

Gwich'in Steering Committee
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Re: Protecting Indigenous Rights in the Arctic Refuge

Dear Ms. Demientieff, Dear Ms. Osterman, dear Gwich'in Steering Committee

Thank you for your letter concerning social and environmental impacts in connection with potential oil and gas developments in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Alaska.

Swiss Re has extensive risk assessment and underwriting measures in place to guide business in sites of specific cultural or environmental value. Our [Sustainable Business Risk \(SBR\) Framework](#) allows for the assessment of risks related to the social and environmental consequences or re/insurance and [investment transactions](#). It sets company-wide criteria for what we consider as acceptable business. Based on the framework, Swiss Re does not provide business support to entities or projects that contribute to the conversion and degradation of ecologically sensitive areas such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, wetlands protected by the Ramsar Convention and certain IUCN protected areas. Furthermore, we do not associate ourselves with projects that violate the right of indigenous peoples, such as the right of free, prior and informed consent.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Alaska is an IUCN category IV National Park and as such in scope of our policy on protected areas. We can therefore confirm that Swiss Re will abstain from providing re/insurance or investment support for projects related to exploration, production, or transportation of oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge protected area.

Our SBR Framework and the related policy on protected areas are public (see above link). We hope you find these explanations useful. Please feel free to contact me in case of any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Weymann
Head Sustainability, Emerging and Political RM