

Instructions for submitting Observer reports

Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and instructions for Observers required to report during the **Icelandic Chairmanship (2019-2021)**.

The deadline for submission is **1 December 2020**.

According to the "[Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#)" (Annex 2), every **two years** Observers are requested to submit to the Chairmanship up-to-date information about relevant activities and their contributions to the work of the Arctic Council. The following **19 Observers** are requested to submit their report by **1 December 2020**:¹

- France;
- Italian Republic;
- Japan;
- People's Republic of China;
- Republic of India;
- Republic of Korea;
- Republic of Singapore;
- Spain;
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC);
- Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO);
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- Arctic Institute of North American (AINA);
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH);
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU);
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA);
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA);
- University of the Arctic (UArctic), and;
- International Maritime Organization (IMO).

¹ These include Observers admitted at the 2019 Rovaniemi Ministerial meeting, who will be reviewed for the first

Role of Observers

The role and responsibilities of Observers, as well as criteria for admission to the Arctic Council, can be found in the “Arctic Council Rules of Procedure” (Annex 2) and the “[Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies](#).”

The primary role of Observers is to observe the work of the Arctic Council. Observers contribute to the Arctic Council primarily through engagement at the level of Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Observers are invited to the meetings and other activities of the Arctic Council unless the Senior Arctic Officials decide otherwise. Observers may also propose projects through an Arctic State or a Permanent Participant.

Report submission

Observer reports should include the relevant information described below and in the template.

- (a) A description of the Observer’s contributions to the work of the Arctic Council since the time of the Observer’s most recent submission, or in the previous two years, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants;
- (b) If applicable, a description of the Observer’s future plans to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants; and,
- (c) If applicable, a description of the Observer’s contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered in the previous sections since the time of the Observer’s most recent submission, or in the previous two years.

Observer reports should be submitted electronically to the **Arctic Council Secretariat** via email: acs@arctic-council.org not later than **1 December 2020**. Please bear in mind while preparing your report that all Observer reports will be published online in the *Observer* section of the [Arctic Council online Library](#).

If an Observer fails to submit a report, the Arctic Council will consider this to mean that the Observer **is no longer interested in maintaining its status** as an accredited Observer to the Arctic Council.



Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH)

Date of submission:

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.reindeerportal.org

Information for appropriate contact person

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Job Title:

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Observer Report

Please describe in no more than two pages your state's 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. Please detail any collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

WRH is managing the SDWG EALLU Project and the CAFF Nomadic Herders Project in cooperation with Arctic States and PPs. These projects represent follow-up of ACIA, SDWG/IPY EALÁT 2007-2011 and SDWG EALLIN 2012-2015. WRH has also contributed to the ACAP CLEO project, in engaging indigenous youth in environmental observations. Through these initiatives, WRH has hosted over 70 community-based workshops, student seminars, and academic gatherings from 2015-2020, held across the Arctic. WRH has contributed substantial in-kind and financial support for this work.

WRH has been able to mobilize pan-Arctic indigenous youth in the EALLU project, with participation of all PPs and support of the five co-lead States, to gain global momentum and recognition of their Arctic Council work and traditional indigenous knowledge on food. WRH and the EALLU project had planned for the very *first Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Food Congress* in Guovdageaidnu, Norway in March 2020, which had to be postponed on short notice due to Covid19.

WRH has also actively contributed to other various Arctic Council projects, processes and initiatives, over a variety of WGs. This includes AMAP SAON, ACAP CLEO, SDWG ARR/ARAF/ARF, and more.

The last 2 years WRH has contributed through ICR by authoring/ co-authoring Arctic Council reports, scientific articles and supportive publications. The core contributions have centered around contributing Traditional Indigenous Knowledge of the Nomadic Arctic Indigenous Peoples. Deliveries includes the following items:

Sara, R.B.M.E & Mathiesen S.D (2020): *Sámi Gastronomy: the Role of Traditional Knowledge*. Journal of Gastronomy and Tourism. <https://doi.org/10.3727/216929720X15968961037890>

Hansen KK, T. Moldenæs and S.D Mathiesen (2020): *The knowledge that went up in smoke: Reindeer herders' traditional knowledge of smoked reindeer meat in literature*. Polar Record. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0032247420000170>

Oskal, A and M. Pogodaev et al (2019): *EALLU - Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: Youth, Knowledge & Change 2015-2019*. Arctic Council SDWG EALLU Ministerial Meeting Report 2019. International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and Association of World Reindeer Herders, Kautokeino, Norway, 2019

Eira, I.M.G, S.D Mathiesen, A. Oskal and I. Hanssen-Bauer (2018): *Snow cover and the loss of traditional indigenous knowledge*. Nature Climate Change 2018. ISSN 1758-678X.s doi: [10.1038/s41558-018-0319-2](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-018-0319-2).

