Report of the Third Meeting of the Arctic Data Committee (Draft)

10 November 2016

ESRIN Headquarters
European Space Agency
Frascati, Italy

In person participants:

Peter Pulsifer, NSIDC, University of Colorado Boulder (Chair)
Stein Tronstad, Norwegian Polar Institute (Vice-Chair)
Marten Tacoma, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (Vice-Chair)
David Arthurs,
Oscar Bermudez,
Anders-Ole Turi,
Jan Rene Larsen,
Serge Scory,
Jennifer Parrott,
Colleen Strawhacker,
Andreas Dietz,
Ravi Sankar,
Stefanie Shumacher,
Angelo Viola,
Hanna Lappalainen,
William Manley,
Jean-Pierre Lanckman,
Marcin Wichorowski,

Online participants:

Helge Sagen,
Ulf Jonsell,
Julie Friddell,
Taco de Bruin,
Gabrielle Alix

Summary of Discussions and Outcomes

Administration and Governance

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were discussed, small style revision. Several points are reformulated, a glossary is added, this way no long definitions need to be put in other sections of the ToR while keeping it a stand-alone document. The finalized terms of reference will be presented to the SAON Board during their meeting on 7 April 2017. They will then be posted on ADC website for dissemination and reference.

MoC's

The MoC with SCADM has been discussed, the review period with option to discontinue is reduced from 3 to 2 years to align with elections of the ADC steering group and an extra intended result is added: Prevent duplication of work and prevent that one has to do the same work twice and slightly differently.

Reasons for creating other MoC's have been discussed. If MoC's can help in getting funding for partnership we can create them, otherwise engaging in the community is another effective way of formalizing relationships with other groups.

Interoperability Workshop

The Polar Connections Interoperability workshop was held just prior to this meeting. Initial results will be presented at Arctic Science Summit Week in Prague and a report will follow soon after.

International Data Week (IDW)

The polar world wasn't very well represented at IDW, however those members who could attend indicated that it was a very valuable venue for exchanging ideas with the broader data community . For future, there was a strong support for the idea of scheduling ADC meetings in conjunction with RDA meetings could work to improve cooperation. We will explore the option to create a polar group within RDA.

Workplan 2016-2017

- Explore options to create polar RDA group to ensure connection to the broader global community (Peter Pulsifer, Colleen Strawhacker, Lynn Yarmey)
- Continue the Mapping the Arctic Data Ecosystem initiative under the resources of the Belmont Forum funded Pan-Arctic Options Project (Peter Pulsifer with Pan-Arctic Option Team)

- Further develop the Metadata Elements initiative. As a starting point, this will include adding a new section to the Arctic Data Committee web site that documents the various initiative working in this domain (Julie Friddell, Bill Manley, Pip Bricher)
- Data publication and citations. There is no need to put polar branding on general idea of data citations, but a more prominent place on ADC website is needed for information on citation. This section of the site will be further developed and promoted (Marten Tacoma)
- There have been many workshops and reports developed in relation to Arctic and polar data in recent years. However, a synthesis of the documents is needed. As part of ongoing academic research work, Peter Pulsifer will develop and provide a synthesis of these documents to the ADC, IASC, SAON and the broader community (mid-2017).
- Network building. ADC has been very successful in this regard with 13 partners established for the Polar Connections Interoperability workshop. This will require constant attention, though. We are on the right track, many collaborations by different members of ADC and 13 partners in the workshop.
- Outreach (Stein Tronstad, Colleen Strawhacker, Shannon Vossepoel)
    - The use of Twitter and other social media tools will be maximized.
    - Create general poster and/or powerpoint we can use to promote ADC. Also develop cards or materials to promote the committee.
    - Establish a mailing list approach to complement the existing Polardata mailing list, perhaps using Mailchimp or similar tool.
- Conference calls. A schedule of calls will be developed to keep activities moving forward. Wherever possible, these will be scheduled in partnership with other groups including GEOCRI, SCADM, SOOS, IARPC and possibly others.

ADC Membership

Currently membership is only for countries. Adding 2 indigenous organizations would make the ADC stronger. We have to work out a way to appoint the 2 members. Most indigenous organizations have limited funding, so some funding from ADC or other sponsors might be required to allow these members to attend the ADC events.

