Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)
4th March 2025 16-17 CET / 10-11 am EST / 15-16 UTC
Telephone conference

1. **Welcome and Review of Agenda** – Alice Bradley, Co-Chair of the Committee on Observations and Networks (CON) opened the meeting and a quick round of introductions took place (see Appendix 1 Participants). Jan Rene Larsen noted that the Minutes from the November CON meeting are available for review, and reminded participants that the CON teleconferences will be regularly scheduled on the first Tuesday of every second month. Given the number of new participants on today's call, Alice provided highlights from the November meeting that was the first meeting of this renewed CON and reviewed the discussion on CON goals as it re-establishes itself.

2. **Introduce Plan for White Paper on Inventory Use Cases –** Alice noted that the preparation of a White Paper was identified at the November CON meeting as the first main effort of the renewed CON. The Paper could address questions such as: what does it mean to prepare an inventory; how is the scope determined; what are the practical aspects to be considered; who are using the inventories; how are the inventories being used; and, what needs to be included? The White Paper would then provide the necessary information to garner the most value from the inventories.

3. **Deliberations on Use Cases -**

   a) Lessons Learned: Bill Manley presented on the Polar Observing Assets Working Group (POAWG) highlighting the use cases for the Registry of Polar Observing Networks - RoPON. He noted that both POAWG and RoPON are initiatives developed under the SAON CON. He described RoPON as a broad catalogue of systems and related organizations that coordinate or track observing activities and infrastructures in high latitudes. (Reference www.PolarObservingRegistry.org). Bill noted that in the POAWG, "observing assets" are described as components of in situ observing, including either i) Infrastructure – sites and mobile platforms; or ii) Activities – projects, campaigns, initiatives. He noted the distinction that the RoPON registry is for networks only, with links to the networks and their data catalogs. Bill described the background work on user needs that was conducted to build the RoPON registry (including what should be included; how data should be presented; etc.) and then presented the compiled information on use cases for the RoPON inventories. Many of the uses related to identifying gaps, seeking collaborators, making connections, identifying relevant in situ measurements, who is actively working nearby, etc.

Bill continued to describe a separate initiative by the US AON on "Audience Poll Arctic Observing Inventories", that is separate from POAWG and RoPON. This new initiative is seeking to address the questions: how would you use an observing asset inventory; and what level of detail is important to you in such an inventory?
In conclusion, Bill provided a series of recommendations to CON in moving forward with the inventories:

- Explicitly define what to inventory; i.e. define observational capacities;
- Make SAON CON's inventory interoperable with US AON's efforts for an inventory of observing assets;
- Engage with POAWG; and,
- Encourage sharing of observing-related metadata.

Alice thanked Bill for the presentation, noting how helpful and relevant this work is to the SAON CON and moving forward.

b) Discussion on Uses of Inventories – In preparation for today's meeting, participants had been asked to think about inventories and use cases in their respective context and experience. Alice started the discussion posing a series of questions on approach on potential use cases, asking who would use it? How would it be used? What should be included? What is the potential scope? Good discussion followed with examples of use cases provided by Rodica Nitu on the Mountain Research Initiative, Heikki Lihavainen and Bart Luks on SIOS, Hajo Eicken on the SAON ROADS Expert Panel (EP) on Salmon and possible future EPs.

In conclusion, Jan noted that the idea of making any CON inventory "use case driven" was demonstrated as very valuable. The work conducted by RoPON and POAWG has shown their expertise and capacity in working with inventories of networks. It was agreed that since CON is less experienced at this point, further discussion should take place to seek strong linkages and strengthen the work of RoPON and POAWG.

Action: *Members are asked to identify observation inventories that they are aware of, or work with, - so that a list can be compiled that will be helpful to RoPON and more broadly. Alice offered to work with the listing of use cases developed for RoPON to possibly expand it for future discussion at the next CON meeting.*

4. **Brief Presentations from Organizations Working on Inventories –** discussion postponed to future CON meetings

5. **Other Business –** Jan reported that the SAON Board will meet during the upcoming ASSW, and that the Board's discussions will focus on the SAON Committee work. CON members are welcome to attend the Board meeting on 23rd March 13:30 – 17:00 MDT / 20:30-24:00 CET.

The next CON meeting has been scheduled for 6th May 2025. Members were asked to watch for emails from today's discussions on follow-up actions.

Appendix 1

Participants - Committee on Observations and Network (CON) Meeting

4th March 2025 Teleconference

Members

Alice Bradley, Williams College, USA, CON Co-chair and AOS Co-chair
João Canário, University of Lisbon, Portugal & IASC
Lauren Divine, Aleut International Association (AIA) – ROADS AP Co-Chair
Hajo Eicken, U Alaska Fairbanks, USA
Anna Irrgang, AWI, Germany
Libby Larson, NASA, USA
Heikki Lihavainen, Svalbard Integrated Observing System, SIOS, CON Co-chair
Bartek Luks, Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
William Manley, U of Colorado, USA, Chair Polar Observing Assets WG
Warren Raymond Lee Cairns, Italian National Research Council
Rodica Nitu, WMO
Tetsuo Sueyoshi, JAMSTEC/NIPR, Japan
Kjetil Tørseth, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Norway

Advisory Panel Ex-Officio members
SAON Secretariat – Jan Rene Larsen

More information about Committee members and their affiliation is found at
https://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/members

Appendix 2 - Agenda - Committee on Observations and Networks

Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)
4th March 2025 16-17 CET / 10-11 am EST / 15-16 UTC
Telephone conference (Teams - link below)
Draft agenda

1. Welcome to the call. Introductions. Membership. Minutes from teleconference 26th November 2024.
2. Introduce plan for white paper on inventory use cases (Alice)
3. Brief presentations from organizations working on inventories:
    - Who do you expect to be the user(s) of the inventory?
    - What use cases are you working towards?
    - What are their needs with regards to an inventory?
4. Deliberations on use cases
    - Please come to the meeting prepared to discuss uses of inventories.
    - Bill Manley will be present and share experience from the Polar Observing Assets Working Group and the development of use cases for RoPON
5. Next steps
6. AOB
    - The next meeting of the SAON Board will have focus on the work of the SAON Committees, and CON members are welcome. The meeting will be 23rd March 13:30 – 17:00 MDT / 20:30-24:00 CET. Please register here. Meeting documents are here.
    - Events at ASSW

CON will meet the first Tuesday of every second month. The next meeting is 6th May.

Background:

SAON Goal 1) Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities.
Before we can make progress on an inventory of national observational capacities, it is clear that we need a better understanding of what said inventory/inventories would be used for.

Homework:

Please consider how inventories may be used, including talking to colleagues about them. This includes national, international, and topical inventories. Who would be using this information? How would they use it? We will be collectively brainstorming use cases in preparation for compiling a paper.

Teams link:
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTFhZjEwMWQtNDQwMy00NGU1LTg2ZWYtMTQ3ZGZjYjkxNjEx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e85164ec-9598-49a2-98a1-709a3f29cfc6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22201df34a-7bdc-4596-b7a2-09094429e16e%22%7d