

CLIMATE CHANGE

And

HUMAN RIGHTS:

The Case of the Inuit



Paul Crowley, Legal Counsel

Iqaluit, Nunavut



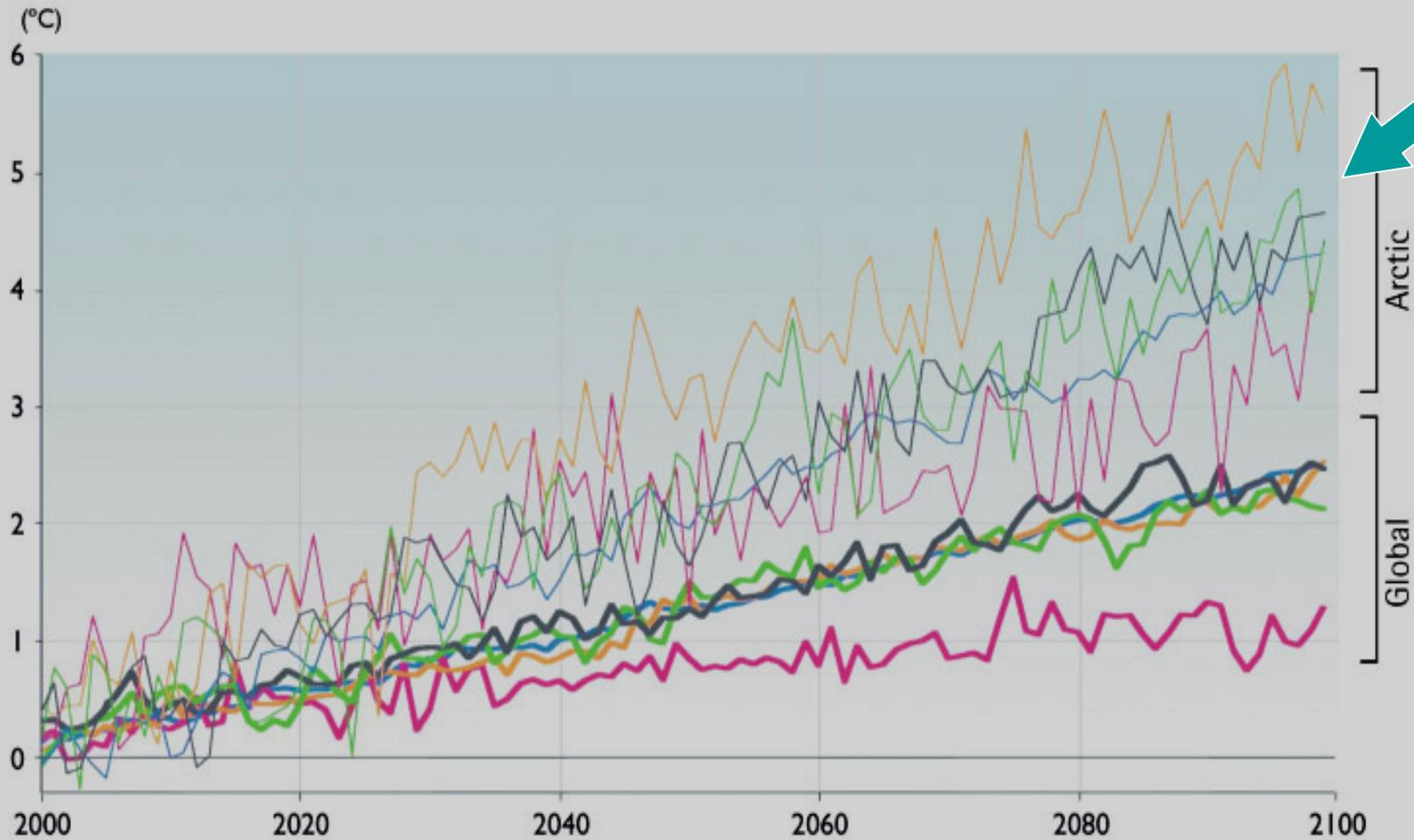








Projected Surface Air Temperature Change (change from 1981-2000 Average)



