

Action Pledge 2: Polar View (Data and observations)

Polar View is part of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security system of earth observation. It is supported by the European Space Agency and the European Commission with participation from the Canadian Space Agency. UNEP/GRID-Arendal is part of the Polar View Strategic Services Group.

Polar View promotes the use of satellites for the public good and in support of public policy in the area of sustainable development, marine safety and environment. It is operational monitoring providing day-to-day and year-to-year services to people adjust to climate. Polar View services are used by a range of clients to adjust to environmental conditions involving the cryosphere. Services are used, for example, to facilitate ship navigation in and near ice, to provide early warning of river flooding from ice jams and runoff, to provide Inuit hunters with information on ice edge locations and conditions, and to develop runoff forecasts to optimize hydro-electric generation. The environmental conditions (such as river ice conditions) that are the focus of the monitoring services are themselves subject to impacts from climate change.

Polar View supports both objectives of the Nairobi Work Programme. Further, it responds to a number of the needs identified at regional workshops and expert meetings on adaptation under 1/CP.10, namely:

- ⇒ Improving the collection, management and use of data at the regional level;
- ⇒ Enhancing access to global, regional and national data;
- ⇒ Addressing user needs and enhancing collaboration between the climate community and other sectors;
- ⇒ Raising awareness among policy makers for the need for sustained systematic observation and monitoring systems for use in understanding climate change impacts; and
- ⇒ Building human capacity in data analysis and generation through training and education programmes.
