



THE ARCTIC WE WANT

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES JULY 2019 – JULY 2020

In our collective efforts to achieve the objectives of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, following a delay to mark the two-year anniversary of the adoption of the *Utqiaġvik Declaration*, we share the following information as a reflection of the actions that we have achieved from July 2019 to July 2020 in response to the priorities that we set in 2018.

Despite the uncertainty and grave threats that the coronavirus pandemic has created for our communities, we have worked diligently and under strained circumstances to continue the pursuit of our objectives. Key among our objectives was the desire to host the **Circumpolar Inuit Summit on Health and Wellness** in September 2020. Due to Covid-19, the Summit has been rescheduled for September 2021. To be sure, Inuit participants to the Summit will be addressing our collective response to the pandemic and to gain insights on how to better prepare ourselves for similar and predictably future pandemics. Please accept our apologies for delivering this report now and not in July. We, too, have been individually and collectively limited in our physical engagement in meetings and have faced fatigue due to the incessant Zoom, WebEx, and MS Team meetings (among others). However, we are pleased to now offer this summary of accomplishments.

As the coronavirus has exposed so many inequities in our communities, we are extremely grateful to the leadership across Inuit Nunaat for all of their actions to minimize the impact of Covid-19 upon our people. We know for certain that such decision-making and day to day work will continue throughout this era of our lives. Finally, we also thank every Inuk that has assisted us in our collective work since July 19, 2019 to present.

The *Utqiaġvik Declaration Implementation Plan* was put into final print and distributed in September 2019. This document serves as the directives to the whole of the ICC in carrying out our work between 2018 to 2022. Each ‘Implementation Team’ has had the opportunity to meet and achieve a number of their respective goals. For ease of reference, the Teams include the following and the attached Implementation Team list provides the names of those that have agreed to serve.

- Operations and Organizational Efficiency
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Sustainable Wildlife Management
- Food Security
- Sustainable Development
- Environment
- Education and Language
- Health and Wellness
- Family and Youth
- International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships

International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships

International Indigenous Human Rights and United Nations

We continue to monitor the **2030 Sustainable Development Goals** through the efforts of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group. Into the future, we hope to align the objectives of the Arctic Council SDWG agenda in order to illustrate achievement of the SDGs in the Arctic region. Our leadership has focused on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (**PFII**). A key element of this work has been to highlight the distinct Arctic perspective of the issues that are set on the PFII agenda. We have also been able to increase youth representation in this important forum. For 2020, the PFII session was cancelled due to Covid-19 and it is our hope that through collaboration with the PFII Chair, Anna Nuorgum, that we will still be able to report some successes in specific areas such as food security.

UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly

In collaboration with our Sami colleagues, the ICC has been monitoring developments on the initiative on the **Enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples in the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council**. The enhancement of Indigenous Peoples' right to participate in the UN is an important and enduring process. Building on the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and various studies and proposals from Indigenous Peoples, the 2014 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, committed to “consider ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.” The process has been moving slowly due to Covid-19. However, the Sami Parliament in Finland leadership hosted a meeting in Quito, Ecuador in January 2020, and has been initiating Zoom meetings to maintain pressure on the UN member states to gain advances. Related to a request for an Inuit representative to a “temporary coordinating group” in May 2019, the ICC identified Tukumminnguaq Olsen to participate in the **Coordinating Body**. In addition, we contributed to the discussion of identifying two Indigenous representatives as **Indigenous Advisors** and also expressed our views on the consideration of two UN member state representatives for the ongoing PGA process, which included the governments of Finland, South Africa, Mexico, and Canada.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

We are happy to report that a concrete, significant outcome of the International Year for Indigenous Languages resulted in the UN declaring the period 2022 – 2032 as the **International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL)**. This decision of the UN General Assembly invited UNESCO to serve as the lead agency for the International Decade, in collaboration with other relevant agencies. The main objectives of the Decade are to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them; and to take urgent steps at the national and international levels to do so. In the context of the seven socio-cultural regions of the world, the ICC and the Saami Council make up the Arctic region and as such we have the opportunity to identify representatives to serve on an international Steering Committee as well as an Advisory Group, the two key bodies that will work with UNESCO to determine the activities of the Decade.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

In September 2019, the ICC participated in a special FAO Expert Seminar on Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Peoples Fisheries in the Arctic Region, which took place in Rome, Italy. Other Inuit from Greenland and Alaska included Tønnes “Kaka” Berthelsen, Megan Alvanna Stimpfle, Alfred Jakobsen, and Laureli Ivanoff. The ICC Chair was a member of the Technical Committee to draft the final Declaration

of the Summit. Though a month into next year's ICC report, we want to share that the FAO held an introductory meeting between Inuit leaders and their North America Liaison Office on Inuit food systems specifically. Approximately 20 observers virtually attended and the program included Inuit leaders including Mary Peltola, Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Vera Metcalf, ICC Executive Council Member and ED of Eskimo Walrus Commission; Sandra Inutiq, Chief Negotiator of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. Eva Aariak was not able to attend and designated advisor Andrew Bresnahan, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and also Peter Thomas, US Marine Mammal Service. On the FAO side, Mikaila Way and Vimlendra Sharan, Director of the North America Liaison office; and Yon Fernandez Larrinoa, Indigenous Peoples Team, Rome, FAO. The session focused on North America generally was attended by Carolina Behe and Jimmy Stotts of ICC Alaska. It is anticipated that these sessions will contribute to the forthcoming October 2021 FAO Food Systems Summit.

UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

An ICC delegation was present at the virtual UN **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)** session, which this year focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the rights of Indigenous peoples under the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, ICC made a statement about the infrastructure deficit throughout Inuit Nunaat. Before COVID-19 the EMRIP intended specific focus on a study addressing Indigenous peoples that transcend international borders, with a specific emphasis on our project to advance Inuit control and management of the Pikialasorsuaq between Canada and Kalaallit Nunaat.

EMRIP also held socio-cultural region meeting, including the Arctic region, where the ICC focused on a call to governments for urgent action to close the infrastructure gaps throughout Inuit Nunaat by making major new investments in our communities, prioritizing basic infrastructures such as housing, water, and sewer. Furthermore, we emphasized the need to ensure that this investment supports climate-resilient infrastructure critical for our Arctic communities, which are impacted by the most significant conditions of climate change. We also emphasized that this is the only way to create and ensure the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Inuit. These steps are necessary to reduce vulnerability and to actually gain social and economic equity and to support Inuit health and well-being in the face of such viruses and diseases.

European Union

ICC Greenland President Mr. Hjalmar Dahl attended the **Roundtable with Indigenous Peoples Experts and Representatives** arranged by EU in Brussels in February 2020. Other Arctic Indigenous representation included Finnish Sami Anne Nuorgam, who is the present Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from Saamiland in Finland. The roundtable dialogue was to follow up on the European Union Council Conclusions on Indigenous Peoples.

In 2017, the EU adopted Council Conclusions on Indigenous Peoples for the first time in 15 years. The Council underscores the crucial importance of further enhancing opportunities for dialogue and consultation with Indigenous peoples at all levels of EU cooperation, including in EU funded programs and projects to secure their full participation and their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in a meaningful and systematic way.

Hjalmar Dahl participated in the global perspective on ways the right to and the application of the Free Prior Informed Consent should be operationalized. In addressing FPIC, Hjalmar reinforced it is grounded in the UN Declaration and should define relations between states, the private sector, and rights holders. FPIC embraces the right for indigenous peoples to use their resources, land and territories including the right to say "no" and refuse if there is a conflict of interest for the Indigenous community, and it entails that Indigenous peoples should take part in the decisions that impact them.

He also provided comments on the specific case of the 2009 Act on Greenland Self-Government, replacing the 1979 Greenland Home Rule Arrangement, exploitation of the subsoil became the responsibility of the Greenland government. He emphasized that land in Greenland is collectively owned and thus individual Greenlanders cannot actually own land, which ultimately safeguards Indigenous peoples' uses, especially against extractive industries. He expressed concern that the processes are usually rushed, and insufficient time is provided to understand an investment project and its impacts upon rights holders. Two specific FPIC examples were identified, one in South Greenland concerning mining industry impacts upon sheep farming and another in north Greenland, where an offshore oil and gas company was given exploration rights by Greenland government within an important habitat and breeding grounds for marine life. The agreement did not take into account FPIC or the opposition of the Inuit – the Indigenous peoples of the region in both Canada and Greenland.

Another important development is the new membership of the **Sheep Farmers Association (SPS)** in Greenland. The Cooperative Sheep Farmers' Association was founded in 1951 during a meeting in the town of Alluitsup Paa, and since then served as the leading representative and professional body in Greenlandic agricultural business. SPS handles all areas in Greenlandic agriculture, although sheep farming is the most important area of operation. The majority of Greenlandic farmers are members of SPS and all Inuit. The farmers are serving Greenland with lamb meat and now developing their agricultural efforts to let Greenland be self-sufficient of potatoes and other vegetables.

Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

Our work on the UN **Intergovernmental Conference that will be negotiating an agreement for Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction** has been led by ICC Executive Council member Lisa Koperqualuk (Canada) and Stephanie Meakin of the Canada office with support from Carolina Behe (Alaska) as well as the ICC Chair. The focus has been on the importance of Indigenous Knowledge and the interrelated nature of biodiversity of the Arctic ocean and its coastal seas.

There is a need for ICC to focus more on EU. The Arctic has become a growing interest of Russia, China, and USA, as well as the EU. Specifically, the EU has developed an Arctic Programme and now has a significant policy on Indigenous peoples. Though the ICC Greenland has the EU file, lack of funding and manpower will require a division of responsibilities on this issue.

Arctic Council Working Groups and Senior Arctic Officials

We have consistently been active in the **Arctic Council** and have seen progress in the four Working Groups that we are most active within: the **Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)** where we're fortunate to have the involvement of Nicole Kanayurak; the **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)** where we are represented by Carolina Behe; the **Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)**, which is attended by Eva Krueffel from the Canada office; and the **Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)** where our delegation is led by Executive Council member Monica Ell-Kanayuk and is joined by John Crump, Vernae Angnaboogok, Tukumminnguaq Olsen, and Joanna MacDonald.

The central focus within **PAME** has been upon the problematic issue of plastics and pollution as well as a new initiative to identify Arctic Indigenous peoples' values in relation to the marine environment. In addition to Nicole Kanayurak, Emerging Leader Frances Olemaun are involved in this working group. They both presented at an Arctic Marine tourism workshop. John Crump, ICC Canada attended the marine litter workshop. They were also involved in the ongoing projects of PAME, including those focused on Marine Protected Areas; Ecosystem Approach; Shipping; Resource Development; and Marine Litter. In addition, Within the Meaningful Engagement in Marine Activities (MEMA) Group, they have continued working on

drafting a reference guide from the MEMA reports. The Ecosystem Approach (EA) Values and Valuation workshop scheduled for Nome in September 2020 was postponed.

