

What Does Spatial Justice Mean in the Context of the Climate Crisis?

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Colonization

- **Process of devaluing and dehumanizing Indigenous peoples to justify exploiting them and their homelands.**
- **Settlers become and impose the law, supplanting Indigenous laws and epistemologies.**

(Tuck & Yang, 2013)

- **Forced Government-Mandated Relocation**

DECOLONIZATION

Intelligent & active unlearning of colonization that perpetuate the subjugation and exploitation of minds, bodies, & lands.

- Restoration of cultural practices and values taken away or abandoned through colonization but are relevant and/or necessary for survival and well being. It is the birth and use of new ideas technologies, and lifestyles that advance and empower Indigenous Peoples.**
- -Yellow Bird, 2008. Indigenous Social Work**

15 Alaska Native Communities



**All imminently
threatened by
flooding and
erosion.
Two decided to
relocate.**

Planned Community Relocation: What is it?

- **Voluntary**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** prior to displacement of populations caused by extreme weather event
- **Planned: long-term process**
- **Protect Human Rights**
- **Community:** Rebuild homes, infrastructure and livelihoods
- **Maintain Social and Kinship Connections**

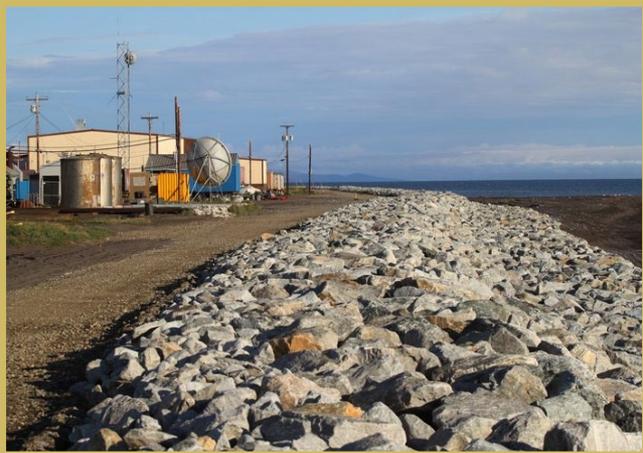
ADAPTIVE RELOCATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

**Protection in
Place**



**Community
Relocation**



**Relocation
Indicators**



GOVERNANCE ISSUES

No state or federal government agency has the mandate or funding to relocate a community

No institutional framework to determine:

- **When?**
- **Who decides and how is decision made?**
- **Where to relocate?**

How can collective and individual human rights be protected for communities relocating and host communities?

RELOCATION PRINCIPLES BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS

**Universal Declaration
of Human Rights**



**United Nations
Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous
Peoples**

**International Covenant on
Civil and Political Rights**

**International Covenant
on Economic,
Social, and Cultural Rights**

RIGHT TO LIFE

**RIGHT TO SELF-
DETERMINATION**

**RIGHT TO TRADITIONAL
FOODS**

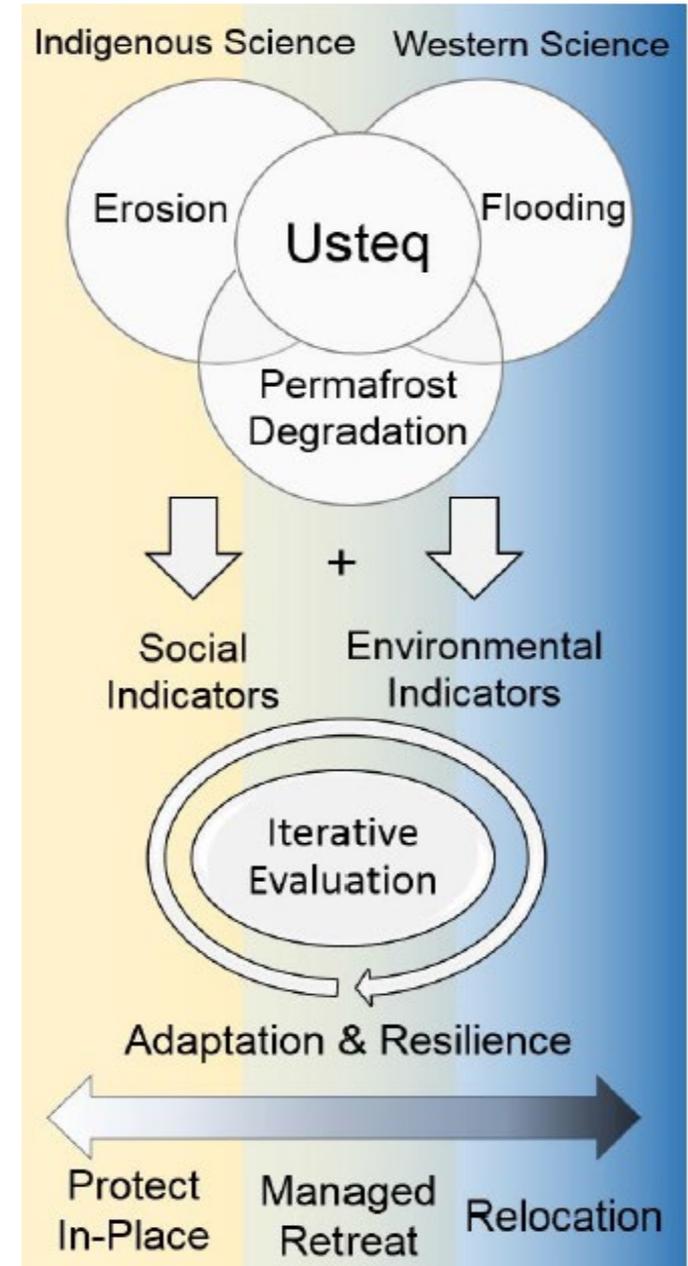
**RIGHT TO PRACTICE
AND REVITALIZE
CULTURAL TRADITIONS**

**RIGHT TO IMPROVE
LIVELIHOODS**

Maligtaquyarat (Guiding Principles)

- Remain a distinct, unique community.
- Look to elders for guidance.
- Build a healthy future for our youth.
- Our voice comes first – we have first and final say in making decisions and defining priorities.
- Development should reflect our cultural traditions.
- Nurture our spiritual and physical well-being.
 - Respect and enhance the environment.
 - Be designed with local input from start to finish.
 - Be affordable for our people.
 - Hire community members first.
 - Look for projects that build on our talents and strengthen our economy.

Community-based Social, Health and Environmental Monitoring



Acknowledgements

Chinik Eskimo Community

Native Village of Elim

Native Village of Eyak

City of Kivalina

Native Village of Kivalina

Village of Kotlik

Native Village of Kwigillingok

Native Village of Nelson Lagoon

Native Village of Nunapitchuk

Native Village of Port Heiden

Native Village of Kwinhagak

Native Village of Shishmaref

Native Village of Teller

Native Village of Unalakleet

