WHAT IS RELOCATION?

• Voluntary

• Preventive—prior to displacement of populations caused by extreme weather event

• Planned

• Rebuild homes, infrastructure and livelihoods

• Maintain social and kinship connections

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Combination of repeated extreme weather events and ongoing environmental change: Sea level rise and accelerated rates of erosion.

- Protection in place cannot provide long-term protection.
- Infrastructure repeatedly damaged or destroyed.
2003 US government report found 3 communities seeking to relocate in Alaska and 184 other communities are being affected by flooding and erosion. 2009 US government report found 12 seeking to relocate.
Newtok
Historical and Projected Erosion

- Ninglick River eroding 9 - 33 meters annually

- Red arrow points to the shoreline in 1954

- Landfill and barge landing have already eroded away.
NEWTOK’S RELOCATION CHALLENGES

• Newtok Planning Group
  – 25 different federal, state, tribal and non-profit agencies
  – No statutory guidance to relocate
  – No relocation funding

• Agencies lack technical, financial and organizational capacity to relocate communities

• Statutory barriers
  Federal disaster legislation: Repair and rebuild in place
TWO 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
ADAPTIVE RELOCATION GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

Protection in Place

Community Relocation

Relocation Indicators

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NOAA CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT

• Community-based monitoring
  • Environmental change
  • Impact on community health and well-being
  • Impact on infrastructure

• Collaboration between local community residents and tribal, state and federal government agencies to provide technical assistance and funding

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