



Memorandum to the Senior Arctic Officials 07/10/2012

From: Arctic SDI Steering Committee and CAFF

Status of Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

BACKGROUND:

- The Arctic SDI is a pan-Arctic cooperative initiative based on input and reference spatial datasets from the National Mapping Organisations of all eight Arctic Council countries. The Arctic SDI initiative received, after a request from the Nordic mapping organisations, the support of the Arctic Council in November 2009. The SAOs recognised the value of the Arctic SDI initiative and subsequently CAFF agreed to facilitate the project within the Arctic Council together with the Mapping Agencies from Russia, Canada, USA, Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland
- There are three phases to the plan for development of the Arctic SDI. These include, (1) preparation phase completed in 2011; (2) structuring phase which is currently underway; and (3) an operational phase which will deal with launching the Arctic SDI is scheduled for 2013.

STATUS:

- Development of the technical framework is underway and a beta version of the Arctic SDI data portal has been developed - <http://194.218.66.226/geonetwork>
- The National Mapping Organisations of all eight Arctic countries are in the process of finalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) addressing the development and maintenance of the Arctic SDI.

NEXT STEPS

In March 2012 the SAOs recognized the importance of the Arctic SDI and its contribution to improving data integration, sharing and analysis across the Arctic. They encouraged CAFF and the Arctic SDI Steering Committee to look into how to formalize this cooperation through the Arctic Council, and to submit a proposal to the next SAO meeting to insure a sustainable framework for the development of this project.

To achieve this sustainable framework the following texts are suggested for inclusion in the Kiruna Declaration and/or SAO report to ministers:

- Endorsement of Arctic SDI as a key component of a framework, which will in the future allow for the efficient integration, access to and coordination of data on the Arctic
- Urge the Arctic Council countries to insure a financial framework in place to insure a sustainable Arctic SDI
- Recognition of the significance of the MoU between the National Mapping Organizations as a key step in the successful implementation of the Arctic SDI.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Project website – www.arctic-sdi.org](http://www.arctic-sdi.org)