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The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure

Understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change and human activities in the Arctic, a unique area among the Earth's ecosystems, require accessible and reliable data to facilitate monitoring, management, emergency preparedness and decision making. Often it is difficult and costly to find, access and combine useful datasets for a project since they are stored in many different organisations.

The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI), was established to address this need for readily available spatial data in the North. The Arctic SDI is working with stakeholder organizations to make their key data available, with a focus on the Arctic Council and its working groups.

Large amounts of important spatial and statistical data is being processed into Arctic Council reports and for other purposes, but afterwards this data is often very difficult and costly to find and access to be reused. The existing data infrastructure is inefficient and if modernized it can promote data sharing and be more cost effective. This presentation will outline the key goals, activities and services provided by the Arctic SDI, including the Arctic SDI Geoportal.

The Arctic SDI is a cooperation between the 8 National Mapping Agencies of Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA and Denmark. It is based on a voluntary multilateral cooperation and focused on accessible authoritative geospatial reference data.