My homeland forever

“What was once land, is now just a pile of sand.”

Tuvalu consists of eight islands and many islets. Close to the capital of Funafuti there was one very special place, where people used to play and have fun and just relax under the sun. Its name is Tepukasavilivili. This islet was once full of trees and animals but over the past 30 years it has been swallowed up by the sea. Slowly eroding over that past few years Tepukasavilivili has gone from a gem in the South Pacific, to a bare land where nothing grows.

It is sad but also scary to think that Tuvalu might become a pile of sand. Just like Tepukasavilivili. But no matter what, I will stand by my country because I love Tuvalu and it will be my homeland forever.

— Riiti Conway

Effects of Sea Level Rise

Tuvalu is a small country that consists of eight atoll islands. Tuvalu will be one of the first countries in the world to experience the negative impacts of global warming, specifically sea level rise. I have personally seen the effects of the sea level rising and will use examples from my home island of Nukufetau.

Near Sareae [the island where the main settlement in Nukufetau is located], there used to be a small islet which had a nice beach with trees growing on it. When I was young it was a popular picnic spot for people from the village. Nowadays, that particular islet is in danger of disappearing under the sea. When it is high tide the entire islet is submerged underwater. The village elders always mention that it is not normal for islets to disappear. There are also certain places on the main island, which have been eroded by the sea, and it is depressing to think that the shore is widening island slowly.

I agree that the sea level is rising as a direct result of global warming.

— Tausi Tausi

“…just a pile of sand.”

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