

Freeing Data through the Polar Information Commons

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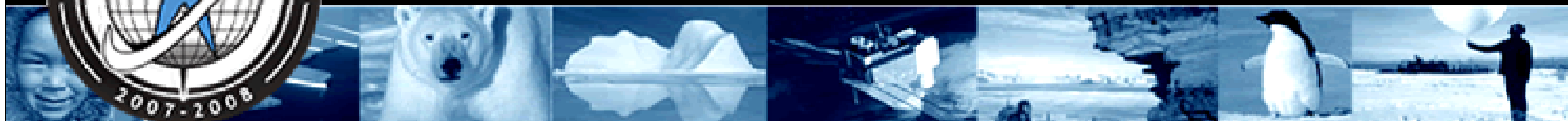
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Data are the common wealth of humanity — *Adama Samassekou*
Convener of the UN World Summit on the Information Society

The International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY)

- IPY was an intensive burst of internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary, scientific research and observations, focused on the Polar Regions (Arctic Ocean including adjacent seas and coastal regions, Southern Ocean, Antarctic Continent)
- The IPY Data Policy calls for IPY data to be made available “fully, freely, openly, and on the shortest feasible timescale”
- The IPY Framework document: “In fifty years time the data resulting from IPY 2007-2008 may be seen as the most important single outcome of the programme”
- IPY has resulted in an unprecedented amount of data of the Polar Regions



The International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY)

- However, access to and long-term preservation of many key IPY datasets remains problematic, especially with respect to Arctic data
- Several disciplines, involved in IPY, have no tradition of data sharing
- Several disciplines have no discipline-based data centres
- As a result, scientists may not know how or where to submit data, in order to make the data available