ICC's work within **CAFF** has been complemented by participation of Emerging Leader Teresa Baldwin along with Carolina Behe. The substance has focused on the CAFF implementation of ongoing initiatives, such as the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program and the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative, and ongoing projects. Recently, CAFF began to work toward the development of the Action for Arctic Biodiversity 2021+ and agreeing upon a future workplan. ICC has stressed the importance of the new work plan and Action for Arctic Biodiversity include concrete steps to equitably engage Permanent Participants and Indigenous Knowledge in CAFF work. Key work projects within CAFF include - Inspiring Voices through Arctic Youth; Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands; Salmon People of Arctic Rivers; Implementation of the Arctic Invasive Species Strategy and action Plan (ARIAS); Mainstreaming Arctic Biodiversity; Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative; Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program; Circumpolar Seabird expert group (CBird); Arctic Wildland Fire Ecology Management and Monitoring Project (Arctic FIRE); and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (Coastal, Marine, Freshwater, and Terrestrial) is moving forward and is also developing a new four-year strategy. ICC has continued work and focus on the Coastal Expert Monitoring Group to guide the development of a platform that will support a co-production of knowledge approach (bringing together Indigenous Knowledge and Science) and strongly reflective of applying a food security lens to monitoring. Within this last year, an implementation plan was agreed upon.

AMAP continues to address the matter of pollution and its adverse impacts upon the foods that we eat from the lands and coastal seas. To support this work, and to provide the Inuit perspective, ICC has contributed to AMAP's technical assessments (e.g. the mercury assessment, human health assessment, Persistent Organic Pollutants and climate change assessments), and has led and co-led two chapters in two assessments (human health and mercury, respectively), and has organized contributions from the Inuit regions for this work. AMAP has also responded to pressure from ICC to work on better engagement of Permanent Participants (PPs) in AMAP work, to implement a true partnership approach, and work on better utilization of Indigenous Knowledge. As a result, these points are now clearly reflected in AMAP's strategic framework, and efforts are currently geared towards its implementation. To that effect, ICC and the other two PP organizations involved in AMAP (Saami Council and AAC) had several teleconferences with the AMAP secretariat, to discuss ways forward. Saami Council and the AMAP secretariat are working together on a pilot project on co-production of knowledge focusing on reindeer herding and climate change. ICC (Carolina Behe and Eva Krueemmel, working with Noor Johnson from Exchange of Local Observations and Knowledge in the Arctic, ELOKA) have also started to develop a pilot project on co-production on knowledge, which will likely provide input into the joint AMAP and CAFF ecosystem project. Further activities which ICC proposed include to hold a series of workshops with all PPs to reflect on experiences and develop specific guidance for better PP engagement, as well as structural changes in AMAP procedures. For the latter, ICC proposed that AMAP considers PPs for leadership positions in all areas (including the working group itself, as well as in expert groups). These efforts and discussions are ongoing.

The **SDWG** has done tremendous work on the human side of health and wellness and specifically, the problem of high rates of suicide and also living conditions across Inuit Nunaat. Though in-person meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19, a virtual Working Group meeting was held in June 2020 and ICC's delegation included Monica Ell-Kanayuk, John Crump, Tukumminnguaq Olsen & Verna Angnaboogok. The SDWG received updates on 11 SDWG projects, received information on 11 project proposals in various stages of development, received details about the new SDWG website, & an update from the AHHEG & SECEG expert groups as well as from PAME on marine litter.

Two projects were endorsed, the One Health, One Arctic & AHEAD projects. ICC continues to lead the Local2Global project, which aims to facilitate international collaboration & connections between circumpolar communities working to prevent suicide and support mental well-being of all Arctic youth & communities. Due to COVID-19, Local2Global project activities, including a study tour, have been postponed until 2021. ICC continues planning for the second Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA-2) & is preparing a funding proposal to be submitted to the National Science Foundation. ICC participated in the October 2020 SDWG meeting and recommended that a Task Force be established to facilitate Arctic Council follow up activities on the COVID-19 pandemic. This matter was discussed during November's Senior Arctic Officials meeting and it was decided that the SDWG should coordinate this work.

ICC was also part of a drafting team that put together a COVID-19 briefing document for the SAOs and Permanent Participants. The document looked at circumpolar responses to the pandemic and offered ideas on areas where the Arctic Council could coordinate further work. ICC drafted the section on social and cultural effects. ICC also issued two press releases that pointed to the vulnerabilities throughout Inuit Nunaat due to a lack of infrastructure, decent housing, access to clean water and other ongoing deficits.

Finally, Jimmy Stotts (Alaska) is the Head of Delegation for the **Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials** meetings and we are fortunate to also have the involvement of Executive Council members Liubov Taian (Chukotka); Monica Ell-Kanayuk (Canada); and Hjalmar Dahl (Kalaallit Nunaat). In the coming year, the Arctic Council will see the Chairmanship handed off to the Russian Federation and we will likely see a dramatic shift in the agenda and objectives of the Council overall.

Food Security

The Alaska office should be congratulated for the completion of substantial food security and sovereignty projects, including the **Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance: Inuit Role in Managing Arctic Marine Resources** report and the launch of the **Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative**. The latter project is seeking to finalize a *Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan* to secure access and management rights over traditional foods and this work directly intersects with the **Sustainable Wildlife Management** priority. In addition, numerous presentations have been provided to educate others about what Inuit food security is and to explain the connections between food security and other activities, such as monitoring. All of this work links to a specific directive in the *Utqiagvik Declaration*.

ICC also participated in the **Food Security Working group**, as part of the **Arctic Observing Summit** as a direct reflection of ICC's work on food security and urging for the need to develop monitoring programs through a food security lens. This contribution focused upon 1) food security from an Alaska Inuit perspective; 2) what Indigenous Knowledge is; 3) monitoring through a food security lens; 4) bringing together Indigenous Knowledge and science through a co-production of knowledge approach; and 5) importance of community-driven monitoring/observation programs.

