



## ROADS Advisory Panel

Teleconference

19th December 2023, 15-1630 UTC, 16-1730 CET, 10-1130 EST

### 1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The ROADS Advisory Panel (AP) Co-chairs, Sandy Starkweather and Lauren Divine opened the meeting and welcomed participants (Appendix 1). There are two new members joining the AP – Talia Wells, University of Calgary and Tero Mustonen, SnowChange. Lauren provided an overview of today's agenda (Appendix 2) noting that meeting documents are available at the following workspace:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rm3aGZcGuKaVMagkNNpU8sOEzEChKWns>

### 2. Review of Minutes

Lauren spoke to highlights from the last AP meeting on [28th November](#) as well as from the [21st October Open Partnership meeting](#) that took place at the Arctic Circle Assembly. These minutes are available on the ROADS AP Google drive.

**Action Item: Lauren reminded members of the Action Items from these meetings, asking that members please review these as appropriate.**

### 3. Status of the Pilot Efforts

- a. [Summary of Phase II Evaluation](#) on Wildfires – Jan Rene Larsen has summarized the Phase II evaluation comments on the Wildfires Expert Panel. There were thirteen evaluations fully completed by AP members, which rated the work on a scale from 1 to 5, with associated textual comments. The majority of the evaluation comments evaluated the Wildfire Phase II efforts as “3” or above; which Jan has summarized as satisfactory results.

The Wildfires EP has been the first Phase II effort evaluated by the AP and lessons continue to be learned on how to conduct the evaluation – both in terms of work by the EPs in general and work conducted by the AP in the evaluation. More discussion on the conduct of evaluations took place under Agenda item #4 (see below). Jan concluded that this Summary is not yet final and that members should read this initial summary and provide comments in suggesting mode.

**Action Item: AP members are asked to review the draft [Summary of Phase II Evaluation](#) on Wildfires that was prepared by Jan Rene Larsen and provide their comments and input.**

- b. Salmon and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) – Margaret Rudolf reported that Harmony Wayner (RNA CoObs) is developing relationships to build the EP network, defining the EP focus, and seeking additional funding for this work.

She reported that the HABs EP efforts are moving in parallel with the Salmon EP. Nicholas Parlato (UAF IARC and Indigenous Sentinels Network – ISN) is working on this effort. The HABs EP is almost formed, their Phase I efforts are underway, and additional funding is also being sought. She noted that both the Salmon and HABs EPs will focus on the Alaska region at this time.

Lauren added that the HABs EP was able to secure a small amount of funding for exploratory discussions with Indigenous representatives. This was beneficial in getting positive support from a core group of community representatives who are conducting monitoring efforts. Additional work to reach scientists and researchers is now being undertaken. She reported that work is moving along well and an initial mini workshop is planned in January 2024. Phase I documentation is tentatively expected to be provided to the AP for evaluation in March 2024.

- c. Sea Ice – Talia Wells reported that the Phase I documentation is underway. Meetings have been scheduled in January and February 2024 to develop and finalize this documentation. An in-person meeting is scheduled on the margins of AOS in March 2024. The Sea Ice EP will have a regional focus on Baffin Bay. Challenges are being faced in securing funding for the participation of Indigenous EP members, including for travel expenses to AOS meeting. Sandy confirmed that the AP is available for any assistance as needed.

#### 4. Review of Documentation and Calls for Assistance

- a. Process for AP evaluation of EP phase documents – Sandy spoke of the experience acquired by the AP in the evaluation of the Wildfire EP and how lessons are being learned on the overall evaluation process that will clarify the evaluation of other future EP efforts. She presented powerpoint slides (see <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12nnj6yziVhlqoNh9CMsdEh7-0qtfO5hJ/e/dit#slide=id.p7>) focussing on slides 5-7. The slides outline steps that provide more detail around the evaluation process of any Phase of EP efforts.

