

## Report on special session 1: Knowledge on Ice

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In this session we heard from Tom Barry from the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and Halldór Jóhannsson from the Arctic Portal. Barry and Jóhannsson stressed the importance of good environmental baseline data from the Arctic and the continuation of monitoring programs in the circumpolar region for the development of effective adaptation strategies. Both parties highlighted the need for a fast transfer of this information from the scientists and researchers to the policy makers to ensure that adaptation strategies are relevant and effectual.

Jóhannsson demonstrated how the Arctic Portal facilitated this fast transfer of information by hosting a wide range of Arctic data from ongoing research programs. This freely available data has opened up greater opportunities to share data between disciplines and for distance learning.

Mona Johnson from the University of the Arctic spoke about the importance of hands-on learning for students studying Arctic issues, and the success of the North to North mobility program in providing students with direct field experience.

Finally, Ivan Sudakov discussed the impact of climate change on the potential for carbon dioxide storage within permafrost on the Yamal Peninsula in Russia. Sudakov also touched upon the concept of 'tipping points' in the permafrost system and how ongoing methane release could be catastrophic in the future.