

✪ NNSIPRA BULLETIN ✪

Norwegian Network for the Support of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Arctic (NNSIPRA)
Сеть Норвежских Организаций в Поддержку Коренных Народов Российского Севера

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Secretariat: Norsk Polarinstitutt, Polarmiljøsenner, N-9296 Tromsø
Norwegian Polar Institute, Polar Environmental Centre,
N-9296 Tromsø, Norway
E-mail: dallmann@npolar.no
Phone: +47 - 77 75 05 00
Fax: +47 - 77 75 05 01

Coordinator / Editor: Winfried K. Dallmann, Tromsø
Assistant Coordinator: Galina Diachkova (Галина Дьячкова), Moscow
Assistant Editor: Helle V. Goldman, Tromsø

NNSIPRA Bulletin is an information letter of the Norwegian Network for the Support of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Arctic. The Bulletin is issued twice a year. Additional issues are produced as new information warrants it. The Bulletin is edited in English and Russian and distributed to all registered network participants, as well as relevant state agencies and funding institutions. Distribution is free. All contributions are appreciated.

NNSIPRA is a communication network linking Russian Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPOs) with Norwegian and other international organisations alarmed about the future of the indigenous peoples of the Russian North. NNSIPRA's main goal is to spread information, to mediate contacts, to assist in project co-ordination and application for funding, and to ascertain through the IPOs that related Norwegian projects take sufficient care of indigenous peoples' concerns.

Objectives:

- Constitution of a link between all Norwegian institutions and organisations that are concerned about the situation of the indigenous peoples in the Russian North;
- constitution of a link between these Norwegian participants and the Russian as well as international Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPOs);
- spreading of information between all involved parties;
- assistance for co-ordination of activities;
- stimulation of Norwegian projects or project participation on the basis of needs expressed by Russian or international IPOs;
- assistance for securing that Norwegian projects take sufficiently care of Russian indigenous peoples' concerns;
- assistance for finding sources of funding for Norwegian projects or Russian indigenous projects with Norwegian participation (the network initiative may have a positive effect on funding because it would be able to guarantee that projects are co-ordinated with other activities and approved by the IPOs).

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1. NNSIPRA since last time

Winfried K. Dallmann

(Norwegian Polar Institute / NNSIPRA coordinator)

NNSIPRA staff increased

Six months have passed since NNSIPRA issued its first bulletin. In the meantime, the network's secretariat has increased by two co-workers. Helle V. Goldman was recruited in January and will mainly work as an Assistant Editor for the bulletin. Her daily work is that of a scientific editor at the Norwegian Polar Institute. Helle is also an anthropologist. Just recently, in March, Galina Diachkova joined the secretariat as an Assistant Coordinator for Russia. She is currently studying at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology in Moscow. Being a representative of the indigenous society of the Russian Arctic herself, her contribution to the network's activities will be of great value.

Contacts and activities

As the reader can see from the updated address list in the end of this issue, NNSIPRA has got many more contacts and has become more international than half a year ago. The network activity has not been restricted to issuing the bulletin and spreading some urgent information by e-mail. We have been able to respond to many individual inquiries about possible cooperation partners and contact persons, and about where to find certain information. We have mediated news and information from individuals to those that should know, and we have been contributing to the discussion of a larger Norwegian support programme.

Simultaneously with the establishment of NNSIPRA, a group of institutions was working on the proposal of a Norwegian support programme for the indigenous population of the Russian Arctic, meant to complement the already existing support programmes of Canada and Denmark/Greenland (see further on in this issue). If realised, this programme will need an information network more extensive than NNSIPRA is today. Provided external sponsoring, NNSIPRA will accept the challenge to fill this need. It may even develop from a mainly Norwegian to a Nordic, or larger, network.

Help us reach you

We have noticed with regret that several regional, indigenous organisations in the North of the Russian Federation did not receive the first issue of the bulletin, which was mailed to their office addresses. We urge every addressee and potential addressee of the bulletin to provide us with "safe" addresses, that means addresses where we can be sure the bulletin reaches the right persons. We also urge everybody to keep us updated about changing addresses, e-mail addresses, phone and fax numbers. Also tell us if you would like to receive a larger number of bulletin copies.

Use NNSIPRA!

We are still having a hard time stimulating many of our contacts to provide information. You should regard this network as offering splendid opportunities to tell the international community about your problems, about what you are doing, or about your needs for cooperative partners. This is not even a time-consuming task. The shorter you write, the more people will read it! Send us your contribution, preferably in Russian or English, and we will take care of the translation for the other of the two language editions. We would especially like to urge the representatives of the regional organisations of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation to send contributions.

Contact us:

Winfried Dallmann	e-mail dallmann@npolar.no phone: (+47)-77750648/500 (Norwegian, English) fax: (+47)-77750501
Galina Diachkova	e-mail galina@sever.iea.ras.ru phone: (+7-095)-9385719/1871 (Russian, English)
Helle Goldman	e-mail goldman@npolar.no phone: (+47)-77750618/500 (English) fax: (+47)-77750501

Some people claim they cannot pronounce the name of our network. Simply say: En-en-sipra!

2. Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON)

Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера, Сибири и Дальнего Востока Российской Федерации (АКМНС)

President: Sergey Nikolaevich Kharyuchi (Харючи; Haruchi)¹

Office of the Association:

117415 Moskva (Moscow), prospekt Vernadskogo, 37

Building 2, office 527

Phone/fax: (+7) 095 930-4468

The Association was founded in 1990 at the First Congress of the Indigenous Peoples of the North. The aim of the organisation is to protect the interests and legal rights of the peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, to solve their social and economic problems, and to contribute to their cultural and educational development. The Association assists in implementing the indigenous peoples' rights with respect to their land and natural resources, as well as their rights to self-determination in accordance with international standards.

The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East actively participates in the elaboration and realisation of Federal Government programmes for the economic and social development of the indigenous peoples of the northern regions. Through cooperation with the Parliament and the Government of the Russian Federation, RAIPON takes part in working on legislative issues, in securing indigenous peoples' rights, in the preservation of their subsistence lifestyles, and in their economic development.

The Association unites more than 190,000 individual representatives of indigenous peoples, which are organised in 28 regional divisions on a geographic basis. This is the only organisation which fully represents the 30 indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation's North, Siberia and Far East.

The Association is listed as a Permanent Participant in the international Arctic Council founded by the Arctic countries. RAIPON experts take part in the Arctic Council's permanent working groups on preservation of biological diversity and prevention of ecological disasters. The Association participates regularly in the meetings of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples. Currently, the Association is carrying out a common project with ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Conference), financed by Canadian authorities, and has initiated another project together with the Danish Committee "Nature and People in the North", funded by Danish authorities, to support the Russian indigenous peoples in the fields of environmental protection, education and organisation building.

Contact persons:

Pavel Vasilevich Sulyandziga (Суляндзига; Suliandziga)¹, vice-president of the Association

Phone/fax: (+7) 095 432-9992, e-mail: udege@glasnet.ru

Sergey Mikhailovich Kirillin (Кириллин), vice-president of the Association

Phone/fax: (+7) 095 292-5147, e-mail: kirillin@duma.gov.ru

¹ Russian names are here transcribed according to the English transcription system, with the Russian original and other applied spellings in parentheses.

3. International Support Programmes for the Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Russian Federation

3.1. The Canadian Project “Institution-Building for Northern Russia’s Indigenous Peoples (INRIP)”

by Corinne Gray, Executive Director, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) Canada, presented at a workshop in Kárásjohka, Norway, 21-22 January 1999.

The idea to provide Canadian assistance in the area of capacity-building first emerged within the context of Arctic Council discussions in 1993. In particular, there were concerns regarding whether the Russian indigenous peoples would have the ability to participate in a meaningful and on-going way. Meanwhile, the Canadian government’s Department of Foreign Affairs had established a technical assistance program for Northern Russia, but had not yet developed priorities or mechanisms for projects dealing with indigenous peoples. The government decided to commission a study that would address these issues. Mary Simon – the former ICC president and currently Canada’s Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs – was the consultant hired to undertake the work. Her consultations with indigenous peoples in Russia resulted in a report containing three main recommendations:

- institution-building should be the priority in a Canadian assistance program;
- ICC Canada would be the most appropriate executing or delivery agency; and
- RAIPON would be the appropriate partner in Russia.

Shortly after the release of the report, ICC submitted an interim proposal for a travel fund to ensure RAIPON’s participation at the Arctic Council and other international meetings while the detailed plans for a three-year program were put in place. While the concept for assistance came from the report, the actual project was developed through a series of further consultations between ICC Canada and RAIPON. Finally, in late 1996, the full-blown INRIP project was approved by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with a budget of \$1.8 million over three years.

The project consists of two parts. The first is based on an indigenous-to-indigenous approach which transfers Inuit skills and knowledge through yearly internship programs in Canada. In 1998, representatives of 12 Russian Indigenous Peoples visited Canada to undertake training in Ottawa and to visit Inuit communities in the north. The training courses included:

- organizational structures;
- government relations;
- fundraising and proposal writing;
- international indigenous fora; and
- other issues related to aboriginal institution-building and development.

While in the north, the interns also visited Inuit health care facilities, aboriginal businesses and regional representatives.

The second internship is scheduled for late February/early March of this year. By the completion of the third program next fall, representatives of over 30 organizations in Russia will have participated in the program. In addition, aside from the training itself, INRIP provides funds to strengthen the national and regional offices of RAIPON. Financial assistance offsets salaries and operating costs of the RAIPON head office in Moscow. The project to date has also provided equipment such as computers, fax-machines and photocopiers to 10 RAIPON regional offices. By the end of this year, equipment will be distributed to an additional 20 regional offices across the Russian Arctic.

Securing RAIPON's participation in Arctic Council meetings have remained a key component of the INRIP project. INRIP has continued to provide funds for RAIPON attendance at meetings such as Ministerial and Senior Arctic Officials, and the Whitehorse Conference on Sustainable Development. This has facilitated not only their participation in a major Arctic forum, but it has also provided the opportunity to build stronger linkages between RAIPON and others involved in Arctic issues.

The second part of the project, which was only one year in duration, and is now completed, was based on a government-to-government approach. This part brought representatives from Goskomsever and the Canadian Department of Indian Affairs together to discuss Arctic and Aboriginal policy development. Ten Russian government officials visited Canada's north and attended seminars. At a final round table conference in June 1998, a set of specific recommendations was drafted. Workshop themes included:

- legislation
- social, political and economic development policies
- lands and resources
- co-operation in resource development

The government-to-government component also provided an opportunity for ongoing dialogue between the indigenous and government representatives on the INRIP steering committee, and this will continue for the duration of the project.

