



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON). The newsletter will provide you with information about the progress of the different SAON Projects and forthcoming activities related to Arctic observing. In this first newsletter, we will introduce SAON and the SAON Board to you, and

also provide you with the latest information on SAON's tasks. More information is provided on our website www.arcticobserving.org. Via the website you will be able to access further in-depth information about the different SAON Tasks and the work of the SAON Board and Executive Committee.

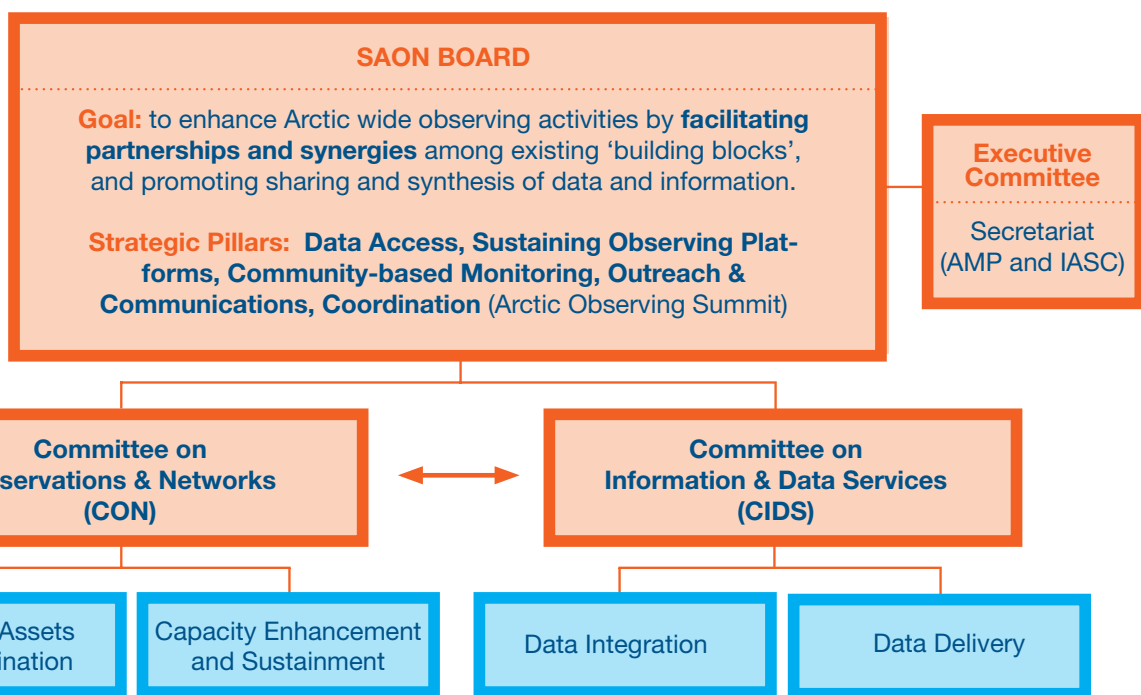
We hope this newsletter will keep you informed on the progress of SAON and that it will encourage you to get involved in the work, either through the Tasks or through the National SAON Committees. For more information please contact **Jan René Larsen and Volker Rachold** The SAON Secretariat

About SAON

The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) was established following a decision by the Arctic Council at the Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk in 2011. 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. To at-

tain that vision, SAON's goal is to enhance Arcticwide observing activities by facilitating partnerships and synergies among existing 'building blocks', and promoting sharing and synthesis of data and information. To achieve that goal, SAON is a resource for a broad community that includes governments and operational agencies, scientific researchers, indigenous peoples and northern residents, other stakeholders and the

general public. Tom Armstrong (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)) is the Chairman of the Board, and David Hik (International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)) is the vice-Chairman. The Board of SAON held its first meeting in January 2012 in Tromsø, Norway. AMAP and IASC jointly provide secretariat to the SAON. The implementation plan for SAON can be found [here](#).



