

## C06-007

### LEAVE OR STAY: SETTLEMENT OF ANCESTORS UNDER NATURAL DISASTERS IN YAKUTIA

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In recent decades due to Global climate change in the territory of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) the number of flooded settlements increases. Different ways of social adaptation of residents in the flooded settlements to the conditions of catastrophic floods based on materials fieldwork are considered.

Climate change and the social consequences of this global phenomenon is one of the main problems in the beginning of the XXIth century. Unlike foreign scientists, who have already accumulated theoretical and empirical evidence to assess the impact of climate change on Arctic indigenous communities, such complex investigations in relation to Northern Russia had not been conducted yet. The same situation is in Yakutia. According to the Concept of Protection of Settlements and the Economy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) from Flooding and Other Adverse Impacts of Water in Yakutia, there are 92 of the 619 settlements constantly exposed to flood waters. The protection from catastrophic flooding resulted in the issue of transfer of settlements.

The problem is inconsistency in the methods of adaptation proposed by the governments of Russia and Yakutia and manifestations of the population practices.

We examined adaptations to the effects of flooding on the example of two villages located in northern and southern Yakutia. The first village of our study is the village of Kyllakh, located on the same island in South Yakutia in the Olekminsky region. This settlement is subject to annual flooding for more than one hundred years. Many catastrophic floods in this village took place in 1903, 1937, 1949, 1969, 1998 and 2001. After the catastrophic floods of 2001 the Government of Yakutia decided to move Kyllakh to the area of the village Dapparay on the high bank of the Lena river opposite it.

This is the first Russian experience of settlement transfer. In this village we have studied issues related to the problems of social adaptations of residents to the new conditions.

The second village is Betenkes is located in northern Yakutia in the Adycha River Valley. The village was exposed to larger flooding until 2008. In contrast to the first object of our study this village does not been transferred, but people found a way to adapt to the impacts of flooding.

In the study of social adaptations to the consequences of the two villages of catastrophic floods were used method of participant observation, document analysis and archival materials, interviews and opinion poll during field work.

Thus, on the example of these villages can be traced adaptations of population to catastrophic floods. We consider two ways to adapt to the consequences of catastrophic floods. The first way is the transfer of the village. This solution requires a lot of cost, effort, there are so many questions and problems. In this case, people should leave their homes and move to a new home. The second way is to build new types of houses considering the maximum levels of past floods. In this case, people have to live in their native land.