As we enter the final year, we have begun to explore ideas for a continuation project; CIDA has indicated interest in receiving a proposal. Some elements may remain the same, but we will also consider more emphasis on community economic development and providing practical skills training to enable a greater degree of financial and organizational self-sufficiency. We will also be exploring the possibility of establishing a perpetual fund for institutional and economic development. A further ICC Canada initiative is not directly related to the INRIP project; however, we have recently received "seed funding" to prepare a proposal dealing with contaminants in the Russian Arctic. The proposal will be developed over the coming months, again in collaboration with RAIPON.

There is no question that whatever shape the future work takes, ICC Canada is committed to continuing its work in partnership with RAIPON. Our collaboration has strengthened the capacity of both organizations, and the past two years have proven that the two organizations can work together effectively. This has been demonstrated not only through the INRIP project, but through our joint efforts to successfully deliver humanitarian aid to Chukotka earlier this month.

But we also recognize that the INRIP project can only do so much. There are certainly gaps in our institutional development work and there are many pressing health, environmental and economic issues facing Arctic Russia today. Many more initiatives such as the Danish/Greenland and Norwegian projects will be needed for a long time. As each one is implemented, it will be increasingly important to assess how it complements other projects, thereby ensuring the most far-reaching benefits for Arctic Indigenous Peoples.

3.2. The Danish-Greenlandic Project for Assistance to the Indigenous Peoples of Russia

by Mads Fægteborg, Head of Office, Committee "Natur og Folk i Nord" (NFN; Nature and Peoples of the North) project responsible NGO.

The objectives of this project harmonise with the policy of Denmark-Greenland in promoting sustainable development throughout the circumpolar North and fostering circumpolar co-operation among the Arctic nations in support of this policy, notably through the creation of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and the Arctic Council.

Phase 1 of the project ran from March 1, 1997 until May 31, 1998, with financial support amounting to DKK 1,612,350 from Miljøstyrelsen, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA). Phase 2 started up after a short delay on July 1, 1998 and will run until December 31, 2000. DEPA is supporting Phase 2 with DKK 4,153,100.

Goals: The goal of Phase 2 is to further strengthen the capacity of RAIPON and the Russian Indigenous Peoples' movement, thereby enabling them to ensure sustainable development and environmental rehabilitation in those regions where traditional land use takes place.

Objectives: The objectives of this Phase 2 are as follows:

1. to strengthen the Indigenous Peoples representative structures, regionally and nationally.
2. to enable the Indigenous Peoples to address the local problems and concerns within the field of environment etc. by establishing a network.

Description: In Phase 2, the work will focus on:

1. the use of traditional knowledge and other experiences of Indigenous Peoples
2. Indigenous Peoples' influence on the environmental health of their territories
3. the conservation of indigenous subsistence life styles

Activities

Russia:

- continued employment of a project co-ordinator, a project deputy co-ordinator and an assistant
- to strengthen the competence of RAIPON personnel through training in the English language
- to arrange two seminars, SIPERA (Seminar on the Indigenous Peoples and the Environment of the Russian Arctic) 2+3, in co-operation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal and Arctic Council - Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat; prepare reports from SIPERA 2+3.
- to arrange a regional SIPERA and produce a report on it
- to assist at 3 meetings of the RAIPON Co-ordinating Council
- to continue the mapping of specific environmental, ecological and economic problems in the regions
- to continue the identification of projects in the regions by detailed descriptions and need assessment, including indigenous corporate business interests and prospects for joint ventures, environmental projects, etc.
- to start up some of the 38 projects thus far proposed
- to continue promoting the awareness of indigenous knowledge and sustainable development through processing and dissemination of environmental information
- auditor's reports

Denmark-Greenland:

- to establish contacts with Danish and Greenlandic organisations, institutions and enterprises
- to establish contacts with national and international donors
- to establish contacts with consultants in Denmark and Greenland
- to co-ordinate activities according to the invited tenders for projects and joint ventures, etc.
- to improve and extend data bases initiated in Phase 1
- to maintain contact with the Project Co-ordinator and other relevant parties in Russia
- to promote the awareness of the situation of the Indigenous Peoples of Russia in co-operation with other partners
- to establish and maintain contact with relevant international fora on aid to Russia
- to report to DEPA
- to evaluate and finalise Phase 2
- auditor's reports

Inputs:

- funding from Danish and International donors
- manpower in Russia and Denmark
- transfer of knowledge to Russia

- technical assistance to Russia

NFN is well aware of the critical situation of the Indigenous Peoples of Russia, and therefore welcomes other initiatives to assist or support the Indigenous Peoples of Russia, among those, the initiative taken by UNEP/GRID-Arendal.

NFN wishes to establish and maintain contact with relevant international fora involved in giving aid to Russia. At the same time NFN is afraid of overlapping activities. It is of utmost importance that existing projects will be co-ordinated with proposed projects. NFN has over the last couple of years had excellent communication with ICC-Canada, and is looking forward to a similar relationship with UNEP/GRID-Arendal, not only on this project but also with respect to the continuation of SIPERA. NFN has the opinion that the best co-ordination will be executed by RAIPON. Most positively, we have noted the Comparative Analysis presented by Pavel Sulyandziga, project co-ordinator of the Danish-Greenlandic Project and 2nd vice-president of RAIPON (see below).

3.3. Norwegian programme proposal for “Capacity and participation of indigenous people in the sustainable development of the Arctic”

summarised by Winfried Dallmann (Norwegian Polar Institute), based on documents by UNEP/GRID-Arendal and a workshop in Kárásjohka (January 1999)

A programme proposal on "Capacity and Participation of Russian Indigenous Peoples in the Sustainable Development of the Arctic" was worked out last summer in co-operation with RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East), GRID-Arendal, the Saami Parliament (Norway) and IPS (Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat, Arctic Council).

The main lines of the programme were drawn by representatives of the indigenous peoples (through RAIPON) themselves, based on mapping of urgent needs in the northern areas during a workshop in Moscow in March 1998 (Sulyandziga & Henry 1998; full reference at the end of this bulletin). GRID-Arendal forwarded the proposal to the Norwegian ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Environment, and of Regional Development. The Ministry of the Environment answered negatively, while the two others showed a general interest. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed a preparatory project to integrate the programme with other existing ones (mainly from Canada and Denmark/Greenland) which resulted in a workshop in Kárásjohka (Sápmi, Norway) in January 1999, hosted by the Saami Parliament.

The workshop was originally meant to collect representatives of the initiating institutions (RAIPON, IPS, Saami Parliament, GRID-Arendal), other indigenous umbrella organisations (ICC, Saami Council), the Barents Secretariat, relevant Norwegian and Russian ministries, the Russian Academy of Public Administration, and the related support programmes of Canada and Denmark/Greenland. Some of these organisations are to delegate representatives to the Steering Committee of the programme. It was considered a major issue to make clear that the individual support programmes are easy to integrate, and that they would supplement each other. There was a consensus that RAIPON would be the best suited organisation to take care of the co-ordination between the various support programmes.

Although no commitments were made – or could have been made – at the workshop, there was a generally positive response and a willingness to try to translate into action at least part of the programme, possibly under the umbrella of the Arctic Council.

Suggested sub-programmes and outputs:

- **Networking:** Annual conferences with the regional indigenous organisations, newsletter in Russian, internet home pages, securing full participation of indigenous representatives in international Arctic programmes

- **Communications:** Establishing telecommunications, including e-mail, between the indigenous peoples' organisations
- **Regional environmental information:** State of environment reports at a regional level with focus on indigenous peoples and traditional lifestyles
- **Environmental impact assessments:** Independent assessments of various development issues which are supposed to have strong impacts on the indigenous population
- **Legislative issues:** Draft new environmental legislation, and develop indigenous peoples' capacity to address legislation and implementation issues
- **Small business development:** Establishment of a small business commission that would develop Norwegian-Russian business connections with focus on sustainable traditional indigenous lifestyles

Expected results:

In addition to these outputs, the following important results are expected:

- Indigenous knowledge will be integrated in the environmental management of Arctic Russia.
- Indigenous people will build up their own capacity and communication and thus participate more effectively in environmental legislation issues, policy development and decision-making in order to protect their own interests.
- Increased insight and participation will lead to increased self-confidence among indigenous peoples and make them less dependent on external assistance.
- Information on environmental and indigenous issues will be much more accessible both internationally and to local indigenous people.
- Indigenous umbrella organisations will increase their capacity to represent indigenous interests.

Budget:

The GRID-Arendal proposal is suggesting a budget of 30 million Norwegian kroner for a period of five years. Though certainly not too high, this amount must be considered tentative as the implementing and cooperating partners have yet to be firmly identified, and details concerning the individual projects and the programme's integration with other support programmes have not yet been settled.

Conclusions of the workshop in Kárášjohka:

- The Workshop was a necessary and fruitful tool which contributed concretely to the further progress of implementing the programme proposal.
- Although all six components of the programme proposal are of key importance to the indigenous peoples' situation, a priority ranking of initial activities is essential.
- The involvement of the indigenous peoples themselves in all phases of the programme is inherent.
- The programme must be co-ordinated with existing parallel initiatives. The revised programme proposal should clearly show synergetic factors and harmonisation of activities with such parallel initiatives.
- The organisational framework is crucial for the successful and efficient implementation of the programme. On a longer-term basis, this programme may belong under the Arctic Council umbrella.
- Women must play a significant participatory role in the operative process.

Recommendations of the workshop in Kárášjohka:

- RAIPON will prepare a revised Programme Proposal based on the recommendations from the Workshop.
- The Workshop report and the revised Programme Proposal will be submitted to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a request for funding. A priority list of the proposed programme activities should be included.
- UNEP/GRID-Arendal will assist RAIPON in fund-raising for programme activities not given priority by the Government of Norway. Potential donors are Sweden and Finland, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and international organisations which have already shown an interest in the programme, like ESA, NEFCO and the FAO/FIVIMS.