The formal ICC application for "Observer" status within the **International Marine Organization** was submitted and will be under consideration by State members this winter. This status provides greater access to the IMO in the context of monitoring Polar Code enforcement and advocacy for the incremental phase out of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in order to protect and minimize impacts on the marine environment. Both Lisa Koperqualuk and Liz Cravalho, an Inuk from northwest Alaska have been following the matter closely.

Families and Youth

In addition to the establishment of the **Hans-Pavia Rosing Leadership Award**, the Alaska office has successfully gained funding to support the **Emerging Leaders** project, which is led by Eilene Adams. The project includes six young Inuit who are gaining a background about the history of the ICC and its current efforts and affords them the opportunity to attend international meetings; develop recommendations, from a youth perspective; increasing youth engagement in the ICC; to share and discuss with ICC leadership their concerns and aspirations in preparation for the ICC General Assembly in 2022, where delegates will consider further action. The six emerging leaders represent the four Inuit regions in Alaska; Joshua Vo from Anchorage, Frances Jakylou Olemaun from Utqiagvik, Teressa Baldwin from Kotzebue; Samantha Harrison from Juneau, Benjamin Charles from Bethel, and Cameron Okbaok from Teller.

In November 2019, the group traveled to Nuuk, Greenland and were joined by youth representatives from Canada and Greenland. They held a two-day meeting that brought together emerging leaders to discuss ways to engage youth in ICC, across Inuit Nunaat. The meeting began with an exercise to group by country to discuss our history and the similarities across our homelands, Inuit Nunaat. This discussion allowed the group to connect with each other and to build friendships. The influence of this project will ultimately result in a future where Inuit youth are aware, interested, and engaged in ICC's work and vying for leadership positions with ICC and its members. As an outcome, an online survey focusing on youth engagement was created to help identify what issues are important to youth and how ICC can improve engagement with young Inuit, 18-35 years old. The results of the survey will help determine a way to move forward, from a youth perspective, for improving Inuit youth interest in ICC and further in the development of recommendations that will be delivered at the next ICC General Assembly in 2022. Due to COVID-19, the group continues to engage virtually through Zoom video & teleconferences. The next face to face meeting has been postponed until September 2021.

Health and Wellness

As noted above, the **Circumpolar Inuit Summit on Health and Wellness** has been rescheduled for **September 2021**. In addition to the urgent need to overcome the alarming rates of suicide among our youth and communities generally as well as the issues of addiction, and other health and wellness issues, there is no question that the interrelated factors of the spread of coronavirus will need to be addressed at the summit. Early in the pandemic, the ICC issued two Press Releases highlighting the infrastructure deficit that exists across Inuit Nunaat and how these long-standing conditions contribute to the increased spread of coronavirus and the persistent substandard health conditions that many of our communities' face. Both of these Press Releases garnered significant attention.

In this regard, ICC has been a substantive contributor to the dialogue about how we should all respond to this pandemic, sharing our views within the **Arctic Council** and the **United Nations**. Specifically, the ICC contributed to the Briefing Document generated by the Arctic Council as well as made substantive contributions to the **EMRIP** and the **Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee** held a direct dialogue with the **UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** in relation to his study on the impacts of Covid-19 on Indigenous communities.

In addition to Health and Wellness issues in the context of the Arctic Council **Sustainable Development Working Group**, the **SDWG** working group met in-person during the Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland in October 2019 and then held a virtual meeting in April 2020 which focused solely on the pandemic. The issues brought up by ICC were the issues discussed in our press releases, i.e., the infrastructure deficit that exists across Inuit Nunaat and how these long-standing conditions contribute to the increased spread of coronavirus and the persistent substandard health conditions that many of our community's face.

The SDWG took the lead on drafting a COVID in the Arctic briefing document to inform initial discussions regarding the COVID pandemic for the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) to better understand the impact Covid-19 is having in the Arctic & to spearhead activities to respond to the pandemic in the short-, medium- & longer-term. The document reflects the complex and intricate nature of how Covid-19 affects Arctic peoples & communities & includes statistics, tools, scientific articles, guidelines, policy measures, surveys, & local observations. ICC served on the drafting committee & expressed concern about how our rural communities are at much higher risk & exposure to epidemics due to the chronic lack of basic infrastructure, including lack of sewer & running water in many of our communities. Our comments communicated the need to understand the impacts of COVID in the Arctic in a holistic way, bringing attention to infrastructure gaps, including overcrowded housing, food insecurity, lower life expectancy, and a high prevalence of tuberculosis experienced by Inuit. In follow up to the SDWG COVID in the Arctic briefing document, the SAOs have requested the SDWG to provide input regarding existing projects, new projects, and governance for COVID in the Arctic work going forward at the Arctic Council.

Local 2 Global (L2G)

Over the summer of 2019, ICC launched a social media campaign to showcase the digital stories from Project CREATEs. There continues to be strong and positive feedback and interest in the project and its outcomes. As co-lead of the Local 2 Global SDWG project, a project building on Project CREATEs, ICC has been coordinating project communications and the knowledge exchange pillar which centers on an annual study tour. Due to the current pandemic, an in-person study tour has been postponed and in the interim a virtual engagement session is being planned. The engagement session will be used to inform the in-person study tour that will happen when travel is once again permitted.

Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee

After in-depth consultation with the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee and others, the theme of *'Inuit youth and connection to culture for mental wellness & suicide prevention'* was chosen for the Summit. At this event, youth will share and reflect on how they connect with Inuit culture for mental wellness, what they find most helpful, the barriers they face, how they navigate tradition in a fast-changing world, and the support they need from adults in this sphere. All youth and adult attendees at the summit will work together to draw out similarities, highlight parallels and identify points of consensus in what is heard. Among other anticipated outcomes, these reflections will be documented so that those in charge of developing or implementing suicide prevention and strategies across the Inuit Nunaat will be in a better position to effectively accomplish this challenging work.

In regard to the current status, the summit was scheduled for September 1-3, 2020 in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik, Canada. After consultations with the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee and the ICC team, the decision was made to postpone the Health Summit for one full year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current travel, health, and safety concerns. Hence, the Summit will now take place in early September 2021 in Kuujjuaq. Planning and fundraising will continue as much as possible and as appropriate at this time. Staff are also beginning to consider creative approaches and options if travel restrictions and health concerns extend into 2021 and risk impacting the new date.

As noted above in relation to the Indigenous human rights and the Arctic Council, the CIHSC undertook activities in follow up to the COVID-19 Press Releases, including a contribution to the content of a press release titled *'Ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic Highlights Infrastructure Gaps Across Circumpolar Regions Related to Inuit Health – Demonstrates Strength of Inuit Culture'* that was released on April 21, 2020. Also, the CIHSC responded to a questionnaire and participated in a Zoom meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous

Peoples on the topic of COVID-19 and its impact on Inuit rights. Each steering committee member had the opportunity to highlight the pandemic situation in their region and initiatives undertaken to address the issues. Some committee members shared written responses.

Lancet Commission

The ICC Chair serves as co-Chair to the Urgently Accelerating Indigenous Health and Well-Being: The Lancet Commission on Arctic Health Commission. The Commission is comprised of 35 Indigenous experts (majority members) and other medical experts and scholars from across seven circumpolar countries. Other Inuit membership that serve as Commissioners include Selma Ford, ICC Canada and Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee member; Dr. Karsten Fleisher Rex, (Greenland and Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee member); Valerie Nurr'araluk Davidson (Alaska) former State of Alaska Commissioner of Health and Social Services; Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk, heart surgeon (Canada); Siila Watt-Cloutier (Canada); Gwen Healey, PhD (Canada); Gitte Adler Reimer, PhD (Greenland); and Tim Aqukkasuk Argetsinger (Alaska). Our Arctic region colleagues of Sami descent are participants as well. The first full Commissioner meeting was held at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, February 10-15, 2020, just before the coronavirus was declared a pandemic. To date, the drafting of report outlines has begun, and the various report Working Groups have been meeting virtually to compile their initial report section drafts. The work has slowed due to Covid-19, but it is ongoing.

Education and Language

The ICC Greenland office has composed the **Inuit Committee on Education** and held its initial meeting with membership from all Inuit regions, including Birthe Therkildsen and Kattie Egede Motzfeldt of Kalaallit Nunaat; Robert Watt and June Shappa from Canada; Jana Harcharek and Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle of Alaska; and our relation Natalia Radunovich from Chukotka. The Committee has held two virtual sessions, first to identify the membership and the Terms of Reference. In addition, they addressed the Outcome Document from the International Inuit Education Summit held in February 2018 in Nuuk where it was agreed that this report would inform their agenda and objectives as a Committee. In addition, they agreed to prepare regional report for the next meeting in January or February 2021. In addition, they will undertake regional consultations in order to report on regional outcomes for delivery to the ICC Executive Council as well as to the Delegates at the next ICC General Assembly in Ilulissat 2022.

Indigenous Knowledge

The ICC led an initiative within the **Arctic Council** to unite the views of all Permanent Participants in relation to consistent use of the term Indigenous Knowledge. The effort was successful except for RAIPONs interest in maintaining the use of the term traditional knowledge. Expressing respect for diverse regional use, despite this development, we have managed to consistently advocate for greater intellectual and political space for greater understanding of Indigenous Knowledge and genuine co-production of knowledge, which is central to our work in all arenas (Arctic Council; CBD; UNFCCC; IPCC; etc.) and specific fields and in particular, food security and biodiversity.

As discussed more fully below under **Environment**, the ICC Chair is a member of the **Facilitative Working Group** of the **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform** of the UNFCCC. In the context of this position, she along with Joanna MacDonald of the Canada office are actively implementing Activity 4 of the FWG, which is focused on provision of training to State Party members of the UNFCCC on the content and contours of Indigenous Knowledge.

Equitable and Ethical Guidelines for the Engagement of Inuit Communities and Indigenous Knowledge

In response to this directive, ICC is working on development of International Inuit protocols on the equitable and ethical utilization of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and engagement of Inuit communities to provide guidance to international fora, such as the Arctic Council. The work is being carried out the Indigenous Knowledge Team. To begin the work, the Alaska office, has contracted Victoria Buschman, an Inuk from Alaska is: developing an Inuit Circumpolar synthesis report of all protocols (guidelines, rules, values, etc.) created by Inuit across Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. The synthesis report will be used in the development of the International Inuit Protocols. This work will be carried out virtually, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with Inuit from across the circumpolar over the next year.

