

Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and Community Involvement in Arctic Research

The meaningful engagement of people living in the Arctic is critical to developing societally relevant research to address the rapidly changing Arctic Environment. As part of the ASM3 process, the organizers asked participating countries and organizations for information on opportunities for the involvement for Indigenous Peoples and Arctic residents. The information collected is summarized below broken down by country.

Austria

- Opportunities exist on the basis of specific projects.

Canada

- Inuit and other Arctic and Northern Indigenous peoples in Canada are leading efforts to address knowledge gaps in their communities, and changing how knowledge is gathered, created and shared. Local and regional monitoring programs, land-based learning initiatives and land management plans across Inuit Nunangat and in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory are facilitating stewardship and enabling self-determined observation and response to environmental change. Examples of Indigenous-led initiatives include:
 - Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program
 - Northern Contaminants Program
 - Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program,
 - Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward program (in association with the newly created Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area),
 - Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Government of Yukon, Ch’ihilii Chik Habitat Protection Area
 - Dehcho First Nation and Environment and Climate Change Canada, Edézhíe Indigenous Protected Area and National Wildlife Area
 - Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey
- The Government of Canada has specific obligations with respect to working with Inuit under provisions such as Article 23 and 24 of the Nunavut Agreement, and is committed to co-development with Indigenous peoples through mechanisms such as the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and Canada’s Impact Assessment Act. Canada also provides support for Indigenous peoples’ involvement in Arctic research activities through the Arctic Council, by providing funding for Indigenous representatives, including Arctic Council Permanent Participant organizations to directly lead or participate in Arctic research activities. Through the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF), Canada is bolstering support for Canadian Indigenous participation to engage at the Arctic Council, including Indigenous participation in UArctic research activities.
- New measures to strengthen Indigenous and northern involvement in government-funded research are increasingly common:
 - The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN)
 - ArcticNet, North by North Program
 - Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada: increased partnership eligibility including public, non-profit and indigenous organizations (i.e. Alliance Grants)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada: recent Connection Grants funding for Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation; tools to support i) applicants working in

Indigenous research, ii) merit reviewers assessing applications related to Indigenous research; Indigenous not-for-profit organizations can administer funds for certain grant programs.

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research: advancing national health research agenda through:
 - the Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health
 - Inuit Research Network Development Grant, a directed grant to support ITK's mission.
 - Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR): which includes funding for the Institute of Circumpolar Health Research is located in the North Western Territories and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre is located in Nunavut.
 - Team Grant: Food Security and Climate Change in the Canadian North
- Polar Knowledge Canada: expanded eligibility criteria to enable non-academic northern-based and/or Indigenous organizations to access funding; requirement for all projects led by southern-based institutions to include a partnership with a northern-based and/or Indigenous organization.

China

- During the implementation of projects, Eskimos were hired to assist in field observations. This is one of their important sources of income. We welcome indigenous peoples with specific background knowledge to join our natural science research programs.

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic manage station in Svalbard / collaborate with local university (UNIS) and Norwegian Polar Institute

Denmark

- UFM supports the circumpolar collaboration 'University of the Arctic' (UArctic), which is an interdisciplinary network involved with education and research in, and about, the Arctic. UArctic promotes cultural diversity, language plurality and gender equality while highlighting the partnership between the region's indigenous peoples and other northerners.

European Union

- In general, collaborative research projects are very open in terms of participation. In some cases, the topic description may specifically encourage the involvement of Indigenous Peoples/communities. See e.g. topic LC-CLA-20-2020: Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus.

Faroe Islands

- The University of the Faroe Islands is part of the circumpolar collaboration 'University of the Arctic' (UArctic), which is an interdisciplinary network involved with education and research in, and about, the Arctic.

Finland

- Sami People are the Finland North's indigenous people. There are a lot of research projects on Sami history, communities, language, way of living, climate change impacts, etc.
- There are many scientists with indigenous background.
- Citizen science is one way of having indigenous people and local people and their experience and presence included in the research of various scientific disciplines.

France

- Created in 2018, Arctic Week is an international conference that provides transdisciplinary approaches to climate and environmental changes in the Arctic. It aims to offer an overview of different challenges in the Arctic regions, as understood by Arctic peoples and researchers. The idea of the Arctic Week is to create synergies between social and environmental scientists and between scientists and Arctic indigenous peoples while also engaging students and youth in these projects.