Comparative analysis of the international programs for assistance to Indigenous peoples in Russia

by Pavel Sulyandziga, RAIPON

	Canadian project	Danish-Greenlandic Initiative	Norwegian project proposal
Priorities	Establishing a model of interaction between indigenous peoples and different levels of state power in RF (by example of Canada)	Collection of project proposals and work with donors on their funding	Enhance the role of indigenous peoples' in connection with environmental protection
Goals	Strengthening the indigenous peoples' institutions in Russia to provide their direct involvement into decision-making on current issues	Mapping the problems and elaboration of project proposals	Information support to indigenous peoples to ensure proper decision-making
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity building of RAIPON headquarters 2. Purchase of office equipment for RAIPON regional and ethnic affiliates 3. Training of the indigenous interns 4. Support for RAIPON participation in Arctic Council activity 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seminars on "Indigenous Peoples and Environment in the Russian Arctic" 2. Data bank on regional legislation concerning indigenous peoples 3. Funding of the RAIPON Co-ordinating council meetings 4. Mapping of the specific ecological, economic and other problems in the regions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish a newsletter on RAIPON activity 2. Create an Internet Web-site 3. Legislative support for indigenous peoples' rights 4. Funding of minor projects for small-scale business development
Activity level	Federal, regional	Federal, regional, local	Federal, regional, local
Outputs	Establishing of working offices for RAIPON in Moscow and regions in RF	Launching specific projects in the ethnic settlements, areas of traditional land use	Establish an environmental information network for indigenous peoples
Follow up activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further capacity building of RAIPON 2. Organizing training sessions 3. Improvement and enforcement of legislation concerning indigenous peoples 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizing seminars and training sessions on project management and small business development 2. Collection of project proposals 3. Assistance in the publications on indigenous peoples and environment 	

continued from p. 9:

- Proposals for GEF (Global Environment Facility) funding should also be prepared. Due consideration and support should be given to the application already sent to GEF on the impact from POPs on the health of Arctic Indigenous Peoples.
- The Saami President will propose an efficient institutional framework for the programme implementation in co-operation with RAIPON, the Saami Council, ICC, UNEP/GRID-Arendal and programme donors.
- The revised programme, together with background reports from the Moscow seminar and the Karáshjohka Workshop should be presented at relevant meetings and events addressing the sustainable development of Arctic Russia.

4. Information on the 2nd Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and the Environment of the Russian Arctic (SIPERA)

Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON)

A 2nd Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and the Environment of the Russian Arctic (SIPERA) was held in Moscow on 20-21 March 1999. It was organized by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) with financial support from the Danish-Greenlandic Project for Assistance to the Indigenous Peoples of Russia, and with the participation of the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat of the Arctic Council (IPS) and the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Resources Information Database (UNEP/GRID-Arendal). Thirty regional indigenous organizations and groups were represented at the seminar, including two recently formed indigenous organizations. In all, there were 67 indigenous representatives from the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation. Nine foreign participants were present as observers, along with scientists and specialists from research and governmental bodies related to indigenous affairs.

The purpose of this seminar was to facilitate the compilation of project proposals concerned with the solution of specific social, economic and environmental problems affecting indigenous communities of the Russian North. The first (theoretical) session of the seminar was held during the first evening, immediately after the arrival of the regional participants. After a short introduction, basic requirements to the project applications were presented. Participants received application forms and instructions for compiling project proposals.

The seminar was opened by the President of RAIPON, Sergey Kharyuchi, who emphasized how the participants themselves had shaped the meeting and determined its topic: **From Writing to Funding**. Kharyuchi confirmed that RAIPON is going to organize a subsequent seminar next year. He said that participants would have to study and achieve skills and knowledge needed for practical work in their regions.

The session on 20 March 1999 started with the presentation of the report on the SIPERA seminar of 1998, published on the basis of the material received from the participants, and printed in Norway in 1998 by UNEP/GRID-

Arendal. Pavel Sulyandziga, RAIPON vice-president and co-author of the report, delineated the initiatives launched in accordance with the seminar's recommendations. His presentation was supplemented by Lars Kullerud (GRID-Arendal), who gave information on a joint meeting in Káraşjohka, Norway, in January 1999. That meeting discussed the establishment of a Norwegian-Russian programme for the development of capacity and participation of indigenous peoples in the sustainable development of Arctic Russia, as well as necessary coordination with already existing programmes. This planned five-year programme will be developed in cooperation by GRID-Arendal and RAIPON. The topical priorities of the programme resulted from the analysis of the questionnaires filled in by the SIPERA-1998 participants and were ranked at the present SIPERA seminar. They were determined as follows: the first and second priorities are networking and communication issues affecting the indigenous organizations, the third priority is the development of independent environmental expertise, and finally, least prioritized, legislative issues, small business development and the production of regional environmental information.

Natalya Kosheleva took the floor to represent the TACIS programme "Increased population awareness on environmental problems", presenting the two manuals for non-governmental organizations: "Place under the sun" and "Partnership for the future". This set of two books was passed to all presidents of the RAIPON regional affiliates and representatives of the regional indigenous organizations.

The publication of the Russian version of the "Arctic Pollution Issues: A State of the Arctic Environment Report" was announced. The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) working under the Arctic Council since 1991, had prepared and published the English-language report² on all factors of Arctic

² Norwegian and Saami language editions of this report also exist, see reference in NNSIPRA Bulletin No.1 (the Editor).

pollution in order to spread information about these issues to the public. In the beginning of 1998, under the coordination of the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat and with the approval of the Danish-Greenlandic Project for assistance to the indigenous peoples of Russia, RAIPON transferred the funds for the translation of the AMAP report into Russian. This report was translated and printed by Hydrometeoizdat in St. Petersburg in early 1999. The official resumé of this report was distributed to the SIPERA participants. After receiving the print-run, RAIPON will send a copy of the Russian edition to all its regional affiliates and indigenous organizations. The report is considered to be an excellent digest and directory for the study of Arctic pollution issues, including the Russian Arctic.

Lars Kullerud then gave information on the compilation of "State of Environment Reports" (SoER), as it is annually being organized in the CIS countries with the technical assistance of GRID-Arendal. For those who showed an interest in the methodology and compilation process of these reports a CD-ROM demonstration of the information on national SoER was proposed.

After the introductory part, the seminar entered the phase of practical work with the project proposals. Tamara Semenova, Deputy Coordinator of the Danish-Greenlandic Project, demonstrated a model database in Microsoft Access format containing the project proposals submitted to RAIPON by the indigenous organizations and their members. The database is available in two separate versions: one in Russian and one in English. After further improvement, the database should be available on the internet to facilitate searching for potential cooperation partners, sponsors and investors.

Lyubov Lunyova, an invited expert on writing and evaluating grant applications, continued her training with the SIPERA participants on problem evaluation, background information, goals, objectives, methods of description, etc. She also commented upon, criticized and evaluated the submitted project proposals. Work on the project proposals was continued until late evening, after a break when the participants met Mr. Valery Kirpichnikov, the Minister of Regional Policy. This an hour-and-a-half meeting highlighted the desire for a constructive dialogue between the authorities and the non-governmental organizations, and the urgency of the

problems facing indigenous peoples' as they attempt to survive in traditional land use areas.

The session on 21 March was opened by the Danish-Greenlandic Project (DGP) Manager, Mads Fægteborg, who informed the participants about the evaluation of the proposals submitted to the RAIPON office within the frame of the Danish-Greenlandic Project and announced the three projects selected for subsequent funding. DGP will seek funds for the implementation of these projects from potential sponsors abroad (in particular, application to the Danish Environment Protection Agency is planned). From 38 project proposals submitted the following three were selected as winners:

Programme for capacity building of the Information Center "Aborigine of Kamchatka" (\$ 7 560);

Business development plan for the Bikin national hunting management, non-timber resources processing and production (\$37 720);

Community self-reliance: leadership training for indigenous peoples of Russia (\$ 54 363).

Winfried Dallmann (Norwegian Polar Institute) described the first results of establishing a Norwegian Network for the Support of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North (NNSIPRA). The network was initiated by Dr. Dallmann who participated at the SIPERA-1998 seminar and requested RAIPON to supply the contact information on its regional affiliates. The first issue of the NNSIPRA Bulletin with information on the network participants was sent to all Russian addressees. Unfortunately, not all the RAIPON regional affiliates received this issue. The verification of contact addresses was therefore requested. In the future it may be possible to distribute the bulletin in both electronic and printed versions via the RAIPON office in Moscow. Dallmann invited all SIPERA participants to submit relevant information for publishing in the bulletin.

The seminar was organized in a way that questions brought up by the indigenous representatives could be considered in the course of discussions. The emphasis was on solving existing problems as soon as possible.

Gifts were delivered at the concluding ceremony. The following regional representatives received prizes for their work: Oleg Zaporotsky (Itelmen, Palana settlement, Koryak Autono-

mous Region): a laptop computer; Galina Volkova (Ulchi, Bogorodskoe settlement, Ulchsky District, Khabarovsk Region): a photo camera; Vlad Peskov (Nenets, St. Petersburg): a high-speed fax modem.

In the closing session, recommendations for the next SIPERA were discussed. The following recommendations were made:

- 1) Distribute copies to SIPERA participants of the project proposals accepted by the Danish-Greenlandic Initiative for subsequent funding as models;
- 2) Invite the donors to visit the project sites and evaluate the implementation;
- 3) Express gratitude to the sponsors and organizers of the SIPERA 1999 for the excellent organization of the seminar;
- 4) Organize the dissemination of knowledge and skills acquired at the seminar to the regions;
- 5) Continue the training on writing project proposals, including organizing regional sessions;
- 6) Take into consideration the intense schedule of the meetings and plan breaks during the seminar;
- 7) Positively stress the noteworthy opportunity for communication and social activity during the seminar for both its participants and observers;
- 8) Request RAIPON to organize expert evaluation and assistance in the development of the project proposals;
- 9) Improve the regional affiliates' activities in correspondence with RAIPON's active work and increased the level of participation and involvement in public life;
- 10) Note that expanded participation of regional representatives in the training seminars will be a positive factor;
- 11) Organize a meeting between the Minister of National Policy, Ramazan Abdulatipov, with the indigenous activists and leaders at the next Coordinating Council of RAIPON;
- 12) Make poaching in aboriginal lands a priority issue for the next SIPERA seminar;
- 13) Study and apply experiences of environmental organizations in developing communication networks, and publish grant applications and information on project proposals in the Bulletin "Zhivaya Arktika" (Living Arctic);
- 14) Collect information on environmental threats and disseminate it among the participants;
- 15) Support the high level of organization of RAIPON meetings and ensure an adequate press and mass media coverage of the events;
- 16) Make sure that the issues of project implementation and reporting are followed up by the SIPERAs;
- 17) Invite the representatives of the foundations providing financial support for indigenous peoples' participation in the seminar;
- 18) Compile a list of relevant foundations and disseminate it among the regional affiliates and interested parties.

