



TV

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Release Date: April 2010

Programme No. 1234

Length: 5'06"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

## TUVALU: FOOD SECURITY

### VIDEO

AERIAL VIEW OF TUVALU ISLANDS

BEACH

MAN AND CHILD IN WATER

LIVETI ON CAMERA

LIVETI FISHES

LIVETI ON CAMERA

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION:

In the middle of the South Pacific Ocean lies a boomerang-shaped narrow strip of land. The Funafuti atoll. It is one of nine islands comprising the remote nation of Tuvalu. (14.5")

With total land area of 26 square kilometres, 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. (15.5")

TOMA LIVETI: (English) **M**

*"It's getting more high tides than before."* (2")

#### NARRATION:

Toma Liveti is a fisherman who has lived in Tuvalu all his life. (5")

TOMA LIVETI: (English) **M**

*"Before the tide could be about one metre or*

*something but now it's getting to two metres.”*  
(5”)

NARRATION:

FISHING

But the water does not only come from the seashore; it also comes from underneath.

ROCKS ON SEASHORE

Made of corals, the islands are extremely porous, and salty water surging from the

WATER BUBBLES UP FROM SOIL

underground is poisoning the soil. (18”)

ITAIA LAUSAVEVE: (English) **M**

LAUSAVEVE ON CAMERA

*“If salt water, purer salt water comes in, it will just kill all the plants.”* (4”)

NARRATION:

LAUSAVEVE IN OFFICE

Itaia Lausaveve, the Director of the Agriculture Department of Tuvalu, says staple crops like the large taro-like tuber plant – pulaka – are being destroyed. (11.5”)

PULAKA PLANT

Pulaka is traditionally grown in pits, close to the water table. Saltwater has been intruding into the pits causing the plants to rot, turning green leaves yellow and stunting the growth of the plants. (15.5”)

LIVETI AT PULAKA PLANTATION

TOMA LIVETI: (English) **M**

LIVETI ON CAMERA

*“The taste of the pulaka is different. It's getting too salty.”* (5”)

NARRATION:

LIVETI WORKS ON PULAKA FIELD

Pulaka cultivation used to play an essential part in Tuvalu's subsistence economy and its

LIVETI WITH SON ON  
MOTORCYCLE

culture. Pulaka-growing secrets are passed from father to son. (12")

LIVETI ON CAMERA

TOMA LIVETI: (English) **M**

*"I brought my son to the pulaka so that he can see what I'm doing. He can learn. I tell him how to plant the pulaka ... practicing how to live as a man."* (13")

LIVETI WITH SON AT PULAKA  
PLANTATION

NARRATION:

LIVETI AT PULAKA PLANTATION

There is more at stake here than food. With the potential loss of pulaka, the ancient traditions could be lost. (10")

MUSIC AND LOCAL DISHES AT  
COMMUNITY GATHERING

ITAIA LAUSAVEVE: (English) **M**

*"Still, in traditional ceremonies like weddings, funerals, birthdays, the pulaka is still displayed. It still maintains that cultural importance of the family."* (15")

LAUSAVEVE ON CAMERA

NARRATION:

PEOPLE BOARD AIRPLANE AT  
AIRSTRIP

So climate change is having a negative impact on the traditional lifestyle, already under threat by globalization. A healthy crop, rich in calcium and other nutrients, pulaka takes hours to cook. Today, younger people prefer rice and processed foods, all of which comes from abroad. Only land-owners can grow pulaka here, on the main island. Toma is lucky to be one of them. (33")

PULAKA BEING PREPARED

BAGS OF RICE / PROCESSED  
FOODS ON STORE SHELVES

LIVETI WALKS BY ROAD

WOMEN PERFORM TRADITIONAL  
DANCE

So, it is people with no land rights in Funafuti – like the ones from the outer islands – that

COMMUNITY GATHERING / FOOD  
BUFFET

depend on processed food. They have left their pulaka pits behind. (11”)

STREETS OF TUVALU

But with Tuvalu being so remote, its 12,000 inhabitants cannot rely on imported food. (7”)

LAUSAVEVE ON CAMERA

ITAIA LAUSAVEVE: (English) **M**  
*“We cannot depend on importation of food, like what happened last year with the sudden rise in prices in which a lot of people were affected. They actually went back to eating breadfruit; going back to their friends and asking for breadfruits.” (16.5”)*

ISLAND VIEWS / LARGE WAVE  
FLOODING BEACH

NARRATION:  
Tuvalu may become the first country to fall victim to sea-level rise. But long before they are submerged by the sea, the islands may become uninhabitable due to lack of food. (15.5”)

LAUSAVEVE ON CAMERA

ITAIA LAUSAVEVE: (English) **M**  
*“It will be a real disaster ... culture loss, food loss and then country loss. There is no point in staying here then...” (8.5”)*

CHILDREN PLAY ON PIER AT  
SUNSET

NARRATION:

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Saša Gorišek for the United Nations.