

Rights and Livelihood Resilience: Climate-Induced Community Relocations

**Woodrow Wilson Center for
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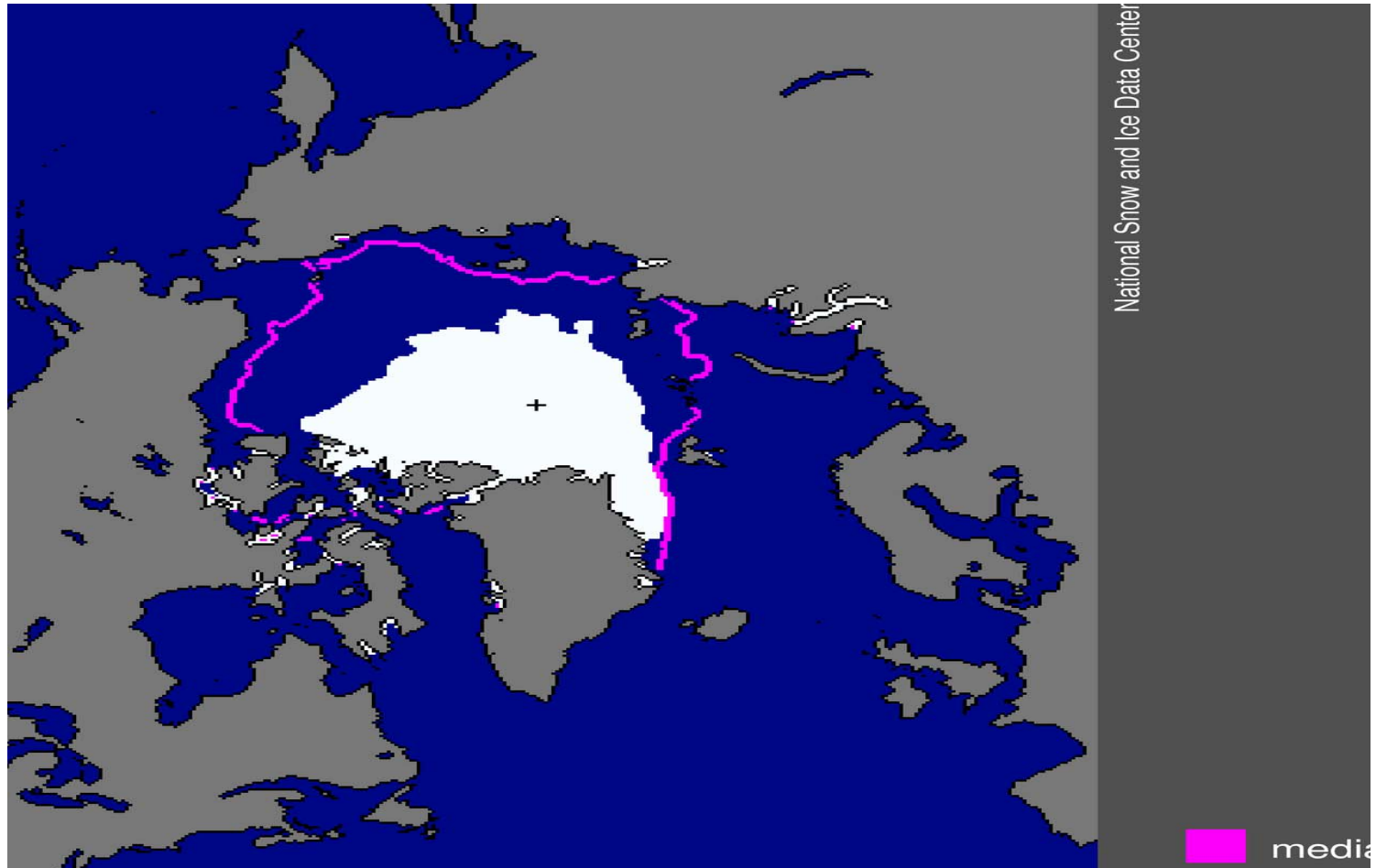
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Climate Change in Alaska



Temperatures have increased an average of 3.5 Celsius since 1975. Permafrost is thawing. Record minimum levels of Arctic sea ice. Accelerated rates of erosion. Repeated extreme weather events. Sea walls and revetments are not able to provide long-term protection.

