Appendix A
Data collection

This book is informed by research from my project ‘Breaking the ice: INGOs as Arctic Council observer status applicants (ACOSA)’, funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and invocation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 746312. For this project I conducted semi-structured interviews with thirty-seven people between April 2018 and March 2019. Additionally, interview data collected in 2016 and 2017 for my project funded by the Carlsberg Foundation on Arctic Council diplomacy (Burke, 2019b), which inspired the Marie Curie project and interviews conducted with Permanent Participant representatives during the Carlsberg project, were also used in this book.¹

Finally, additional supplementary research was also included in this book from archival research from the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (CNS),² collected in spring–summer 2020, and the Ferriss Hodgett Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) Corner Brook Campus.³ This research is related to my research project ‘Amending the EU seal product ban’, supported by a J. R. Smallwood Foundation Fellowship (2020–22). The research project explored the impact of environmental and animal rights organizations during the anti-sealing movement on rural peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador and focused on the legacy of cultural, psychological and economic violence inflicted on sealing cultures.

The interview data used in this book primarily reflects on the responses from interviews conducted in 2018–19 with: Arctic Council officials that have, or had, been involved in observer application assessments; representatives from the World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – both national office representatives that do work within their country’s North/Arctic and members of
WWF Arctic; Permanent Participant and Indigenous community representatives; other individuals such as a consultant to the Arctic Council with years of Arctic advocacy experience; and a couple of academics, including a retired academic with over twenty years of experience researching and who had consulted for the Arctic Council. The conversations and interviews were conducted in person in various locations throughout the Arctic states and a select number of other locations, as well as a few interviews by telephone and over Skype.

As part of the fieldwork, which primarily took place between September 2018 and January 2019, I travelled to seven of the eight Arctic states, Switzerland and the Netherlands. In total, eleven people were spoken to as part of this project from WWF who are either part of WWF Arctic and/or work on Arctic issues at the national offices.

I also spoke to nine Arctic state officials closely involved, or formerly involved, in their state’s assessment of observers and representation at the Arctic Council. Furthermore, five interviews with Permanent Participant representatives conducted between 2016 and 2018 are reflected in this book.

In the book most of the interviews are anonymized but broad acknowledgement is given to their affiliation to give weight to their reflections – e.g. WWF representative, Arctic state representative and Permanent Participant representative. Numbers are assigned to the interviewees in the endnotes to denote different people with the same broad affiliation and to help avoid confusion about quotations and references for multiple sources with the same organization/label/group. On occasion, however, individuals are not credited to even their interview number when the subject matter they are speaking about is specific and to attribute the interview number, in conjunction with other quotations used from the interviews, may risk revealing their identity. In these instances, endnotes explain the rationale behind the lack of reference to a specifically numbered interviewee. Some individuals, however, consented to the use of their identity in the primary research project from which this book draws its primary interview material. Interviewees such as Halldór Jóhannsson (Director of the Arctic Portal), Jerry Natanine (Mayor of Clyde River/Kanngiqtauq Isuq) and academic Warren Bernauer all consented to the use of their names in this project. Most WWF interviewees had
originally consented to the use of their names in the project. Three individuals, however, requested that their names not be attributed to their comments but were comfortable being identified as associated with WWF and four requested to approve quotations before publication. To accommodate the range of participation levels and to protect identities, particularly as the Global Arctic Programme is a finite and identifiable group (see Appendix B), all WWF interviews are given the generic title of WWF representative. To distinguish between the different interviews, they are also assigned numbers – e.g. WWF representative 1.⁹

Notes

1 In total sixty-six interviews were conducted for the Carlsberg project, seven of which were research design and advisory conversations. A consolidation of this research can be found in my book Diplomacy and the Arctic Council, published by McGill-Queens University Press in 2019.

2 The CNS is located at the Queen Elizabeth 2nd Library at Memorial University of Newfoundland’s St. John’s Campus.

3 Special thanks to Colleen Field for her help, and that of her colleagues, with data collection at the CNS and to Nicole Holloway of the Ferriss Hodgett Library, Grenfell Campus, MUN for their assistance accessing library resources during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

4 There is no WWF office in Iceland and there is no regional associate office in the Faroe Islands, though WWF Denmark has an office in Greenland. Also, an invitation to participate in the project was extended to the Russian SAO office but no response was received.

5 All interviewees were asked to reflect on their personal experiences and opinions, and they are not speaking officially on behalf of their states or organizations.

6 I did not travel to Russia for this project but I did speak to individuals doing work for various organizations in Russia. After considering the potential risks and gains for myself and for my project participants, given some of the politically-charged subject matter being discussed, I decided to do interviews with Russian representatives by telephone and Skype.

7 This research also included interviews with representatives of Greenpeace, but this dimension of the research project is only reflected minimally in this book. One interview I conducted with a Greenpeace member, Mads Flarup Christensen for Greenpeace Nordic, is referenced in this book.
You can learn more about the Arctic Portal on their website (Arctic Portal, n.d.).

To further protect the identities of the WWF interviewees no exact date is given for these interviews. All interviewees were emailed and notified after the decision was made to not use their identities in the project. This decision was made in consultation with legal counsel and leadership within the International Politics Section of the Department of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark after an experience at a conference in which a WWF Arctic member pressed me to give them a list of my interviewees. When I declined the request, I was subsequently contacted by a programme member I spoke to and they requested a change in the nature of their participation in the project, with the individual who approached me at the conference being copied on the correspondence. The interviewee transferred editorial rights to their interview to the individual who approached me at the conference. To protect my interviewees and the integrity of the project, I concealed the names of all interviewees and have declined to reference the interview that the individual who approached me now has editorial rights for from the interviewee to edit on their behalf. I have also declined to directly reference specifics from my conversation with the individual from the conference, except to acknowledge broadly what occurred and its implications on the project. Upon the advice of the University of Southern Denmark Legal Services, I was advised not to reveal the name of the individual who approached me, the conference or the country in which it was held in this book.