

A TIME TO SHARE: SIKU-ISIUOP IPY 2007–2008 Records and Prospects for ELOKA Partnership

Igor Krupnik, and Claudio Aporta

The paper overviews various sets of records created by the international SIKU-ISIUOP project (IPY #166) during its operational period in 2006–2010. Like many IPY 2007–2008 projects, SIKU-ISIUOP was designed and implemented as a consortium of several national initiatives and individual/small group efforts by scientists and local partners from five nations: Canada, U.S., Russia, Greenland and France. Data were collected in four national languages (English, Russian, French, Kalaallit) and several indigenous languages and dialects (Inuktitut – several dialects, Tunumiisut/East Greenlandic, Iñupiaq, Yup'ik, Siberian/St Lawrence Island Yupik, Chukchi). The original sets of records collected by almost two dozen individual initiatives are currently dispersed among the participating scientists and communities in five nations, though copies may be secured for the common depository and sharing.

The first step in addressing the SIKU-ISIUOP data legacy would be to make a full inventory of collected materials, with links and full attribution (metadata). The largest regional depositories of SIKU-ISIUOP records are currently at Carleton University (Ottawa), University of Alaska (Fairbanks), Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC), Russian Heritage Institute (Moscow, Russia) and Research and Sustainable Development, ICC Greenland (Nuuk). The most extensive types of accumulated records include: 1) materials for the Sea Ice Cybercartographic Atlas (Carleton University), mostly in electronic format; 2) observational logs of 4 local monitors in Alaskan communities of Barrow, Gambell, Shaktoolik and Wales (2006-ongoing), organized as a searchable EXCEL database at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks; 3) materials for illustrated indigenous 'sea ice dictionaries' (most of the original and copied sets are at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC); 4) observational logs and other contributions by four Russian indigenous monitors – at the Russian Heritage Institute in Moscow (with full copies at the Smithsonian); and 5) SIKU-ISIUOP project correspondence, origination and implementation records – major collections at the Smithsonian and at Carleton University.

Further activities in processing and organizing SIKU-ISIUOP database will depend on additional funding (none available at the moment) and continuing publication efforts (Russian SIKU volume; Wales Sea Ice Dictionary; individual project-related papers and theses, etc.). It makes perfect sense for the former SIKU-ISIUOP team to forge partnership with ELOKA to develop a concise strategy on processing, preservation and sharing of the many unique datasets accumulated by the project team in 2006–2010.

¹Smithsonian Institution, ²Carleton University