Designing and Implementing a Governance Framework for Community-Led Planned Relocation

K NOMAD
April 2017

Dr. Robin Bronen, J.D.
Alaska Institute for Justice
Combination of repeated and frequent extreme weather events and slow-ongoing environmental change: decreased arctic sea ice, thawing permafrost and accelerated rates of erosion
All imminently threatened by flooding and erosion. Two made the decision to relocate.
What Is Planned Relocation In Alaska?

• **Right to Self-Determination**
  – Tribe decides whether relocation occurs
  – Tribe decides location of relocation site
  – Tribe maintains access to subsistence resources
  – Relocation provides opportunity to improve living standards

• **Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy**
  – Relocation Occurs Prior to Displacement Caused by Extreme Weather Event

Robin Bronen, JD, PhD
Alaska Institute for Justice
robin.bronen@akijp.org
THREE GOVERNANCE ISSUES

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

• No institutional framework to determine the point in time when relocation needs to occur
  – What is the institutional process for relocation to occur prior to the occurrence of an extreme weather event that displaces people?

• How can human rights be protected?
ADAPTIVE RELOCATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

Protection in Place

Community Relocation

Relocation Indicators
Relocation Governance Design

Four Components
1. Federal Legislation
2. Good Governance
3. Social-Environmental Monitoring
4. Funding
Integration of Indigenous Knowledge with Western Science

• Storm Forecasting
• Documentation of flooding and erosion events
• Install erosion and shoreline change monitoring time lapse cameras in 5 communities

Kwigillingok: Erosion along barge landing site on Kuskokwim Bay in 2011. Yellow plastic poles are placed along the bank to measure rates of erosion.

1985 Bank erosion protection
Kotlik: Victor Tonunchuk
Acknowledgements

- 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
- Chinik Eskimo Community
- Native Village of Elim
- Native Village of Eyak
- City of Kivalina
- Native Village of Kivalina
- Village of Kotlik