The seminar was held in the Ministry of Regional Policy in Moscow, prospekt Vernadskogo, 37, building 2, room 602. Information about the seminar in Russian and English can be obtained both in electronic and printed form at the RAIPON office:

Mailing address:

*117415 Moscow, prospekt Vernadskogo, 37, korp.2, office 527
phone: +7 (095) 930 44 68, +7 (095) 938 95 97, +7 (095) 938 95 27
fax: +7 (095) 930 44 68, +7 (095) 938 95 97
e-mail: udege@glasnet.ru
Coordinator of the SIPERA seminar in Russia: Pavel Sulyandziga, RAIPON vice-president*

*Manager of the Danish-Greenlandic Project, coordinates activities internationally: Mads Fægteborg
Arctic Information, Møntergade 16, DK-1116 Copenhagen K, Denmark
phone: +45 33 13 02 92
Fax: +45 33 32 09 92
e-mail: arctic@inet.uni2.dk*

5. International projects related to indigenous peoples of the Russian North *Update from NNSIPRA Bulletin No. 1*

summarised by Winfried K. Dallmann (Norwegian Polar Institute / NNSIPRA co-ordinator)

In NNSIPRA Bulletin No. 1 (October 1998) a number of projects carried out or planned by Norwegian and Finnish institutions were briefly introduced. This section provides some complementary information from a more international arena. All contributions are either written or approved by the responsible project leaders or, as for the Russian project, summarised from their drafts. For addresses and telephone numbers of the contact persons see the separate address list.

Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia (CANADA)

<http://vaughan.fac.unbc.ca/ucgf/index.htm>

Contact: Gail Fondahl

Indigenous land use and administration in the Sakha Republic and Russian Federation

The creation of institutions of local self-administration is central to the process of democratization in post-Soviet Russia. New laws on access to land, resources, local self-governance and environmental protection offer aboriginal peoples of the Russian North both opportunities and challenges. Native associations have actively sought legislative reform that addresses aboriginal rights to land and establishes local governance over traditional territories. Federal and regional level governments have responded with legislation that begins to define such rights. For example, aboriginal rights have been codified in the 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation and the 1992 Constitution of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

Within this context, aboriginal policy and legislation are shaped as much by the Soviet past as by the efforts to create a democratic polity and a market economy of the present. Analysis of historic land alienation and the imposition of non-Native territorial-administrative systems is especially important in that recent legislative initiatives summon a return to combinations of aboriginal, Tsarist, and early Soviet land tenure and administrative systems. For instance, the recent establishment of clan communes (*родовые общины*) alludes to traditional indigenous territorial organization, while the revival of national village administrations (*национальные сельские администрации*) and districts (*национальные улусы*) recovers early Soviet institutions.

Understanding change and continuity in past land tenure and governance systems is crucial to developing effective policy on aboriginal land use and administration today. To this end we are mapping and analyzing the consequences of the restructuring of aboriginal land tenure and territorial-administration during the Soviet and post-Soviet periods and outlining the historic factors which affect current negotiations over land settlements and the establishment of locally-based, aboriginal self-administration. Concretely, the project compares the development of the administration and land tenure of aboriginal communities in four districts of the Sakha Republic. Comparisons will then be extended to other sites of recent and ongoing research on aboriginal land tenure and self-administration in the Russian North. Results of this project will provide a basis for specific recommendations regarding aboriginal territorial administration policy and implementation.

University of Alberta / University of Northern British Columbia (CANADA)

Contact: David Marples (U.A.), Aileen Espiritu (U.N.B.C.)

Yakut-Sakha and the Siberian North-East

Funded by the University of Calgary-Gorbachev Foundation Joint Trust Fund

Timeline: October 1996 to October 1999

During the Soviet period, the central government in Moscow boasted of how well indigenous peoples in the Russian North and Siberia had accepted Soviet life while keeping many of their traditional culture, their language and their traditional economies. The collapse of the USSR revealed that the opposite was true. Many Native peoples in the Russian North and Siberia were living in substandard

conditions akin to conditions in developing countries. While massive industrialization and resource extraction and development made the Soviet Union a world power, it led to the loss of culture, the extinction of languages and the degradation of the environment that these Native peoples need to practice their traditional economies.

As we near the end of the twentieth century, the most salient problems that the Sakha and other Native peoples in the Sakha Republic face are not the blatant imperialism and colonization experienced in the recent past under Soviet rule but rather the impact of resource and industrial development: environmental degradation and massive pollution. One of the most seriously effected areas is the Vilyuy River, in the northern interior of the Sakha Republic. The Vilyuy River is highly polluted with wastes from the diamond mines and salt mines that lay near its banks. This pollution and environmental disaster is most profoundly seen in its effects on the health of the population, which is mostly Sakha, living in the region. Prevalent is the incidence of cancer which has increased dramatically in the last decade, with hepatitis A and B also posing problems and health risks for the Sakha. A dozen or more situations such as these prevail in Yakut-Sakha. The goal of the project is to investigate the economic development of the Siberian North-East in the post-war period of Soviet Rule and in the period 1991-95, its environmental and health impact on Sakha communities (especially women), and to work with regional authorities regarding policy decisions.

This project examines the magnitude of this damage, what the people of the Sakha Republic are doing about it and what the government is doing to halt and, if possible, to reverse the tremendous damage done to people's culture, traditional lands and health.

Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta (CANADA)

Contact: David G. Anderson

'Ways of knowing' reindeer and caribou in the Circumpolar North

This three-year project is designed to compare the local knowledge of Evenki and Dolgan reindeer herders and hunters in the Taimyr Autonomous District of Russia and that of Gwich'in (Dene) caribou¹ hunters and managers in the Gwich'in Settlement Area of Canada's Northwest Territories. The main methodology of the project involves direct meetings with hunters from each region on each other's lands so that they may compare techniques and philosophies. Meetings will be facilitated with translators. It is hoped that through these contacts the project members will gain a broader view of how concrete observations on the behaviour of reindeer guide social practice and inform worldview. Specifically, the project will investigate the difference (if any) between ways of relating to domestic reindeer and so-called 'wild' reindeer (caribou¹). It is hoped that participants in the project will compare different regimes of wildlife management, co-management, and 'rational management' as practiced in these two settings.

¹North American term for not-domesticated reindeer.

Russian Academy of Public Administration Service, Murmansk Division (RUSSIA)

Contact: Evgenia Maltseva

Education of state employees among the native minorities of the Russian North at the beginning of the XXI Century

Aware of the lack of sufficient indigenous participation in state and municipal management, as is demanded by the presidential law of September 4th, 1997, the recently created Murmansk Division is envisaging a large-scale recruitment of 60 to 90 indigenous students for the following subjects:

- municipal management
- strategical state management
- management of foreign economic activity
- state control of economy

The Murmansk Division can provide a high-level staff of teachers, partly recruited from leading positions in state administration, and also foreign specialists with scientific, political and diplomatic backgrounds. Graduates will receive high education diplomas and have perspectives at all levels of state service in the Russian Federation.

For the realization of this project, we seek an international funding of \$ 180 000.

Department of Regional Studies and Environmental Policy, University of Tampere (FINLAND)

Contact: Kristiina Karppi

Cross-Border Development in the New Europe

This is a three-year comparative project funded by the Academy of Finland. Kristiina Karppi will join this programme in May 1999. Covering the overlapping areas of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (BEAR) and Sápmi (the non-administrative name for the homeland of the Saami), her sub-project will focus on questions like:

1. How are the institutional local players (organisations) connected to the process of region-building and regional development?
2. How does the participation of the Saami in the four states vary in this process?
3. How do the goals, objectives and resources of the various interest groups of the region differ, and how can they be mapped?
4. What are the elementary touching points for co-operation among different players and interest groups in Sápmi and BEAR, and which issues will most likely cause confrontation among them?

All of the above questions include the concerns of the Kola Saami as part of the larger cross-border area. In regional development, "ecologically sustainable development" is but one aspect. The demand for "socially sustainable development" should be added to cover the need for culturally and economically sustainable development. These dimensions should not be separated.

The Foundation for Nature Research and Cultural Heritage Research (NINA-NIKU)

Contact: Ole Grøn

Project proposal:

The Evenks: Development and implementation of a model for solution of a complex set of problems affecting an aboriginal population in the Northern Transbaykal, Siberia.

The change from communism to a market economy has had a marked impact on the Evenkian reindeer-hunters in the Northern Transbaykal. The very conservative Evenks are among the few remaining groups of northern forest hunters. In some ways the quality of their lives has improved, but the new economic situation also represents a threat, e.g. because of increasing mining activities in their traditional hunting grounds. Fieldwork in 1997 and 1998 showed that a reasonable solution must be based on interdisciplinary work involving ethnography, archaeology, ecology, wildlife studies and geology. A five-year project is proposed.

Objectives: 1) To document past and present ideological, material and behavioural aspects of Evenkian culture, especially as these shape their role in the ecology of their homeland; 2) based on this, to contribute to the development of an appropriate administrative system for the area, and to an appropriate land and wildlife management system, and thereby to support Evenks in their endeavours to sustain their culture.

The project has been developed during the period 1995-1998 through field studies and interdisciplinary collaboration between NINA-NIKU, and several research, cultural and administrative institutions in the Transbaykal Region, mainly the Center for Cultural Anthropology and Ecology of the Transbaykal Natives in Chita (Russian project leader: Dr. Oleg Kuznetsov). Representatives of the local Evenk community have been involved in developing the project and support the studies. Besides funding from NINA-NIKU, the project will apply for additional funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Research Council.

Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

Contact: Egil Rønningstad

Small business development

YWAM in Naryan-Mar is exploring possibilities of starting small business enterprises owned by Nenets people. These would provide fur boots and other fur products for sale outside the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, and also transport and tourist services. Those who are interested in investing in this project should contact YWAM.

6. Aid to the Indigenous North

ICC Aid to Chukotka

News review by Helle Valborg Goldman, Norwegian Polar Institute; from articles collected by Peter Jull, Brisbane, Australia

A Canadian relief mission to Inuit in Russia's Chukotka region in January has been criticized for being too expensive, according to several articles by Geoffrey York in Canada's *Globe and Mail* newspaper (18-19 January 1999). The project totalled roughly US\$ 400 000, but the 14 tonnes of supplies - primarily food - cost only US\$ 30 000. One of the biggest expenses was that of transporting the goods from Canada to Chukotka.