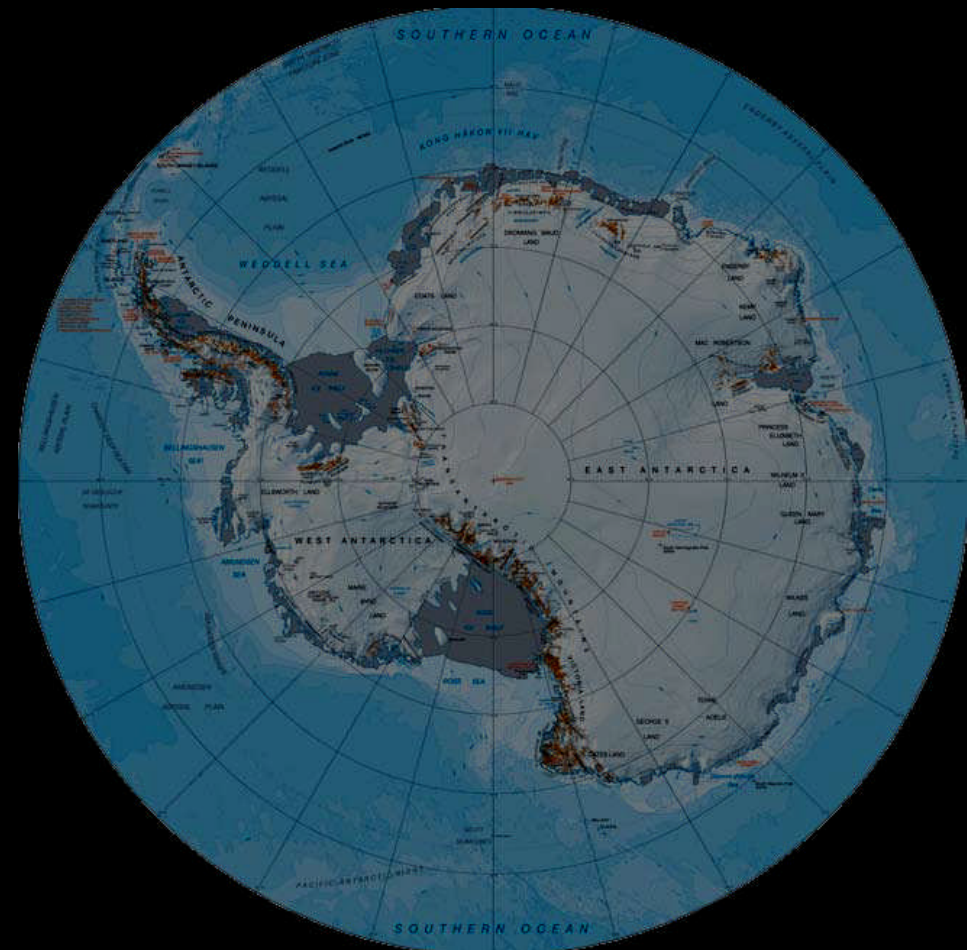


The Polar Information Commons (PIC)



Realizing that the Antarctic Treaty (1959) not only established a physical commons, but also an 'information commons':

- Article III-1c: "...to the greatest extent feasible and practicable... scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available"





The Polar Information Commons (PIC)

Realizing that, though the situation in the Arctic is more complex, there is a clear need for information sharing based on shared interests:



- Monitoring and prediction of Arctic climate changes and associated impacts on the global environment
- Opening of sea routes
- Marine pollution
- Fisheries and wildlife management
- Energy extraction
- Sustainable development of indigenous peoples

The Polar Information Commons Vision



Data and information about the Polar regions are public goods that should be shared ethically and with minimal constraint

The PIC is a shared virtual commons that parallels the 'legal' commons in the Antarctic and the 'shared interest' commons in the Arctic

The PIC both provides an institutional framework and a technical infrastructure for sharing and preservation of polar data in the short and long term

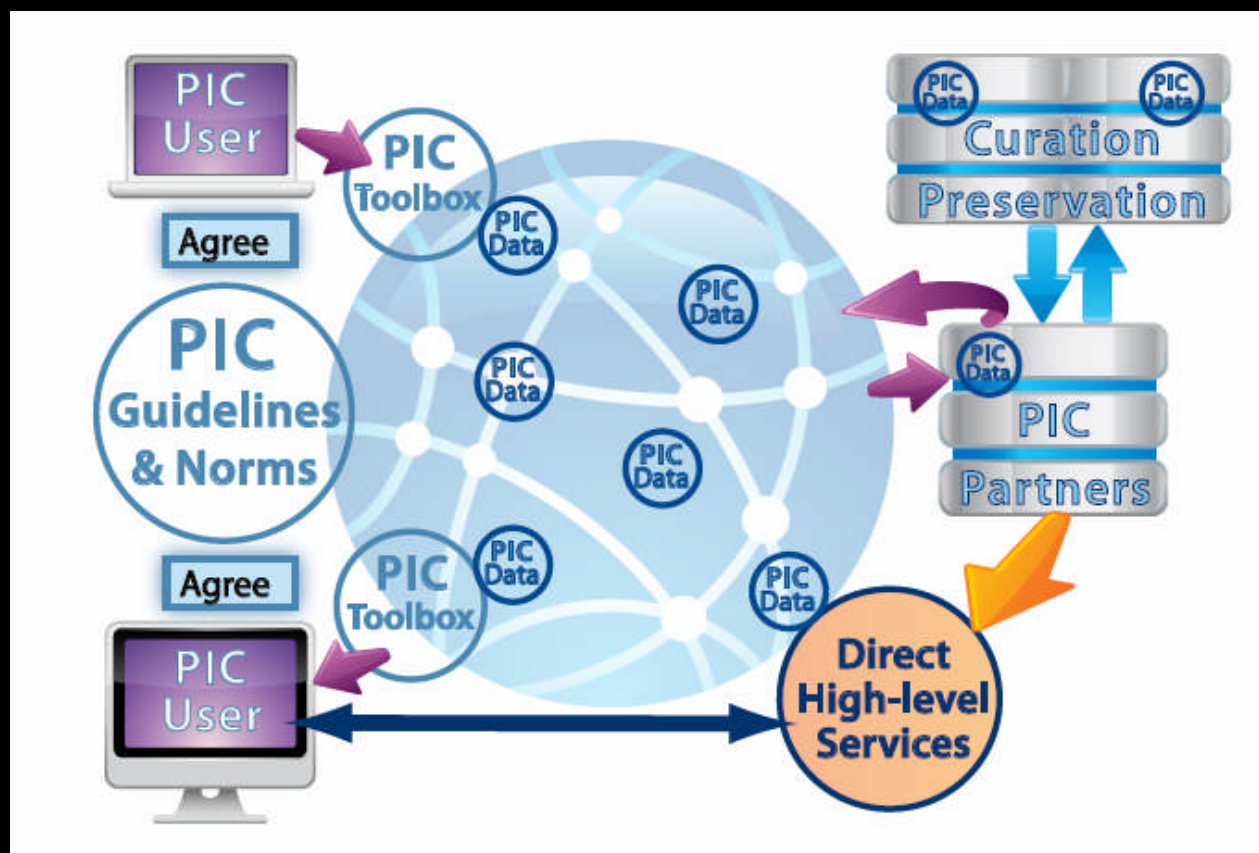
The PIC builds an interdisciplinary community of providers and users of scientific, polar data