Svein D. Mathiesen, Mathis P. Bongo, P. Burgess, Robert W. Corell, Anna Degteva, Inger Marie G Eira, Inger Hassen-Bauer, Alvaro Ivanoff, Ole Henrik Magga, Nancy G. Maynard, Anders Oskal, Mikail Pogodaev, Mikkel N. Sara, Dagrun Vikhamar Schuler and Ellen Inga Turi (2018): *Indigenous Reindeer Herding and Adaptation to New Hazards in the Arctic*. In D. Nakashima, I. Krupnik & J.T. Rubis, *Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation* (pp 198-213). Cambridge, U.K. and Paris, France: Cambridge University Press and UNESCO. ISBN 978-1-107-13788-2.

In addition, science/TIK abstracts has been accepted/ delivered to various scientific conferences, as well as policy-related forums etc.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's 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.

WRH aims to continue its efforts for collaboration with States and PPs in AC projects and processes, both in projects managed by WRH and beyond. Concerning future plans, WRH will

- Continue to represent *the voice of the Nomadic Arctic Indigenous Peoples* as a corrective input to the Arctic Council work from the grassroots of the region, including our Traditional Indigenous Knowledge, thereby complementing the knowledge base upon which Council decisions are made or shaped.
- build on and further develop its *methods for engagement of indigenous youth* for knowledge co-production, mobilisation and participation in the Arctic Council, as pioneered through the SDWG EALÁT, EALLIN and EALLU projects, our ACAP CLEO components, and the CAFF Nomadic Herders project etc.
- continue its work in managing the SDWG EALLU and CAFF Nomadic Herders projects, together with States and PPs.
- continue development of WRH's *Training of Future Arctic Leaders* concept, together with partners in UArctic and beyond, including Harvard University, NEFU, Nord University and more. This includes the *James J. McCarthy Leadership Seminar* and *Food Innovation Leadership* educational programs.
- continue its involvement in the SDWG ARF, AFIC, Indigenous Heritage and Arctic Children projects, in the ACAP CLEO project, in the CAFF initiative on youth engagement, and in the AMAP SAON program.
- seek to be involved further in EPPR and PAME, relating to eg. forest/ tundra fires and northern searoutes.
- seek to be engaged in follow up of the Arctic research agreement and ASM.
- wishes to engage stronger in the health work of the Arctic Council, notably AHHEG and the One health project.
- remain open to any AC project proposal that may positively impact the Nomadic Arctic Indigenous Peoples
- continue to contribute to the fulfillment of the Arctic Council Ministerial Declarations

Representing the Nomadic Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic, WRH would contribute to the Arctic Council with its expertise on Traditional Indigenous Knowledge, indigenous nomadic livelihoods and civilisation, adaptation and resilience, capacity building, research and education, as well as our cross-cutting youth engagement. Itself an indigenous organisation, a central element of WRH's approach to AC work is to seek collaboration with PPs, both on the regional, national and Arctic level. The main geographical focus of WRH will clearly continue to be the Arctic States. However, in our efforts to also work together with AC Observers, WRH will seek collaboration as appropriate with Observer States such as China and the UK, as they also have smaller reindeer herding populations.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's 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.

In 2018, the SDWG EALLU Report for the Fairbanks Ministerial Meeting – “*EALLU Indigenous Youth, Food Knowledge and Arctic Change*” – won the main award as the World's Best Food Book across all categories, at the 23rd International Gourmand Awards in Yantai, China, in competition with 1 372 book entries from 116 States.

In 2020, the book was named one of the *25 Best Food Books of All Time* by the International Gourmand Foundation. WRH is has thus been able to maintain and gain momentum of the SDWG EALLU youth project on the international food scene.