In Canada's *Nunatsiaq News* (4 February 1999), Terry Fenge of the ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Conference) reacted strongly against the notion that the effort had been driven by hidden, self-interested motives. He explained that the mission was designed by a Canadian steering committee with representatives from three federal agencies, the Canadian Red Cross and the ICC. The steering committee worked closely with its Moscow counterpart, comprising Russian federal and regional government agencies, RAIPON, and the Russian Red Cross. According to Fenge, who emphasized the importance of helping indigenous people manage their own crises, the capacity-building fostered by the project is among its enduring successes. The mission was expensive, Fenge said, but buying and transporting the supplies within Russia could have entailed costly leakages into the hands of corrupt officials or criminals.

With stockpiles of walrus meat, the Inuit in Chukotka are not facing imminent starvation. But their chronically worsening poverty demands attention, according to York. In decline since the 19th century because of disease, conflicts with Chukchi reindeer-herders, displacement from sea mammal hunting, and Soviet collectivization, Chukotka Inuit are dependent on scanty government subsidies despite efforts to regain their economic footing. Unemployment, alcoholism and the death rate are all high. There are shortages of medicines, hunting supplies, winter clothing and some staple food-stuffs. Such hardship severely affects the local Inuit culture.

January's relief mission may not have supplied the most-needed items: there were only some medical supplies and no baby food or clothing. But Fenge stated optimistically, "we are poised to go back to this region and to northern Kamchatka to help Canada implement a larger humanitarian assistance and capacity-building project." Fenge promised that the team will try to "get the maximum amount of supplies quickly into the hands of the neediest people at the lowest possible cost".

Meanwhile, there are fears that planned US/EU food deliveries to Russia amounting to US\$ 2 billion will be diverted to crooked officials and distribution companies, will not reach remote regions, and will have a negative impact on Russia's economy.

Medical equipment for Lujávvri (Lovozero)

Source: Ságát (Áviisa Sámiide; Saami Newspaper), No. 18, 13 February 1999

As part of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region cooperation, a twin town partnership project between the Saami communities of Kárášjohka (Karasjok; Finnmark, Norway) and Lujávvri (Lovozero; Murmanskaya Oblast, Russia) has now achieved results. Medical supplies purchased with funds from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have now been received at the hospital in Lujávvri. The equipment consists of three fully equipped ambulance vehicles with spare parts, ultrasonic equipment and other diagnostic aids, medicines, and computers. Except for the ultrasonic diagnosis gear, all equipment was purchased in Russia. The specialists involved said experiences gained from buying equipment in Russia were good, problems with customs authorities were avoided, and only a small portion of the project's funds was used for administration and travel.

Another project aimed at improving the quality of the drinking water of the Lujávvri community, for which 3.2 million Norw. kroner (c. US\$ 420 000) have been granted by the Norwegian and Finnish governments, is still in preparation and will, it is hoped, be carried out within the next six months.

7. Threats for Reindeer-Herding in Murmansk Region: The Voronya Minerals Scare of 1998

Yulian Konstantinov, Institute for Anthropological Field-Research, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria

Sofia, 25 February 1999 - The following brief account is intended to inform readers of the dangers threatening the reindeer-herding community, culture, and subsistence base in the Kola Peninsula. Every effort should be made to prevent industrial, mining and related infrastructural activities from extending east of the Murmansk-St.Petersburg railway line. Any such extension might irrevocably ruin existing grazing-land, deflect herd migration-routes, and thereby make herding impossible in some areas of the peninsula.

Fears that this might happen began with an announcement in *Murmanskiy Vestnik* of 25 and 28 March 1998. The Murmansk Region administration opened up a competition for mining and prospecting rights in the reindeer-herding territories of Lovozerskiy Rayon, more precisely a large area stretching from the Voronya Basin in the north, to Kolmozero and the Pana Heights (*Panskie tundri*) in the south.

The Lovozero Rayon Committee of the War Veterans initiated a meeting on 8 April to discuss the matter and subsequently a protest was addressed to the Regional Governor and signed by the Lovozero Branch of the Kola Saami Association, by the Association of the Izhma-Komi "Iz'vatas", and the Rayon Committee of the War Veterans, Labour Veterans, and Army Veterans (*Lovozerskaya Pravda*, 29/05/1998). In an abbreviated form this protest reads as follows:

"The Administration of Murmansk Region and the Committee of Geology and Underground Exploitation in Murmansk Region has announced an open competition for the right of exploiting underground mineral resources and of geological surveying with following extraction of gold, copper, molybdenum, low-yield sulphide, and platinum-metal ores in the Voronya Basin. The total area which can be thus taken from the reindeer-herding pastures equals 675 sq.km. in size, which shall totally destroy a major part of the reindeer-herding in the Rayon, and thus destroy the basis for subsistence of the local tundra-depended population."

The protest did not seem to have any immediate effect. By September it had become known that a Russian-Swedish joint venture, Voronya Minerals Co., had won the competition. Anthropologist and reindeer-herding specialist from the University of Uppsala, Prof. Hugh Beach, visited Lovozero in September and made enquiries about the prospects of mining. Upon returning he confirmed that Voronya Minerals Co. had won the competition, adding that 70% of the company is made up by the Swedish firm Boliden, and that it had been granted an exploration and exploitation lease for 25 years, in the SHPK "Tundra" herding range, effective immediately (pers. comm., H. Beach 10 October 1998).

In December a new protest was circulated, this time by The Center for Civil Society International (12/12/98; e-mail: ccsi@u.washington.edu). In the form of a resolution passed by The Second Indigenous Circumpolar Youth Conference (Resolution on Lovozero District 4/11/98) this statement voiced essentially the same concerns as in the *Lovozerskaya Pravda* proclamation of 28 May, quoted above, and was again signed by the Lujavri (Lovozero) Local Branch of the Kola Saami Association, the Association of the Komi-Izhemtsi "Iz'vatas", and the Council of War and Labour Veterans.

Despite these two protests it looked as if come summer 1999 the Voronya Minerals Co. would begin its activities as per contract. Though it was not clear exactly where in the very large area referred to - from the Voronya Basin in the North, to the Pana Heights in the South - the activities would take place, they would undoubtedly transect the trek-routes of the SHPK "Tundra" herds. These are roughly positioned from the centre of the peninsula (winter-grazing) north and north-eastward for the summer grazing close to the Barents Sea coast. The area between Voronya and Kolmozero, especially, is across the trek-routes of all "Tundra" brigades, possibly excepting Brigades Nos. 3 and 5.

However, in the beginning of January Boliden sent a fax to the Lovozero Rayon administration indicating its refusal to take part as the decisive

partner of Voronya Minerals Co. From what was known the other partners were a Russian firm (20%) and the Administration of Murmansk Region (10%). The official reason for the withdrawal was the financial crisis in Russia, it was said. To my knowledge, local protests were not mentioned.

While the Voronya Minerals Scare has gone away for the time being, there is no telling when it might come back in a more decisive manner. Geological surveying has been going on in the heartland of both "Tundra" and "Memory of Lenin" pasture-lands for many decades now. When I began research in this area back in 1994 there were strong local rumours that mining of kyanite deposits in the Voronya-Kolmozero area, as well as of abrasive ores in the SE of the peninsula, might soon begin and that would be the end of reindeer-herding in this part of Murmansk Region. Fortunately, consultations with the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU; courtesy of Winfried Dallmann) indicated that there was no current interest in either of these ores.

The grazing-lands east of the Murmansk-St. Petersburg railwayline and south of the Murmansk-Toumanniy road (and perhaps I should also say, west of the coastline with its military presence, and around various closed towns), should be preserved for reindeer-herding. As the current crisis has highlighted, what is at stake here is not only the preservation of a cultural heritage and the community which sustains it, but their very subsistence-basis. Significantly, increasing numbers of urbanites who had deserted the region's rural areas are renewing their links with them, if not actually going back, and are relying more and more on subsistence items (reindeer meat most of all) from relatives working on reindeer-herding crews.

The most decisive measures which can be recommended are to gain a protected status for the whole of Lovozerskiy Rayon and to develop a local economy relying on income from renewable-resource exploitation in combination with wilderness tourism.

8. Notes

New Ministry of Regional Policy takes care of indigenous affairs

After recent changes in the Russian Government (autumn 1998), the tasks of the former State Committee of the North (Goskomsever) have been transferred to the recently established Ministry of Regional Policy. Concerning its work on the North and Far East of the Russian Federation, it has given priority, amongst other things, to evaluating juridical questions affecting the indigenous population and to proposing legal changes to the State Duma. A cooperation agreement with RAIPON was signed in March, 1999.

Reference to recent reports:

Environmental problems affecting the traditional lifestyles of indigenous peoples in the Russian North.

A seminar report, Moscow, March 1998. (In English and Russian.)

By P. Suliandziga & D. Henry.

RAIPON, Goskomsever, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Arctic Council / Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat. 39+39 pp.

AMAP (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme) publications:

The Russian translation of the comprehensive version of the AMAP report «Arctic Pollution Issues: A state of the Arctic environment report» is now available (see also NNSIPRA Bulletin No. 1, October 1998):

Загрязнения Арктики: Доклад о состоянии окружающей среде Арктики, АМАР, 1997. 188 pp.

A fully referenced, voluminous report of AMAP's results up to 1996 is now also available:

AMAP Assessment Report: Arctic Pollution Issues; Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Oslo 1998, xii+859 pp.

New INSROP (International Northern Sea Route Programme) publications with relevance to indigenous peoples:

(see also NNSIPRA Bulletin No. 1, October 1998)

Subprogramme II (Environmental Factors):

INSROP Working Paper 99-1998:

Northern Sea Route Dynamic Environmental Atlas.

By O.W. Brude, K.A. Moe, V. Bakken, R. Hansson, L.H. Larsen, S.M. Løvås, J. Thomassen & Ø. Wiig. 58 pp.

Environmental maps and charts in colour print.

INSROP Working Paper 142-1999:

A Guide to EIA (*Environmental Impact Assessment*) Implementation in INSROP Phase 2.

By J. Thomassen, K.A. Moe, O.W. Brude, S.M. Chivilev, M. Gavrilov, V. Khlebovich, V. Pogrebov, G. Simanov & S. Zubarev.

INSROP Working Paper 162-1999:

Evaluation of INSROP Valued Ecosystem Components: Protected Areas, Indigenous People, Domestic Reindeer and Wild Reindeer.

By J. Thomassen, W.K. Dallmann, K. Isaksen, V. Khlebovich & Ø. Wiig.

Subprogramme IV (Political, Legal and Strategic Factors):

INSROP Working Paper 148-1999:

The NSR: Impacts on the Nenets Autonomous Okrug Regional Development and Social/Economic Conditions of the Nenets Population.

By E. Andreeva. 92 pp., 12 maps.

INSROP Working Paper 152-1999:

The Northern Sea Route and Local Communities in Northwest Russia: Social Impact Assessment for the Murmansk Region.