Within the **Convention on Biological Diversity** work continues to focus upon developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) and is considered a ‘stepping stone’ towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with Nature where by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.” Additionally, CBD has an immense amount of work being produced and agreed upon in response to the Aichi Targets. Within this work ICC has focused on work that relates to ICC priorities, such as hunting, food security, Indigenous Knowledge, data management, proprietary rights, and more. This work includes presentations and interventions on Inuit management practices, Indigenous Knowledge, food security and food sovereignty, and other points of importance to Inuit, such as the need to include sea ice habitat in discussions. Additional key focus within CBD of interest to ICC is the potential development of an Indigenous group within CBD and the overall ethical and equitable involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge within CBD work. Carolina Behe is representing ICC at these meetings. Carolina has also activity been working with the Arctic Indigenous Caucus to CBD to review documents and develop positions, built upon ICC’s work and priorities, to aid in the negotiations process of the GBF. This work has aided in discussions with relevant Arctic State representatives to CBD.

Sustainable Wildlife Management

Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee (CIWC) and Sustainable Wildlife Management Team

The Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee is comprised of two representatives nominated by each ICC country office. Membership includes: Taqulik Hepa and Vera Metcalf (Alaska), Amalie Jessen and Bjarne “Ababsi” Lyberth (Greenland), Larry Carpenter, and Paul Irngaut (Canada), and a placeholder for 2 Chukotkan Inuit. Since November of 2019, Ababsi left KNAPK, and it leaves a vacant seat to fill for Greenland. The Committee serves as a mechanism to galvanize a united Inuit voice on wildlife management issues through building up the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Network (CIWN), which will be central to developing collective positions, informed by Indigenous Knowledge, to advocate for Inuit rights and interests across the international fora.

The CIWN will include a closed group of regional, national, and international Inuit co-management organizations, hunters, and Inuit Knowledge holders. The leadership of the CIWC and the implementation of the Network will strengthen collaboration among Inuit through a unified and strategic effort to advocate for our rights to self-determination and our culture, food sovereignty, and sustainable use by providing a pan-Arctic voice concerning the access, sharing, and management of resources across Inuit Nunaat. The next steps for the Committee are to continue to hold routine meetings to exchange information on the challenges, emerging trends, and best practices in collectively responding to circumpolar Inuit wildlife issues. This work is being carried out by the Sustainable Wildlife Management team in collaboration with the CIWC.

International Union for Conservation of Nature

After more than a decade of effort and advocacy, ICC and other Indigenous member organizations and IUCN representatives managed to get unanimous adoption of an Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) membership and voting category within the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** at its World Conservation Congress in 2016. The next step in this process is to ensure that the IUCN provides ways, means, and support for IPOs to be meaningfully engaged in different parts of the IUCN, for IPO's to meet, organize, and mobilize around common issues, and to increase IPO membership numbers. Prior to formal IPO recognition by the IUCN, there were approximately 9 Indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within IUCN. In 2020, this has more than doubled to over 20 official IPO members, and this is a good trend. Currently, Mr. Ramiro Batzin (Indigenous from Guatemala) is participating as an IPO member on IUCN Council. In September 2019, the IUCN hired an IPO coordinator, Ms. Anita Tzec, an Indigenous woman from Belize. She has been in regular contact with ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough and John Cheechoo from the ICC Canada office, and assisting IPO members with meetings and planning for the next IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC). Unfortunately, COVID-19 has delayed the WCC in 2020 and will now be held later in 2021. Despite this, ICC continues to discuss plans and ideas with other IPOs for the next WCC, as well as ways to raise the voice and empowerment of Indigenous peoples within this important global forum.

ICC leaders have been directly involved in the present effort to prepare the **Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring** within the **2017 International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean**, which has emphasized the importance of Indigenous Knowledge into policies and appropriate management measures supporting the conservation of the Arctic Ocean. As previously reported, the ICC was the only Indigenous peoples' organization that was an integral part of the negotiation process through national State delegations. We will be a key partner in the creation of an enhanced knowledge system for the sustainability of future commercial fishing activities. This work is being led by Jimmy Stotts, Carolina Behe, Stephanie Meakin, John Cheechoo, and John Crump. These participants have brought forward the need to protect our food security and cultural practices as well as Indigenous Knowledge (IK) methodologies within the scientific and monitoring programs required to support the Agreement.

ICC co-hosted an **Indigenous Knowledge** workshop with Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) that included all 10 signatories to the treaty. Several options to bring IK into the agreement were discussed. ICC Canada was part of the Canadian delegation at the first meeting of the Provisional Science Coordinating Group (PSCG) where Indigenous Knowledge and the role of Inuit in the process were written into the terms of reference. ICC is also leading a series of virtual workshops for Inuit regions to co-develop a protocol for the inclusion of IK in the science programme. The final of three workshops took place on 2 December and work will continue in the new year. No date has been set for a meeting of the Signatories due to the pandemic.

Environment

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme

In addition to the work noted above, specifically in relation to the Environment the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (**AMAP**) published several assessments dealing with contaminants and climate change issues in the Arctic. ICC as contributed to and/or reviewed these assessments to ensure that Inuit perspectives are reflected. Recently published assessments include: Biological Effects of Contaminants on Arctic Wildlife and Fish (2018); and Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern (2016).

Also, there are currently several products being finalized, most of which will be published early next year, including: Mercury in the Arctic Assessment (2021, ICC co-led a chapter on Indigenous views and contributions with regards to mercury research in the Arctic); Human Health in the Arctic Assessment (2021, ICC led a chapter on risk communication); Climate and Persistent Organic Pollutants Interactions Assessment (2021, ICC contributed to a chapter); Litter/Plastics Monitoring Guidelines (2021); and Short-lived Climate Forcers Assessment, Climate Issues of concern (2021, ICC contributions have been provided)

Sustained Arctic Observing Network

The Sustained Arctic Observing Network (SAON) has continued its efforts towards building a framework that realises the vision of a connected, collaborative, and comprehensive long-term pan-Arctic Observing System that serves societal needs. ICC's participation is trying to ensure that this framework has equitable participation of Inuit, and will reflect Inuit self-determination in research and monitoring, utilization of Indigenous Knowledge, as well as community-based/led monitoring activities. To that extend, ICC (through Eva Kruemmel) is a member of the SAON Board and Executive Committee. In extension, ICC has been involved in the organization of the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS), which provides input into SAON. At the last AOS (taking place online in March/April 2020), the ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorrough provided a keynote presentation and participated in a panel discussion. Carolina Behe gave a presentation in breakout group discussions of the Indigenous Food Security Working Group (which is led by Raychelle Daniel and supported by Eva Kruemmel).