How does the PIC work?

Submit data to the PIC cloud

Polar data sources expose their data to the world through the PIC badge and open protocols



Data centers monitor new PIC data and assess and acquire important data for formal archiving, curation, and access

Australian Research Computing Infrastructure (ARCS) is initially hosting the PIC Cloud

How does the PIC work?



Stages and roles

Data providers

- Badge data as belonging to the PIC
- Expect users to comply with PIC norms and behaviour
- Are ensured of long term preservation of their data

PIC Cloud

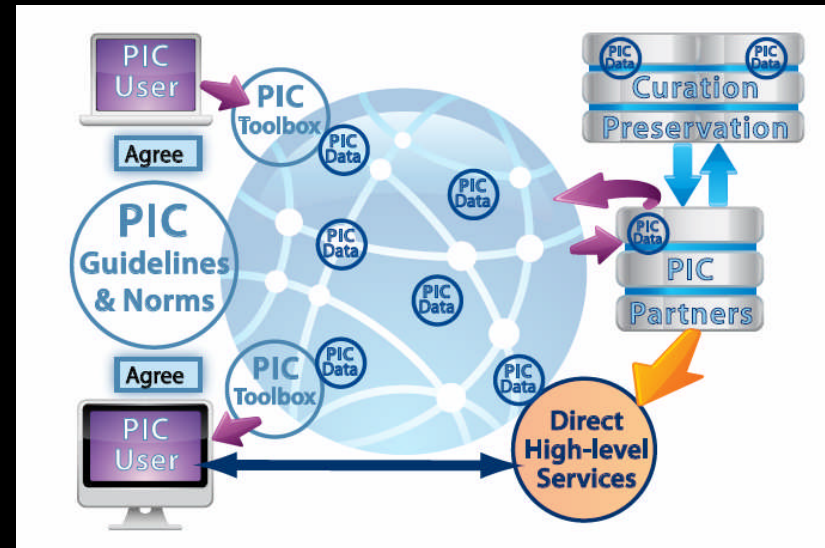
- Initial host for data, including 'orphan' data
- Data are exposed to enable preservation and use of the data

Data Centres

- Ensure long term preservation of data, by adopting all data
- Add value by providing various high-level services

Data users

- Comply with PIC norms and expected behaviour

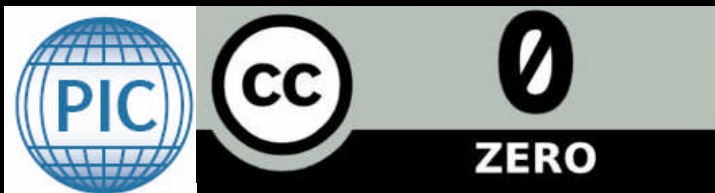


How does the PIC work?



