



IPA Action Group “Permafrost and Culture”

<http://ipa.arcticportal.org/activities/action-groups>

Task: to investigate the link between permafrost dynamics, local forms of land use, socio-economic and climate change

Workshops in

- Helsinki, ASSW, April 2014
- Yakutsk, July 2015
- **Vorkuta, September 2017**

Photo: J.O. Habeck

Workshop Summary

**“Permafrost dynamics and indigenous land use in the Northern Urals:
Combining insights of local land users, environmental and social scientists”**

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG



Vorkuta, Russia, 24-27 Sept 2017

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Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

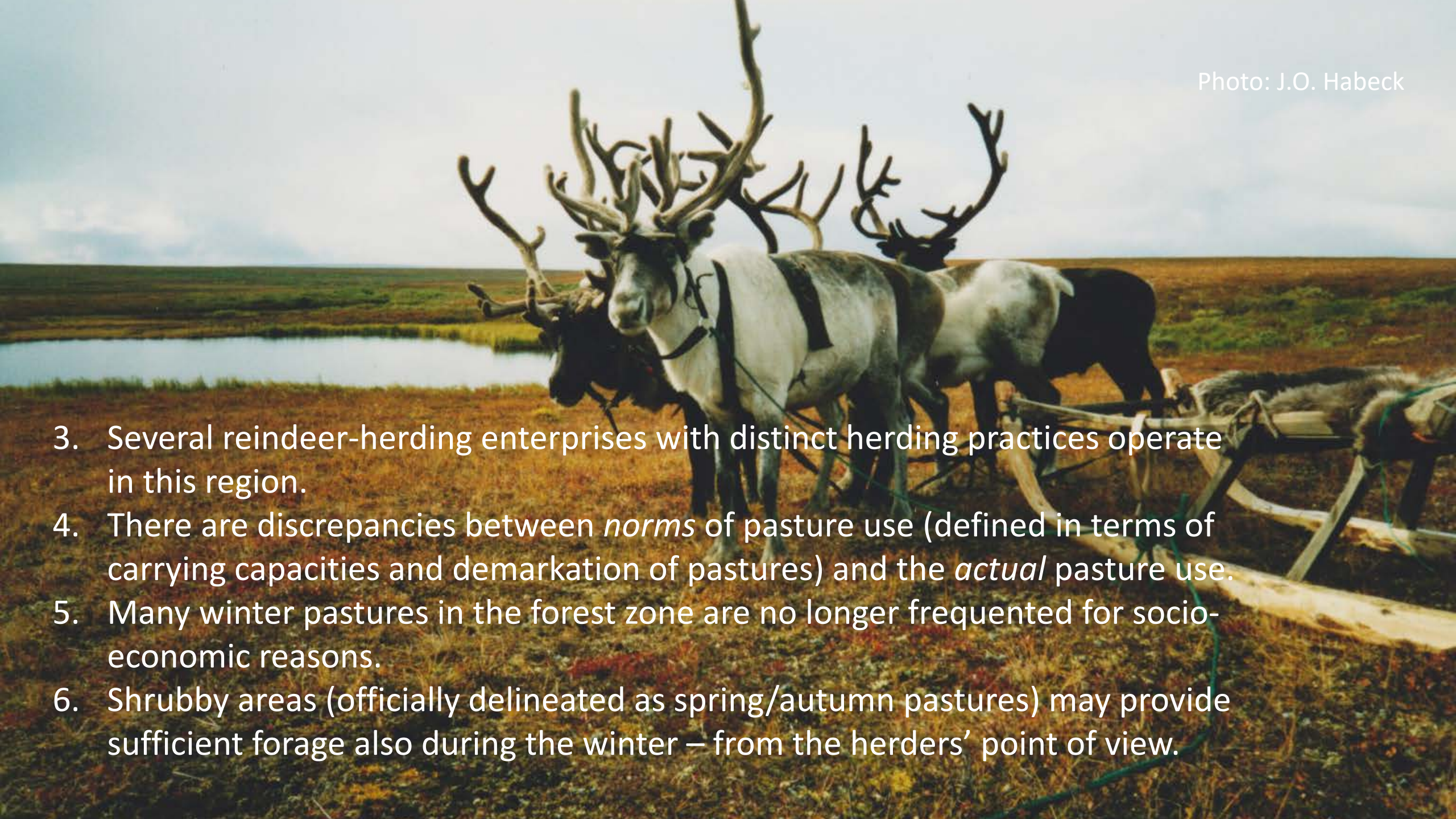
Field excursion to Syr'iaga 25-26 September 2017 (organised as part of the Vorkuta workshop)

- Location: continuous/discontinuous permafrost
- Inspecting palsa and other permafrost features
- Understanding reindeer herders' practices



Main insights from the Vorkuta workshop

1. Changes in the vegetation cover are not simply caused by climate change, but importantly also by reindeer grazing.
2. Changes in the vegetation cover, in their turn, have local and regional effects on snow accumulation and snow persistence, albedo, temperature insulation of the ground, and protection of the soil surface layer.

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- A photograph of reindeer with large antlers in a tundra landscape. The reindeer are standing in a field of low-lying vegetation, with a body of water visible in the background under a cloudy sky. The reindeer are harnessed together, and one is pulling a sled.
3. Several reindeer-herding enterprises with distinct herding practices operate in this region.
 4. There are discrepancies between *norms* of pasture use (defined in terms of carrying capacities and demarkation of pastures) and the *actual* pasture use.
 5. Many winter pastures in the forest zone are no longer frequented for socio-economic reasons.
 6. Shrubby areas (officially delineated as spring/autumn pastures) may provide sufficient forage also during the winter – from the herders' point of view.