Next Meetings

- Next meeting will be September 2017 in Montreal in conjunction with the RDA plenary.
- The 2018 meeting will possibly be in Davos in conjunction with Polar 2018 conference.

Detailed Meeting Notes

Introduction by Peter on the meeting program

Presentation by Jan Rene on SAON/CON

- *Upcoming meetings with room for interaction between CON and ADC*
  - *Prague, March 2017*
  - *Davos, 2018*

ADC Terms of Reference

Peter: 2 years ago ADC was set up, year ago at PDF-II ToR was drafted, today we go through them to get them more final. ToR should be high level, no specific tasks in it, those should be in work plan. Important to realize is that the ToR can be reviewed and changed in the future if needed.

Ethically open is only for those situations where it's either about human or where the situation studied is at risk of disturbance when disclosing the data.

Purpose

Stein: is the second (long) paragraph needed.
Peter: yes, we want this document to be stand alone, this is also wanted by IASC/SAON. For simplicity it would be good to do this by reference, but a lot of people don't know the referenced documents so leaving this in here makes it clearer for those people. Later in the discussion we decided to move this part to the glossary at the end of the document.

Peter: The workshop we are now fits perfectly in our function of advising IASC and SAON

Bill: is standard technical or also practices?
Peter: standards is a difficult term, we don't only refer to ISO norms but more generic. It can refer to technical standards, but any other type of standard like standard of practice can be meant here.

Peter: ADC can't do everything. We need to focus on particular area and some work needs to be externally funded.

Marcin: do we need to add something on common data policies (Creative commons)? Facilitate, develop, …?
Peter thinks it is there with reference to IASC policies

Membership

Serge: With 4 year term we are at the risk of changing the whole committee at one point at once.

Peter: we have to see how it goes, the first moment we are facing this risk is still 6 years away, so in 4 to 5 years we have to check this.

Functioning

Peter: we now are going for a single 3-year term for the chair since Peter was appointed 2 years ago while Stein and Peter were chosen last year. If members prefer to do elections this year they can say so and we will change the steering group this year

Taco: does an outgoing chair have to stay until the next chair ended 2 terms (so 4 years).
Peter: more than 2 years is not needed, 1 year would probably also work. We look into this in the finalizing of the ToR.

Meetings, Reporting, Secretarial support

No comments

Glossary

Explanations for things like ethically open should be here and not in the main document to keep the text to the point.

Ulf: One of the tasks is reviewing for IASC. Another task that we could take up is review data management policies and plans for projects and members.

MoC’s

SCADM

Extra intended result of the MoC: Prevent duplication of work and prevent that one has to do the same work twice and slightly differently

The time period for reviewing the MoC with option to discontinue is reduced from 3 to 2 years to align with elections of ADC steering group

Others

Do we have to formalize relations with organizations or projects like EU-Polarnet?

Projects will terminate, those projects can be a member for as long as they exist. RDA only creates a few MoC's, but many members that have to comply with the norms of the community. Engaging in the community already kind of formalizes the relation.

For SOOS it is basically only Pip. The only reason to make a MoC would be to show to her supervisors why she is doing things. Making it formal can help to get more time and facilitate partnership, this differs per country/culture.

== *break* ==

Outcomes Interoperability workshop

EU-PolarNet

Jan Rene: working on deliverables, there are 3 that amap is responsible for, one of these is:

- Data management recommendations for polar research data systems and infrastructures in Europe, goes into whitepaper on European polar data accessibility
    - This was main topic in EU-PolarNet meeting

Peter: ADC is body of SAON, so cooperation between ADC and EU-PolarNet is clearly in our mandate. So anything coming out either ADC or EU-PolarNet will feed into the other group. As a result resources are used effective.

Workshop

Bill: metadata and data discovery is critical. Share templates, vocabularies, etc…

Peter: any idea on the mechanism, github repo?

Bill: streamline, simplify, make it easy. Just something organized. If not hosted on the ADC website at least a link should be placed there. It is also useful for other groups, so is this the right place?

Peter: advantage of github is also the versioning etc…

Regarding endorsing projects:
We will not say a project is a good project, we will however look to what extend a project aligns with data management principles and endorse their data management

Workplan: metadata brokering and standardization (discussion at 11:06)

Working group on standardizing

Angelo: Every group has own standards, how to have a common point of contact.
Peter: what are common metadata elements, use that as first version of a common standard (some translation can be needed).