By Yu. Konstantinov. 44 pp.

INSROP Working Paper 154-1999:

The Sami People and the Northern Sea Route: Juridical, Social and Cultural Concerns.

By L.-N. Lasko & G. Osherenko. 74 pp.

Status of the numerically small peoples of Russia. Juridical documents.

(in Russian: Статус малочисленных народов России. Правовые акты.)

Edited by V.A. Kryazhkov.

Yurinformtsentr, Moscow 1999, 400 pp.

Conference: Contemporary Problems of Traditional Land Use of Indigenous Peoples of the North

This conference, organized by the Russian University of Peoples' Friendship, was announced in NNSIPRA Bulletin No. 1, Oct. 1998. It was to have been held in Moscow in January 1999, but has been rescheduled for 17-21 May 1999.

Workshop: Key Problems Facing Indigenous Peoples of the North

Time: 17-18 September 1999

Place: Ministry of Regional Policy, Prospekt Vernadskogo 37, korp. 2, Moscow

Organisers: Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Ministry of Regional Policy, Department of Indigenous Peoples of the North, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

Theme 1: Natural Resources and Use of Land

Indigenous peoples have a need for use of vast land areas for their traditional way of income. When natural resources of interest to the industrial society are discovered in these areas, there is a conflict of interests. Often, the indigenous peoples are losers in these conflicts, and their possibilities for traditional way of income (as well as their culture) are threatened.

This theme will include a more complete problem description, and aim at how similar conflicts have been resolved in other parts of the Arctic, including land use, legal rights to land and resources etc.

Theme 2: Living Conditions

The intention with this theme is to analyse the economic and social life of the indigenous peoples using standardised methods so reliable comparative studies can be made with peoples in other parts of the Arctic.

Theme 3: Alcoholism, Causes and Impacts

Alcoholism is one of the most serious problems in many indigenous communities. Physiological, psychological and societal aspects of this problem should be studied, as well as methods and techniques for eliminating or reducing the problem.

Aim

Within the three themes mentioned, the workshop will explore the priority problems as seen by the indigenous peoples of the Russian North, focussing on aspects suitable to be addressed by scientific research. During an additional day, Russian and non-Russian scientists will start drafting project proposals based on the discussions the day before.

Approach

A number of relevant studies have already been carried out in the Russian Arctic, but there are several gaps in our knowledge. However, there is a special need to analyse and compare the situation with similar problems of other parts of the Arctic region, and in particular to investigate solutions adapted elsewhere. Hence, comparative studies will be an important element in the follow-up work.

Background

In the situation of crisis, the most vulnerable and insecure category of the population in the Russian North are indigenous peoples living their traditional lifestyle. Similar problems to those being described at the workshop have occurred in other parts of the Arctic, some solutions have been found elsewhere, and an important part of the future research projects should be to investigate successful solutions in other places and consider how these solutions could be adapted to the Russian Arctic.

The objectives of this workshop are to highlight and prioritise the most important problems for which scientific research is needed both for analysing the situation and for identifying feasible options for solutions.

Organising

Pavel Sulyandziga: Vice President Committee Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

Irina Degtyar: Chief Department of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North Russian Ministry of Regional Policy

Elena Andreeva: Chief of Laboratory of Arctic Studies, Institute for System Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences

Jens Dahl: Director IWGIA, Denmark, nominated by IASC

Gail Fondahl: Assist. Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada, nominated by IASC

Participants

- Heads of regional Associations of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North
- Federal and regional government representatives Russian and non-Russian
- scientists having research interests and experience in the themes mentioned.

Language

Russian and English with a translation service

Registration

All participants should register within 1 July 1999

Non-Russian participants are kindly asked to contact:

The IASC Secretariat, E-mail: iasc@iasc.no

NNSIPRA CONTACTS AND ADDRESSES - update from NNSIPRA Bulletin No. 1

Institution / organisation Name/ mailing address	English name	Contact person(s)	Phone	Fax	E-mail address
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND FUNDING AGENCIES:					
Miljøverndepartementet, Seksjon for Polarsaker og Samarbeid med Russland Pb. 8013 Dep 0030 Oslo	Ministry of the Environment, Division for Polar Affairs and Co-operation with Russia	Per Antonsen Gunnbjørg Návik	(+47) 22 24 59 84 (+47) 22 24 59 74	(+47) 22 24 27 55 (+47) 22 24 27 55	per. antonsen@md.dep.no ghn@md.dep.no
Utenriksdepartementet, Seksjon for Russland og de øvrige SUS landene Pb. 8114 Dep 0030 Oslo	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division for Russia and the other CIS countries	Leidulv Namtvedt	(+47) 22 24 33 32	(+47) 22 24 95 80	
Utenriksdepartementet, Seksjon for prosjektsamarbeid med Sentral- og Østeuropa Pb. 8114 Dep 0030 Oslo	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division for Project Co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe	Gerd Berit Lavik	(+47) 22 24 33 44	(+47) 22 24 33 42	esso@ud.dep.telemax.no
Norges Forskningsråd, Stensberggata 26 Pb. 2700 St. Hanshaugen N-0131 Oslo	Norwegian Research Council	Inger-Ann Ulstein	(+47) 22 03 73 43	(+47)22 03 72 78	inger-ann.ulstein@forskningsradet.no
OTHER NORWEGIAN INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS:					
Bellona Pb. 2141 Grunerløkka 0505 Oslo	Bellona	Thomas Nielsen	(+47) 22 23 46 00	(+47) 22 38 38 62	bellona@bellona.no thomasn@bellona.no
Den norske Helsingforskomiteén Urtegata 50 N-0187 Oslo	Norwegian Helsingfors Committee	Bjørn Engelsland	(+47) 22 57 00 70	(+47) 22 57 00 88	nhc@nhc.no
Forskningsstiftelsen FAFO Borggata 2B Pb. 2947 Tøyen N-0608 Oslo	FAFO Institute for Applied Social Science	Aadne Aasland	(+47) 22 08 86 00 l: (+47) 22 08 87 11	(+47) 22 08 87 00	aadne.aasland@fafo.no
Forum for utvikling og miljø Storgata 33A N-0184 Oslo	Forum for development and environment	Jan Gustav Strandenæs	(+47) 22 20 98 70	(+47) 22 20 37 80	j-strand.forum@online.no
Fridtjof Nansens Institutt Fridtjof Nansens vei 17 Pb. 324 N-1324 Lysaker	Fridtjof Nansen Institute	Douglas Brubaker Anne Berteig Claes Lykke Ragner	(+47) 67 11 19 00 l: (+47) 67 11 19 08 l: (+47) 67 11 19 31 l: (+47) 67 11 19 15	(+47) 67 11 19 10	douglas.brubaker@fni.no anne.berteig@fni.no claes.ragner@fni.no
Gáisá Heggåsveien 6 N-9020 Tromsdalen	Saami Resources Centre and Network	Jorunn Eikjok	(+47) 77 62 81 68	(+47) 77 62 66 80	utvej@rito.no
Høgskolen i Lillehammer N-2600 Lillehammer	Highschool of Lillehammer	Hans Jørgen W. Weihe	(+47) 61 28 80 04	(+47) 61 28 81 90	H-J.Wallin.Weihe@hil.no
Norsk Institutt for kulturminneforskning (NIKU), Avd. for arkeologi og landskap Pb. 736 Sentrum N-0105 Oslo	Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, Dept. for Archaeology and Landscape	Ole Grøn	(+47) 23 35 50 32	(+47) 23 35 50 01	ole.gron@nikuosl.ninaniku.no
Norsk Institutt for Naturforskning (NINA), Tungasletta 2, N-7485 Trondeheim	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	Nils Røv	(+47) 73 80 14 00	(+47) 73 80 14 01	nils.rov@ninatrd.ninaniku.no
Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige Universitet (NTNU) N-7034 Trondheim	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Thor B. Arlov	(+47) 73 59 80 31	(+47) 73 59 80 99	thor.arlov@adm.ntnu.no
Norsk forum for ytringsfrihet Urtegata 50 N-0187 Oslo	Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression	Mette Newth	(+47) 22 67 79 64	(+47) 22 57 00 88	nffe@online.no
Norsk Institutt for menneskerettigheter (Univ. i Oslo) Universitetsgata 22-24 N-0162 Oslo	Norwegian Institute of Human Rights (University of Oslo)	Asbjørn Eide	(+47) 22 84 20 01 l: (+47) 22 84 20 04	(+47) 22 84 20 02	asbjorn.eide@nihr.uio.no

