



Site Auditing

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What does the GRUAN Guide say

Certification of GRUAN sites will not be a single event. Periodic (every 3-4 years; Ny Ålesund - November this year!) complete auditing of the measurement programmes included in the GRUAN certification for a site will be conducted to ensure that the programmes continue to meet GRUAN standards.

Such an audit may include:

- A review of annual reports from sites on GRUAN activities.
- A written report from the site - essentially an update of the original report written to initiate the assessment and certification process.
- A site visit by selected members of the WG-GRUAN and the GRUAN Lead Centre. Such a visit would include discussions with the scientists responsible for the measurement programmes at the site.

In addition...

Important for external perceptions of GRUAN integrity that audits are conducted by the WG and Lead Centre and not based exclusively on annual site reports. If problems with a site are identified:

- Should a measurement programme at an existing GRUAN site show significantly reduced observational capability over more than a year, the WG and Lead Centre will investigate the circumstances at that site, and, if needed, exclude that programme from the GRUAN certification for that site. The WG and Lead Centre will work proactively with sites to resurrect such programmes providing technical and in-kind support as practical.

and...

- Should overall contribution of a site be deemed sufficiently diminished to call into question its continued presence in the network, site will be informed immediately in writing. Given six months to form a capabilities recovery plan. Should this plan be accepted, the site will have no more than two calendar years from its acceptance to implement agreed key aspects. If not achieved, site will be suspended with an invitation to submit anew after problems are remedied.
- GRUAN site may request the temporary suspension of some or all of the measurement programmes e.g. in case of unforeseen budget limitations, non-availability of personnel or some other unavoidable circumstance affecting the measurement programmes at the site. At some later time, should the site request recertification of those measurement programmes previously suspended, the standard procedure for certification will be followed.

Procedure

That's what GCOS-171 says but now we need to develop a procedure for doing site audits. Now looking for input on what those procedures might need to include/exclude.