

10.3 Memo to CAFF Board 14/08/2015

Status of the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

BACKGROUND:

The Iqaluit Declaration 2015 and the CAFF 2015-2017 Work Plan identified the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) as a partner in the CAFF Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) and highlighted the importance of a Pan-Arctic digital elevation map for which a project plan is being developed (described in a separate CAFF status memo). The Arctic SDI is a cooperation between eight Arctic National Mapping Agencies whose Board includes the Mapping Directors of those Agencies. The purpose of the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure is to support the Arctic Council and other relevant stakeholders in meeting their goals and objectives by using reliable and interoperable geospatial reference data of the Arctic, accessible via the Arctic SDI Geoportal.

STATUS August 2015:

- The Arctic SDI Board has approved a Governance Document and a 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for cooperation on prioritized activities as described in the Arctic SDI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), where services are developed and managed through the voluntary commitment of each agency. This cooperation has already delivered an initial Arctic SDI Geoportal and initial Arctic SDI Reference Map, which serve as basic building blocks for the infrastructure.
- The Arctic SDI has identified the Arctic Council Working Groups as key stakeholders. The ultimate goal of the Arctic SDI MOU agreement is to facilitate and promote collaboration and enhance access to public and private sector geospatial data across International boundaries. Increasing access to geospatial data and tools will enhance the ability of communities and governments to predict, understand, and react to climatic changes, disasters and other issues.
- An [Arctic SDI Fact Sheet](#) was recently published to provide insights on the importance of geospatial data, and to highlight the participating Mapping Agencies, the Geoportal and the 5-year strategy of the Arctic SDI.
- The Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was held from 3-7 August 2015. An intervention highlighting the regional and international importance of the Arctic SDI (and its Arctic Council stakeholders) was offered on the floor.
- The Arctic SDI Geoportal is delivering CAFF data via Web Services with a goal to continue to enhance the services and available data.

INITIATIVES

- As part of the 2015-2020 Strategy the Arctic SDI will continue, and expand, dialog with Arctic Council stakeholders towards identification of needs and requirements, available data and resources that will result in prioritized activities for data integration.
 - The Arctic SDI will facilitate a Breakout session, “Arctic SDI – A common approach to mapping and data sharing” at the Arctic Council Working Groups meeting in Tromso, Norway on 16 September. This work is being coordinated with the Arctic Council Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) Working Group.
- The Arctic SDI will continue development of the Arctic SDI map and metadata services, as well as pursuit of emerging technologies and best practices. Additionally, a project plan is being drafted for an Arctic SDI data open standards interoperability pilot with Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Arctic SDI Website – arctic-sdi.org