Norsk Polarinstitutt Polarmiljøseneteret N-9296 Tromsø	Norwegian Polar Institute	Winfried Dallmann	(+47) 77 75 05 00	(+47) 77 75 05 01	dallmann@npolar.no
Norsk utenrikspolitisk institutt (NUPI), Senter for Russlandsstudier Pb. 8159 Dep. N-0033 Oslo	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Centre for Russian Studies	Helge Blakkisrud	(+47) 22 05 65 27	(+47) 22 17 70 15	helge.blakkisrud@nupi.no
Sámediggi Pb. 144 N-9730 Kárásjohka / Karasjok	Saami Parliament	Sven-Roald Nystø	(+47) 78 46 71 00	(+47) 78 46 69 49	adm@samediggi.no
Svanhovd miljøseneter N-9925 Svanvik	Svanhovd Environ- mental Centre	Steinar Wikan Bjørn Frantzen	(+47) 78 97 36 00	(+47) 78 97 36 01	svanhovd@svanhovd.no bjorn.frantzen @svanhovd.no
Tromsø Museum N-9006 Tromsø	Tromsø Museum	Ivar Bjørklund Johan A. Kalstad Tor Magne Berg Terje Brantenberg	(+47) 77 64 52 74 (+47) 77 64 57 23	(+47) 77 64 55 20	ivarb@imv.uit.no johan@imv.uit.no
UNEP/GRID-Arendal Longum Park Pb. 1602 Myrene N-4801 Arendal c/o Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (D. Henry) Room 403, 588 Booth Street, CDN-Ottawa K1A 0Y7, Ont.	United Nations Envi- ronmental Pro- gramme / Global Re- sources Information Database <i>Polar Programme Manager:</i>	Sven Tveitdal Lars Kullerud David Henry	(+47) 37 03 56 50 (+47) 37 03 56 50 (+1) 613 995 2042	(+47) 37 03 50 50 (+47) 37 03 50 50 (+1) 613 947 1383	tveitdal@grida.no kullerud@grida.no dhenry@nrcan.gc.ca
Universitetet i Tromsø, Lingvistisk institutt Det humanistiske fakultet N-9037 Tromsø	University of Tromsø, Institute of Linguistics	Trond Trosterud	(+47) 77 64 47 63	(+47) 77 64 42 39	Trond.Trosterud @hum.uit.no
Universitetet i Tromsø Senter for samiske studier 9037 Tromsø	University of Tromsø, Centre for Saami Studies		(+47) 77 64 55 35	(+47) 77 67 66 72	saamidg@list.uit.no
Universitetet i Tromsø Institutt for sosialanthropologi	University of Tromsø, Institute of Social Anthropology	Finn Sivert Nielsen privat: M.Urdalsvei 3 N-9011 Tromsø	(+47) 77 61 30 62		finnsn@sv.uit.no
WWF, norsk seksjon Kr. Augusts gate 7A Pb. 6784 St. Olavs plass N-0130 Oslo	World Wide Fund for Nature	Peter Prokosch	(+47) 22 03 65 00	(+47) 22 20 06 66	peterp@online.no
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS / ORGANISATIONS SEATED IN NORWAY:					
AMAP Pb. 8100 Dep. Strømsveien 96 N-0032 Oslo	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Lars-Otto Reiersen	(+47) 22 57 34 00 l: (+47) 22 57 35 44	(+47) 22 67 67 06	lars-otto.reiersen @amap.telemax.no
Barentssekretariatet Det regionale urfolksutvalget Wiullsgate 3 Pb. 276 N-9901 Kirkenes	Secretariat of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, Regional Committee for the Indigenous Peoples	Alf Nystad	(+47) 78 97 70 50 l: (+47) 78 97 70 58	(+47) 78 99 32 25	alfn@barsek.no
IASC Sekretariat Strømsveien 96 N-0032 Oslo	International Arctic Science Committee	Odd Rogne	(+47) 22 57 37 35	(+47) 22 57 37 40	iasc@iasc.no
Sámi Parlamentáralaš Ráddi Pb. 340 N-9520 Guovdageaidnu / Kautokeino	Saami Paliamentary Assembly	Nils Thomas Utsi	(+47) 78 48 66 66	(+47) 78 48 65 66	samiparl@online.no
NORWEGIAN COMPANIES:					
Norsk Hydro AS P.O.Box 200 N-1321 Stabekk		Otto Beyer (dir. oil/gas Russia) Asbjørn Sæbøe (dir. bus. developm. Russia)	(+47) 22 73 81 00 l: (+47) 22 73 81 13 l: (+47) 22 73 84 04		otto.beyer@hydro.com asbjorn.saboe@hydro.com

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ORGANISATIONS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:					
Ассоциация коренных народов Севера, Сибири и Дальнего Востока 117415 г. Москва пр. Вернадского 37, корпус 2, офис 527	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON)	Sergey M. Kharyuchi Sergey N. Kirillin Pavel V. Sulyandziga Tamara Semyonova	(+7) 095 930 4468 (+7) 095 938 9597 (+7) 095 938 9527	(+7) 095 930 4468 (+7) 095 938 9527	udege@glasnet.ru stam@glasnet.ru
Вице-президент АКМНС 11355 Транспортная ул., г. Новокузнецк Кемеровской обл., 654066	RAIPON Vice-President	Mikhail A. Todyshev	(+7) 3843 47 2794	(+7) 3843 46 8446	root@shor.nkz.ru
Депутатская Ассамблея коренных малочисленных народов Севера	Deputy Assembly of the Indigenous Peoples of the North	Eremey D. Aypin	(+7) 095 415 5406 (home)		
Международная Лига малочисленных народов и этнических групп Москва, Рублевское шоссе, дом 34	International League of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Groups	Evdokia A. Gaer	(+7) 095 413 7695 (+7) 4232 31 5997		
Дальневосточный Союз коренных малочисленных народов Севера Российской Федерации 690110 г Владивосток ул. Нейбута 85 - 129; 692031 село Красный Яр, Приморского края, Пожарского р-на	Far East Union of the Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Russian Federation	Pavel V. Sulyandziga Aleksey L. Uza	(+7) 4232 52 6859 (+7) 4232 32 687	(+7) 4232 52 6859	
Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Приморского края 690110 г Владивосток ул. Нейбута 85 – 129	Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Primorskiy Krai	Rodion V. Sulyandziga	(+7) 4232 52 6859	(+7) 4232 52 6859	
Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Чукотки 686710 г Анадырь ул. Отке 37; private: ул. Энергетиков 6 кв. 27; private: ул. Мира 5, кв. 10 686710 Анадырь	Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka	Alexander A. Omrypkir Zina Omrykheut	(+7) 427-22 44372 (+7) 427-22 44082 (home) (+7) 427-22 40011 (home)		
Камчатская областная Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера 683040 Петропавловск-Камчатский, пл. Ленина 1, к. 515, с. Эссо Камчатской области, Быстринский р-н	Kamchatka Regional Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North	Valery A. San'kovich Andrey A. Popov	(+7) 415-22 25986 (+7) (415-22) 25432 (home)	(+7) 415-22 21250	
Камчатская Ассоциация камчадалов 684610 Камчатская область г. Елизово, ул. Ленина 22	Kamchatka Association of Kamchadals	Panteley P. Kosygin	(+7)415-31 61363 (+7)415-31 62223 (home)		
Корякская окружная ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера 684 620 п. Палана, ул. Поротова 20	Koryak Regional Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North	Aleksey N. Zaporotsky	(+7) 415-43 32113 (+7) 415-43 31874 (home)		
Алеутская Ассоциация "Ансарко" Камчатской области 684500 с. Никольское Алеутского района ул. Гагарина 7, кв. 9 (дом.)	Aleut Association "Ansarko" of the Kamchatka Region	Vladimir N. Dobrynin			
Совет Возрождения ительменов Камчатки "Тхсаном" 684611 Тигильский район с. Ковран, Камчатская обл.	Council of Itelmen Revival "Tkhsanom"	Oleg N. Zaporotsky	(+7) 415-39 28102		

Ассоциация малочисленных народов Севера Сахалинской области 694450 п. Ноглики ул. Пограничная 5 private: 694460 Оха Сахалинской обл. ул. 60 лет СССР 26, кв. 103	Sakhalin Regional Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North	Gennady N. Psyagin Nikolai V. Solov'ev	(+7) 424-44 91371 (+7) 424-44 92265 (home)		
Хабаровская краевая Ассоциация народов Севера 680000 г Хабаровск ул. Гоголя 16, кв. 1	Khabarovsk Regional Association of the Peoples of the North	Vladimir V. Digor	(+7) 4212 23 6835	(+7) 4212 32 4457	
Амурская областная Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера 675000 г Благовещенск ул. Ленина 135 (адм. обл.) с. Ивановское Селемджинского района	Amur Regional Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North	Anna A. Brodz' Tamara S. Safronova	(+7) 4162 44 0679 (+7) 4162 26125 (home)		
Ассоциация ненецкого народа "Ясавэй" 164700 Архангельская обл., Ненецкий АО, г. Нарьян-Мар, ул. Смидовича 20	Association of the Nenets People "Yasavey"	Alexandr I. Vyucheisky	(+7) 81853-2 3768		
Мурманская областная Ассоциация Кольских саамов 183012 г Мурманск пр. Ленина 101-4	Murmansk Regional Association of the Kola Saami	Nina E. Afanasieva	(+7) 815-25 500 16 (+7) 815-25 45 0016 (+7) 815-25 218 03 (home)		
Ассоциация "Спасение Югры" Ханты-Мансийского АО 626200 Тюменская область Ханты- Мансийск ул. Мира 5, к. 121	Association "Yugra Restoration" of the Khanty-Mansy Autonomous Region	Tatyana S. Gogoleva	(+7) 346-71 3 2325 (+7) 346-71 3 4801		
Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов севера Ямало-Ненецкого АО "Ямал-потомкам" 626600 Тюменская обл. г. Салехард ул. Губкина 13 к. 8	Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North "Yamal to our descendants"	Alexandr V. Evai	(+7) 345-91 44664 (+7) 345-91 46565 (+7) 345-91 44698 (home)		
Таймырская окружная Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера 663370 Красноярский край Таймырский АО г. Дудинка ул. Советская 35	Taymyr Regional Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North	Gennady N. Maimago	(+7) 39111 25693 (+7) 39111 25274 (+7) 39111 22353		
Эвенкийская Ассоциация "Арун" 663370 Красноярский край Эвбнкийский АО п. Тура, ул. Советская 2; private: 663370 Красноярский край, пос.Тура ул.Кочечумская д. 21 б, кв. 3	Evenk Association "Arun"	Zinaida N. Pikunova Mariya D. Smirnova	(+7) 39113 22703 (+7) 39113 22455 (home) (+7) 39113-22819 (home)		
Туруханская районная Ассоциация малых и коренных народов Севера (Ассоциация кетов) 663191 Красноярский край\ с. Туруханск, ул. Северная 17	Turukhansk Regional association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (Ket Association)	Nadezhda V. Novik	(+7) 391-10 44881 (+7) 391-10 44693 (home)		