©2004, ACIA

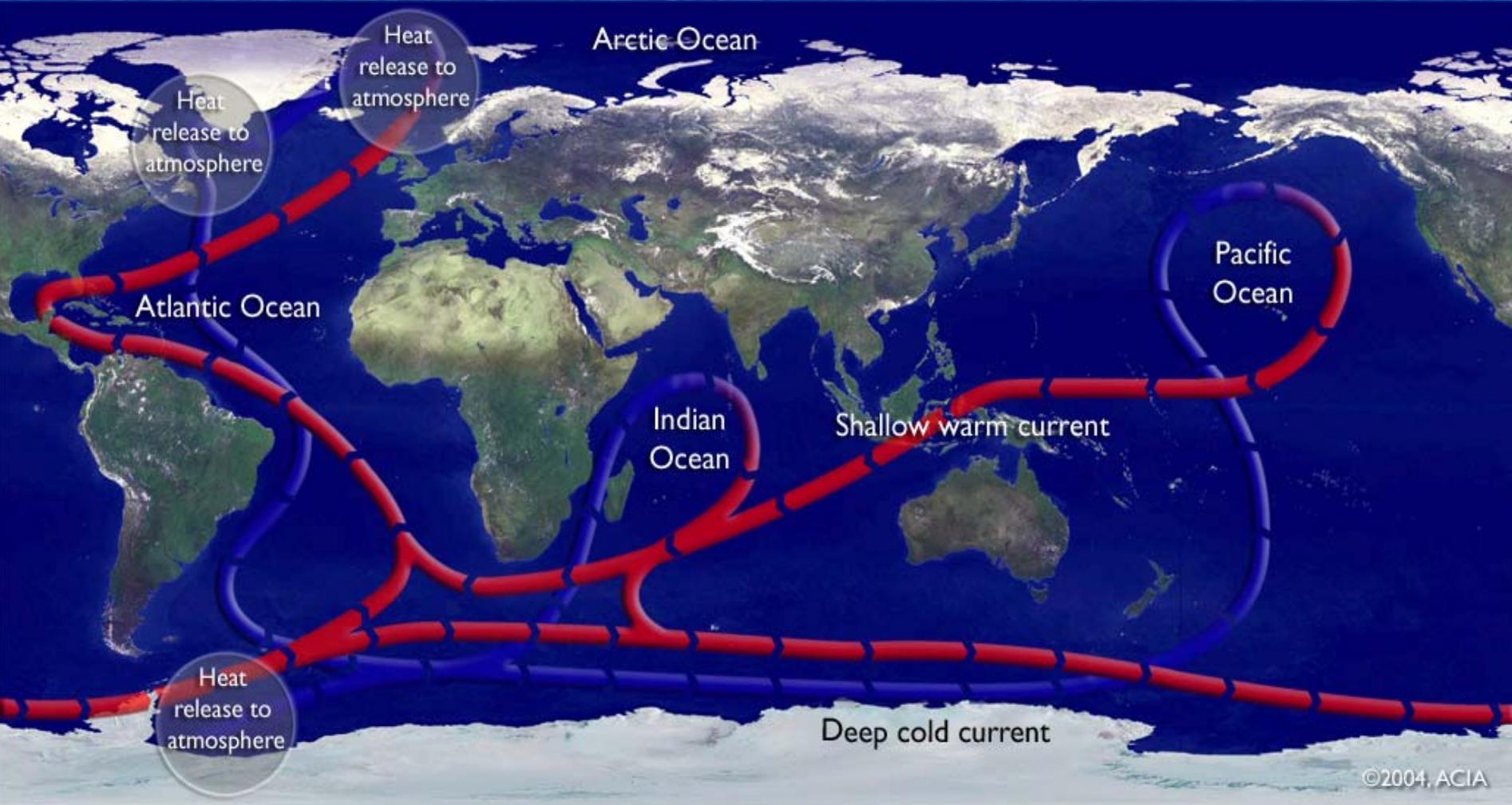
Global Average

- CGCM2
- CSM_1.4
- ECHAM4/OPYC3
- GFDL-R30_C
- HadCM3

Arctic Average

- CGCM2
- CSM_1.4
- ECHAM4/OPYC3
- GFDL-R30_C
- HadCM3

Ocean Circulation



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

A dramatic movie poster for 'The Day After Tomorrow'. The central image is a close-up of a hand holding a lit torch, with flames and smoke rising. The hand is positioned over a cityscape that is partially submerged in dark, turbulent water. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, suggesting a storm or a catastrophic event. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and the orange and yellow of the torch's fire.

