



ROADS Advisory Panel

21st October 2023, 13:45-16:45 (Iceland time, GMT)

Open Partnership Meeting during the Arctic Circle Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland
with virtual participation as well

1. Welcome and Introductions

The ROADS Advisory Panel (AP) Co-chairs, Sandy Starkweather and Lauren Divine opened the meeting and welcomed participants both in-person and virtual (Appendix 1). Participants introduced themselves and highlighted their expectations for the upcoming discussions. Sandy provided an overview of today's agenda (Appendix 2) outlining the objectives of the meeting.

2. Overview of SAON ROADS

This agenda item was not discussed given the high level of knowledge amongst the participants of the SAON ROADS process.

3. Lessons learned from open partnership discussions from ACA 2022 Reykjavik, ASSW 2022, and ArcticPASSION General Assembly. Sandy highlighted the valued discussions that have taken place at previous Open Partnership meetings in 2022 and 2023. Lessons learned from these discussions included the need to: sharpen process descriptions and the role of the AP; create accessible communication tools; and, improve guidance to support equitable engagement of Indigenous partners. The ROADS AP has focused its efforts on these areas over the past months.

- a. **Documentation of the process** - Sandy outlined the AP's work on developing guidelines and improving documentation associated with the ROADS AP process (focusing on Expert Panel efforts on Phases I and II to date). Reference was made to the ROADS documentation website as an excellent resource [documentation website](#) on understanding, participating (as Experts), serving (as Advisors), documenting (as Experts) and evaluating (as Advisors), and promoting and engaging. In addition, new process flow diagrams are under development to further guide the Expert Panels (EPs) in Phases I-IV, as well as provide an overview for more general audiences.
- b. **External Communication tools** – Lauren spoke about newly developed material for external communication that include a 2-page plain language summary, and new graphic ideas to communicate SAON ROADS. The development of an engagement plan will assist in greater Indigenous engagement in ROADS. At

this point, there was a brief discussion on consideration of translating the external communication material into Nordic and Saami languages.

- c. **Indigenous Guidance Documentation** – Margaret Rudolf presented details on Indigenous Engagement Guidance documentation that is under development, including on Co-production of knowledge and Indigenous Methodologies, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Recognition was expressed on the value and need for this type of material. It was clarified that this work would be conducted by the AP together with EPs and Indigenous partners, with the aim of having final documentation ready for the Arctic Observing Summit 2024.

4. AOS 2024 Planning, March 27-29, Edinburgh, Scotland – Alice Bradley spoke to this upcoming AOS meeting. She noted that there will be another SAON ROADS Open Partnership meeting at this event. Alice described four AOS Working Groups (WG), including WG3 on System Implementation (ROADS). The AOS 2024 venue is large and can accommodate several break-out meetings, so opportunities will be plentiful for side discussions and meetings. The AOS session on WG3 System Implementation will focus on Phase II efforts, with discussions addressing: framing – initial inputs and feedback; mock Phase II discussions; and, discussion on evaluating Phase II)

5. Expert Panel Process Flow – Working Session with Partners

At this point in the meeting, participants divided into the following thematic breakout groups along the lines of the Expert Panels: Permafrost, Wildfire, Sea Ice, Salmon and Food Security, and Harmful Algal Blooms. Each group examined the ROADS process “flow” diagram for Phases I through IV by adding their ideas, current plans and progress to the flow diagram.

Discussions within the breakout groups focused on the questions of: What are the activities occurring in each of the Phases of your Expert Panels? What/where are the key decision points for your Expert Panel in each Phase? Where do you need additional guidance, understanding and/or resources? What is your EP trying to create by the end of the process?

There was lively and engaged discussions within the breakout groups that often ranged beyond the targeted questions. Some of the highlights are presented below.

- a. **Permafrost** - – These discussions were wide ranging and touched on topics like Indigenous engagement, the need for fair compensation for the Indigenous knowledge-holders and non-exploitative practices. Points to highlight include:
 - Information needs are similar between communities, but the resolutions and use cases vary;
 - Potential suggested outcome of the EP work could be a tool or standard procedure that would help local and Indigenous communities in assessing the local permafrost conditions better (most likely active layer thickness); and
 - Developing a shared language is something that needs to be done. Feedback from the EP members is that current guiding documents and materials are not easily digestible for people with non-scientific backgrounds.

b. **Wildfire** – This breakout group described the end goal under the ROADS EP process as: “having created an overarching plan for data sharing, including variables, actors and processes that will help Northern communities, fire/emergency managers and scientists to articulate concrete needs and approach funders to show the value of investing in the implementation of wildfire prevention and tactical management. Implementing a data system / app for local / regional parties and share data useful for all.”.

As one of the more advanced EPs, this breakout group also examined the work requirements associated with Phases III and IV.

c. **Sea Ice** – The report from this group featured a flow diagram on the process/activities leading to Phase II. They recognized that there is a need to clarify the problem and for sea ice, it is considered to be “mobility of the ice”. The need to build on existing processes and to not duplicate efforts was reinforced, as a way to identify gaps and to focus efforts in moving forward. The suggestion of a Phase 0 was introduced that could address a topic described as “Shared Arctic Problems” that would propose problems that were agreed upon. Efforts of the Sea Ice EP were briefly highlighted with plans for further discussions at the ASSW/AOS 2024.

d. **Salmon** – The report from this breakout group highlighted their discussions on the following points:

- importance of building on existing work with Traditional Knowledge/Indigenous Knowledge holders and partners
- create an inventory of existing work to avoid duplication of efforts; the ROADS process is useful to avoid this duplication

e. **Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)** - Nicolas Parlato provided a detailed report on these discussions noting that the HAB EP is in its early stages of development with efforts being spent on relationship building, establishing a shared understanding of the work, and identifying/building on current efforts in HABs. The breakout group highlighted specific work, under the ROADS flow process, that is currently underway within the emerging EP.

