INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES,
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE

Fifteenth Session
Geneva, December 7 to 11, 2009

WIPO PANEL ON “INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES’
CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCES IN PROMOTING, SUSTAINING
AND SAFEGUARDING THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE,
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND GENETIC
RESOURCES”

EXPERIENCES FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

DECEMBER 7, 2009

Document prepared by Rodion Sulyandziga,
Raipon, Russian Federation

* This document comprises the presentation in the form received from the presenter. Any views expressed in the presentation are not necessarily those of WIPO or any of its Member States.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Lessons of community experience

CONDITIONS, CHALLENGES, NEEDS, EXPECTATIONS
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE NORTH, SIBERIA AND THE FAR EAST

- 40 peoples in 25 subjects (Republics, Kray, Oblast, Autonomous okruigs)
- Recognized by the Russian Constitution
- Population – more 270,000 (by All Russian Census 2002)
- Remote communities (Arctic, Siberia, Far East)
- Traditional livelihood and subsistence economy (domestic reindeer herding, fishing, hunting, NTFF)
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

• Most vulnerable population living in remote areas with pure infrastructure
• Lands rich in mineral resources
• Conflict of interest (Industrial development and traditional lifestyle)
• Minority on traditional lands and assimilation process
• Lack of efficient laws, resources and implementation mechanisms

CHALLENGES

- Industrial development – commercial large scaled projects – natural resources exploitation –
- Loss of traditional lands and traditional livelihood – language and culture and TK in danger
- Oral languages and TCE (how to document)
- Lack of information, understanding, general knowledge, capacity building (internal)
- External pressure (Okrugs disappearing, change of geographical names, misunderstanding, ignoring...)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Most vulnerable population living in remote areas with pure infrastructure

Lands rich in mineral resources

Conflict of interest (Industrial development and traditional lifestyle)

Minority on traditional lands and assimilation process

Lack of efficient laws, resources and implementation mechanisms
TK, TCE, GR Legal Framework

**POLICY LEVEL (international)**

- Growing recognition (UN, WIPO, UNEP/CBD, PF, Arctic Council, IUCN, WWF…)
- Principles development (definition, understanding, mutual benefit, coordination, common law…)
- Guidebook development (practical usage)
- Convention, policies, strategies, recommendations

**IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL (national)**

- Declarative intensions
- Bureaucratic ignorance
- Lack of mechanism and legal framework

**GAPS (global-national-local)**

- Lack of respect and recognition of TK
- TK is difficult to define, identify and document
- TK is associated with disappearing livelihood and populations
- TK cannot be categorized according to “Western” scientific and technical methods
NEEDS

- Strengthening participatory mechanisms in decision-making and management
- Improving and enforcing legislation
- Building the capacity and identifying the appropriate measures
- The identification of indicators to measure the level of retention and loss and to assess existing measures
- Research and information sharing as means to value traditional knowledge
- *TK is a part of Intellectual rights, cultural and heritage protection and economic development*

From Declaration - to Measures

- From programs – to human resources
- Concrete actions and study
- New ecological understanding and approaches
- TK is a key data source on natural resources under the environmental assessment
- Education and access to information
- Links to Climate Change and Adaptation Policy
EXPECTATIONS

- mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision-making and policy planning;

- indigenous and local communities obtain a fair and equitable share of the benefits arising from the use and application of their traditional knowledge;

- institutions interested in using knowledge obtain the prior informed approval of indigenous and local communities;

- impact assessments are carried out regarding any development on land and waters occupied or used by indigenous and local communities;

- Governments in the development of legislation and mechanisms to ensure that traditional knowledge, and its wider applications, is respected, preserved, and maintained.

SUNSHINE OR SUNSET?

[End of document]