THE DAY AFTER
TOMORROW

MAY 28 WHERE WILL YOU BE?





Projected summer sea-ice depletion

2010 - 2030

2040 - 2060

2070 - 2090









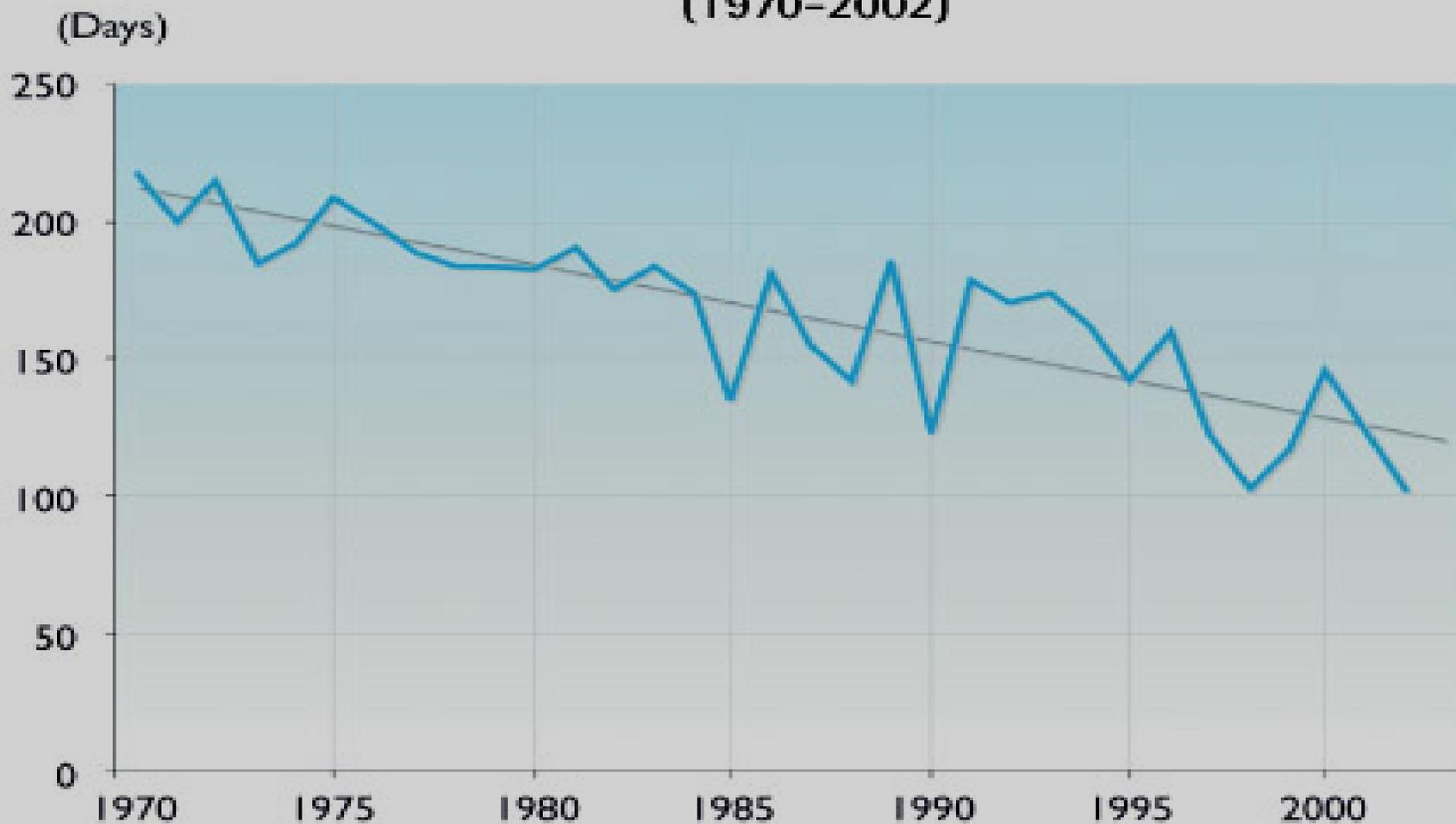
ACIA Key Finding

“Marine species dependent on sea ice, including polar bears, ice-living seals, walrus, and some marine birds, are very likely to decline, with some facing extinction.”



