

Beringia: What's Climate Change to You?

Final Report
Shared Beringia Heritage Program

Project Title:	Beringia: What's Climate Change to You?
Project Years:	years (2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014)
Principal Investigators & Affiliations:	Mille Porsild, GoNorth! Adventure Learning
Partners (US & Russian):	<p>Committee of Education, Culture and Youth Policy, Dora Samuilovna, Head</p> <p>Committee of Natural Resources, Valentia Alekseenko, Head and Olga Safonova as Deputy Head</p> <p>Organization of Sea Marine Mammal Hunters Chukotka</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, John Crump, Senior Advisor / Climate Change</p> <p>Constance Art Society, Christine Germano, Executive Director</p> <p>Beringia Tour Services, Vladimir Bychov</p> <p>Natalia Kalyuzhine</p> <p>Artur Apula</p> <p>Oksana Yashcenko</p> <p>Beringia-Nature Ethnic Park</p> <p>Scientists from Woods Hole Research Center, NASA, University of Alaska (Department of Anthropology), University of Colorado (Physics Education Research Group)</p>

NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT

Beringia: What's Climate Change to You? set out to be an ethnographic science experience anchored in adventure learning. Building on our Pan-American *What Is Climate Change to You?*, this project was to establish a local framework for young people in Chukotka communities to document, express and share their place seen through their eyes: doing science and exploring change around the circumpolar arctic—in particular as it relates to shifts in climate.

Since the launch in 2011 the project has traveled in Chukotka six times, for youth in 16 communities on the coastline – from Incheon in the north to Anadyr in the south – to take part in the project. Over the three years of the project, the youth-generated content from work-shops and community events has been shared with a wide audience in the general public, locally in communities and internationally through exhibits as well as used by millions of learners, as it was broadcast to more than 4,500 schools across the 5 U.S. states and on continents through the GoNorth! programming at PolarHusky.com.

The following narrative will outline the milestones of the project over the 3-year period, while a series of *Youth at Work* pictures also illustrate the span of youth involvement with the project each year.

Youth at Work (picture 1 – 3) – “Sense of Place” drawings





Year 1: Principal Investigator, Mille Porsild first brought *Beringia: What's Climate Change to You?* to Chukotka in the spring of 2011. Traveling by dogteam to Chukotka's coastal communities, from Provideniya south to Anadyr, she initiated the project with locals in eight communities visited along the way, while press coverage introduced the project to people in the rest of Chukotka. Supported by curriculum this event was live with more than 4500 classrooms around the world online at PolarHusky.com. Summer of 2011 Porsild then brought a team of seven youth from Greenland and Alaska with earlier *What's Change to You* experience in their own Arctic region to Chukotka, to collaborate with youth and locals in both Lavrentiya and Provideniya. At the same time collaborator Oksana Yashchenko (then *University of Fairbanks* was in Lorino, Chukotka facilitating a workshop. In September 2011, Porsild presented about the project at the 2011 International Beringia Days Conference in Nome, Alaska. During the fieldwork in Chukotka as well as during the conference in Nome (Alaska), Porsild conducted meetings to establish the project with our partners in Chukotka. Some obstacles presenting themselves included, that Vladirmir Bychov elected Mayor of Provideniya was no longer operating Beringia Tour Services, and thus not able to commit to the project at the level expected prior; Natalia Kalyuzhine was terminated from Beringia-Nature Ethnic Park and also had to withdraw her level of involvement with the project as she committed to a new job. In addition, Porsild was made aware that proper permissions had to be established to conduct science in Chukotka and working with Chukotka youth. She settled with the Government of Chukotka that before the project do any official action in Chukotka, such an agreement be established with the *Committee of Nature Use*. This establishment of such an agreement was pending the decision of NPS to continue with Year 2 of the project—and the release of funding to support the project. Informed by NPS to expect the decision by December, the expectation was that the project be able to get on track with planned tasks in Chukotka in January. By March 2012 the agreement with NPS had yet to be renewed.



Youth at Work (picture 4) – Field trip in Egvekinot to “make observations” with our team.