ICC was also invited to have a representative on the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for the third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM-3). Eva Kruemmel took on the role to provide a science/Indigenous perspective. Liza Mack of Aleut International Association (AIA) is providing an Indigenous knowledge holder perspective in SAB. The SAB has met several times to provide input into the ASM-3 process, review documents and analyse contributions. ICC also worked with AIA and the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat to organize an Indigenous-focussed webinar, which was held to provide input into the joint statement of ASM-3. Monica Ell-Kanayuk gave an introductory keynote, and Victoria Bushman represented ICC in a panel discussion, which included representatives from all PP organizations (besides the representative of Gwich'in in Council International, who had connection issues). The event highlighted the need for equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in Arctic research and monitoring, explained Indigenous Knowledge, co-production of knowledge, the importance of Indigenous languages, and holistic monitoring based on a food security lens.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

ICC has been continually active in relation to the UNFCCC and since our last report we attended the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 25 (COP25) in December 1-8, 2019. ICC representation included Joanna MacDonald, ICC Ottawa office; Benjamin Charles, Emerging Leader (Alaska); Crystal Martin-Lapenskie, President, National Inuit Youth Council; Eriel Lugt, Carmen Kuptana, Muk (Nathan) Kuptana, Darryl Tedjuk all from Tuktoyaktuk, Maeva Gauthier; and Jaro Malanowski – all from the “Happening to Us” film crew. This COP featured attendance at the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change meetings; Side Events and other speaking engagements; numerous bilateral meetings; a meeting with COP25 Presidency; media interviews; and other engagements. The focus constantly centered on strategizing for ICC advancement of our objective to feature the Arctic and our interests in the climate change arena.

We are highly active in the **Facilitative Working Group (FWG)**, which was established at COP24 in Poland in December 2018. The FWG is comprised of 14 members – 7 Indigenous representatives (one from each of the seven UN Indigenous sociocultural regions) and 7 Party representatives – to serve a term of three years.

ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough is the Arctic Indigenous representative on the Platform's Facilitative Working Group and Lisa Koperqualuk is the Alternate. The FWG meets twice a year at the inter-sessional meeting in Bonn and at the COP.

The FWG developed an initial two-year work plan for the Platform that was approved at COP25 in Madrid in November 2019 and is currently being implemented. In this regard, we are co-leads of a Capacity Building Workshop focused on building Parties' capacity to understand, respect, and ethically engage with Indigenous Knowledge. In addition, Joanna MacDonald is the Arctic region representative to a Working Group on a Portal for the FWG. And, we are participating in the other FWG activities, including Mapping of engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in UNFCCC policies, actions, and communications, and Mapping of existing funding and additional funding opportunities within the UN system.

Also, the ICC remains active within the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change to ensure that the Arctic region is well represented. One of our main messages has been the need for regions to speak for themselves to emphasize that there is not one 'Indigenous voice' but rather many diverse voices starting with the 7 UN Indigenous Peoples socio-cultural regions.

Lastly, ICC made a submission of input to the UNFCCC's Ocean Dialogue. The submission focused on the interconnections between biodiversity and climate change, the importance of the ocean for Inuit, and the imperative to include Indigenous Peoples in such dialogue. We continue efforts to promote more interconnectedness between biodiversity and climate processes and discussions which remain separate at the international level.

UN Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty that restricts or bans the use, trade, transport, and emissions of contaminants that have been identified as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic and undergoing long-range transport. Since Inuit are disproportionately affected by those chemicals, with contaminant levels often being higher compared to any other population measured and frequently exceeding health guidelines, ICC has been very actively involved in the negotiations of the treaty and remains active in its implementation since it was adopted in 2001.

New contaminants continue to be added to the annexes of the Convention, which started with 12 chemicals when it entered into force in 2004. Currently, 30 POPs are listed under the Conventions annexes, one chemical is recommended for addition, and three more are being reviewed.

ICC is an accredited observer to the Stockholm Convention, and usually attends Conferences of the Parties (COPs), as well as meetings of the technical body, the POP Review Committee (POPRC). The POPRC meets annually and reviews chemicals that are proposed for addition to the annexes of the Convention, and makes recommendations to the COP. The next POPRC meeting will take place online, 11 – 16th January 2021, and the next Stockholm Convention COP is planned to take place in July 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.

UN Minamata Convention on Mercury

ICC is accredited as an observer to the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**. ICC has been a crucial voice in the negotiations of the Minamata Convention, which entered into force in 2017. ICC remains active, attends the COPs, and works inter-sessionally in technical expert groups.

