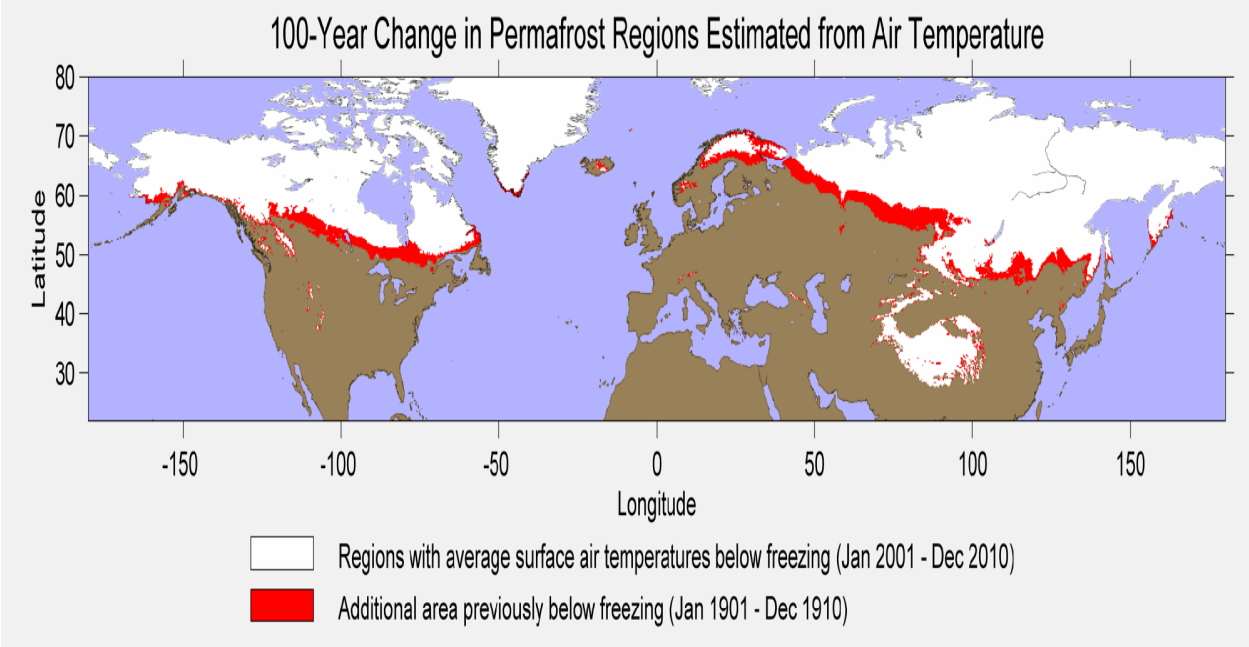

Figure 7. Permafrost or cryotic soil is defined as soil that is at or below 0C for 2 or more years. In the above figure we use the air temperature estimated by the Berkeley Earth averaging method to create an estimate of permafrost extent and its retreat over the last hundred years. While factors other than air temperature do play a role in the formation of permafrost (such as the slope and aspect of the terrain) , the average annual air temperature does provide a good estimate of where permafrost has formed. Regions where the annual air temperature averaged 0C or below for the 1901-1910 time period are colored in red while those areas that where 0Cor lower during the 2001-2010 period are colored in white.