



Climate Witness: Vladilen Ivanovich Kavry, Russia

In the farthest northeast reaches of Russia lies the Chukchi Peninsula, jutting out into the Siberian Sea. Here, people, polar bears and walrus are all feeling the sting of climate change

What the IPCC says

- A recent major ecosystem shift in the northern Bering Sea has been attributed to regional climate warming and trends in the Arctic Oscillation
- Comparing the horizon of 2010-2015 with the control period 1950-1979 show that ice cover duration on the rivers in Siberia would be shorter by 15-27 days and maximum ice cover would be thinner by 20-40%
- Polar bears will face a high risk of extinction with warming of 2.8°C above pre-industrial

Source: IPCC 4th Assessment Report, working group II [1.3.4.2, 3.4 & Box 4.3]



Vladilen Ivanovich Kavry lives in the Chukotka region, at the far eastern edge of Russia. For generations his people have hunted marine mammals and herded reindeer as a living.

"Many people in my village experienced sea ice melting that used to last all summer - there is no more permanent sea ice left here."

What this WWF Climate Witness is experiencing right now

- "In my lifetime I have noticed significant changes in the cycle of freezing and thawing. The ice-forming period now lasts for about a month, which is longer than before. **The ice now breaks up a month earlier than before.**"
- "My friend Tilmyet, who is 82, says that the walrus are tired and have nowhere to rest because there is no more ice in summer."
- **"We are pretty sure more bears are here because of climate change. The bears depend on sea ice to get to their prey, mostly seals and without sea ice their hunting ground is shrinking."**
- "The polar bears cause problems because they come looking for food in the village and often attack the sled dogs. It was not unusual for ten to visit the village in one day when foraging. We need to scare them away."

To limit the impacts of climate change highlighted by the IPCC's 4th Assessment Report...

- Industrialized countries must cut their emissions by at least 30% by 2020;
- Big developing economies should agree to join hands with rich countries to develop their own climate solutions; and
- Deforestation must be stopped, by making forest protection a business proposition.

WWF works with governments and communities around the world to develop region-specific adaptation strategies to address climate change impacts — such as those impacts being observed by our Climate Witnesses here and now.

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Find out more

Testimonial:

panda.org/climatewitness/kavry

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