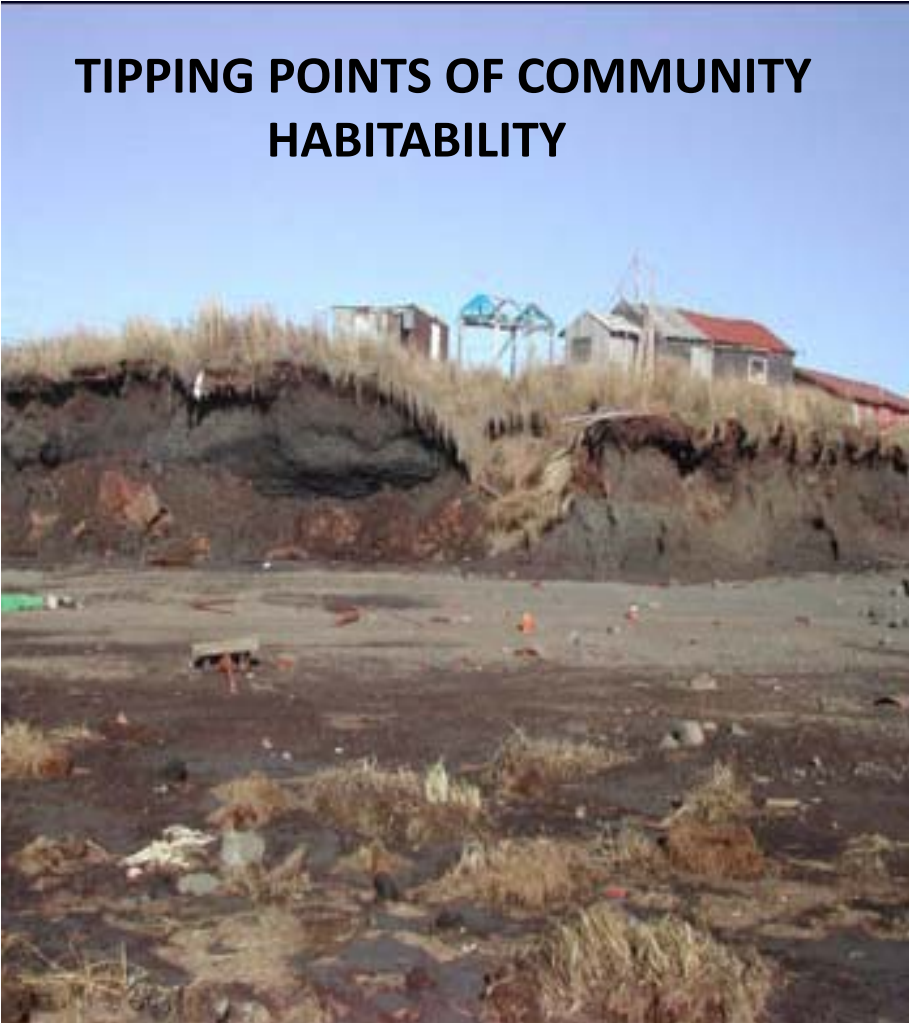
Arctic Sea Ice Extent September 2012



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Photos: Frank Myoumick-Kawerak