Ассоциация шорского народа Кемеровской области 652870 Междуреченск Кемеровской обл., ул. 50 лет ВЛКСМ, дом 10, кв. 2; private: 652870 пос. Трехречье Кемеровская обл. Междуреченский р-н; private: 652870 пос. Ортор Кемеровская обл. Междуреченский р-н	Association of Shor People of the Kemerovo Region	Pavel P. Akulyakov Valentina N. Kiskorova Aleksandr D. Kirsanov	(+7) 3842 23 2850 (+7) 3847 4 1976 (home)		
Ассоциация телеутского народа "Эне-Байат" Кемеровской области 652652 Кемеровская область Беловский район с. Беково, ул. Заречная, 52	Association of Teleut People "Ene-Bayat" of the Kemerovo Region	Nikolay P. Todyshev	(+7) 38452 59286 (+7) 38452 59285 (+7) 38452 59240 (mailing office)		
Томская областная Ассоциация "Колта-Куп" 636420 Томская область г. Колпашево ул. Коммунистическая 13	Tomskaya Regional Association "Kolta-Kup"	Vladimir K. Kirgeev	(+7) 382542 3643		
Ассоциация малочисленных народов Читинской области (эвенков) 672000 г. Чита-2 ул. Амурская 68, к. 36 (per. Отдел Госкомсевера); private: 672018 Чита-18 жилгородок 14 кв.112	Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the Chita Region (Evenk)	Natalya P. Gabysheva Natalya G. Yagudina	(+7) 30222 36795		
Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера Республики Бурятия Республика Бурятия г. Улан-Удэ ул. Борсоева 13-54	Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Buryat Republic	Petr S. Stepanov	(+7) 30122 25361 (+7) 30122 29261 (home)		
Ассоциация народностей Севера Республики Саха 677000 Республика Саха г. Якутск, ул. Кирова 11	Association of the Peoples of the North of the Sakha Republic	Andrey V. Krivoshapkin	(+7) 41122 60680 (+7)41122 928 7829 (+7)41122 216 7820 (home)		
Санкт-Петербургское отделение АКМНС 195274 г. Санкт-Петербург пр. Луначарского д. 81, корп. 1 кв. 110	RAIPON Branch of Sankt Petersburg	Nadezhda Ya. Bulatova	(+7) 812 218 4211 (+7) 812 591 0022 (home)	(+7) 812 186 8614	
Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера Красноярского края 660049 г. Красноярск ул. Сурикова 42	Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Krasnoyarsk Region	Alitet N. Nemtushkin	(+7) 3912 26 5947 (+7) 3912 26 5948 (+7) 3912 26 5952		
Магаданская областная ассоциация малочисленных народов и этнических групп Севера 685000 г. Магадан пр. Горького, 6	Magadan Regional Association of the Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Groups of the North	Anna È. Khabarova			
Ассоциация долган Республики Саха (Якутия) 677000 Республика Саха г. Якутск, ул. Кирова, 11; private: 677000 Якутск ул. Короленко 28, кв. 39	Association of Dolgan People (Sakha Republic)	Elena P. Timofeeva	(+7) 411-2 43 5561 (+7) 411-2 41 0290 (home)		

Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов республики Тыва 677000 Республика Тыва, Тоджинский р-н, село Салдам, г. Кызыл ул. Московская, 2а	Association of Indigenous Peoples of the Tyva Republic	Andrey Donguur-ool	(+7) 839 422 3 4037 (+7) 839 422 3 3732 (home)		
Региональное общественное объединение «Северное содружество» Московское отд. АКМНС 109316 Москва, Архангельский пер., д.15, стр.3	Regional Public Union “Northern Commonwealth” (Moscow Branch of RAIPON)	Elena T. Pushkareva Valentina P. Telenkova	(+7) 095 923 2546		
OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS:					
Danish-Greenlandic Project (DGP) on Assistance to Indigenous Peoples of Russia c/o Komité “Natur og Folk i Nord” Møntergade 16 DK-1116 København K		Mads Fægteborg	(+45) 33 13 02 92	(+45) 33 32 09 92	arctic@inet.uni-c.dk
Dartmouth College Institute of Arctic Studies 6214 Steele Hall USA - Hanover, N.H. 03755		Gail Osherenko	(+1) 603 646 1278 l: (+1) 603 646 1396	(+1) 603 64 61 279	Gail.Osherenko@Dartmouth.edu
Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker Pf. 2024 D-37010 Göttingen	Society for Threatened Peoples	Yvonne Bangert	(+49) 551 49 90 60	(+49) 551 5 80 28	info@gfbv.de
Göteborgs Universitet, Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) P.O.Box 720 S-405 30 Göteborg	University of Göteborg, Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES)	Birgitta Jännebring	(+44) 31-773 4316	(+44) 31-773 4461	birgitta.jannebring@crees.gu.se
Информационный центр коренных малочисленных народов России (фонд L'AURAVETL'AN) RUS-129110 Москва ул. Гиляровского 56 Ненецкий АО RUS-164700 Нарьян-Мар	Informational Center of Indigenous Peoples of Russia (L'auravetl'an Foundation)	Galina I. Volkova Oleg Yu. Egorov Valentina Golubchikova Olga Terletskeya	(+7) 095 284 8045 (+7) 095 284 8248 (+7) 81853-42166	 (+7) 81853-42022	 rednv@atnet.ru
ICC Dronning Ingrid'svej 1 P.O.Box 204 DK-3900 Nuuk GREENLAND	Inuit Circumpolar Conference	Aqqaluk Lynge	(+299) 32 36 32	(+299) 32 30 01	iccgreen@greenet.gl
ICC Suite 504 170 Laurier Ave.W. Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5VA CANADA	Inuit Circumpolar Conference	Corinne Gray	(+1) 613 563-2442	(+1) 613 565-3089	tuktu@magi.com
ICC Suite 203 401 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage Alaska, AK 99503 USA	Inuit Circumpolar Conference		(+1) 907 274-9058	(+1) 907 274-3861	
ICC Чукотка RUS-686710 Анадыр Чукотка	Inuit Circumpolar Conference		(+7) 427 224 2665	(+7) 427 224 2919	
Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS), Arctic Council Pilestræde 52 POB. 2151 DK-1016 København K		Tove Søvendahl Petersen Alona Yefimenko Marianne Johansen	(+45) 33 69 34 98	(+45) 33 69 34 99	ips@ghs.dk
Institut for eskimologi Strandgade 100 H DK-1401 København K	Institute of Eskimology		(+45) 32 88 01 00 (Danish Polar Centre)	(+45) 32 88 01 61	

Институт Системного Анализа RUS-117312 Москва пр. 60-Лет Октября, 9	Institute for System Analysis, Russian Academy of Sciences	Elena Andreeva	(+7) 095-135 0018	(+7) 095-938 2209	VNIISI@isa.ac.ru
International Training Centre for Indigenous Peoples (ITCIP) P.O.Box 901 DK-3900 Nuuk GREENLAND		Ingmar Egede	(+299) 32 70 68	(+299) 32 72 90	ingmar@egede.dk
IWGIA Secretariat Fiolstrædet 10 DK-1171 København	International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs	Jens Dahl	(+45) 33 12 47 24	(+45) 33 14 77 49	jd@iwgia.org
IWGIA Box 1092 S-221 01 Lund	International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs	Eva Carlsson			iwgia.lund@swipnet.se
ИБГИА RUS-117574 Москва проезд. Одоевского 7,5,595	International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Olga Murashko	(+7) 095-423 6140 (home)		olga@murkre.msk.ru
RUS-119270 Москва P.O.Box 602		Irina Pokrovskaya	(+7) 095-242 1527		terpok@orc.ru
McGill University Dept. of Geography 805, rue Sherbrooke Ouest CANADA-Montréal, Quebec H3A 2K6		Ludger Müller-Wille	(+1) 514-398 4960	(+1) 514-398 7437	inmw@musicb.mcgill.ca
Международный общест- венный фонд содействия эконо- мическому и социальному развитию коренных народов Севера RUS-117415 Москва пр. Вернадского, 37, корп. 2	International Public Fund for Support to Economic and Social Development of the Northern Indigenous Peoples	Stanislav Dordzhinke- vich Pavel Kh. Zaidfudim	(+7) 095 938 9534	(+7) 095 930 4628	founip@dol.ru
Министерство региональной политики RUS-117415 Москва пр. Вернадского, 37, корп. 2	Ministry of Regional Policy of the Russian Federation	Irina Degtyar	(+7) 095 930 46 16		
НИИ Национальных Школ Республики Саха, Лаборатория эвенкийского языка и культуры private: 678333 с. Иенгра Республика Саха (Якутия) ул. 50 лет Победы д. 1 кв. 1	NII National School of the Sakha Repu- blic, Laboratory of Evenki language and culture	Faina M. Lekhanova			
New Bulgarian University, Institute for Anthropological Field-Research BUL-1233 P.O.Box 59, Sofia		Yulian Konstantinov			bsrcs@mbox.cit.bg
Russian Conservation News P.O.Box 71 RUS-117321 Moskva		Stephanie Hitztaler	(+7) 095-1902368		rcn@glas.apc.org
Sámiráddi FIN-99980 Ohcejohka / Utsjoki N-9520 Guovdageaidnu / Kautokeino	Saami Council	Leif Halonen	(+358) 16 677 351 (+47) 78 48 58 00	(+358) 16 677 353 (+47) 78 48 58 90	samiradd@netti.fi
University of Alberta Canadian Circumpolar Institute 8820-112 Street Canada-Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1			(+1) 403-492 4512	(+1) 403-492 1153	canadian.circumpolar. institute@ualberta.ca

University of Alberta Department of Anthropology 114 Street - 89 Avenue CANADA-Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2M7 CANADA-Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4		David Anderson David Marples	(+1) 780-492-9746 (+1) 403-492 0851	(+1) 780-492-5273 (+1) 403-492 9125	david.anderson@ualberta.ca david.marples@ualberta.ca
Lapin Yliopisto Arktinen keskus PL 122 FIN-96101 Rovaniemi	University of Lapland, Arctic Centre	Bruce Forbes Tuula Tuisku	(+358) 16 -341 27 10 (+358) 16 -341 27 90	(+358) 16 -341 27 77	bforbes@levi.urova.fi Tuula.Tuisku@urova.fi
Lapin Yliopisto Kasvatustieteiden tiedekunta PL 122 FIN-96101 Rovaniemi	University of Lapland, Faculty of Education	Leif Rantala	(+358) 16 -341 24 18	(+358) 16-341 24 01	
University of Northern British Columbia 3333 University Way CANADA-Prince George, B.C., V2N 4Z9 Geography Program History Program		Gail Fondahl Greg Poelzer Aileen Espiritu	(+1) 250-960 5856	(+1) 250-960 5539	fondahlg@unbc.ca espiritu@unbc.ca
University of Queensland Department of Government Brisbane, Q. 4072 AUSTRALIA		Peter Jull	(+61) 7 3365-2635 (office) (+61) 7 3878-9726 (private)	(+61) 7 3365-1388	pjull@squirrel.com.au
Department of Region. Studies and Environmental Policy PL 607 FIN- 33101 Tampere		Kristiina Karppi		(+358) 32 15 73 11	atkrse@uta.fi
Turun Yliopisto Kansatiede FIN-20014 Turun Yliopisto	University of Turku, Institute of Cultural Studies	Helena Ruotsala	(+358) 2 -333 63 50	(+358) 2 -333 63 60	helena.ruotsala@utu.fi
YWAM P.O.Box 82229 Fairbanks, AK 99708-2229 USA Borgen N-9046 Oteren	Youth With A Mission	Bodil Henriksen Egil Rønningstad			ywam@alaska.net EgilmMonica@xc.org
INDIVIDUALS:					
Philip Burgess Åsveien 29 N-9730 Kárašjohka			(+47) 92 09 28 70		philip.burgess@excite.com
Angelina S. Ardeeva 103265 Москва Охотный ряд, 1 Госдума			(+7) 095 292 3610		
Tatyana A. Pechetegina Чукотский АО 686950 Уэлен					