

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

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

**Fifteenth Session**  
**Geneva, December 7 to 11, 2009**

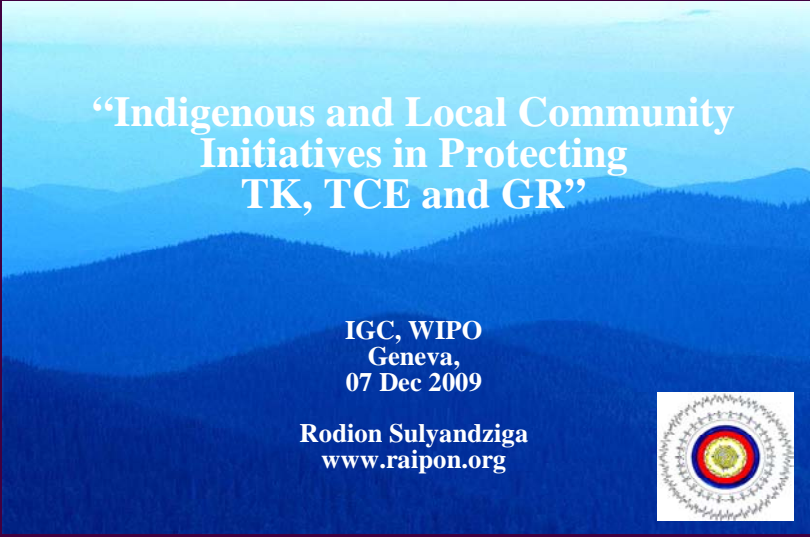
**WIPO PANEL ON “INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES’  
CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCES IN PROMOTING, SUSTAINING  
AND SAFEGUARDING THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE,  
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND GENETIC  
RESOURCES”**

EXPERIENCES FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

DECEMBER 7, 2009

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\* 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.



**“Indigenous and Local Community  
Initiatives in Protecting  
TK, TCE and GR”**

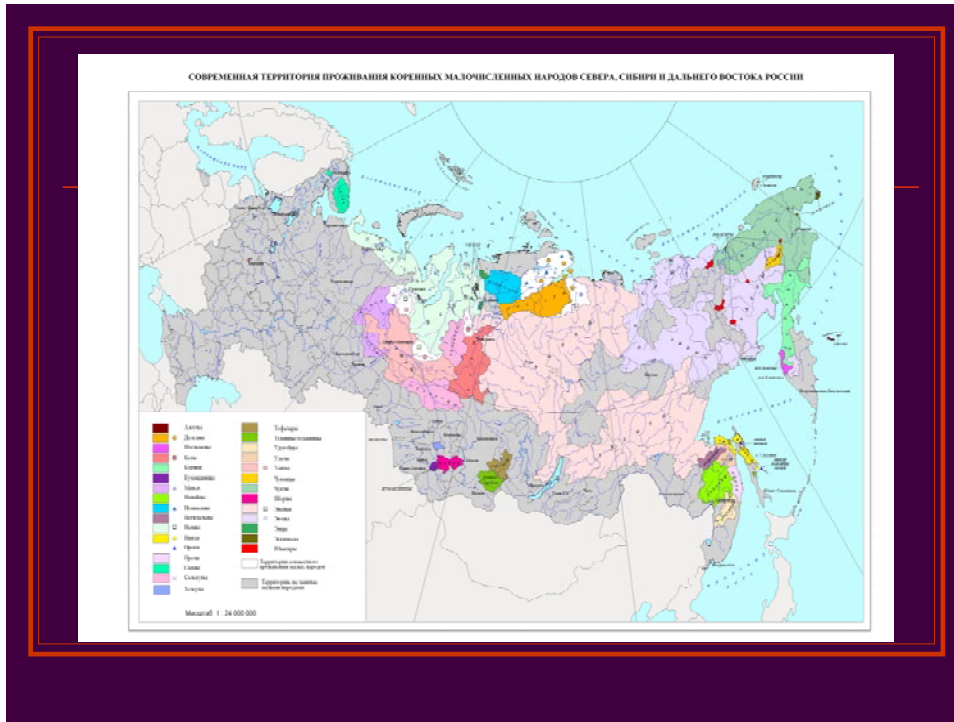
IGC, WIPO  
Geneva,  
07 Dec 2009

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## 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 okrugs)
- 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, NTFP)



## 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 life-style)
- 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 (Okruks disappearing, change of geographical names, misunderstanding, ignoring...)

## 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?



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