

**For Immediate Release
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New agreement on Arctic scientific cooperation goes into effect

Washington, DC – Today, a legally binding international agreement on Arctic scientific cooperation goes into effect that will make it easier for scientists to conduct research in the North.

This agreement facilitates access, by scientists of the eight Arctic governments, to Arctic areas that each government has identified, including entry and exit of persons, equipment, and materials; access to research infrastructure and facilities; and access to data.

The agreement also calls for the parties to promote education, career development and training opportunities, and encourages activities associated with traditional and local knowledge.

About this new agreement, Fran Ulmer, the Chair of the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC) said, “Many countries engage in research in the Arctic because the changes happening here are impacting people both in and beyond the Arctic in significant ways. Because it is a large and challenging place to do research, it’s essential that we take steps to make it easier for international and interdisciplinary research across borders. The hope is that this agreement will reduce some of the barriers that have made some of that research challenging in the past.”

The US government’s official point of contact for this agreement is the USARC. If while attempting to conduct research in other Arctic countries, US-based researchers encounter access issues or other matters addressed in the agreement, they should contact the USARC using the information provided on its [website](#). Alternatively, email info@arctic.gov or call 1-703-525-0111.

The USARC’s mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers, and international partners. Visit the USARC at www.arctic.gov and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the “[Arctic Update](#),” which provides useful information about recent events, upcoming conferences, research initiatives, and news.

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