

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Circumpolar Conservation Union

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Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.circumpolar.org

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name: Whit Sheard

Email: whitsheard@yahoo.com

Telephone: +1 907.982.7095

Organization or department: Circumpolar Conservation Union

Job Title: President

Full mailing address:

2144 SE Salmon St.
Portland, Oregon 97214
USA

Is your state or organization still interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes No

Observer Report

(1) Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. If applicable, please include mention of collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

During the past two years Circumpolar Conservation Union ('CCU') has consistently participated in meetings of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and Experts Groups. We also attended the Senior Arctic Officials and Ministerial meetings during this time period, as well as the side meetings scheduled by the Permanent Participants. CCU participated in the meetings of the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response and Sustainable Development Working Groups. CCU also worked with individuals from and tracked specific projects within the Arctic Contaminants Action Program and Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Working Groups.

Over the last two years CCU has focused our efforts on assisting with Arctic Council initiatives designed to address environmental impacts in the Arctic environment and to ensure our work is properly coordinated with and supportive of Permanent Participant initiatives. To meet these objectives, CCU participates not only in the Working Groups, but also in the Shipping Experts Group, the Marine Protected Areas Experts Group, and the Ecosystem Approach Experts Group. CCU also attended the meetings of the Task Force on Marine Cooperation and presented at Arctic Council related conferences and workshops such as the August 2016 Ecosystem Approach Conference and the September 2016 Marine Protected Areas workshop.

CCU also provides relevant scientific information, policy expertise, and information from other international fora to help connect the work of the Arctic Council and its members with these other venues. For instance, CCU has been engaged with the United Nations work on protecting areas beyond national jurisdiction and the International Maritime Organization work on addressing global shipping emissions and implementing the Polar Code. The Arctic states are also engaged in this work, and CCU worked with key delegations and members of the Permanent Participants to ensure that the work at these fora is complementary. We have already seen some positive results, including the committees at the IMO being better able to consider and incorporate the groundbreaking work of the Arctic Council related to shipping and emissions.

CCU also developed work products and sponsored workshops designed to assist the Arctic Council with current priorities, including those related to Marine Protected Areas and Arctic Marine Cooperation. Specifically, CCU hired a PhD scientist to lead a project to summarize

and map important marine habitats across the circumpolar Arctic. The resulting report, *Important Ecological Marine Areas in the Arctic: A Descriptive Reference*, is a comprehensive primer mapping out important ecological marine areas in the Arctic. These maps and accompanying analysis were presented to the CAFF and PAME Working Groups, the Marine Protected Areas and Ecosystem Approach Experts Groups, the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø, and to individual Arctic state and Permanent Participant delegations. When the new data updating existing Marine Protected Areas across the Arctic is approved and released, CCU will update these maps and provide an analysis of the existing levels of protection. We have also acquired circumpolar Arctic vessel traffic data and will analyze the current level of activity within both unprotected important ecological marine areas and existing Marine Protected Areas.

In addition to participating in the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation meetings, in May 2016 CCU funded and hosted a two day workshop in Washington, D.C. to bring together scientists, policy experts, diplomats, Permanent Participants and others to share information on how international cooperation on the management of marine resources has worked around the globe, with a specific focus on successful or innovative approaches to achieving conservation that may be illustrative for our work in the Arctic. Participants also explored advancing conservation through the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach. The workshop was well attended, with opening remarks and participation from current Arctic Council Chair David Balton and other high level representatives of Arctic states and Permanent Participants. The outcomes of this workshop are being combined with CCU research on treaties and marine conservation and will be circulated to the relevant Arctic Council bodies and form the basis of a second workshop that we will host in 2017.

CCU also continued to work to ensure that our participation at the Arctic Council supports the work of the Permanent Participants. To this end, CCU held a variety of feedback and coordination meetings with leaders from the Permanent Participants and attended the side meetings held by the Permanent Participants at the Ministerial and Senior Arctic Officials meetings. CCU also contributed financially to the work of the Permanent Participants, including funding to support Aleut International Association's work to develop community subsistence maps. CCU also provided funding to support Permanent Participant travel to CCU workshops and other meetings related to indigenous community experience with Marine Protected Areas. While CCU is proud to provide this funding, we also met repeatedly with our contacts in the philanthropic community and encouraged them to provide direct support from charitable foundations to the individual Permanent Participants and through the emerging Algu fund.

Finally, CCU was able to provide funding to support specific initiatives at the Arctic Council, including general financial support for PAME and CAFF's work on Marine Protected Areas, specific funding for the Arctic Council September 2017 Marine Protected Areas workshop, and specific funding for the Ecosystem Approach Working Group and August 2016 Ecosystem Approach workshop in Fairbanks, Alaska.

(2) If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

Circumpolar Conservation Union is committed to continuing our work at the Arctic Council and reiterates our support for the objectives defined in the Ottawa Declaration and recognizes Arctic states' sovereignty, the legal framework applicable to the Arctic Ocean, and respects the values, interests, cultures and traditions of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants. It is our intention that CCU continues to provide expertise and support for the important work being undertaken at the Arctic Council.

Based on positive feedback from Arctic Council state delegations and Permanent Participants, CCU plans on continuing our recently expanded work, which is focused largely on conservation of the Arctic marine environment through increased protections and international cooperation. CCU's future plans for contributions as an Observer at the Arctic Council mirror much of our work over the last two years and specifically include:

- Consistent participation at the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, and Sustainable Development Working Groups;
- Continued engagement as members of the Marine Protected Areas, Shipping, and Ecosystem Approach Experts Groups;
- Financial support for Arctic Council Working Groups and/or projects focused on Marine Protected Areas, the Ecosystem Approach, and increased international cooperation;
- Financial support for Permanent Participant initiatives and travel;
- An independent analysis and mapping of updated Marine Protected Areas data and circumpolar vessel traffic data;
- CCU sponsored workshops on Marine Protected Areas and Arctic Marine Cooperation;
- Continued engagement at other international fora to assist with the Arctic Council's goal of better coordinating with other international institutions working on Arctic issues.

In addition, CCU welcomes feedback from all Arctic Council members regarding our objectives and priorities as we seek to support the activities of the Arctic Council.

(3) If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

Circumpolar Conservation Union continues to work outside the Arctic Council in a manner that we believe is both supportive of and complementary to the work of the Council. Over the past two years, this has resulted in CCU undertaking the following:

- Bringing expertise gained at the Arctic Council to other international fora, such as the International Maritime Organization, where work on issues such as emissions and shipping is greatly shaped by assessments and policy analysis at the Arctic Council;
- Presenting the opportunities to directly fund Arctic Council and Permanent Participant projects to the philanthropic community;
- Presenting the work of the Arctic Council to other environmental non-governmental organizations to ensure that they are apprised of the ongoing projects and achievements of the Arctic Council;
- Meeting with Arctic indigenous community leaders to discuss our work at the Arctic Council and receive feedback;
- Holding CCU hosted workshops and undertaking research projects that provide useful inputs to Arctic Council priorities, including publishing *Important Ecological Marine Areas in the Arctic: A Descriptive Reference* and hosting a workshop on Arctic Marine Cooperation;
- Working with the media to better disseminate the positive achievements of the Arctic Council (see, for example, <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-us-arctic-council-20150425-story.html>);
- Presenting on CCU and Arctic Council work at academic conferences such as Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø and at the 2016 10 X 20 Marine Protected Areas conference in Rome.

CCU looks forward to working to help the Arctic Council remain the premier forum for the development of Arctic policy. We hope that our work outside the Council reinforces this and continues to help increase the visibility of the important and critical work of the Arctic Council.