

## **"Data Management and Local Knowledge: Building a Network to Support Community-Based Research and Monitoring"**

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Community-Based Monitoring in the Context of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) Process

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is a circumpolar Inuit organization which represents the around 155,000 Inuit from Alaska (U.S.), Canada, Greenland and Chukotka (Russia). ICC works at international venues such as the United Nations and Arctic Council, to ensure Inuit priorities are being addressed.

In their 2006 Salekhard Declaration, the Arctic Council urged "all Member countries to maintain and extend long term monitoring of change in all part of the Arctic, and request the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme to cooperate with other Arctic Council Working Groups, the International Arctic Science Committee and other partners in efforts to create a coordinated Arctic observing network, that meets identified societal needs." This started a process to develop the "Sustaining the Arctic Observing Networks" (SAON).

SAON wants to further multinational engagement for the development of sustained and coordinated observing and data sharing systems across the Arctic. The focus is on systems that serve societal needs and are related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues. ICC's interest within SAON is particularly to strengthen community-based monitoring activities and to ensure that they are recognized and represented in the process.

The presentation will give the background on SAON, where it is headed, and the initiatives taken by ICC and its partners (which include ELOKA) to advance community-based monitoring in the process.

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