SAON Coordination and Structure: At its third meeting in Vancouver (Canada) in April 2013, the SAON Board discussed the further development of SAON and agreed to form two committees under SAON: The Committee on Observations and Network (CON) and The Committee on Information and Data Services (CIDS). The minutes from the Vancouver meeting can be found [here](#).

SAON Tasks

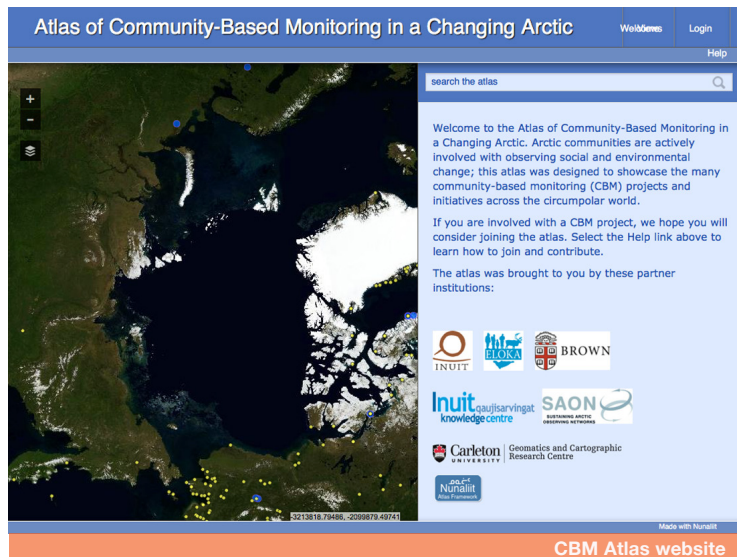
Task Title	Task Lead
IPA workshop on data user requirements definition for permafrost observing GTN-P	International Permafrost Association (IPA)
Polar Metadata Profile and Recommended Vocabularies	John Huck, Canada
Circumpolar Health Observatory	Kue Young, Canada
Role of Remote Sensing in Arctic Monitoring	Yves Crevier, Canada
The Canadian IPY Data Assembly Centre Network: A Case Study	Scott Tomlinson, Canada
Establishing an Arctic network on environmental monitoring of hazardous substances	Ola Glesne, Norway
Polar data and information management principles and practice (workshop)	Simon Wilson, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
Coordination of existing Arctic relevant Meta-databases and Project Directories	Jan René Larsen, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
An International Review of Community-Based Monitoring in the Context of Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks Process (Canada and ICC)	Noor Johnson, USA, Eva Krueemmel, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Canada
Development of Community-Based Monitoring Classification to Improve Standardization of Vocabularies	Victoria Gofman, USA
PEOPLE – ACE	Stephen L. Spehn, USA
Arctic Observing Summit	Craig Lee, USA
Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (CAFF/CBMP)	Mike Gill, Canada
Arctic Ocean Structure (IPY)	Gleb Panteleev, USA
Expand Historical Climate Analysis to the Pacific Sector of the Arctic	James E. Overland, USA
CBM Inventory (CAFF)	Tom Barry, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
INTERACT (SCANNET) <i>SCANNET is a network of Arctic (terrestrial) observatories, stations and sites. INTERACT is a (time-limited) observing and research program at these stations.</i>	Terry Callaghan, Sweden
International Arctic Systems for Observing the Atmosphere (IASOA): Planning, Partnering and Implementation	Sandy Starkweather, USA
A Research Coordination Network for Very Interdisciplinary Arctic Data and Information	Mark A. Parsons, USA
Contribution to the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) through the WMO Rolling Review of Requirements	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Arctic Biodiversity Coalition (ABC)	Terry V. Callaghan, Sweden; Mike Gill, Canada
Eye on Earth - Polarwatch (an electronic-Information and Observing Network in the Arctic): Building a Shared Environmental Information Service to support SAON	Nikolaj Bock, Chris Steenmans, European Environment Agency (EEA)
Distributed Biological Observatory	Jackie Grebmeier, USA

SAON is implemented as a series of Tasks that support the SAON goal. The task-based approach allows for countries and partners to engage in work that supports the SAON goal and meets their own needs and priorities, thus making funding and participation from the countries and partners more likely. Updates on a few of SAON's current Tasks are presented below. Future SAON newsletters will highlight more of the ongoing task. More information about the SAON Tasks can be found [here](#).