Arctic data explorer connect to 13 different repositories, with several different standards. Polar Data Catalog connects to 20 repositories. The translations here might be usable for analysis of common fields (even if the names differ).

Get standards to which new systems have to adhere, if possible adapt old systems, otherwise make translation.

RDA has several working groups on metadata (standards, vocabs, brokering). How to engage with those?

ESA has plan for Arctic platform. Supposed to be introduced in 2018. In 2019 Antarctic platform. Next week meeting with RTD to discuss joined planning. If we can come up with few pages describing how well the community has come together, collaboration. Where are we and where do we want to go? David is looking up the timeframe for delivering this. This helps to get us in the picture as group to be consulted.
Most countries can participate, US and Rusia are not sure. However ESA is looking for cooperation with Rusia. ESA and Europe realize anything in the polar regions needs to have international cooperation. Bring in Sandy Starkweather (director of new US SAON office) in this process.

SAON review

Presentation by Jan Rene

Report is published on website, if you want to read it go especially for the interviews.

Peter: Move forward quickly with results of workshop because IASC is getting new chair who can use the outcomes. Feed the output into strategic planning process.

How is SAON funded. Global trough IASC & AMAP. Other funding for local groups is on national level.

Funding is a chicken-egg story. Start to reach something with minimal funding resulting in more funding resulting in reaching more etc… Make SAON slightly self funding out of big projects?

Stein: Has CON made progress with making work plan. Jan Rene: yes, it is on the website, but it is work in progress.

Stein: not clear how CON and ADC should work together. There is more going on that Stein is aware of. Some programs have very advanced data management systems. Work to do in mapping those systems. This requires closer contact between ADC and CON.

CON started year after ADC, so also new and starting.

At chairman level there is a lot of communication going on, but other members of committees don’t always know about each other.

Ulf: any links between SAON/ADC and intauros?
Peter: will be major development, Peter is part of it as co-investigator. Connection to observing side. Connections can be group calls to engage more people. Funding is 5? Years from 1 December 2016.

Stein: When will SAON have formulated better mission, ambition and goals?
Jan Rene: it is difficult, but SAON works on it.

== *lunch break* ==

Workshop outcomes continued

Including social and indigenous was a great choice.

RDA as use case on community building (13:20 listen back)

How to fund working groups on specific tasks? -> options are writing proposals together or ask people working on a proposal to include some funding for work contributing to these tasks

Capacity for education/training. Already done in collaboration with APECS.

Can we do webinars?

Leverage education activities via Alan Pope (Colleen can do this).

Combination of lightning talks about initiatives and working session works well (example APECS with session on entering metadata)

Data as a service

Not aiming for a single standard for data as a service. Working towards brokering. How to facilitate and move forward (working group, RDA, ...)? BAS already translates their data between systems to make it widely available.

Persistent identifiers are also necessary to make it possible to point to a specific data source that is constant to prevent applications from breaking.

Governance

We need to decide what we want to do. A single voice to the wider world, less with technical aspects and more to why is it important. Make message specific and relevant to the audience.

Seek additional resources (money, manpower)

Metadata

Centralized helpdesk for metadata problems. One location to go with all questions regarding data interoperability. Could be something like ‘ask the scientist’ where different people all allocate a part of their time to it.

For technical stuff channels like IRC tend to work well, for less technical this might work less well.

Review of initiatives in the workplan. No action at 6 months, start pushing more. After year no action consider it lost. Go for result within 18 months?

International Data Week

Colleen:
SciDataCon: session on indigenous knowledge/representation.

SciDataCon and RDA are very different, nice to see both together. Not very many polar people there.

Bill: take home from RDA: really expressed with depth and width of knowledge and enthusiasm.

Marcin: ADC should be represented at WDS.

Peter: submitted a session proposal about polar and global data initiatives. Number of talks by local and global initiatives. Session was well visited.

Meeting end of november about belmonte forum infrastructure.

Talks of the session will be shared online shortly.

There are various interesting groups in RDA to work with.

Start to organise meetings ADC in conjunction with RDA meetings, at least be aware. Use it as opportunity to meet and work together.

Make some polar-specific group within RDA. How much value does this have. Birds of the feather? Makes polar group recognized and visible within RDA.

Advantage of certain groups would be funding for one or two persons to travel to the meetings and allocated time during the meetings.

Better off to engage in other groups, being a working group requires output. Other groups can also provide a lot of usefull things.