Experience to date has shown the need for improvement and clarification in the AP evaluation, including aspects of timing (e.g. funding requirements for the EP and a need for quick turnaround by the AP, ideally within 1-2 months); and the need for an AP Champion for each EP. The AP Champion should be familiar with the EP efforts and would assist with reviewing of documentation, ensuring information is complete, completing a summary document of comments, liaising with the EP on AP evaluation, etc. The need for ongoing improvements in the evaluation process is shown as a feedback loop on the powerpoint slides available at the above link. Sandy noted that feedback could be divided between issues that may need immediate attention (e.g. missing information, deficiencies in process execution, etc) and those that could be addressed in future work (e.g. networking and inclusivity opportunities). Future evaluations could be re-formatted along the lines of immediate and future actions. Finally, it was

recognized that there are also areas where the AP could adjust its work in future evaluations to seek efficiencies.

It was clarified that AP Champions have been identified for the following EPs: Wildfire EP – Champion Mikko Strahlendorff; Permafrost EP – Champion Heikki Lihavainen; Sea Ice EP – Champion Talia Wells; Salmon EP – Champion Margaret Rudolf; and, HAB EP – Champion Lauren Divine. Jan clarified that these champions are acknowledged on the website with ROADS AP Membership.

***Action Item: AP members are asked to submit any adjustments in the EP evaluation process that they have experienced in their evaluation work; not necessarily relevant to the Wildfires evaluation but on the overall process.***

- b. Input for Phase III documentation (workshop deliberations) – Sandy stated that the ROADS Evaluation process for Phases I and II is becoming well established, with some minor revisions to be made. She presented powerpoint slides on an approach to develop the process for the next Phase III- Observation and Data Requirements (see <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12nnj6yziVhlqoNh9CMsdEh7-0qtfO5hJ/edit#slide=id.p7> ) focussing on slides 1-4. Sandy outlined an approach of hosting a series of informative mini-workshops on how observing and data system requirements are structured across diverse activities, documented and implemented. The mini-workshops would build on the monthly AP meetings and could focus discussions as follows: January 2024 – Indigenous-led and community-scale systems; February 2024 – Regional systems; March 2024 – Global systems. In addition, an Open Partnership meeting will be held at the AOS in Edinburgh in March 2024 to further these discussions. The objective is to have Phase III documentation prepared by October 2024. Jan added that the Arctic Data Committee has been approached seeking their assistance in the development of Phase III documentation, given their expertise on data requirements/streaming.

***Action Items: AP members are asked to review the slides referenced above and provide: i) additional suggestions of networks and activities – at all three scales - that would serve as good examples to learn from; ii) revisions and additions to the mini-workshop discussion questions; and iii) examples of documentation frameworks into a soon-to-be-created working folder for this effort (details will follow on this link).***

- c. Guidance Document for Phase I and Phase II – Sandy outlined that in finalizing of guidance documents for Phase I and II, comments have been raised in regards to the Guiding Principle #1 currently reads as: “Indigenous Peoples’ equitable partnership and funding for their active participation are critical to the ROADS process”. Comments have asked as to where do “local communities” fit into the ROADS process, and should they be specifically referenced. The main unresolved points are related to the mention of local communities and representatives next to the mention of Indigenous communities and representatives.

Sandy referenced that this has been a discussion in other venues, and that the wording was not going to be resolved at today's AP meeting. It is a complexity that will need to be addressed before the ROADS Guidance documentation can be finalized. There was very good discussion amongst the AP members on this subject. Margaret and Victoria Qutuuq Buschman both spoke on the importance of specifically referencing Indigenous Peoples in the Guiding Principles. Jan added that there is also a need to recognize that local communities have knowledge that can be contributed to observations. He suggested that perhaps the Guiding Principles retain the principle of Indigenous Peoples' equitable partnership and that other documents might reference additionally the value of local communities. Lauren agreed with Margaret and Victoria's comments and added that the ROADS process has expressly included reference to Indigenous Peoples' and that this has been very positively received by future possible Indigenous partners.

In summary, Sandy acknowledged the firm advocacy expressed for the current wording of Guiding Principle 1. The ROADS process is intended to be inclusive and that language could possibly be addressed in Guiding Principle 2, and other ROADS documentation, to expressly include local communities and others as necessary.