The SAON task “An International Review of Community-Based Monitoring” is pleased to announce the launch of www.arcticcbm.org, an **online Atlas of Community Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic**. The atlas will help raise awareness about the important role of community-based and led monitoring programs in Arctic observing, and serve as a resource for researchers, funders, policy makers, and interested communities.

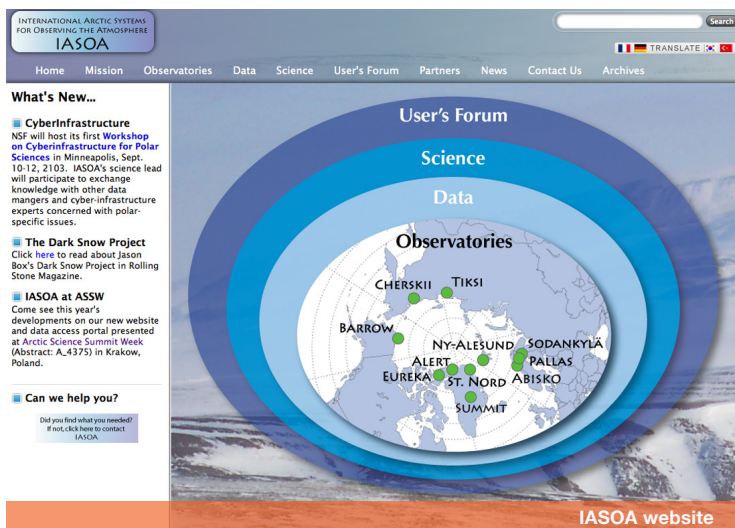
The atlas is an initiative of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA), Brown University’s Environmental Change Initiative, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami’s Inuit Qaujisarvingat: Inuit Knowledge Center, and Carleton University’s Geomatics and Cartographic Information Centre. A secondary phase of the initiative will involve in-depth interviews with CBM practitioners to identify best practices and challenges. The information gathered will inform a review on the state of CBM in the Arctic.

If you know of a CBM project that might like to be part of the atlas, please share the atlas website with them. Project coordinators can enter information about their monitoring programs at



www.arcticcbm.org directly.

If you have any questions about the atlas, please contact: Noor Johnson, Eva Kruemmel or Peter Pulsifer.



IASOA

The mission of the SAON task **International Arctic Systems for Observing the Atmosphere (IASOA)** is to advance coordinated research objectives from independent pan-Arctic atmospheric observatories through (1) strategically developing comprehensive observational capacity, (2) facilitating data access and usability through a single gateway, and (3) mobilizing contributions to synergistic science and socially-relevant services derived from IASOA assets and expertise.

The Summer – Fall 2013 issue of the IASOA Newsletter, introducing IASOA's New Data Access Portal and other new developments, is available [here](#). For more information please visit the [IASOA website](#) or contact Sandy Starkweather.

AOS 2013

The first **Arctic Observing Summit (AOS 2013)** held from 30 April to 2 May 2013 in Vancouver, BC, Canada, brought together a cross-section of the arctic community to deliberate on community-driven, science-based guidance for the design, implementation, coordination and sustained long-term (decades) operation of an international network of arctic observing systems.