Germany

- The involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities is a priority in a number of German-coordinated research projects. Support for Indigenous Peoples is provided in particular within EU-funded projects, such as Nunataryuk.

Greenland

- Firstly, the majority of the local population in Greenland is of indigenous descent, so the terms “local” or “Greenlandic” are used synonymously with “indigenous”. Greenlandic people have for decades participated in scientific research in Greenland.
- With regards to specific opportunities for the public, the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR) uses local (Greenlandic) service providers whenever possible. For almost 30 years MMR has hosted the Ujarassiorit mineral hunt. Amateur rock-hunters, who are residents in Greenland, can enter the competition by sending a rock to MMR free of charge with the purpose of potentially identifying new exploration targets and spark the public's interest in geology.
- Asiaq will always prioritize Greenlandic indigenous people with the appropriate competences when hiring new staff.
- Greenland Center for Health Research (GCHR) are moving towards increased community-based participatory research approaches, and encourage collaboration with local organization and knowledge dissemination.
- The NKA and National Museum of Denmark are currently collaborating on a four-year (2020-2023) research project titled Activating Arctic Heritage, which directly engages several different sectors of the local Greenlandic population. This includes training Greenlandic university students in archaeological fieldwork, as well as the direct involvement of local citizenry in dialogues, monitoring, and community-mapping of cultural heritage, history and traditional land-use in the newly inscribed UNESCO World Heritage properties of Kujataa and Aasivissuit-Nipisat.
- Isaaffik.org reference: Activating Arctic Heritage
- The Greenland Research Council has a Research Promotion pool for initiation and research projects in all scientific fields. Since 1997, two annual allocations have been made and is financed by the Government of Greenland.
- The Research Council of Medical Science also have a pool which is administered by Greenland Research Council.

Iceland

- Iceland strongly supports the equal participation of Indigenous Peoples in Arctic research. As Iceland does not have an established domestic Arctic Research Program or an indigenous population, there are no domestic programs specifically designed to provide opportunities for Indigenous Peoples.

India

- We are yet to mount projects that have direct connect with indigenous communities. However, we intend to take up projects which support involvement of indigenous communities of Cambridge bay (CHARS) and also take up research themes that directly benefits the indigenous communities.

Italy

- No specific instruments have been developed up to now.
- The PRA includes a macro-theme devoted to research and activities aimed at reducing the effects and consequences of climate change on Arctic populations, as well as the sustainable development of the region and the preservation of traditional indigenous cultures.
- Educational activities, such as Hackathon events (<https://www.romunsioi.org/>) organized by SIOI, can be very useful in providing opportunities for indigenous people to meet and communicate on challenges facing the Arctic. SIOI (<https://www.sioi.org/en/>) is the only Italian Institution affiliated to UArctic.
- The instruments described above (short term mobility grants etc.) are tools through which opportunities and support for Indigenous people can be provided.

Japan

- The ArCS project implemented up to March 2020, promoted the following efforts in collaboration with indigenous people and local residents. These efforts will be succeeded to the ArCS II project started in 2020.
 - Holding workshops in Qaanaaq, Greenland to share knowledge and obtained data of changes in the local/regional natural environment and its potential social impact
 - Producing an education material on the environment and recent changes in Sakha Republic, Russia; the knowledge obtained through field research by anthropologists and natural scientists are also included.

Republic of Korea

- The Arctic Science Fellowship is open to early career scientists from Arctic countries (i.e. Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States) and researchers who are of Arctic indigenous heritage, who wishes to visit and conduct research at KOPRI for a period up to 3 months. For further information: <https://www.kopri.re.kr/eng/html/edu/040402.html>
- The Korea Arctic Academy invites students from the Arctic regions and provides them with diverse lectures and field trips dealing with key Arctic issues, including Arctic Science. Among the participants from Arctic countries, more than 30% are of Arctic indigenous background. For further information: <https://education.uarctic.org/news/2020/7/call-for-student-nomination-the-6th-korea-arctic-academy-online-course>

The Netherlands

- To date, the Netherlands have not actively provided such opportunities, but might consider new initiatives in the future.

