



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21st Century

Duration : 2'11"

Sea Level Rise in the Pacific: Loss of Land and Culture

VIDEO

AERIAL SHOTS OF WATER AND
LAND

MAN IN WATER WITH TOY SAIL
BOAT

STORM HIGH TIDE FOOTAGE
OF HOUSE DROWNING

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Funafuti atoll. The capital, and one of nine islands comprising the remote nation of Tuvalu. This is one of the smallest countries in the world. Its average elevation of two meters makes Tuvalu extremely vulnerable to storms and sea-level rise.

People the world over migrate in search of a better life. But this is a story about people on two small Pacific island nations being forced to move, not by conflict or natural disaster, but by the potential disappearance of their homeland under water.

People have started to leave the islands abandoning their homes.

It's a concern shared by the nearby island nation of Kiribati.

ANOTE TONG : (In English)

TONG ON CAMERA BEHIND
DESK

“It would be a very sad day when there will no longer be a country, a nation, a people called Kiribati.”

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“We are preparing our people. Equipping them to be able to relocate if and when necessary with dignity. We would not wish to see our people as climate change refugees.”

ANOTE AT GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

NARRATION:

STUDENTS IN CLASS

Sea-level rise and unusually big waves are threatening the i-Kiribati population of about 100 thousand people.

WATER SURGING FROM
UNDRERGROUN

But the older generation in Kiribati is not willing to leave.

ANOTE ON CAMERA

ANOTE TONG : (In English)

“...if you were to ask me, and if you were to ask the elderly in Kiribati, the answer is no. They would wish to stay on, even die here.”

TONG ON AND OFF CAMERA

“The best we can hope to have is to maintain the integrity of our culture. Whether we will be able to have our people settle all in one place I doubt it... What I'd like to see happen ... for us to maintain a nation of Kiribati somehow. We have to do that so that the new generation ... or generations of i-Kiribati people in different parts of the world will have somewhere to go to, to say that this is, this is what once was our nation.”

B-ROLL OF KIRIBATI KIDS,
PEOPLE ON STREETS,
SHOPPING, EATING, PLAYING,
SLEEPING IN HAMMOCKS