They developed the following statement in response to what they will create by the end of the process: “We will have created a network/community of practice that will help organize, collect and share observations to develop predictions and early warning systems, and ensure/ maintain subsistence food safety at a pan-Arctic scale”.

6. Reflections on Next Steps

Sandy thanked all participants for their engagement and contributions to the discussions.

Appendix 1

Participants ROADS Advisory Panel Meeting

October 21st, 2023

Advisory Panel Member Participants – In Person

Christine Barnard, ArcticNet

Alice Bradley, AOS WG #4

Lauren Divine, Aleut International Association (AIA) – ROADS AP Co-Chair

Heikki Lihavainen, Arctic PASSION & SIOS

Volker Rachold, AWI Germany

Margaret Rudolf, RNA CoObs

Sandy Starkweather, NOAA, USA – ROADS AP Co-Chair

Mikko Strahlendorff, FMI, Finland

Tetsuo Sueyoshi, JAMSTEC/NIPR, Japan

Guests In-Person

Michael Karcher, AWI, Coordinator of EU Arctic PASSION project

Hank Loescher, Battelle University

Ilkka Matero, SIOS

Maribeth Murray, Arctic Institute of North America, Canada

Katriina Veijola, FMI, Finland, Wildfires EP

Harmony Wayner, International Arctic Research Centre, University of Alaska

Virtual Participants

Hajo Eicken, International Arctic Research Centre, University of Alaska

Nicolas Parlato, International Arctic Research Centre, University of Alaska

Chantelle Verhey, World Data Systems (WDO), International Technology Office (ITO) & Co-chair Elect of SAON Arctic Data Committee

Chris Waigl, International Arctic Research Centre, University of Alaska

Alona Yefimenko, University of the North

Member Regrets Absent

João Canário, University of Lisbon, Portugal & IASC

Cathy Coon, CBMP/CAFF

Ola Grabak, European Space Agency

Hanna K Lappalainen, PEXX

Sten Lund, Government of Greenland

Gier Ottersen, Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Andrea Spolaor, CNR, Italy

Advisory Panel Ex-Officio members

SAON Secretariat – Jan Rene Larsen, Helen Joseph (absent)

SAON – IASC Fellow – vacant, currently being advertised

Appendix 2
AGENDA

ROADS Advisory Panel ROADS Advisory Panel and Partner meeting

About this Meeting: The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks SAON) Arctic Roadmap for Observing and Data Services (ROADS) Advisory Panel invites those already engaged or considering engagement in the ROADS integrated advisory process to join us for our open partnership meeting during the Arctic Circle Assembly. Participants will learn about the ROADS process, progress made by the Advisory Panel and progress of those engaged. Partners will have an opportunity to share their needs of the Advisory Panel to enable their on-going work.

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Physical participation Venue: *Radisson Blu 1919 Hotel, Reykjavik, Pósthússtræti 2, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland, meeting room 'Dettifoss'*. [Venue location, map](#)

Virtual participation (Zoom): <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/4105560408>

Workspace for agendas and meeting notes:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rm3aGZcGuKaVMagkNNpU8sOEzEChKWns>

Pre-read: [Plain language brochure on the SAON-ROADS process](#)

OPENING SESSION - 75 min

1. Welcome & Introductions (Lauren, 10 min)
2. What is SAON ROADS? (Lauren, 10 min)
3. Lessons learned from open partnership discussions from ACA 2022 Reykjavik, ASSW 2022, and ArcticPASSION GA (Sandy, 5 min)
 - a. Documentation of the process (Sandy, 10 min)
 - i. Overview of the [documentation website](#)
 - ii. Focus on Expert Panel Guidelines for Phase I, II
 - iii. Progress on flow diagrams (Expert and General Audiences)
 - b. External Communication tools (Lauren, 10 min)
 - i. Flyer (language translation, recruitment)
 - ii. Graphic ideas
 - iii. Engagement Plan
 - c. Indigenous Guidance Documentation - input (Margaret, 20 min)
 - i. SAON Arctic ROADS and Policy Context
 - ii. Indigenous Knowledge Systems - linkage to established definitions
 - iii. Co-Production of Knowledge
 - iv. Glossary
4. AOS 2024 Planning (Alice, 10 min)
 - a. Arctic ROADS ASSW meeting
 - b. WG3 System Implementation (ROADS) update
 - i. Focus on Phase II

1. Framing - initial inputs and feedback
2. Mock Phase II
3. Discussion on evaluating Phase II
4. Wrap-up

BREAK - 20 min

EXPERT PANEL PROCESS FLOW - WORKING SESSION WITH PARTNERS - 85 min

5. Set up (Frame) the working session (Margaret, 10 min)
6. Breakouts around the room (All, 40 min)
 - a. What are the activities occurring in each of the Phases of your Expert Panels?
 - b. What/where are the key decision points for your Expert Panel in each Phase?
 - c. Where do you need additional guidance, understanding and/or resources (bulleted list would be great)?
 - d. Breakout groups:
 - i. Permafrost (Process Q&A: Margaret, Facilitator: Ilkka)
 - ii. Wildfire (Process Q&A: Jan, Facilitator: Katriina)
 - iii. Sea ice (Process Q&A: Sandy, Facilitator: Maribeth)
 - iv. Salmon (Process Q&A: Alice, Facilitator: Harmony (Could be virtual))
 - v. Harmful algal blooms (Process Q&A and Facilitator: Lauren)
7. Report back (All, 30 min)
8. Reflections on Next Steps