

## **Comparative Experience with Localized Negotiations Between Communities and Companies**

Ken Caine, University of Alberta

### **Overview**

In this gap analysis comparative experiences with localized negotiations between communities and resource companies will be explored. Specifically, this analysis will examine the research comparing existing relations between communities and resource development industries in the different jurisdictions of the Circumpolar North, outside Canada. Because of the broad scale, language differences, varying business cultures and legal frameworks, and generally a recognized paucity of published research across the circumpolar world, the analysis also incorporates unpublished research and reports with key personal communications. This analysis takes into account the identified gaps in research within the literature as well as those silent, unspoken gaps.

### **Introduction**

- Overview of gap analysis question
- Away from state EA and consultative processes, and towards community-industry relations and negotiations?

### **Comments on Complementarity with Related Themes**

- i.e. with 7, 9, 10, 11: "Communities, Resources and the State: Community driven conditions governing resource development benefits"

### **A Brief Examination of the Canadian and Australian experience**

- Bulk of this developing research area is from Australia and Canada
- Brief contextualization / comparisons with the circumpolar world
- Expansion of localized negotiations to Global South

### **Resource Development**

- Renewable resource development and non-renewable resource extraction
- Focus on resource extractive industries
- Negotiations (industry) versus consultation (government, EA)

### **Methods Used**

- From country specific focus on research to focus on comparative analysis
- Literature review, key contacts

## **Gaps in Research on Localized Negotiations Between Communities and Industry**

- Jurisdictional/regional overviews (e.g. emerging community-industry relations in a rapidly modernizing state: The case of Greenland, on the cusp of major socio-environmental and economic change)
- Context of Social License to Operate: Localized negotiations in the context of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and social license to operate
- Legal/Quasi-Legal Dimensions of Negotiations: Understanding legal and property rights (legislative frameworks - such as land claims versus state strategic security assets), and industry obligations in regions (as basis for requirements for negotiated agreements).
- Contradictions: 'mechanisms' for participation and involvement
- The place and application of EIA and SIA type assessment tools in localized negotiations
- Hybrid economies: adaptation / intersection of subsistence and markets
- Self-Determination: Community-industry relations in the context of indigenous self-government and autonomy
- Methodological Gaps: Ethnographic research into community-industry negotiation processes. Development and application of ethno-cultural assessments in negotiations and socio-cultural impacts on local communities (lack of legislation)
- Engagement Strategies: Adaptation strategies used in negotiations; multi-level engagement strategies
- Historical forms of Engagement: by local communities with industry for constructive and effective dialogue in contemporary relations (towards collective agency)
- Non-Governmental Action: Activist groups and NGO involvement (methods used, and success in accessing closed negotiations)
- Non-extractive industries (reindeer herding, hydroelectric, etc) as part of less-exploitive community development. Also, relating to this, government policies that are insensitive to unique culture and circumstances of indigenous peoples
- Gender: The gendered dimension of community-industry relations
- Understandings: Diversity of understandings and definitions of sustainable development that inform community-industry negotiations (epistemological/ontological conflicts)
- Youth: Youth involvement in understanding adaptive capacity, social-ecological resilience
- Scale: Community participation and degrees of agency considering community populations, scale of development, and multi/transnational industry proponents (also tools for participation, means of communication)

## **Conclusions**

## **Bibliography**