

International Network of Arctic Indigenous Community-Based Environmental Monitoring & Information Stations (AICEMI stations)

Proposed as a Part of Global Integrated Arctic Information and Research System for
The International Polar Year 2007-2008

Statement

Scientists and public organizations have recognized the need for comprehensive and wholesome monitoring of the environmental, social, and economic changes and trends in the Arctic and acknowledged an indispensable role of the indigenous peoples in systematic collection and analysis of data.

The call for joint international monitoring efforts involving scientists, indigenous communities and general public resonates in major international research project, such as Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, UNFCCC, IPCC and others.

IPY could become a catalyst of multilateral, socially and scientifically diverse collaboration on a creation of a wholesome, all-inclusive monitoring system.

UNEP-GRID Polar program and the Aleut International Association propose a program to address the need for such monitoring. Potential partners are Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council, and national and international agencies and organizations involved in the scientific research in the Arctic. The program will reflect on the latest results of the projects conducted by Permanent Participants and the Arctic Council, such as ACIA, AHDR, AMAP reports, Snowchange, etc.

Program Goal

Increase capacity and effectiveness of the circumpolar monitoring through involvement of the indigenous peoples communities and utilization of traditional ecological knowledge aimed at

- 1.) Better understanding of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of climate change and human activities in the Arctic;
- 2.) Assessment of vulnerability and adaptation to changes;
- 3.) Facilitation of circumpolar information exchange among indigenous communities;
- 4.) Increase in indigenous peoples' organizations participation as stakeholders in international cooperation.

Program Description

Program will consist of four phases. The concept is based on development of a regional network, a pilot project, as an initial step and then using the model for circumpolar application. The Bering Sea region is proposed for the pilot project.

Phase 1 – Development of a communication network synthesizing current research and monitoring efforts by scientists and indigenous organizations in the Aleutian, Pribilof, Commander Islands and the Bering Straights regions (2004-2005)

Phase 2 – Assessment of particular monitoring needs and development of an AICEMI station model (2005)

Phase 3 – Creation of 3-4 AICEMI stations and integrating them into the circumpolar research network (2006)

Phase 4 – Creation of circumpolar network of AICEMI stations (2007)

Program outcome

Creation of an international circumpolar network of AICEMI stations that will generate and exchange research and monitoring data collected by indigenous experts and scientists.