***Action Items: The current ROADS Guidance document for Phases I and II will be circulated to the AP for confirmation of the current language – focussing on Guiding Principles 1 and 2. AP members are asked to provide input on the current language and whether revisions are necessary in Principle 2 regarding specific reference to local communities.***

- d. Final Approval of Documentation – Jan stated that given earlier discussions at today's AP meeting, that this agenda item should be postponed for a future meeting.

## 5. Update on the Arctic Observing Summit 2024

In Alice Bradley's absence, Jan stated that a Keynote speaker is being sought for the 2024 AOS to speak on the Wildfires EP efforts. He also referenced that Early Career Scientists and Indigenous Participants who may be attending to the ASSW and AOS, should consider the travel support options offered by IASC: <https://iasc.info/news/iasc-news/1226-assw-2024-travel-and-registration-fee-support-from-iasc-available>. He also mentioned that there is an upcoming deadline on January 15 for any White Papers/Short Statements to be considered at the AOS.

## 6. ICARP IV

Sandy spoke of two active means of recognition and engagement in the ICARP IV planning process of Arctic research priorities in the coming decade. One aspect is the [ICARP IV Research Priority Teams \(RPTs\)](#) which are well underway. There are good connections between the AP and the RPTs. The second means is by endorsement of research activities. Jan and Sandy have started drafting a statement for this purpose – see [Endorsement for](#) ROADS. This proposed

endorsement will bring increased visibility of the ROADS process, and its key aspects of co-production in the design of observing systems. The endorsement will necessitate reporting requirements on proposed activities, so the document will be kept at a reasonably high level. The document is to be finalized and submitted in January 2024.

***Action Item: The draft Endorsement for ROADS under ICARP IV is available at the above link; AP members should provide comments and input.***

#### **7. Upcoming events:**

Arctic Science Summit Week: March 21-29, 2024 & AOS: 27-29 March, 2024, Edinburgh, Scotland. Relevant side-meetings and events will be added into future AP meetings.

#### **8. Other Business**

Jan reported that he and Sandy participated in GEO Earth Observation discussions on the requirements of systematic collection of observations. There are similarities with the ROADS work that could be useful; and where ROADS could feed into global efforts. See G-reqs - <https://www.g-reqs.grumets.cat/> - <https://maps.eea.europa.eu/EuroGEO/dev/>

#### **9. Actions Items recap and Closing Remarks**

Lauren highlighted several of the Action Items from today's discussions and noted that the next meeting date will be 16th January 2024 – this date is scheduled to be the first mini-workshop held over 120 minutes. Details will follow.

## Appendix 1

### Participants ROADS Advisory Panel Meeting

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Advisory Panel Member Participants

Alona Alexia, University of the North  
Christine Barnard, ArcticNet  
João Canário, University of Lisbon, Portugal & IASC  
Lauren Divine, Aleut International Association (AIA) – ROADS AP Co-Chair  
Heikki Lihavainen, Arctic PASSION & SIOS  
Tero Mustonen, SnowChange  
Victoria Qutuuq Buschman, ICC  
Margaret Rudolf, RNA CoObs  
Andrea Spolaor, CNR, Italy  
Sandy Starkweather, NOAA, USA – ROADS AP Co-Chair  
Mikko Strahlendorff, FMI, Finland  
Tetsuo Sueyoshi, JAMSTEC/NIPR, Japan  
Katriina Veijola, FMI, Finland, Wildfires EP  
Chantelle Verhey, World Data Systems (WDO), International Technology Office (ITO) &  
Co-chair Elect of SAON Arctic Data Committee  
Talia Wells, U Calgary

#### Member Regrets Absent

Alice Bradley, AOS WG #4  
Cathy Coon, CBMP/CAFF  
Ola Grabak, European Space Agency  
Hanna K Lappalainen, PEXX  
Sten Lund, Government of Greenland  
Gier Otterson, Institute of Marine Research, Norway  
Volker Rachold, AWI Germany

#### Advisory Panel Ex-Officio members

SAON Secretariat – Jan Rene Larsen, Helen Joseph  
SAON – IASC Fellow – vacant

## Appendix 2

### ROADS Advisory Panel

Teleconference

19th December 2023, 15-1630 UTC, 16-1730 CET, 10-1130 EST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/4105560408>

