



Memo to Senior Arctic Officials 20/02/2015

## Status of Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

### BACKGROUND:

- The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure is an initiative led by the National Mapping Agencies of Arctic Council member states to share spatial data across organizations, working groups and countries. The SAOs recognise the value of data sharing and interoperability by leveraging Arctic SDI's standards, policies, and technologies. The Arctic SDI received the support of Arctic Council in November 2009. Subsequently CAFF agreed to facilitate the initiative within the Arctic Council.

### STATUS 2014:

- The country that chairs Arctic SDI is synchronized with the rotation cycle of Arctic Council's chairmanship. Thus the chairmanship of Arctic SDI is being transferred from Canada to the United States Geological Survey during winter 2015. The Arctic SDI Board is composed of Directors General of the National Mapping Agencies or their delegates.
- The circumpolar National Mapping Agencies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective to provide public access to authoritative geospatial reference data covering the Arctic and to assume the responsibility for taking the lead in building a Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Arctic, as well as facilitating access to geographically-related thematic Arctic data, digital maps and tools, to generally support a more robust management and manipulation of data for research, monitoring, decision making and business purposes.
- The National Mapping Agencies have agreed to a governance model that provides the process to cooperate and accomplish prioritized activities on data, standards, policies and technologies. Services are developed and managed through the commitment and resources voluntarily made available by the agencies involved as agreed to in the Arctic SDI Memorandum of Understanding.

### INITIATIVES

- The Arctic SDI Technical Working group and CAFF Secretariat developed a means of facilitating access to earth observation indices (vegetation, ice, etc.) from the CBMPs Land Cover Change Index, via international Open Geospatial Consortium and ISO standards, to any standards compliant application. The [Arctic SDI GeoPortal](#) conforms to and promotes international standards and is therefore able to seamlessly stream the earth observation products from ABDS.
- Arctic SDI organised a session at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress
- The Arctic SDI is preparing Strategy 2015-2020 for developing their services and the spatial data infrastructure with focus on the needs of the Arctic Council, its working groups and related relevant stakeholders. The strategy is expected to initiate activities also to follow up on the 2014 SAO encouragement to engage in dialogue with all the Arctic Council working groups
- The US Arctic Council Chairmanship priorities assign CAFF to lead with Arctic SDI the task of establishing a Digital Elevation Model for the Arctic. CAFF will initiate discussions with Arctic SDI as to how this might be accomplished.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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