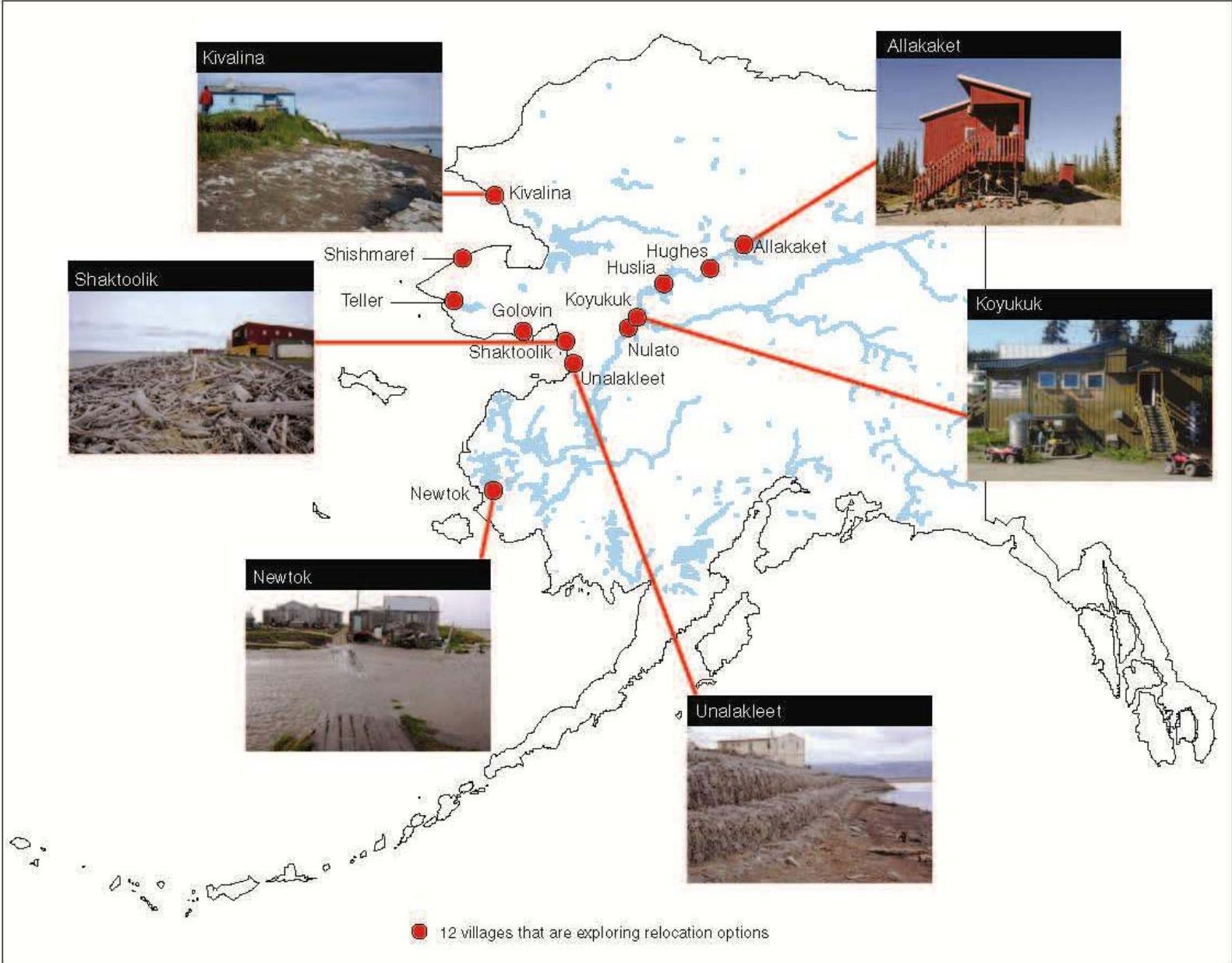


TIPPING POINTS OF COMMUNITY HABITABILITY

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.

Figure 5: Locations of 12 Alaska Native Villages That Are Exploring Relocation Options



Sources: GAO (analysis); Pitney Bowes Business Insight (map).

DYNAMIC ADAPTIVE GOVERNANCE RESPONSE BASED IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Protection in Place: Disaster relief and hazard mitigation

Social-ecological indicators :

- Repetitive loss of structure;
- Imminent danger to community;
- Community has no further ability to mitigate through flood protection, erosion control;
- Number of evacuation incidents;
- Loss of livelihoods; public health;
- predicted sea level rise, erosion and flooding

**Relocation – based in human rights
collective right to self-determination –
Livelihood resilience: right to maintain access to
subsistence resources**