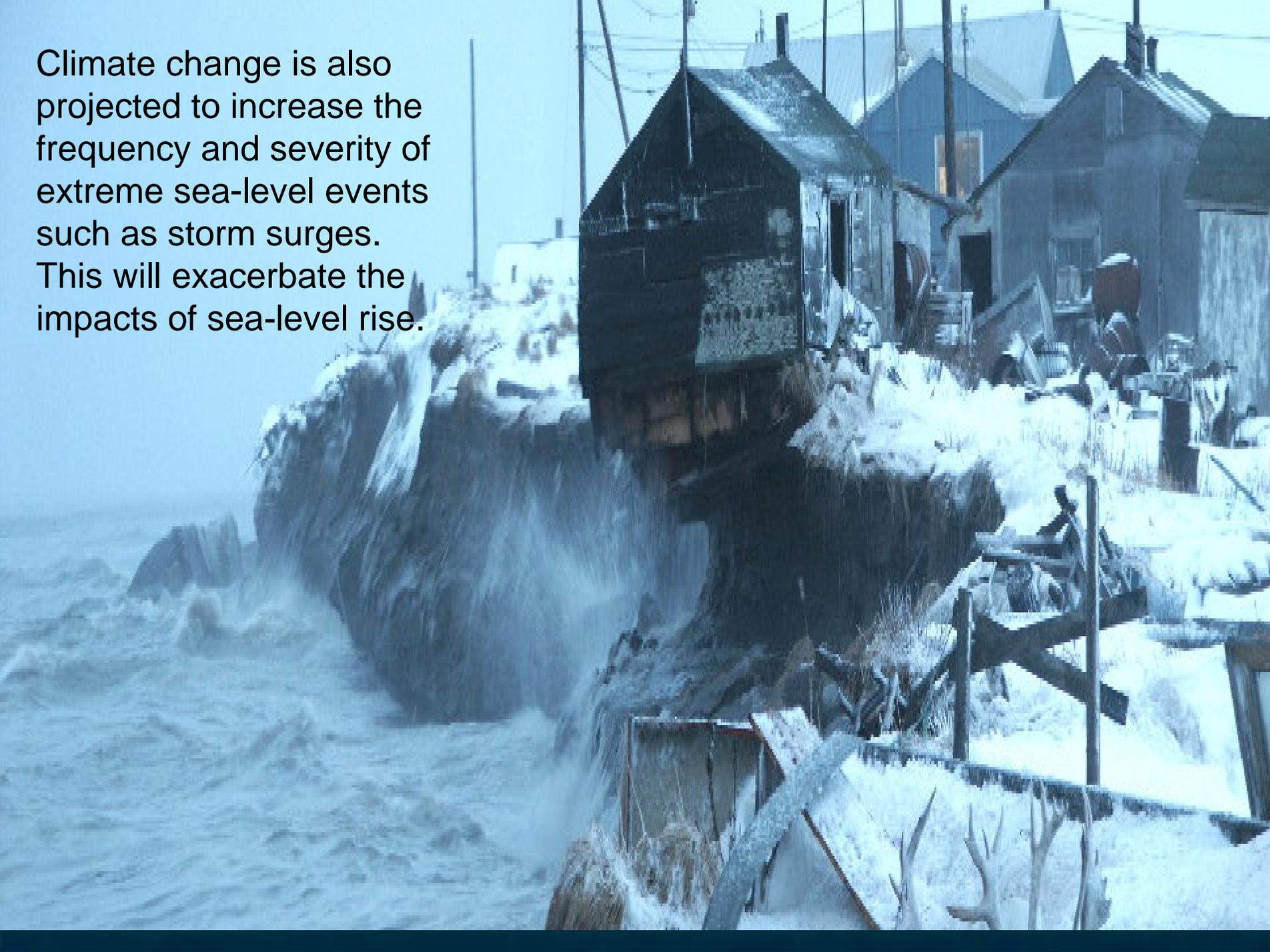


Alaska Winter Tundra Travel Days (1970-2002)



©2004, ACIA

Climate change is also projected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme sea-level events such as storm surges. This will exacerbate the impacts of sea-level rise.



