

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 time during the Russian Federation’s Chairmanship (2021-2023).

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:

Circumpolar Conservation Union

Date of submission:

December 1, 2020

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.circumpolar.org

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Whit Sheard

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Organization or department:

Circumpolar Conservation Union

Job Title:

President

Full
mailing
address:

2144 SE Salmon St.
Portland OR 97214
USA

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.

Over the past two years, Circumpolar Conservation Union ('CCU') has continued to participate in the work of the Arctic Council, with a focus on marine conservation issues. While our participation is most prominent at the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment meetings, CCU also attends the Senior Arctic Officials meetings and communicates regularly with the Secretariats of other Working Groups, such as Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, with whom we coordinate on several projects. CCU also participated in the events surrounding the Ministerial meeting.

CCU's goal continues to be to support the priorities of the Council and the Permanent Participants by providing scientific and policy expertise on marine conservation issues, networking with other civil society organizations to ensure that the Council is aware of any emerging concerns, and participating in the execution of Arctic Council Working Group, Task Force, and other related projects. CCU also strives to find unique opportunities to support projects being led by Permanent Participant organizations.

Specifically, over the last two years CCU focused largely on the Council's projects focused on shipping, marine protected areas, community concerns related to environmental protection, Arctic marine cooperation, and marine debris.

Our contributions included:

- Participating in the work of the Shipping Experts and Marine Debris Experts Group, including providing expertise, reviewing documents, attending Working Group pre-meetings, and joining intersessional working calls.
- Joining Iceland and WWF as a project co-lead on a new survey of vessel operations that looks at selected wastewater discharges in Arctic waters, specifically grey water, sewage, and exhaust gas cleaning system (scrubber) effluent. The co-sponsors are working next to conduct further outreach to potential co-sponsors and lay the groundwork for the project.
- Reviewing and providing input on several projects and reports, including the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter, Arctic Ship Traffic Data, Protection from Invasive Species, Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Central Arctic Ocean, and Underwater Noise in the Arctic.
- Participating in the development and meetings of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum, including coordinating with participants relating to other shipping forums such as the International Maritime Organization.

- Working with the Government of Iceland to assist with planning for the proposed Iceland Symposium on the Threat of Plastics to the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Marine Environment, including organizing side events and offering travel assistance to Permanent Participant organizations that wished to participate. If the postponed event goes forward in person, we will again offer travel assistance.
- Working with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wageningen Economic Research, and WWF Denmark to fund a West Greenland beach marine debris collection and community litter identification workshop.
- Participating in the followup work of the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, including the recent webinar series.

It has been several very busy years and CCU greatly appreciates the work that the Council has achieved. We are hopeful that our ongoing engagement provides a valuable contribution.

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.

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.

As many of the projects we are currently sponsoring or joined in order to provide potential expertise are continuing during the next two years, our efforts will continue to focus on marine conservation and community-based conservation concerns.

This will include at minimum:

- Participation in the work of the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group and coordination with other Working Groups on projects relating to shipping, community well-being, and conservation.
- Co-leading the project undertaking a new survey of vessel operations that looks at selected wastewater discharges in Arctic waters, specifically grey water, sewage, and exhaust gas cleaning system (scrubber) effluent.
- Participation in projects put forward in the workplans of the Shipping and Marine Debris Experts Groups.
- Providing input to the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean, with a focus on shipping impacts and protected areas.
- Participating in any followup to the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation webinar series and meetings.
- Participating in new projects under the Russia Chair related to renewable energy and shipping.
- Providing travel support or other funding for Permanent Participant organizations for specific projects such as the marine debris symposium.

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

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.

Circumpolar Conservation Union strives to augment our work at the Arctic Council in various other ways that we feel contribute to the Arctic Council and its goals.

These include:

- Communicating Arctic Council achievements and opportunities to the public, via media outreach and presentations at conferences/meetings.
- Reaching out to scientists and other stakeholders that may have expertise to contribute to the work of the Council.
- Communicating Arctic Council achievements and opportunities to the philanthropic funding community and specifically highlighting the opportunities to fund the Permanent Participants directly as well as the projects prioritized by the Permanent Participants.
- Coordinating at other international forums, such as the International Maritime Organization, and ensuring that the work of the Arctic Council is being incorporated into the proceedings.
- Working with the broader scientific community to highlight the work in the Arctic and increase the funding committed to scientific projects working in partnership with communities.
- Working continuously to communicate with the larger conservation community that there is a unique situation in the Arctic and that conservation organizations interested in working in the region must be fully committed to respecting the values, cultures and tradition of Arctic indigenous peoples.

In closing, we would like to once again want to thank you for all the hard work that goes into keeping this outstanding institution effective. Please feel free to follow up with any requests for clarification or more information.