Badging data

- Labels data as belonging to the PIC
 - Norms and expected behavior, both by users and providers
 - Makes rights of users and providers explicit
 - Puts contents as close as (legally) possible to public domain
- Makes (automated) searching for the data possible
- Badging tools incorporated in discovery metadata writing tools
- Logos in metadata link to norms and expected behavior:





Proposed Norms for PIC Users

- Formal scientific publication citation is desired and PIC users acknowledge authorship and co-authorship of materials that is used from PIC
- PIC users agree that they will also give appropriate recognition to the role of the PIC as a digital community resource
- PIC users agree that they will make reasonable and timely efforts to notify the relevant PIC contributors (or the PIC community more generally) about their use of specific digital materials from the PIC, and about any suspected significant errors, limitations, or other problems that they may have discovered in the course of their use of those materials
- PIC users acknowledge that they themselves are responsible for determining whether the PIC materials they use are of sufficient quality and appropriateness for their objectives. However the PIC badge is not a certification of quality
- PIC users agree that in all cases they will contribute back to the PIC any value-added data, information, or other digital content derived entirely or largely from PIC materials, with appropriate citation of and documentation about PIC and non-PIC inputs

Proposed Norms for PIC Data Providers



- PIC contributors acknowledge that their submitted materials are already in the public domain, or that they have clear rights to make these materials openly accessible through the PIC
- PIC contributors agree to label their contributions digitally with the “PIC badge”, which specifies rights of access and links back to this statement of norms, and agree to make these contributions accessible and searchable online
- PIC contributors agree to provide at least the minimum information about their contributed materials requested by the PIC
- PIC contributors agree that, if requested, they will make reasonable efforts to provide additional information about their contributed materials, e.g. to help document the quality of their submitted materials and to ensure their long-term usability.
- PIC contributors agree that they will make reasonable efforts to provide appropriate notification to the PIC community (e.g., through PIC interfaces) of any significant errors in their contributed materials or descriptions, if any are discovered after submission.



How does the PIC work?

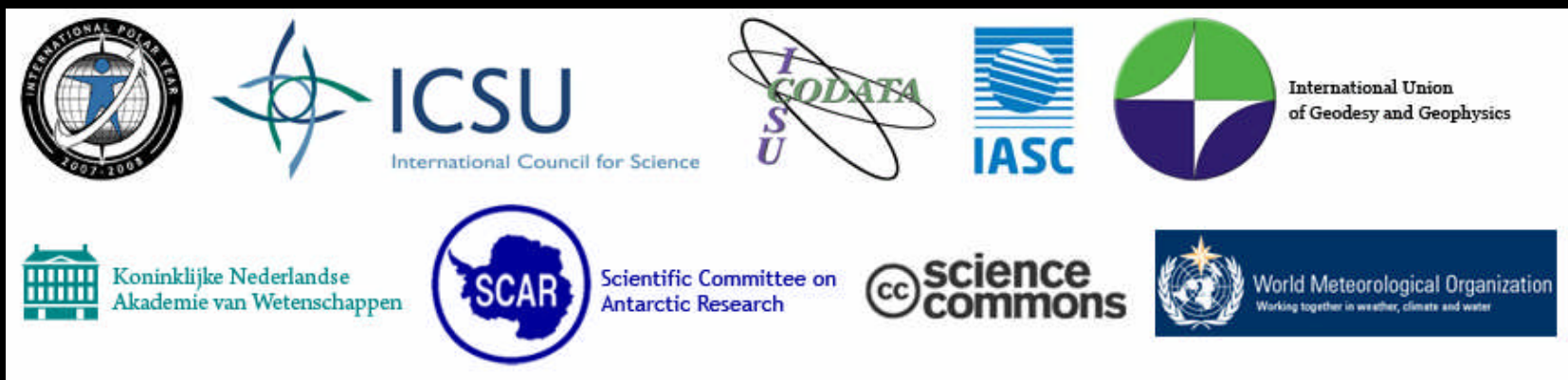
Data centres or 'data adopters'