West Nile Virus Northward to the Arctic



ACIA: Key Finding

“For Inuit, warming is likely to disrupt or even destroy their hunting and food sharing culture as reduced sea-ice causes the animals on which they depend to decline, become less accessible, possibly become extinct.”



The Protection of Indigenous populations is a “sacred commitment” of states.

IACHR



The American Declaration guarantees the right to the benefits of culture.

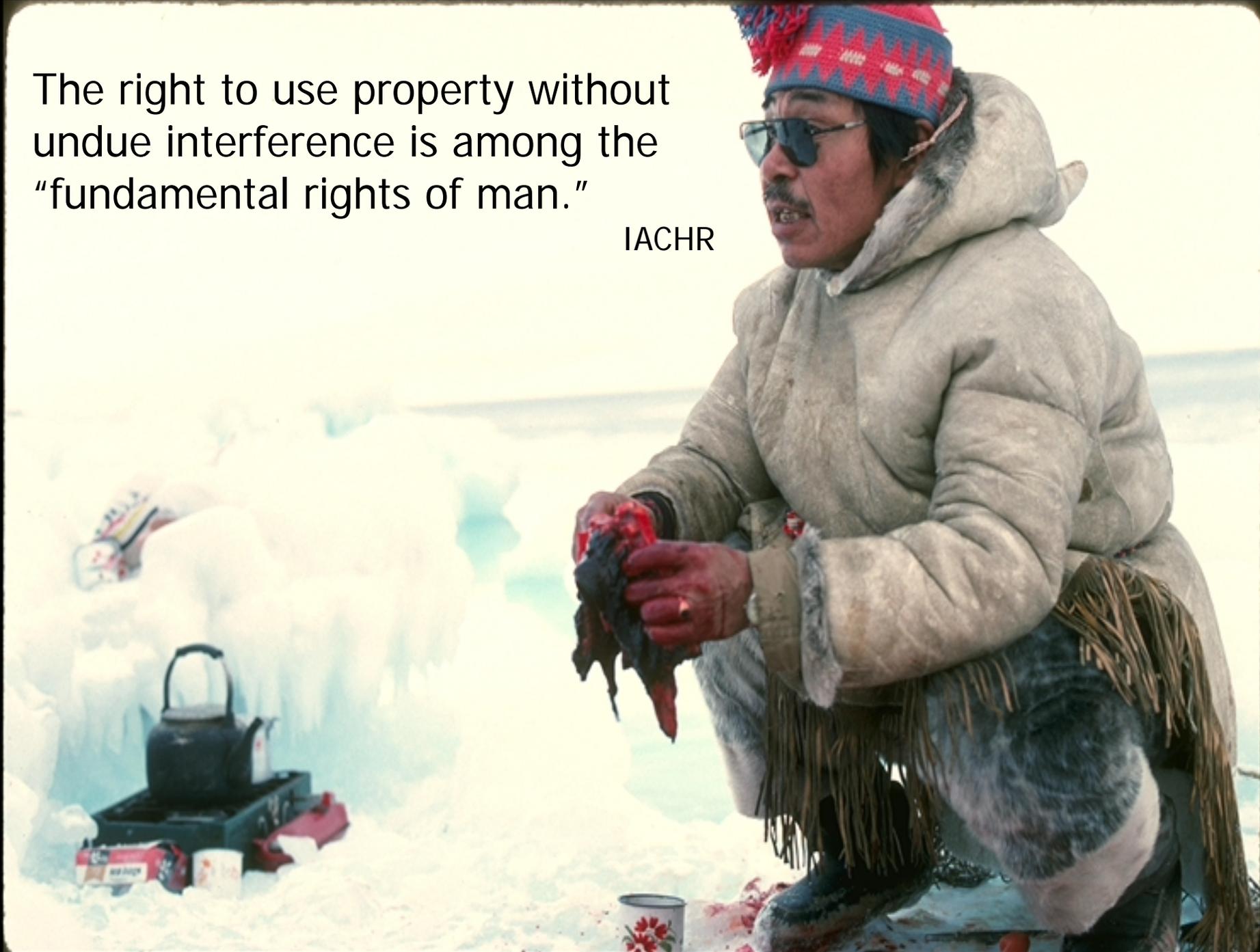




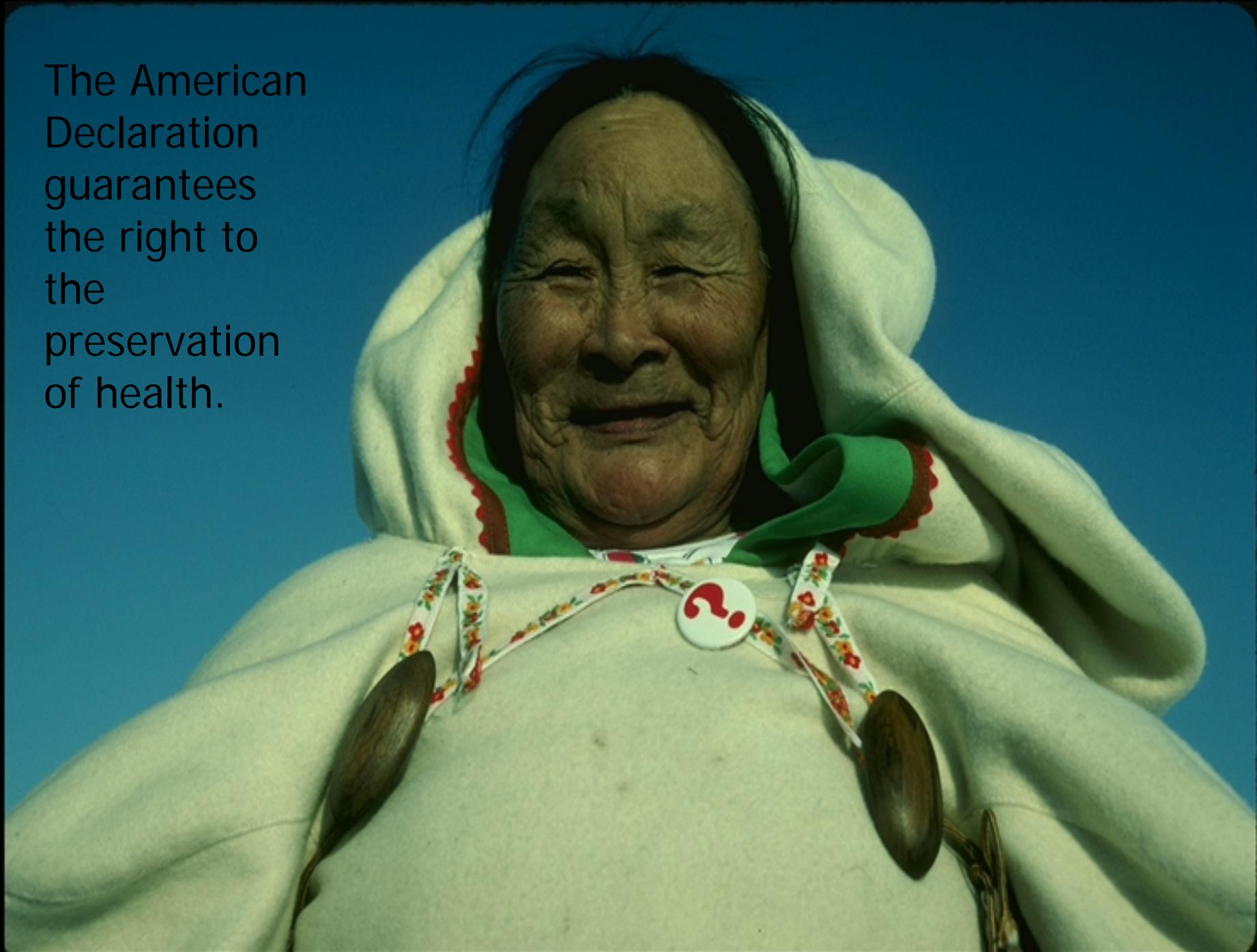
The American Declaration guarantees the right to use and enjoy the lands Indigenous People have traditionally occupied.

The right to use property without undue interference is among the "fundamental rights of man."

