

Collecting and preserving local and traditional climate knowledge

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The Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA) provides data management services and support to Arctic communities and others who are working with local and traditional knowledge (LTK) or who are gathering data from community-based monitoring systems. These data are at high risk of loss or, when preserved, may be difficult to access for a variety of reasons, including concerns regarding the distribution of sensitive or culturally important information and the difficulty of initiating or maintaining community-based research without an established data management infrastructure. LTK data are often presented in formats quite different from satellite or model data sources (e.g., interviews, maps, and photographs), which adds to the challenge of using LTK in concert with other climate data sets. The ELOKA team works together with local experts, indigenous organizations and researchers to design systems for responsibly curating these data, making them available to the contributing Arctic communities, and where possible, available to the climate research community in formats suitable for linking to satellite or model data. Where interest exists, we are helping our partners develop local data management programs. We will present examples of data management strategies used to date, lessons learned, and ideas for the future.