Youth at Work (picture 5) – Clothing as an expression of Time and Environment in Culture, in Anadyr



Youth at Work (picture 6) – Alaskan meet Chukotka great-cousin in Lavrentiya and share their story on TV



Youth at Work (picture 7) – Greenlandic/Chukotka teamwork in Provideniya

Year 2: Spring of 201 “Надежда,” (Nadezhda), an art competition for youth throughout the coastal communities of Chukotka, was facilitated in collaboration with and enabled by the *Committee of Sport and Tourism*. The largest sports-event of the year in Chukotka: the *Nadezhda Hope* sled dog race (Надежда) was the springboard for this art event to generate a unique glimpse of how youth today see their Chukotka. It resulted in hundreds of incredible art drawings by youth, showcasing how youth still see life in Chukotka closely connected to the traditional way of life, nature and the rich natural resources of Chukotka. Drawings were selected to be distributed and showcased in communities throughout Chukotka during the *201 Nadezhda Hope* sled dog race in April. Porsild was in Chukotka for the launch of exhibits and traveled with the project working with students in seven communities, from Provideniya north to Inchoun, at the time. In June Elizabeth Shea and Shelley Wesser of *SBHP* visited Porsild in Willow, Alaska for her to provide material for NPS news story. Porsild then returned to Chukotka in July, traveling to Anadyr and Provideniya. By the help of Irina Ryabukhina (Head, Committee of Sport and Tourism) meetings to move the project forward were facilitated with Valentia Alekseenko (Head, Committee of Natural Resources) and Dora Samuilovna Poluksht (Head, Committee of Education, Youth and Culture). Furthermore conversation about the project took place with Ilya Dovidenko (Head, Provideniya District), Mikhail Zelensky (Head, Chukchi District) and Vladimir Bychov (as Mayor of Provideniya) as well as Natalia Kalyuzhina. It was established that the project be able to operate in all of Chukotka working with youth as planned, by partnership with *Organization of Sea Mammal Hunters Chukotka* and that collaborating with the *Committee of Education, Youth an Culture* youth in all of Chukotka’s 52 schools be involved through a number of initiatives. The defined events and activities were to be guided by personal hired by the project within this office. Beyond the Chukotka-wide initiatives, Dora Samuilovna Poluksht as Head of the Committee approved that, appointed by staff, youth teams headed by local teachers be set up in a number of communities. Details were established through conversation between Dora Samuilovna Poluksht and Porsild continuing into late fall.



Youth at Work (picture 8) – Meeting watching movies about traditional arts in Provideniya



Youth at Work (picture 9) – Art exhibit in Uelen



Youth at Work (picture 10) – Presentation in Provideniya



Youth at Work (picture 11) – Making field observations in Anadyr



Youth at Work (picture 12) – Learning photography in Yanrakynnot



Youth at Work (picture 13) – Exhibit in Yanrakynnot



Youth at Work (picture 14) – Community meeting

Year 3: *Committee of Sport and Tourism* produced a beautiful set of post cards and t-shirts, with the work of the 2012 “Надежда” event that uniquely expressed sense of place of youth—the connection between state of the local environment, climate and way of life in Beringia. At first it was all made available around Anadyr, such as the Anadyr Museum. The products have since been part of traveling exhibit for the *Committee* and at their tent of culture during Olympic Games in Sochi (February 2014). In May—July 2013, the project facilitated three workshops for youth to produce “Beringia Photo-stories” in three Chukotka communities along Bering Strait. Heading up the production of climate focused photo-stories in communities were two artists: collaborator Christine Germano of Canada and her partner Jeke Lagi of Fiji, assisted by Russian translator and facilitator Luda Kinok. Also in July, in collaboration with the Department of Sport & Tourism, a *Clean Tundra! Clean Coast!* event was facilitated in Lavrentiya, Chukotka in the lead-up and during the festivities of the Marine Mammal Hunters Beringia Regatta—the annual summer event in Chukotka with people gathering from the communities along the coast. Open to participants of all ages the competition had three steps: gather garbage on the tundra and along the beach; create innovate garbage crafts; present crafts during exhibit in town-square noting where garbage used for craft was collected as well as provide reflection on management of garbage in remote Beringia communities and the role of residents—how a clean local environment is matter of protecting culture and way of life. The competition was arranged and managed in Lavrentiya by the *House of Culture* Porsild was suppose to have been in Lavrentiya for the event but did not make flight connection, and at the same time major obstacle presented to the project presented itself upon her arrival to Anadyr: under the guidance of then Head Dora Samuilovna Poluksht, *Committee of Education, Youth and Culture* had not delivered on the facilitation of the project in schools Chukotka-wide in winter and spring of 2013. The facilitation of community teams taking part in the *Photo-Contest* the *Traditional Name Mapping* and the *Snow Festival* initiatives did not occur as planned. At the time this all became evident to Porsild, Dora Samuilovna Poluksht retired from her position in the Government of Chukotka. In response to request by Andrey Gennad’evich Bolenkov, now Head of *Committee of Education, Youth and Culture* a new plan for collaboration was developed, now focusing around the just executed workshops. The photo-stories from three involved communities was to serve as a showcase and inspiration to involve youth in schools across Chukotka in developing their own community photo-stories as part of the school curriculum. In September as Mille Porsild gave a public presentation on the project during the 2013 Beringia Days conference in, the exhibit of eleven x yard banners with climate stories from Enmelen, Sireniki, and Novo Chaplino exhibited for the first time. The same photo-story exhibition later opened at the State Ethnographical Museum in Warsaw during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 19th Conference of the Parties. Ronald Jumeau, the Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change, and Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland, spoke to open the exhibit to fellow UN COP 1 commissioner—followed by a reception. It was a joint event with the Portrait of Resilience campaign, and collaborator John Crump with of GRID-Arendal Polar Centre facilitated the event. The exhibition remained at the Museum and open to the people and visitors in Warsaw November 12 – December 1.