IACHR



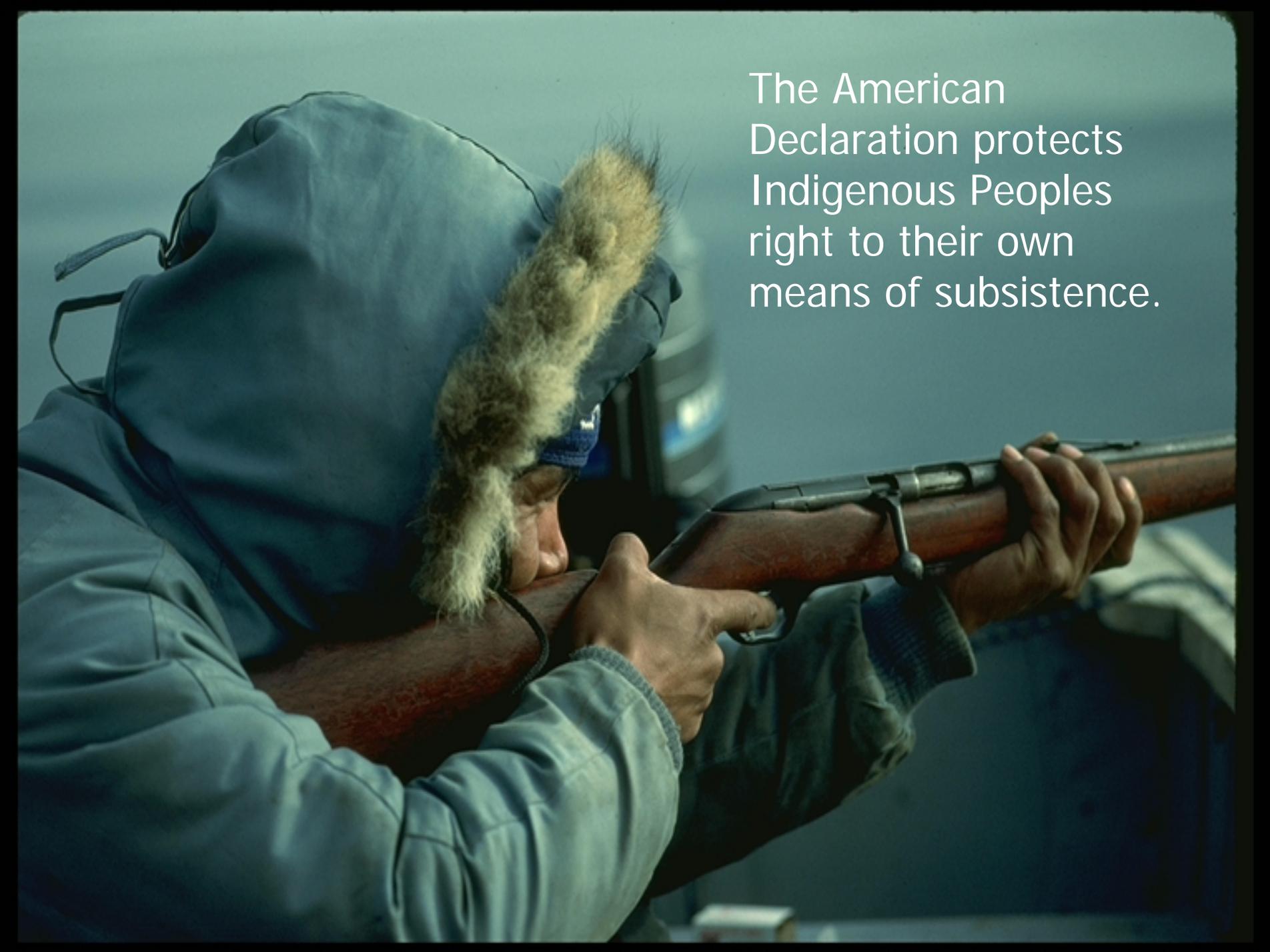
The American Declaration guarantees the right to the preservation of health.





Arctic Photo Co.

The rights to life, physical integrity and security is necessarily related to and dependent upon one's physical environment.
IACHR

A close-up, side-profile photograph of a person wearing a blue hooded jacket with a thick fur trim around the hood. The person is holding a wooden rifle and aiming it towards the right. The background is a blurred, light blue-grey color, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall tone of the image is somewhat desaturated and cool.

The American
Declaration protects
Indigenous Peoples
right to their own
means of subsistence.

“The use and enjoyment of the land and its resources are integral components of the physical and cultural survival of the Indigenous communities.”