The AOS 2013 addressed four themes: the status of the current observing system; observing system design and coordination; stakeholder perspectives on observing system design and integration,

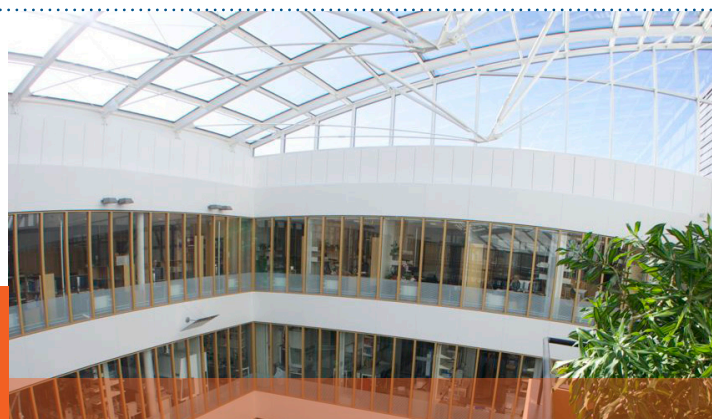
and mechanisms for coordination of support, implementation and operation of a sustained arctic observing system. The goal during the summit was drafting specific recommendations to foster the coordination of observing activities and help implement collaborative networking of arctic observing systems. Over the medium term, an AOS 2013 report and series of peer-reviewed papers will be produced along with plans for the next summit. The long term goal of the Arctic Observing Summits is to complement the SAON process in developing sustained dialogue, coordination and implementation of an international Arctic observing network.

For more information please see the [AOS 2013 website](#).

AOS 2014

Building on the outcome of the AOS 2013, the second **Arctic Observing Summit (AOS 2014)** will be held in Helsinki (Finland) on 9-11 April 2014. The AOS 2014 will be hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute and held in conjunction with the Arctic Science Summit Week 2014 (5-8 April 2014).

The AOS 2014 will be held in the facilities of the Finnish Meteorological Institute in the Dynamicum building of Helsinki Kumpula Campus (Photo: Mikko Strahlendorff).



SAON Board Members

Chairmanship:

Tom Armstrong
David Hik

Chair
Vice-Chair

Countries:

Helen C. Joseph	Canada
Peter Sloth	Denmark
Jouni Pulliainen / Mikko Strahlendorf	Finland
Nicole Biebow	Germany
Thorsteinn Gunnarsson	Iceland
Vito Vitale	Italy
Tetsuo Ohata	Japan
Byong-Kwon Park	Korea
Ola Glesne	Norway
Agnieszka Beszczynska-Möller	Poland
Igor Ashik	Russia
Manolo Catalan	Spain
Ulf Jonsell	Sweden
Erica Key / Martin Jeffries	USA

Permanent Participants:

James Gamble	Aleut International Association (AIA)
Eva Krueemmel	Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
Gunn-Britt Retter	Saami Council
Grant Sullivan	Gwich'in Council International (GCI)

Organizations:

Adi Kellerman
Douglas Nakashima
Miroslav Ondras / Etienne Charpentier
David Stanners / Nikolaj Bock
Ramon Van Barneveld / Franz Immler
Jenny Baeseman / Greg Flato
Jean Claude Gascard / Peter Schlosser
Jackie M. Grebmeier
Yubao Qiu

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
European Environmental Agency (EEA)
European Commission (EC)
Climate and Cryosphere (CliC)
International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)
International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)/Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Arctic Council Working Groups:

Morten Skovgaard Olsen / Lars-Otto Reiersen
Risa Smith / Tom Barry

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Secretariats:

Jan Rene Larsen
Volker Rachold

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

Polar Data Forum

The ICSU World Data System (WDS) Scientific Committee, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and IASC are organizing a Joint International Forum on "Polar Data Activities in Global Data Systems" in Tokyo (Japan) on 15–16 October 2013.

The Forum will address effective polar data management, including submission of metadata and data, sharing of data to facilitate new interdisciplinary science, and long-term preservation and stewardship of data at the international level. The event is open to all scientific disciplines, and interdisciplinary data management topics are especially encouraged. A significant outcome of the Forum will be the development of a new strategy and structure for the Arctic Data Network under the auspices of SAON, IASC, and the Arctic Council.

For more information please see: <http://www.polar-data-forum.org/>



SAON Board Meeting, Potsdam, October 2012