Youth at Work (picture 15) – Writing climate stories in Enmelen



Youth at Work (picture 16) – painting wall mural in Novo Chaplino



Youth at Work (picture 17) – Heading out to make field observations in Sireniki.



Youth at Work (picture 18) – Interviewing Elder in Sireniki for a photo-story

The project was planned to be finalized by March of 2014. Additional time was permitted by SBHP to try to resolve for collaborator *Constance Arts Society* and artist Christine Germano to provide contractual deliverables: two hard-drives with all text and media from workshops in Chukotka (due August 15 2013) along with the files produced for production of exhibit banners are still outstanding. Furthermore Germano is in possession of and refuses to return the exhibition (11 banners with stands), which she carried on her return travel from Poland in December and took to her home in Canada. Without delivery of materials from Germano, the project has not since been able to launch the planned school initiative across Chukotka as agreed with our partners in Chukotka. Also the project is unable to deliver this media as planned to *NPS Shared Beringian Heritage Program* and *Government of Chukotka*, both entities entitled to the use of all media created in Chukotka during this project. It should be noted that not only does our project agreement with Germano specify that all work, photographs, text, etc. with or by Chukotka residents can only be used in context of this project – Germano or the organization *Constant Arts Society* were not granted right and permission from our project participants in Chukotka and the Government of Chukotka. As such any use not agreed to by this project and Government of Chukotka is illegal.



Youth at Work (picture 20) – t-shirt with “Надежда” art

LIST of PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**Year 1:**

- In eight Chukotka communities working with youth: Provideniya, Sireniki, Nunligran, Enmelen, Konergino, Egvekinot, Anadyr and Lorino.
- Live from Chukotka with the network of +4500 schools on five continents and across the 5 US states at PolarHusky.com
- Group of *What Is Climate Change to You?* youth from Greenland and Alaska in Chukotka working with youth in Lavrentiya and Provideniya.
- Planning meetings in Chukotka.
- Presentation at 2011 International Beringia Days Conference in Nome, Alaska.
- Annual progress report with supporting images.

Year 2:

- “Надежда” art competition for youth throughout the coastal communities of Chukotka.
- Launch of “Надежда” exhibit.
- In seven Chukotka communities working with youth: Provideniya, Novo Chaplino, Yanrakynnot, Lorino, Lavrentiya, Uelen and Inchoun.
- NPS published project story by Shelley Wesser of SBHP.
- Planning meetings and evaluation in Chukotka.
- Establish staff and facility in Anadyr, Chukotka for local coordination of project.
- Development of back-end infra structure for website to support online collaboration of 5 schools Chukotka-wide.
- Annual progress report with supporting images.

Year 3:

- Production of post card selection and t-shirts presenting Надежда 2012 youth art event – distributed locally in Anadyr and internationally at 2014 Winter Olympics.
- Clean Tundra! Clean Beach! event (Lavrentiya, Chukotka).
- Planning and evaluation meeting in Chukotka.
- In three Chukotka communities working with youth: Enmelen, Sireniki, Novo Chaplino.
- Production of traveling exhibit (eleven x feet self-standing banners) presenting youth climate centered photo-stories.
- Presentation at 2011 International Beringia Days Conference in Anadyr, Chukotka.
- Exhibit of youth photo-story exhibit in Chukotka.
- Photo-story exhibit at the State Ethnographical Museum for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 19th Conference of the Parties, followed by exhibit opening to the general public (Warsaw, Poland).
- Final report.