For example, ICC was an observer to the ad-hoc expert group on the **effectiveness evaluation** of the Minamata Convention and contributed to the development of a report on the monitoring framework. This

was discussed at the **Minamata Convention COP-3**, 25 – 29 Nov 2019, which ICC attended. Currently, ICC is participating in further online expert group discussions for the monitoring plan and the effectiveness evaluation, and contributes to the development of associated reports, which will be delivered to **COP-4**, which is planned to take place 1-5 November 2021.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**) is a UN body that assesses science related to climate change. The IPCC is organized into assessment cycles and produces assessment reports as well as special reports during each cycle. The ICC’s work on enhancing Indigenous participation and the ethical engagement with Indigenous knowledge within the IPCC process is ongoing through a variety of channels (e.g. as a reviewer, a contributor, applying for observer status, and communicating with the IPCC secretariat). We are waiting for a response to our request for Observer Status. We are also involved in the expert review of the current 6th assessment report draft chapters that is ongoing. The section is written in first-person format by Indigenous Peoples as an effort from authors to support Inuit self-determination in climate change assessments within IPCC. We will continue to monitor this work and take advantage of opportunities to influence the IPCC as they arise.

We have worked to advance Inuit control and management of the **Pikialasorsuaq** (North Water polynya) in the northern Baffin Bay and Davis Straight between Canada and Greenland and to ensure visa free travel and mobility for Inuit coastal community hunters, harvesters, and fishers. The **Pikialasorsuaq Implementation Committee (PIC)** was established to implement the original Commission recommendations. To date, we have held a meeting with representatives of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the rights holders within the region on the Canadian side as well as meetings with the Avannaata Kommunia (the Municipal Council on the Greenland side). Our key messaging to all concerned has been the importance for everyone to participate on equal footing and for the area to be treated in an interrelated and interconnected, whole fashion. In addition, it is important for the Inuit communities reliant on the Pikialasorsuaq to directly participate in the project and to work jointly. At the national level, the government of Canada has responded favorably, and we await a response from the government of Denmark and also the government of Greenland. The two governments are making progress on a letter of intent which outlines a commitment for cooperation on the Pikialasorsuaq, this is a precursor to a more formal MOU.

ICC together with Avannaata Kommunia and the local branch of KNAPK (Fishermen’s and Hunter’s Association) in Qaanaaq, in January 2020 wrote a letter to the Government of Greenland insisting on their involvement in further processes of negotiations. To date, ICC Greenland has had a meeting with the Minister for Environment, who promised to involve the parties in future developments.

ICC Greenland has started cooperation with the local group **Plastic Not So Fantastic** to minimize the growing problem of plastic use. They held a public workshop that included presentations from WWF Greenland and the Greenland Government Department of Environment. In addition, ICC Greenland is working on a school material for middle schools and the primary school, about the environment and how to take care of nature – this program is called “Pinngortitaq Inuillu”, which means Nature and Inuit, and ICC Greenland is actively fundraising with outreach to Greenland Department of the Environment and others.

Sustainable Development

In February 2020, the **International Inuit Business Association (IIBA)** was created on the margins of the bi-annual Northern Lights Trade Show. Representatives of the IIBA Task Force attending were Liz Cravalho (Alaska); Clint Davis and Christy Sinclair (Canada); Jens K. Lyberth and Christian Wennecke (Greenland). Richard Glenn (Alaska) was not present due to a family matter. Also attending were: Kuupik Kleist (ICC Greenland); Lisa Koperqualuk (ICC Canada); Jim Stotts and Josh Vo (ICC Alaska), a participant of the Emerging Leaders project. There was also a sizable contingent from the Makivik Corporation led by Charlie Watt. After two days of discussion it was decided to formally stand-up the IIBA. The IIBA Bylaws were adopted and a draft press release was prepared. The following were elected as provisional officers: Liz Cravalho, NANA Corporation (Chair); Jens K. Lyberth, Royal Greenland (Vice-Chair); and Maggie Emudluk, Makivik Corporation (Secretary). The call for the first annual Meeting of Representatives was set to take place within 13 months of the founding date. However, due to Covid-19 this gathering has been postponed. In the meantime, the provisional officers are reaching out to companies interested in building connections across international borders and identifying specific sectors to focus in on barriers to partnering.

Communication and Capacity Building

During this reporting period we actively promoted ICC initiatives with traditional communications support in terms of press releases on significant ICC developments, ongoing use of our social media channels – Facebook and Twitter –and producing notable documents such as Annual Reports (ICC Canada), and key reports (ICC Alaska).

As ICC leaders attended international meetings, such as the Arctic Council, UNFCCC in Madrid, ICC ECM in Greenland, and other events, these were supported with press releases, and social media communications.

Once the global coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020, our communications increased in order to voice our specific concerns related to COVID-19 and the health of Inuit in small Arctic communities, with related infrastructure gaps.

It was during the pandemic that ICC Canada developed a project to create an ICC Podcast, and worked with all country offices to develop the name, logo, record the initial episodes and eventually launch it on August 9, 2020. We include this development here in this report as the majority of the work to create and launch the podcast was done during this reporting period. ᐃᓂᓃᓂ / UNIKKAAT / UNIPKAAT / UNGIPAGHAT / NALLUNAIRUTET / Circumpolar Waves is the name of the new podcast. The first episodes featured interviews with ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough, ICC Canada President Monica Ell-Kanayuk, ICC Canada Vice-President Lisa Koperqualuk, and Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee (CIHSC) Chair Minnie Grey discussing COVID-19 in Arctic Regions. The Podcast is hosted on Buzzsprout, and is available on Apple iTunes, Spotify Podcasts, and Google podcasts. There have been over 520 downloads of all episodes in over 20 countries, and 90 cities between launch day and December 2020.

This concludes our report for the time period of 19 July 2019 to 19 July 2020. In future reports, we hope to include the names of all Inuit that have assisted us in our work at the local, regional, national, and international level – the ICC is every Inuk, and every Inuk is ICC.