

What is CAVIAR?

Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions (CAVIAR) is an international applied research consortium consisting of partners from the eight Arctic nations. CAVIAR's main goal is to identify the ways in which Arctic communities are affected by changing environmental and social conditions in order to assist in the development of adaptation strategies and policies. Comparable case studies across the Arctic countries will provide a basis for synthesizing knowledge of vulnerabilities and for exchanging experiences with adaptation.



CAVIAR Background

Arctic peoples are experiencing rapid changes in climatic, ecological, societal and economic conditions. The ways in which communities are sensitive and the processes of adaptation to these changes are not well documented. Insights into current and future vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities of communities have not been compared across the Arctic region, nor are these studies well connected with policy development. CAVIAR will provide a deeper understanding of the conditions that affect communities, now and in the future, and will identify ways of incorporating this knowledge with adaptive management strategies and policies.

The CAVIAR Approach: Global context, Local input, policy relevance, knowledge sharing

The international CAVIAR consortium includes 22 community studies in Arctic Canada, Norway, Sweden, Russia, USA, Iceland and Greenland. In each case, CAVIAR partners conduct place-based research, in close co-operation with local communities. Local voices and experiences are combined with scientific inputs to document and explain the processes of vulnerability and adaptation. This community perspective facilitates connections with local decision making and policy.

Integrating local and indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge, and comparing lessons among communities, are vital to understanding how Arctic peoples can better deal with changing conditions. The international CAVIAR consortium provides a framework for consistent assessments across the circumpolar north and means for comparing findings among communities across the Arctic.





CAVIAR

International

Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions

2007-2010



CAVIAR and the International Polar Year (IPY)

CAVIAR is a new interdisciplinary research project analyzing community adaptation and vulnerability in the Arctic Regions. CAVIAR is part of the fourth International Polar Year, a research program under the auspices of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). IPY runs from March 2007 to March 2009, but CAVIAR will continue beyond 2009.

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