Workspace for agendas and meeting notes:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rm3aGZcGuKaVMagkNNpU8sOEzEChKWns>

10. Welcome and Update (if any) on Membership (Lauren, 5 min)
  - a. Talia Wells (UCalgary)
  - b. Tero Mustonen (SnowChange)
  - c. Regrets: Geir Ottersen
11. Review of minutes (Lauren, 5 min):
  - a. [28th November 2023 meeting](#)
  - b. [21st October 2023 Open Partnership meeting](#) (2nd opportunity for AP review; more final version for independent review)
12. Status of the Pilot Efforts (Lauren Chairs discussion, pilots provide update ~5 min each):
  - a. [Summary of Phase II Evaluation](#) on Wildfires (discussion only) (Jan)
  - b. Salmon and HABs initiatives (RNA CoObs, Margaret)
  - c. Sea Ice (Talia Wells)
13. Review of Documentation and calls for assistance:
  - a. Process for AP evaluation of EP phase documents (Sandy, 10 min)
  - b. Input for Phase III documentation (workshop deliberations) (Sandy, 10 min) [*The data stream associated with Phase III will be on the agenda for the data group during AOS*]
  - c. [Guidance document for Phase I and Phase II](#). (Sandy, 10 min) [*The main unresolved points in the document seems to be related to the mention of local communities and representatives next to the mention of Indigenous communities and representatives. See comments by Heikki on page 1 and 8. There are also proposals from Cathy for additional information.*]
  - d. For final approval (Jan, 5 min):
    - i. [Phase I](#) and [Phase II](#) templates (*review changes from last meeting?*)
    - ii. [Terms of Reference of the SAON ROADS Advisory Panel](#)
    - iii. Terms of service. The role as a special advisor.
14. Update on the Arctic Observing Summit 2024 (Alice, 5 min)
  - a. Keynote speaker for wildfire
  - b. ECS and Indigenous Participants to the ASSW and AOS to consider the travel support options offered by IASC:  
<https://iasc.info/news/iasc-news/1226-assw-2024-travel-and-registration-fee-support-from-iasc-available>
15. ICARP IV (Sandy, 5 min)
  - a. [ICARP IV Research Priority Teams \(RPTs\)](#)
  - b. [Endorsement for ROADS](#)
16. Upcoming events:

- a. Arctic Science Summit Week: March 21-29, 2024 & AOS: 27-29 March, 2024, Edinburgh, Scotland (*can we start adding relevant events?*)

**17. Any Other Business**

- a. G-regs - <https://www.g-regs.grumets.cat/> - <https://maps.eea.europa.eu/EuroGEO/dev/> (Jan, 2 min)

**18. Actions items recap and closing remarks (Lauren, 5 min)**

- a. The next meeting date will be 16th January, 16-1730 CET/ 10-1130 am EST/ 15-1630 UTC.

**19. Past events:**

- a. Arctic Circle Assembly, 19-22 October, Reykjavik, Iceland: [Draft program](#)
  - i. Climate Justice, Permafrost Thaw, And Community-Based Observations. 19 October
  - ii. Wildland Fires In The Arctic: How To Respond. 19 October
  - iii. ICARP IV – Deciding Arctic Research Priorities For The Next Decade. 20 October
  - iv. Strategies For Arctic Observations: Empowering Indigenous And Local Perspectives. 21 October
  - v. SAON ROADS Open Partnership Meeting at Arctic Circle Assembly.
  - vi. Permafrost Expert Panel (side meeting) 20th October
- b. Arctic Indigenous Peoples Gathering: 2-5 October, Kirkenes, Norway
- c. Polar Data Forum: 30 Oct-3 November, Cambridge, UK: <https://polar-data-forum.org/>
- d. Greenland Science Week: 3-7 Nov, Sisimiut/Nuuk, Greenland

Please reserve the third Tuesday every month 16-1730 CET / 10-1130 am EST / 15-1630 UTC. Agenda and other meeting documents will be made available here:

<https://roadsadvisorypanel.org/meeting-documents>