Marshallese people share climate change insights

A number of Marshallese people share impressive accounts of their views on climate change. Below you will see selected statements from the film:

99 And I am going to conclude that we cannot stop at 1.5 °C. We cannot stop at 2 °C. And we are currently on a pathway to over 3 °C before the end of the century. And for this reason we are going to pass a number of tipping points. Greenland ice sheet will be tipped into a state of unstoppable melting." **Charles Fletcher**

99 All along the beach here, where my property is, I can see the erosion that is taking place, cutting, eroding a lot of the beach front. So in 20 years, people are telling us [...] It is happening faster than we think." **Biram deBrum Stege**



99 They are losing homes. Everyone is now talking about putting sea walls up. It is really going to make the island different. The ocean, the lagoons are the providers for Pacific islanders. [...] People here will say the lagoon is their icebox. They'll go out and fish. [...] It is

a hard battle for everyone because [...] we only have the water. But then if the water is going to be your enemy, what else is going to happen?" **Eunice Borero**

99 I think there is no argument about the fact that the climate has always changed. But I think what we need to be careful of, is how we interpret it. It is not the change per se it is the rate of change. [...] I think since the pre-industri-

al times the temperature has already risen about a degree. And already we are seeing the very serious impacts of climate change. 0.8 meters of sea level rise [...] is going to render about 80 percent of Majuro underwater." Mahendra Kumar



99 You know, it is really hard for people like us [...] to think, are these islands going to be all underwater [...] or not livable. Maybe they will be still here but there will

be so much salt in the ground that nothing can grow." **Biram deBrum Stege**

99 And those gases we call 'Greenhouse Gases', that retain some of the heat. [...] Without it our planet wouldn't be habitable [...] since the industrial revolution [...], we have been putting a lot more of those gases into the atmosphere, in particular carbon dioxide [...] So as a result our air temperatures are rising, our sea temperatures are rising. With the hotter temperatures the glaciers are melting [...] The ice sheets are also beginning to melt. In addition, as water heats up, it expands.

So these two factors are causing sea levels to rise. Particularly for [...] the Marshall Islands, that's critical [...] The rate of sea level rise in the Marshall Islands and the North Pacific islands is more than double the global rise." **Gilian Cambers**



99 You will get longer and more frequent droughts and in between we are getting intense periods of rainfall" **Karl Fellenius**

99 We are getting more frequent droughts. And it is very hard for the people to get fruits from the crops [...] During periods of drought, of course the soil will dry out and crack. The soil will not be able to filter the water as effectively as it otherwise would. And when you get these intense rains, the water piles up on top of this dry soil and creates more flooding and erosion and all the consequences to human settlement." **Timmy Langrine**

Storms are getting more intense. And when the storms are getting more intense you have more localized impact in terms of erosion and damaged infrastructure and everything else that happens when a storm takes

place. Maybe we can look at the March 2014 which displaced 900 people and destroyed about a hundred homes." **Karl Fellenius**

99 How are you going to compensate the island for its loss of its water lens which is that fresh water lens between a few meters deep [...] that is now being gradually contaminated with salt water? Wells are getting contaminat-



ed and people are getting sick in the islands because the salinity is increasing in these wells." **Charles Fletcher**

99 With global warming, we know that the temperatures of the ocean, the salinity of the ocean [...] are having a direct impact on the coral reefs. Coral is not going to be able to grow properly [...] under those high temperature conditions and high acidity

conditions. So you don't have that continual supply of new coral coming in [...] it is the living reef that builds the island [...] because that is the only way you get your solid structures that the island can build up on." **Karl Fellenius**

99 Corals are vital for life in the Pacific, basically. They are the source of protein. Most of the protein comes from fish here. The coral ecosystem is a vital marine ecosystem. So with the death of the coral reefs or their deterioration [...] whole life styles will change in the Pacific." **Gillian Cambers**

➡ Translate selected quotations into German.

Create a small vocabulary book for the most relevant terms and expressions relating to climate change. Use the template below if needed.

What would you like to ask a resident of the Marshall Islands about the climate crisis? Formulate your questions, collect them and send them to us: Bildung@brot-fuer-die-welt.de. We will forward them to the filmmakers and we will send you back the answers of the protagonists.