Norway

- Public or private user communities, including indigenous peoples' organizations, can be partners in specific research funding proposals to the Research Council of Norway (RCN).
- RCN has a dedicated funding program for Sámi research which e.g. should enable the Sámi people to strengthen and develop their language, culture and community life.
- There is an indigenous peoples' representative in the Research Council of Norway's portfolio board for "Climate and Polar Research".

Poland

- No. It is resulted by fact that the Polish research activities are performed predominantly at Svalbard archipelago.

Portugal

- FCT has no specific opportunities or support for Indigenous Peoples and/or community involvement in Arctic research activities. Nonetheless, Portuguese researchers have been collaborating with Indigenous Peoples through the Portuguese Polar Program support.

Singapore

- MFA offers scholarships under the Singapore–Arctic Council Permanent Participants (PP) Cooperation Package as part of the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP). The package includes scholarships for: (a) Indigenous Peoples to attend select Masters courses in Singapore universities; (b) customised study visits to Singapore on PPs' requested areas of interest; and (c) priority places in SCP courses of interest to the Permanent Participants. AC members/PPs can also nominate participants for SCP Calendar courses, Leadership Programmes and Executive Education Programmes.

Sweden

- The researchers are free to use their funding for all activities that are beneficial for their projects. That can include funding for indigenous peoples.

Switzerland

- Through archaeological and anthropological studies of long-term human adaptation, a few Swiss researchers have distinguished themselves internationally throughout the 20th century and now at the beginning of the 21st. Switzerland, as a global economic player, as an Observer in the Arctic Council, and as a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty, has a strategic interest in better understanding the developments in the Arctic, in the Southern Ocean, and in Antarctica from social sciences' perspectives. Through the international engagement of researchers in projects involving Indigenous participants and communities, Swiss representation on the International Whaling Commission (IWC), as well as through the contacts of Swiss museums with Arctic artists and communities, Switzerland has generated goodwill among Indigenous governance bodies, including the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. This precious capital should be maintained and developed. [Source: Swiss Polar Institute (2019). Polar Science in Switzerland: Proposed priorities for the Swiss Polar Institute (SPI) up to 2025 and beyond.]
- Whilst no dedicated subsidy is offered in these fields, funding opportunities offered by the SPI are thematically open and notably include social sciences and humanities. In its project evaluations and own programs, the SPI includes criteria related to ethics, community involvement and collaboration with local communities.

United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom recognizes and supports the importance of Indigenous Peoples and local communities being involved in Arctic research activities. Finding innovative and appropriate ways of combining scientific excellence with Traditional and Local Knowledge has a key role in producing research that speaks to local as well as national and international priorities. The UK has organized and funded a range of conferences and events to advance this agenda. The importance of this inclusive approach is stressed within 'Beyond the Ice' the UK Government's 2018 Arctic Policy Framework.
- The United Kingdom integrates the connections it expects researchers to make with local communities within the overall grants and funding process, as well as the ethical judgements prior to any research. There is an expectation that researchers demonstrate the impact and connections across a range of appropriate areas, including with local communities.
- We recognize that there are opportunities for stronger connections between researchers based in the UK and those within Indigenous and other local communities. Through initiatives such as the UK-Canada Bursaries Programme there are growing opportunities to support genuinely collaborative projects in the Arctic. The UK is committed to exploring major new opportunities to grow these connections.

United States of America

- The United States supports many initiatives focused on community engagement through the Arctic Council, IARPC, North Pacific Research Board, Alaska Sea Grant, and Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy.
- The Department of Interior provides support for student internships under the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program and undertakes specific programs to enhance community outreach and capacity building.
- Indigenous peoples engage in NASA's Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment in northwestern Canada and Alaska. NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project for American Indian and Alaska Native STEM Engagement seeks to increase American Indian and Alaska Native engagement in STEM through authentic and unique NASA experiences.
- NSF funds awards to Indigenous organizations and Indigenous Scholars through its regular competitions and encourages proposals that will enrich interactions and improve collaboration between Arctic communities and NSF-funded researchers.
- NOAA engages with Indigenous communities through the Alaska Ocean Observing System and other engagements regarding research and management of coastal resources and supports Indigenous community engagement training for researchers. NOAA and Alaska Sea Grant launched a marine education and workforce development program to increase Alaska Native/rural student representation at NOAA. NOAA's Arctic Report Card included a contribution from the Bering Sea Elders in 2019.