IACHR

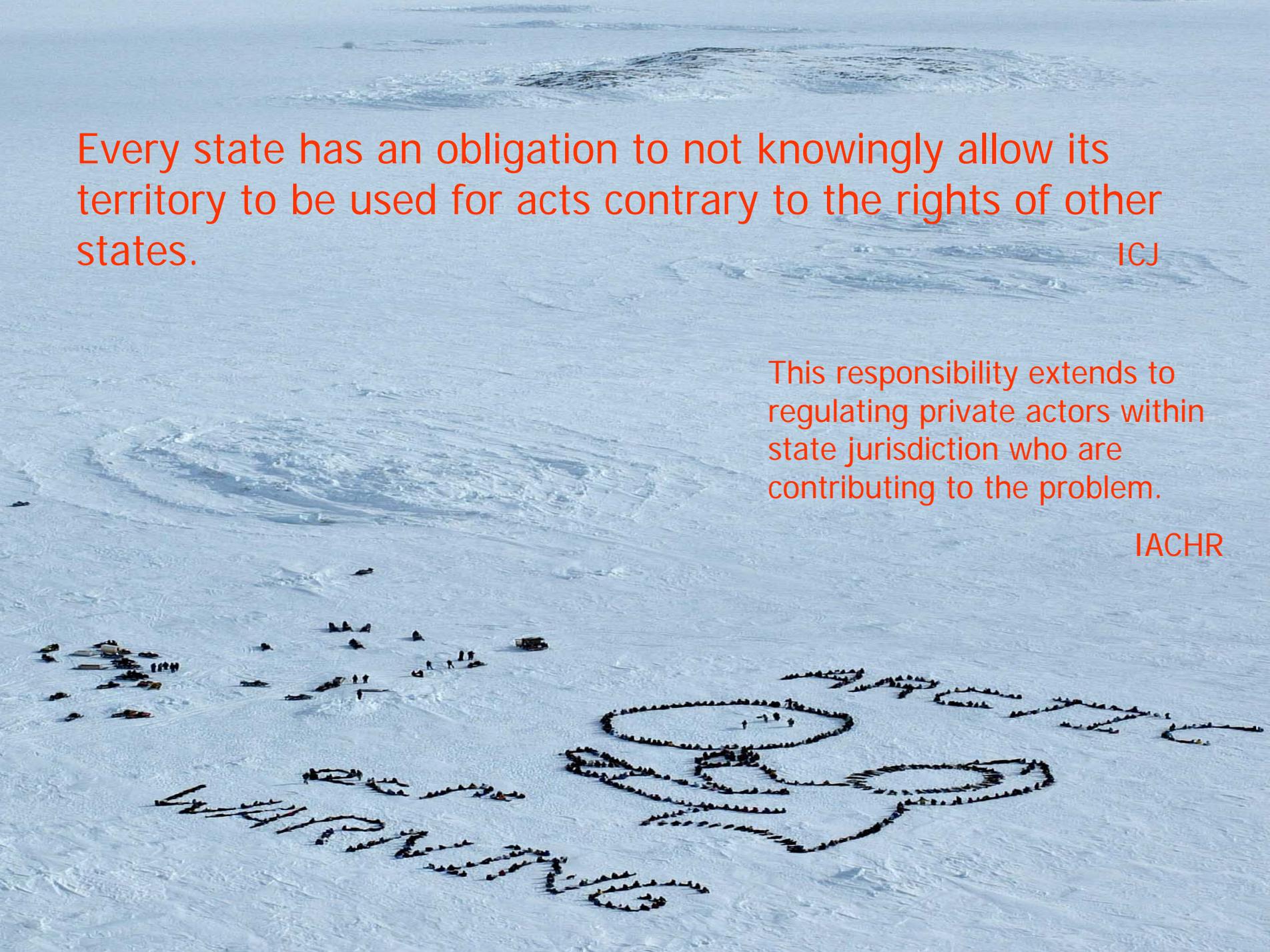


Every state has an obligation to not knowingly allow its territory to be used for acts contrary to the rights of other states.

ICJ

This responsibility extends to regulating private actors within state jurisdiction who are contributing to the problem.

IACHR



Indigenous Peoples should not be forced to assimilate with other culture in ways and on a schedule not of their choosing.