When creating an own group we have the control on who is chairing and gets travel funding.

Ask David Arthurs and Lynn to keep an eye open for groups forming which might of interest to the ADC.

RDA meetings

Spain march/april 2017

Montreal 19-21 September 2017.

How about working with codata?
Task is to identify people who can be the link (people already having a link in both or participating in joint groups of RDA and codata).

Stein: what is difference between RDA and codata?
Peter: RDA is more on working level while codata is more on policy level. One of the things codata does is formalizing standards

We must engage in these initiatives since they already are working on things we want to work on, or might have resources we can utilize.

Polar organizations are more for logistics. Polar data isn't that difference than other data.

Workplan

RDA

Contact by Peter, Colleen, Lynn

Draft document (1 page) with idea about setting up interest group and mail arround (use recording when drafting)

Mapping Arctic Data Ecosystem

Presentation by Peter

Linked open data

Funding secured

Disaster risk reduction (DRR)

RDA group

How many attributes to an entity? Is a work in progress, group is trying to standardize these according to already existing standards.

Understand system by its connections

Key is sustainability, find a way to keep it up to date after the initial setup. The landscape is changing fast

Metadata elements

Not any advances so far. First step would be to look at common elements between portals. Trying to find resources to have it started.

Although there hasn't been much progress there is still interest, so this group can continue.

Bill offers to meet (online) in december to speed things up. Pip was also very engaged online and needs to be included.

Data publication and citations

No need to put polar brand on general idea of data citations. Needs to be put on a more prominent place on the ADC website.

Network building & WDS

Network building is ongoing by several members of the group. We might need to formalize the collaborations. Who do we at least need to connect to?

It is still very important. We have touched most important connections during the meeting. The 13 partners that organically established for the workshop shows we're on the right track.

Another important aspect in network building is outreach.

Outreach

Advertise the website, use the twitter, etc.

Maybe change twitter name (now @arcticdcn), Colleen looks into this

David offered support on twitter.

Do we also need facebook?

For workplan: take outreach to next level (Stein, Colleen, Shannon)

Which mailinglist should we target? There are many logical places.

We have to use the polardata mailinglist more, and make sure that all people involved in ADC are on that list. Peter is going to add the people that are missing to the list. As soon as all people are there we can start to use it.

Data training at ICAS? International Arctic Social Science

Create a general poster and/or powerpoint for outreach. Cards or bookmarks or anything with link to the site. Be visible and provide easy ways to remember the url.

Work with Haldor to create nice looking report of the meeting.

== *break* ==

We need to work somehow on persistent identifiers, not for workplan, but some people will start working on it as part of their job.

Unless there is funding we don't want to commit to developing support materials for the webinars/courses for APECS and others.

Conference calls

SCADM does monthly calls, at alternating times so not always the same people have the meeting at an inconvenient time of the day. Also communication with the board and other groups could be at those calls.

ADC membership

How to engage indigenous organizations. They sometimes don't have that much funding for travel. By making them member there might be openings to provide them some travel funding. They would be members with voting rights. We want more than one because a single person can't represent all the indigenous people around the world. At least one from Northern America and one from Eurasia.

Formal proposal: add a couple of indigenous organizations as members to the ADC

For this the ToR needs to be updated.

Colleen: great idea and necessary when we want to be successful.

Jan Rene: no principal objections, but uncertain about where the funding can come from.

Peter: if we can provide part of the funding that would also already help. And realizes that the funding can be significant. Challenge is to find sponsors.

No objections to adding indigenous organizations as members.

Jen: reasonable to have 2 like indicated above. We have to work on how to appoint.

Russia, no funding, even to attend Arctic counsel.

Next meeting

Somewhere in fall 2017

Informal meeting at Arctic Science Summit week in Prague

Combine with RDA Montreal

WMO, Geneva

Amsterdam in conjunction with SCADM (don’t overlap RDA)

Stein: combine as many meetings as possible to reduce traveling

Peter: have formal and informal meetings (make informal meeting as soon as people are all at the same location)

June 2018, Davos

PDF-III: finalizing reporting PDF-II. It can still be done in 2017. PDF-II was organized in a half year. Sponsoring is needed

Possible funding: RCN, NSF

Action: Peter consult with Oystein, Marten discuss with Taco (SCADM to Montreal?)

Meeting closed