



GRUAN-TN 14

GRUAN Policy on Silent Sites

Co-chairs, LC, and GCOS secretariat

Rationale

The need for a silent sites policy is a big step forward in the maturity of GRUAN:

For various reasons, sites may either:

- i) become a candidate site but fail to establish a stable data flow that is required for certification; or
- ii) be certified but cease operations.

GRUAN policy for dealing with such silent sites consists of a series of escalating steps, ranging from monthly email reminders to, eventually, removal of the site from GRUAN if it proves impossible to resolve the issues.

At all stages in the process the main objective is to **resume** the site's active participation within GRUAN.

Definitions

- Potential site: A site which has been checked as suitable for GRUAN operations, not on the GRUAN map, not data flow initiated, for perpetuity on the list for future reference.
- Candidate site: Approval by WG-GRUAN, documented site and instrument metadata for GRUAN operation, on the GRUAN map, candidate as long as data flows is initiated since at least 3 months.
- Uncertified site: a candidate site with more than 3 months of data, on the map as uncertified site, included in GRUAN network statistics for uncertified sites.
- Certified site: A site which has undergone the GRUAN certification process and has been approved by WG-GRUAN, included in GRUAN network statistics for certified sites.



Escalation strategy

If a certified site falls silent **for reasons within its control**, then the escalation steps are as follows (case of certified site, differences with other types of site, but overall similar approach):

	TIME SILENT		ACTION	
Steps for a silent certified site	4 months	→	A formal letter to the site manager	
	8 months	→	A letter to the supervisor of the site manager	
	12 months	→	Revoke the site's certification	
	18 months	→	An email and/or letter to PR	
	24 months	→	Revoke status of being a GRUAN site (+ letter to PR).	Metadata and data archives maintained as a historical GRUAN site.

Additional



It is also proposed to display the sites' involvement on the GRUAN website, in the form of a traffic sign indicating performance on aspects such as:

- data submission
- site reporting
- certification status
- involvement in task teams
- involvement in the working group
- data product development

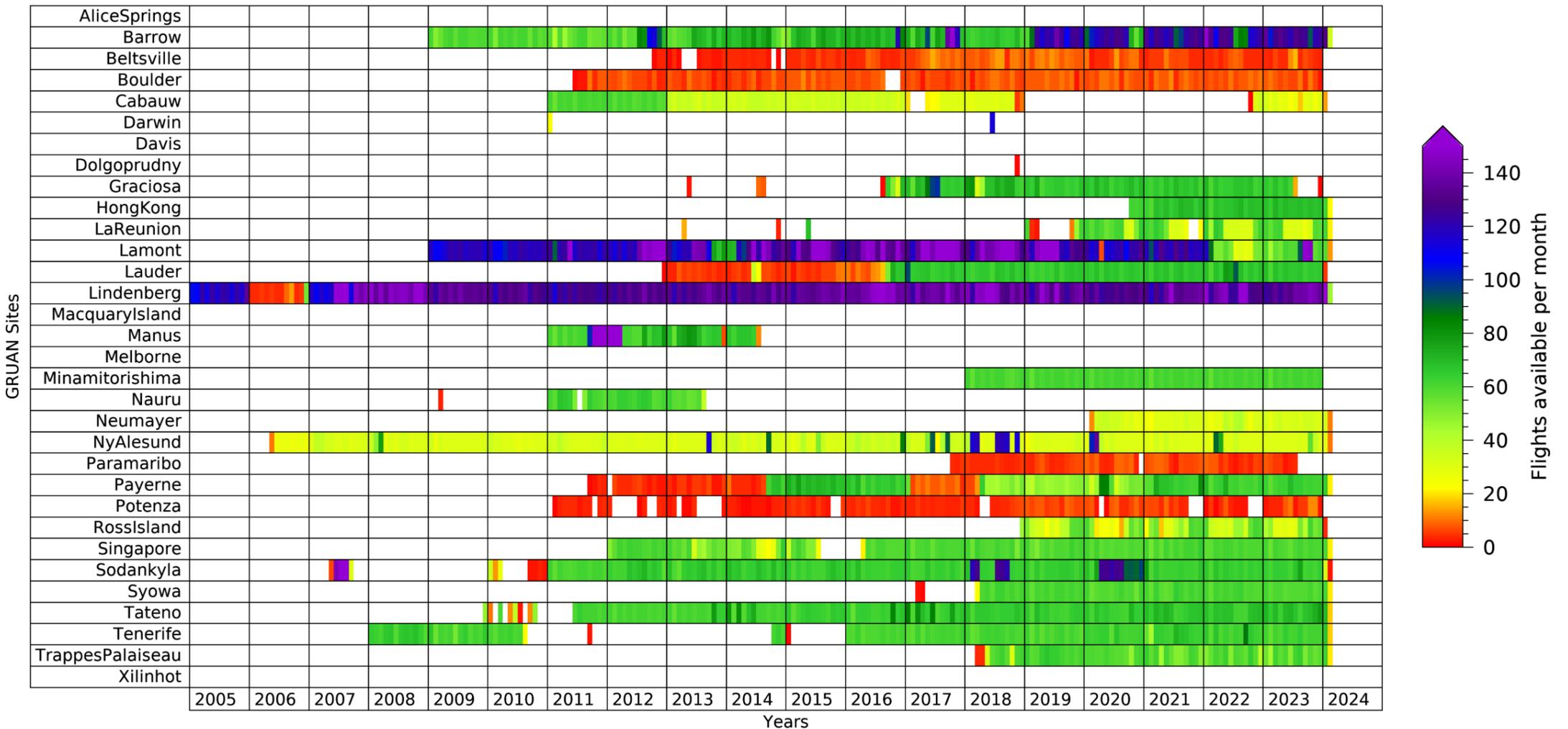
Implementation of an indicator for a few of these aspects may be further discussed, given the very different nature among e.g. the status of data flow vs involvement in task teams.



Current silent sites in GRUAN

No data flow or never started

GRUAN Radiosonde Launches (total: 165418 at 2024-02-11)



Current silent sites in GRUAN

GCOS Reference Upper-Air Network

Data flow never started but on the map.





Actions after ICM-15

- The silent data policy will be applied
- At minimum, we need to reshape the GRUAN map according to the real site status
- The silent data policy must be applied putting emphasis on the GRUAN willing to start/restart operations at a site a not to exclude it from the network.
- In the next WG-GRUAN, the status of the station will be discussed and decision on any silent site will be taken. Afterwards, if needed, the escalation steps will be applied.