- Long term preservation
- World Data System (WDS) requirements for certified data centres
- Continue to keep data accessible under same access rights
- Notify provider that data set is adopted

Who is leading the PIC?



- Committee on Data for Science & Technology (CODATA)
- IPY Data Management Subcommittee (also a CODATA TG)
- International Arctic Science Council (IASC)
- Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
- International Polar Year International Program Office (IPY IPO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Data System (WDS) Transition Team
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)
- Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences
- Science Commons
- Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)



The PIC is operational



Launched at IPY Conference, Oslo, June 2010



The PIC is operational



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[Overview of PIC Cloud](#)

[How to use the Cloud](#)

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Dataset Upload Form

Please complete the following information and upload your files.

First Name:

Last Name:

Phone:

Email:

Title:

Country:

DataSet Title:

DataSet Abstract:



The PIC is operational

Subject
Keyword(s):

- AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT
- FARM STRUCTURES
- AGRICULTURAL PLANT SCIENCE
- CROP/PLANT YIELDS
- CROPPING SYSTEMS
- IRRIGATION
- PLANT BREEDING AND GENETICS
- PLANT DISEASES/DISORDERS/PESTS
- RECLAMATION/REVEGETATION/RESTORATION
- WEEDS, NOXIOUS PLANTS OR INVASIVE PLANTS
- ANIMAL COMMODITIES

Please choose either a [Creative Commons Waiver](#) or a [Creative Commons 'Attribution By License'](#) License to ascribe conditions of access to your data. Note all submissions are subject to agreement with the PIC norms.

Access conditions: Creative Commons Waiver Creative Commons 'Attribution By License'

Upload data files (You can upload up to 10 files. Each file must not exceed 10 Mb)

File (1):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (2):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (3):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (4):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (5):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (6):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (7):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (8):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (9):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>
File (10):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Choose file"/>

Data Region: Antarctic Arctic Southern Ocean Antarctic and Arctic Antarctic and Southern Ocean Global

Submit will commit your files and metadata to the cloud.
Please be sure you are ready to do so as the action cannot be undone without the aid of the site administrator.

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Dataset Search and Retrieval Form

1. Retrieve all submissions made by a person "X":

First Name:

Last Name:

2. Retrieve all data submitted by people from country "X".

Country:

3. Retrieve all data containing the title words "X".

Data Set Title:



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Dataset Search Results

To view the abstracts for the datasets you have retrieved click on the "abstract" hyperlink. To download dataset packages of interest click on the dataset "download" hyperlink.

Datasets meeting your criteria include:

8. Temperature-density, temperature-conductivity and conductivity-density relationships for marine-derived saline lake waters Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/BIOSPHERE/AQUATIC_ECOSYSTEMS/LAKES/SALINE_LAKES/LRjWUUrWxNMWxIZBShB/IZhJUztpY1275674233053.zip
Dataset Creator: John Gibson Email: john.gibson@utas.edu.au
[Click to see Abstract](#)

1. UV radiation at Davis station summer 1998 Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/ATMOSPHERE/ATMOSPHERIC_RADIATION/ULTRAVIOLET_RADIATION/knASCTUwdCFTkygXbOqT/oQPOGyaJLF1276160986920.zip
Dataset Creator: Andrew Davidson Email: andrew.davidson@aad.gov.au
[Click to see Abstract](#)

