



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: May 2010

Programme No. 1242

Length: 5'13"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

SEA LEVEL RISE IN THE PACIFIC: LOSS OF LAND AND CULTURE

VIDEO

AERIAL SHOTS

AUDIO

NARRATION

This is Funafuti. The capital, and one of nine islands comprising the remote nation of Tuvalu. (9.06)

With total land area of 26 sq km and a population of 12,000, it 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. (15.07)

TANGI ON CAMERA

TANGI LEO: (English) F

"Before we used to run up and then run down to the beach to swim... Now I just sort of look when there's high tide, the land is just the same with the water." (13.3)

TANGI WITH FAMILY

NARRATION

Tangi Leo grew up here in Funafuti and moved to Australia 20 years ago. She's visiting her homeland for a big family reunion. (9.4)

TANGI LEO: (English) F

TANGI ON CAMERA

"The people that I used to know a lot of them have already left the land... They moved, they migrated to New Zealand or Australia." (8.9)

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

NARRATION:

People the world over migrate in search of a better life. But this is different. 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. (19.7)

STORM, HIGH-TIDE FOOTAGE

PITA ON CAMERA

AFELE PITA : (English) **M**

"...the issue is a matter of life or death." (2.7)

AFELE PITA ON HIS ISLAND

NARRATION:

Says Tuvalu's Ambassador to the United Nations, Afele Pita. (3.9)

PITA ON CAMERA

AFELE PITA : (English) **M**

"But for us here in Tuvalu... [whatever development] (we) ... can be wiped off overnight if sea level rises." (11.7)

KING TIDE (ACHIVAL)

NARRATION:

With the ever increasing levels of the high tides, the catastrophe seems imminent. People have started to leave the islands abandoning their homes. (11.2)

ABANDONED, EMPTY HOUSES

TANGI, BROTHER

Most of Tangi's family has left as well, like her brother Teakini Penaia who now lives in New Zealand. (6.7)

PENAIA ON CAMERA

TEAKINI PENAIA: (English) **M**

“Living in NZ is totally different... It takes years to adapt to the culture, the people that live in NZ.” (9.5)

TEAKINI’S FAMILY B-ROLL, HIS
KIDS PLAYING SOCCER
I-KIRIBATI KIDS PLAYING SOCCER

NARRATION:

Teakini says he misses his homeland and wonders if his children will remember it. ... It’s a concern shared by the nearby island nation of Kiribati. (12.1)

TONG ON CAMERA

ANOTE TONG: (English) **M**

“It would be a very sad day when there will no longer be a country, a nation, a people called Kiribati.” (3.8)

ANOTE TONG AT THE UN

NARRATION:

Anote Tong, the President of Kiribati fears that his nation may become one of the first countries to fall victim to sea-level rise. (8.4)

TONG ON CAMERA

ANOTE TONG: (English) **M**

“...we’re talking about people here. We’re not talking about polar bears. I think the polar bears are precious. I would not like to see them disappear but nor would I wish to see our people disappear.” (10.3)

ARCHIVAL OF KIRIBATI WAVES,
TIDE
AERIAL SHOTS OF KIRIBATI

NARRATION:

Sea-level rise and unusually big waves are threatening the i-Kiribati population of about 100 thousand people. They live on 33 atolls, scattered over a vast area around the Equator

in the Pacific. (15.5)

TONG ON CAMERA

ANOTE TONG: (English) **M**

“... We are preparing our people. Equipping them to be able to relocate if and when necessary with dignity. As skilled people, not as second class citizens. (...) We would not wish to see our people as climate change refugees.” (15.8)

OLDER MAN IN KIRIBATI

NARRATION:

The president says his people have the next few decades to prepare for relocation. But the older generation in Kiribati is not willing to leave. (9.2)

TONG ON CAMERA

ANOTE TONG: (English) **M**

“...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.” (8.7)

MAN AND WOMAN WEAVING
FISHING NET

NARRATION:

With the move, the Kiribati culture and ancient traditions could be lost. (4.9)

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

ANOTE TONG: (English) **M**

“... 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 in one place I doubt it... I'd like to see ... for us to maintain a nation of Kiribati somehow. We have to do that so that the new ... generations of i-Kiribati people in different parts of the world

will have somewhere to go to, to say that this is what once was our nation.” (29.6)

UN LOGO

NARRATION:

This report was prepared by Sasha Gorishek for the United Nations. (4.1)