

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 11/2019

The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

Background

The Arctic SDI is a voluntary, multilateral cooperation between the National Mapping Agencies of the Arctic. With a focus on the Arctic Council and its working groups, the Arctic SDI facilitates data sharing at all levels: local, national, regional and global. Arctic SDI documents and applies information management best practices, based on open international standards, to build communities of practice around sharing and using geospatial data.

Arctic SDI Products and Services:

The Arctic SDI has produced a **harmonized basemap** that provides a unified topographic view over the entire Arctic with details such as elevation, rivers and lakes produced using the existing data from the Arctic Mapping Agencies. Arctic SDI aims to make more datasets available to allow mash-ups and development of applications that are limited only by the imagination of the stakeholders and scientists using the data.

The Arctic SDI **Geoportal** was launched in 2014 to allow browsing, visualizing, analyzing, and sharing of geospatial information. Users can combine map layers to visualize the phenomena of their choice and it is available free of charge to anyone.

Several CAFF datasets provided by the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) can be viewed using the Geoportal Time Series Tool, which allows users to visualize how various phenomena like sea surface temperature change over time in the Arctic. Another service allows users to create dynamic interactive maps, known as embedded maps, for delivery via any website without any coding and just a few quick steps. A Circumpolar Gazetteer that uses place name data from the Mapping Agencies allows users to search for, and discover, locations throughout the Arctic. All six Arctic projections are supported by the Geoportal.

The Arctic SDI has been expanding its international cooperation to include Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna's Arctic Biodiversity Data Service, International Hydrographic Organization Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission's Arctic Regional Marine SDI Working Group (ARMSDIWG), the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks, Open Geospatial Consortium, International Organization for Standardization, United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Committee of Experts, National Science Foundation (USA), and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (USA).

Continued support

The Arctic SDI seeks continued support for outreach activities across Arctic Council Working Groups to facilitate adoption of open standards and common data management practices across the Arctic.

Further information:

Arctic SDI Website – www.arctic-sdi.org

Gunnar H Kristinsson, National Land Survey of Iceland, +354 4309000, gunnar@lmi.is