15. Ice sheet topography and surface characteristics in eastern Wilkes Land, East Antarctica Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/CRYOSPHERE/GLACIERS_ICE_SHEETS/#USnjGxmnZCkErYxLPiVMPMztrYcU1275630822771.zip
Dataset Creator: Ian Goodwin Email: ian.goodwin@newcastle.edu.au
[Click to see Abstract](#)

5. Impact of changes in UV and visible radiation on the reflective properties of plant photosynthetic surfaces Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/BIOLOGICAL_CLASSIFICATION/PLANTS/dpAvyFxCMLrsJoUNUbWO/GmlVnClrWD1275676237036.zip
Dataset Creator: Sharon Robinson Email: sharonr@uow.edu.au
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2. Macquarie Island Cetacean Sightings and Strandings Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/BIOLOGICAL_CLASSIFICATION/ANIMALS_VERTEBRATES/fJcETUFykFBMcBoYKIUM/ikytPVHeNI1275622204517.zip
Dataset Creator: Geoff Copson Email: geoffco@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
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17. data for Thala Valley Clean Up Project 2003/4 Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/HUMAN_DIMENSIONS/ENVIRONMENTAL_IMPACTS/CONTAMINANTS/RgNhaufmNriPGyFnKJ/gutPTuAbas1276088958660.zip
Dataset Creator: Chris Paterson Email: chris.paterson@aad.gov.au
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3. Ducks and Mallards of Macquarie Island Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/BIOLOGICAL_CLASSIFICATION/ANIMALS_VERTEBRATES/jbQadpZpLBvrOYhoqCNW/yzxsFQAEHi1275622007568.zip
Dataset Creator: Knowles Kerry Email: liz.kerry@keypoint.com.au
[Click to see Abstract](#)

18. Modification of the type of dietary fat at an Antarctic station: impact on cardiovascular risk factors Download: https://df.arcs.org.au/ARCS/projects/PICCLOUD/data/EARTH_SCIENCE/HUMAN_DIMENSIONS/ENVIRONMENTAL_IMPACTS/CONTAMINANTS/RgNhaufmNriPGyFnKJ/gutPTuAbas1276088958660.zip

Can you help?

- Inputs on PIC vision, design, community norms (see PIC web site)
- Contributions to key PIC elements
- Contributions of important polar data and information resources
- Outreach to the broader community

Thanks!



POLAR INFORMATION COMMONS
PIC

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About IPY

Overview of PIC

Who is Building PIC

Ethics and Norms of Data Sharing

PIC LAUNCH - 8th June **NEW!**

PIC Badging **NEW!**

PIC Cloud **NEW!**

PIC Meeting in Oslo **NEW!**

Oslo Photo Gallery **NEW!**

Showcasing PIC

PIC in the Press

Contact Us

Funding

Welcome to the Polar Information Commons (PIC):
Establishing the Framework for the Long-term Stewardship of Polar Data and Information

The polar regions are changing rapidly with dramatic global effect. Wise use of resources, astute management of our environment, improved decision support, and effective international cooperation on natural resource and geopolitical issues require a deeper understanding of, and an ability to predict change and its impact. Understanding and knowledge are built on data and information, yet polar information is scattered and scarce as well as temporally and spatially sporadic.

We are inspired by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 that established the Antarctic as a global commons to generate greater scientific understanding. Correspondingly, we assert that data and information about the polar regions are themselves "public goods" that should be shared ethically and with minimal constraint.

We envision a Polar Information Commons (PIC) as a shared virtual resource mirroring the geographic commons. The PIC would serve as an open, virtual repository for vital scientific data and information, and would provide a shared, community-based cyber-infrastructure fostering innovation, improved scientific understanding, and encourage participation in research, education, planning, and management in the polar regions.

The PIC builds on the legacy of the International Polar Year and we seek active participation and ideas from national governments, international organizations, and the scientific and data management communities at large to build this common resource.

Our Partners:



<http://www.polarcommons.org>