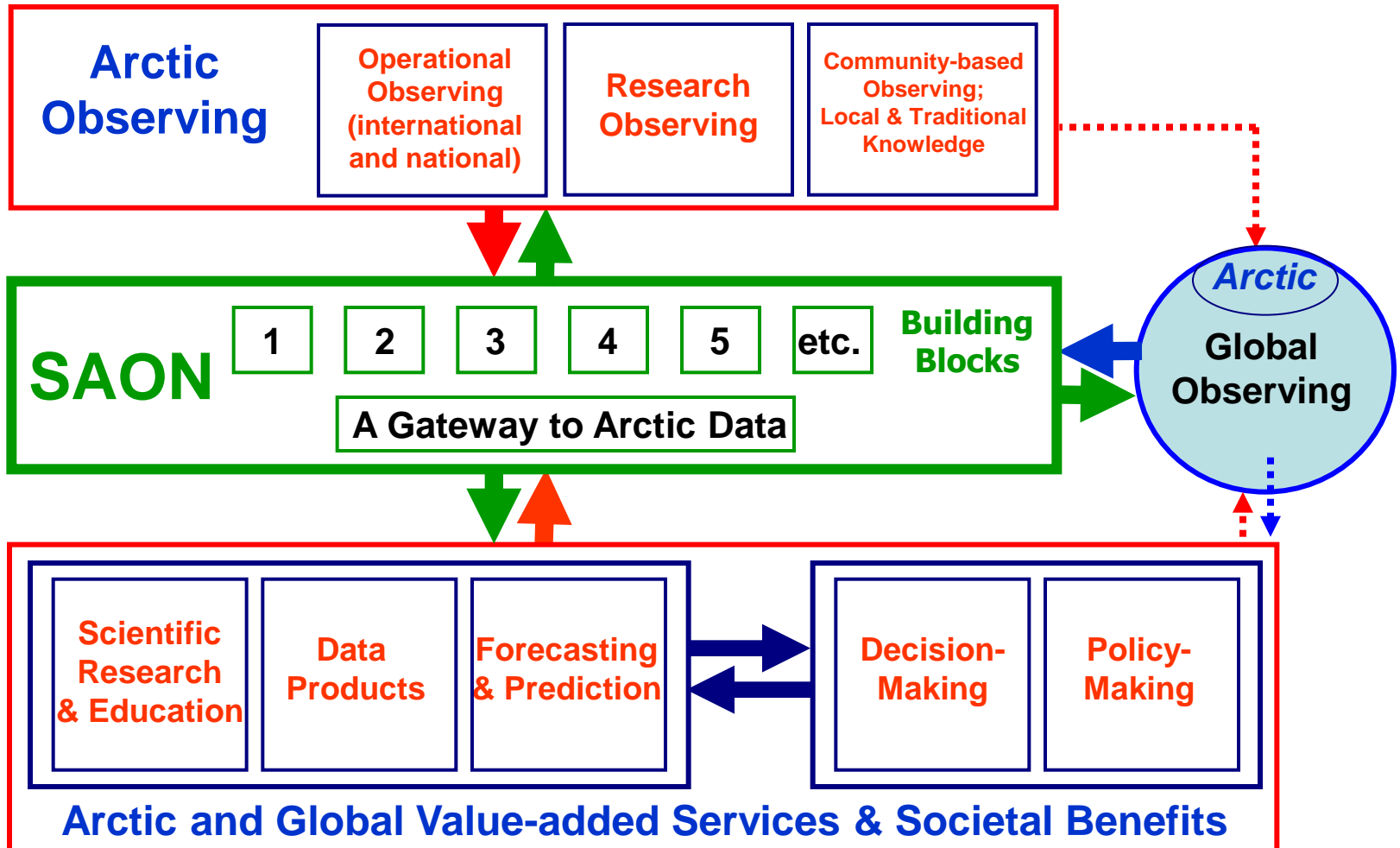
- Arctic Council member states should:
 - sustain and increase the current level of observing activities and data and information services.
 - create a data dissemination protocol
- Each Arctic state should create a national inter-agency group, which should form the basis for increased intergovernmental cooperation.
- Arctic states should welcome non-Arctic states to take part in this inter-governmental cooperation and adopt, support and implement the recommendations above.

Vision

The SAON *vision* is that users should *have access to free, open and high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and provide societal benefits.*

Attaining this vision, requires an *enhancement of Arctic-wide observing activities through coordination and integration and to promote sharing and synthesis of data and information.*

SAON will promote coordination & improved services



The benefits of SAON (I)

- Even though there are a wide range of ongoing observing programs, networks and observational platforms, many Arctic observing activities are still fragmentary and exists in varying stages of development.
- Most existing observations are managed by individual sponsors for specific purposes. Other observations are made on a project basis and may not be readily available.

The benefits of SAON (II)

- From the present fragmentary state there is a need to fill spatial, temporal and disciplinary gaps in observing records, to strengthen the sustainability of observing programs, and make data more readily available.
- When common scientific interests exist, the benefit of sharing data are great compared to the cost of duplicate acquisition or analysis.

SAON Structure

- Arctic Council (AC) and the Arctic Science Committee (IASC) have jointly established the SAON Board, the organisations providing a Chair and vice-Chair.
- The first meeting of the Board took place in Tromsø in January 2012. The second meeting will be held in Potsdam in October 2012.

SAON Implementation (I)

- Task based activities will allow be bottom-up and top-down identification of needs.
- SAON will be constructed of several elements:
 - SAON Task Teams ('Building Blocks') supporting specific activities that advance the goal of SAON
 - SAON Board
 - SAON Secretariat (AMAP and IASC)
 - National SAON Coordination Committees

SAON Implementation (II)

- The SAON approach is to build on existing observing sites, systems and networks (SAON building blocks).
- SAON will be implemented through a number of Task Teams with participation being voluntary and open to most organizations.
- 17+5+1 tasks have been identified and these shows a diversity of participation with task leaders coming from Arctic Council Working Groups (AMAP, CAFF, SDWG), Arctic Council Permanent Participants (AIA, ICC), Arctic Council Member States, and non-Arctic countries.

SAON – outside the scope

- SAON will not undertake science planning, policy setting, observations, data archival, or funding of these efforts, which will remain the responsibility of the ongoing networks/sites/systems and data centers, the organizations that support them, or appropriate policy officials

Summary

- A lot of enthusiasm and energy achieved – SAON is an important initiative that people believe in;
- Bringing together governmental agencies' monitoring, science community observations and community based observations is quite a challenge, but all will benefit;
- Non-Arctic countries can make significant contributions to SAON



More information:
www.arcticobserving.org