

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:

” 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**

” 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**



” 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 ice-box. 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**

” 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-industrial 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**



” 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**

” 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, the temperature of the land is 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**



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

” 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**

