

Memorandum to the Senior Arctic Officials 05/03/2014

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; and (3) an operational phase which is currently underway and deals with launching the Arctic SDI.

STATUS:

- A new governance framework has been agreed to and member countries are finalizing the details in support of an operational Arctic SDI.
- 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>
- 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. In response, Arctic SDI members have agreed to evaluate the publication of Land Cover Indices and Migratory Bird Data.
- Responding to this SAO request National Mapping Organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in February 2014 addressing the development and maintenance of the Arctic SDI.
- As Arctic SDI matures it could be a core Arctic Council Information Management program.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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