Benefit Sharing in the Russian Arctic: Toward Sustainability of Indigenous Communities in the Areas of Resource Extraction

Oil Production networks in the Russian Arctic
Helsinki, 11 May, 2016
Maria Tysiachniouk, Centre for Independent Social Research
Research question

• What benefit sharing arrangements between indigenous people and oil companies in the Arctic are more equitable?
Benefit sharing agreements

- Different in Russian regions
- Depend on regional contexts, legislation, rules in use, governments and stakeholders (space of place)
- Global standards play different roles in different regions
Modes of benefit sharing

1. Paternalism (Nenets Autonomous Okrug-socio-economic agreements, compensations)

2. Corporate Social Responsibility (Siberia, Komi Republic standard agreements, socio-economic agreements)

3. Partnerships – Sakhalin Island
Paternalism
Benefit sharing arrangements

- Socio-economic agreements with NAO—disjunctions in delivery
- Socio-economic agreements with Zapoliarnii district
- Socio-economic agreements directly with reindeer herding enterprises-switched to compensations for damage that are calculated.
- Kolguev Island (agreements-barter)
Corporate Social Responsibility: benefit sharing

- Irkutsk Oil Company (Evenk community Tokma in Irkutsk oblast)

- Surgutneftegaz—typical agreements for indigenous people who are in the register, Territories of traditional nature use, in Numto—through Beloyarski administration
Partnership
Sakhalin Island: benefit sharing arrangements through partnerships

- Tripartite partnerships – grants ($110000)
- Effort to transfer international norms to Russia
- Continuous consultations, indigenous people are involved in distributing money through grants
- Sakhalin Energy—free prior and informed consent
Consequences

- Conflicts around distribution of funds
- Increased number of tribal units (retired people)
- Forced development
- Unintended: illegal caviar business
- Transformation toward “souvenir culture”
Conclusion and Recommendation

- No one benefit sharing practice leads to sustainable development

- Arctic Council—SD-WG—a global study of benefit sharing arrangements