

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Association of World Reindeer Herders

Date of submission:

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Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.ReindeerPortal.org

Information for appropriate contact person

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

Yes No

Observer Report

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.

We focus our report on the *concrete actions and contributions of WRH, ie. through projects, task forces etc.* We also refer to the earlier Review of WRH as an Arctic Council Observer, delivered to AC August 1, 2010.

A) ARCTIC COUNCIL PROJECTS MANAGED BY WRH:

- **SDWG IPY EALÁT (2007-2011)**, Reindeer Herding, Traditional Knowledge and Adaptation to Climate Change and Loss of Pastures. Leads/Co-Leads Norway, Russia, Saami Council, Raipon.
- **SDWG EALLIN: Reindeer Herding Youth (2012-2015)**, Active Engagement of Arctic Indigenous Youth for Awareness Raising, Capacity Building and the Training of Future Arctic Leaders Program. Leads/Co-Leads: Russia, Norway, Saami Council, UArctic and others. Project managed by ICR and WRH (co-managed by indigenous youth).
- **SDWG EALLU: Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture (Ongoing 2015-2019)**. Leads/Co-Leads: Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Norway, Russian Federation, USA, AIA, Saami Council. Project managed by ICR and WRH (co-managed by indigenous youth).
- **CAFF Nomadic Herders: Enhancing the Resilience of Pastoral Ecosystems and Livelihoods (Ongoing/ In prep.)**. Leads/Co-Leads: Russian Federation, Norway, Saami Council. Also endorsed by UNEP. Currently in a preparatory phase, while clarifying main funding.

WRH is thus amongst the group of very few AC observers that is managing AC projects for and in close collaboration with States and PPs, as well as in interaction with other observers. This includes initiation, planning, implementation and reporting of the projects. Working with AC projects seems to be a way of meaningful and positive engagement of States and PPs for initiatives of importance for Arctic indigenous peoples and their local societies.

Through the mentioned projects, WRH and its international center ICR have *provided substantial funding, in-kind contributions, expertise in different fields, know-how in project leadership and management, including providing TK of reindeer herding peoples.* WRH has also sought and enjoyed a good collaboration with various PPs on these initiatives.

B) OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO AC PROJECTS ETC:

WRH also engages with other AC projects, including active participation in the following projects:

- **AMAP AACAC** (CLAs, LAs and CAs for various chapters of the upcoming Barents report. Participation in the Steering Group for the Barents Report. Drafting the Indigenous Peoples Chapter of the AACAC Barents report.)
- **SDWG TLK Project** (Contributing professional expertise on TK etc.)
- **CAFF ABA** (Seeking active engagement in the work to follow up ABA recommendations.)
- **ARR** (Contributing to the Intermediary Report to Ministers in 2013 with a separate Case Chapter. Taking part in the follow up work on **ARR II/ ARA**.)

Also here, WRH and ICR have provided substantial funding, in-kind contributions, and expertise in different fields, including on reindeer pastoralism, indigenous issues, and Traditional Knowledge from reindeer herding peoples.

C) AC TASK FORCES, OTHER INITIATIVES:

In collaboration with the Saami Council, WRH has contributed to various Task Forces, notably **TFCBF** and **TFSC**. WRH has offered its perspectives and contributions of TK into the process. This includes travel costs and in-kind contributions/ work hours.

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.

WRH is dedicated to try to contribute its best to the work of the Arctic Council, following up existing initiatives and projects, and trying to contribute to defining important areas of focus ahead. In this way, WRH works for active contribution to complement the knowledge base upon which decisions are made or shaped in the AC.

Apart for the focus on ongoing and current work/ projects, WRH foresees a stronger participation in the *SDWG Rising Sun* initiative.

In line with the incoming Finnish Chairmanship, WRH remains strongly dedicated to our *focus on education* of indigenous reindeer herding youth, and the organisation's efforts in this field continues, including through UArctic and UArctic EALÁT Institute. WRH has a wide transboundary network of academic partner institutions that we leverage for action linked to these purposes.

The Declarations from our World Reindeer Herders' Congresses (WRHC) represents the key documents in relation to our work, highlighting also the importance of our active contributions into AC.

A close relationship and collaboration with States and PPs remains a core aspect of our engagement in AC. This is for instance naturally followed up with our current AC projects, notably SDWG EALLU and CAFF Nomadic Herders, as well as in relation to other AC projects, TFs and processes.

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.

WRH is trying to contribute in positive ways to the overall work of the Arctic Council. This includes outreach activities on the Arctic Council through www.reindeerportal.org, at our international events, and through our work in general. This especially relates to our work with indigenous youth and indigenous students. This has contributed that circumpolar reindeer herding societies and youth know about, and count on, the AC.

In order to highlight the Arctic and relevant issues, WRH has always been willing to help organise Arctic Council events and action. As an example, WRH and ICR are together with Saami Council assisting in organising and local hosting of the next CAFF meeting in Kautokeino/ Guovdageaidnu Norway on Jan 31- Feb 2, 2017, in close collaboration with the leadership of CAFF. In this case, we wish to also contribute to concrete examples and understanding of reindeer herders' traditional knowledge, relevant for CAFFs work. In the same manner, we have contributed to hosting other WG meetings, as well as the SAO meeting in Kautokeino in 2008.