

## The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

### Background

The Arctic SDI is a collaborative initiative of the National Mapping Agencies of the eight Arctic nations with a goal to promote partner-based development of an Arctic spatial data infrastructure.

The Arctic SDI is endorsed by the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) and is part of the general scientific and technical collaboration among the Arctic nations to address common problems and ensure a common understanding and adequate response to the rapidly changing Arctic.

### Arctic SDI Products and Services:

Arctic SDI's web site [arctic-sdi.org](http://arctic-sdi.org) has been revamped and provides all necessary information about Arctic SDI. A Guidelines for Data Providers has been developed to provide best practice of data management with recommendations from data procurement to data distribution.

The Arctic SDI **Geoportal** allows users to browse, visualize, analyze, and share maps and geospatial information in all six Arctic projections. Users can combine map layers to visualize the phenomena of their choice and it is available free of charge to anyone. It contains a harmonized base map that provides a unified topographic view and a Circumpolar Gazetteer both of which use data from the Mapping Agencies. The Gazetteer allows users to search place names to find and discover locations throughout the Arctic and a Time Series Tool allows viewing data across time. Recently, a new service to display statistical data has been added and users can also create dynamic interactive maps, known as embedded maps, for delivery via any website without any coding and just a few quick steps. The Geoportal is already sharing 45 datasets from CAFF

Data Stewardship is a key to ensuring digital access to an increasing volume of data in reports published by the AC Working Groups. It is challenging for the Arctic Council to provide necessary capacity in this field, but Arctic SDI can provide stable and reliable best practices and access to data and services. A pilot project with AC Secretariat is already in progress where the aim is to enrich the AC web page with use of the embedded maps functionality available from the Arctic SDI portal.

Arctic SDI is cooperating with CAFF on mapping the extent and changes in distributions of wetlands across the Arctic and thereby directly helping and contributing to monitoring and assessment work by Arctic Council working groups

### Requests to Senior Arctic Officials

The Arctic SDI seeks:

- Continued support for outreach activities across Arctic Council Working Groups including cooperation to facilitate adoption of open standards and common data management practices across the Arctic; and
- As was planned for the March meeting in Iceland, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, to be on the agenda at the next Senior Arctic Officials meeting to provide a status update on progress and allow for discussion on further opportunities with the Arctic Council.

### Further information:

Arctic SDI Website – [www.arctic-sdi.org](http://www.arctic-sdi.org)

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