

# Climate Change and Biodiversity

The new wave of colonization for  
Indigenous Peoples and Local  
Communities

# Scientific Evidence now overwhelming

- Ten years ago we were still facing the commercially driven backlash from some scientists disowning the reality of climate change
- Today, most of that scientific opposition has vanished and certainly the credible face of modern science is more concerned with impacts and mitigation.

# Some data on climate and coming food crisis From Plan B

Earth Policy news

- The eight hottest years on record for the planet all happened in the last decade
- For seven of the last eight years the world has consumed more grain than it produced and stocks are at historic low
- One fifth of the US grain harvest is now being converted to fuel ethanol

# Stats 2

- One third of amphibian, reptile and fish species examined by IUCN are now considered to be threatened with extinction
- Grain yields increased half as fast in the 1990s as they did in the 1960s
- Life expectancy in sub Saharan Africa is lower today than it was in the late 1980s

# Stats 3

- The global military budget stands at 1.2 trillion dollars at the same time as famine reaches crisis point in many countries
- Half of that military budget is spent by one country, immediately south of the Canadian border.

# Regions and Ecosystems most impacted by climate change

- Africa with increasing desertification and famine, with food production capability not matching population growth. At the same time, the region is being investigated for its potential to produce Agro fuel crops to feed the cars of Europe and the United States
- High Mountain Ecosystems highly at risk of losing endemic species, biodiversity and some cultural linkages associated with atmospheric changes

# Regions and Ecosystems 2

- Polar and Arctic regions facing lessening of the endemic species and global warming causing increasing ice flow break off. Ice bergs have been seen as far north as New Zealand during late Spring.
- Small Island States in the Asian, Caribbean and Pacific regions threatened with disappearance and/or loss of fresh water supplies impacting on habitability of islands.

# Regions 3

- In particular the Pacific faces disastrous consequences from increasing climate change, coral reef bleaching and rising temperatures causing increases in already dramatic climate extremes.
- Up to 15 of the 27 countries in the region are expected to be heavily impacted by climate change to the extent that they may become uninhabitable this century

# Regions 4

- While all this is happening, the rest of the world concentrates on false mitigation strategies that value economic returns above reduced emissions but have the impact of making people in Europe and the US feel good about doing something. That is tantamount to genocide and places the remaining world forests in jeopardy, further increasing gas emissions

# Countries and Indigenous Peoples

- Of all of the regions considered in the above indigenous Peoples make up significant or majority populations, hence the Convention will be failing in it's commitment to Indigenous Peoples unless it continues to defend biodiversity above profit and warn of potential impacts of market based mechanisms on mitigation strategies

# Agro fuels and potential for increased food crisis

- While the world faces serious food shortages in many areas with a decreasing ability to feed the poor, many countries seem hell bent on using food crops to produce food for cars
- Even worse, many of the countries being considered as potential suppliers of agro fuel crops have an existing poverty struggle and food shortages

# The issue of certification

- We keep hearing that it is possible to deliver a scandal free market in agro fuels, a phrase I particularly like because it originates from a Minister in a Parliament that has so far failed to produce a scandal free government (an industry they have direct control over)
- We need to recall that the problem of overconsumption is market driven and it seems little short of insanity to seek solutions from the creators of the problem

# Land for agro fuels production feeds deforestation



# Logging road in the Amazon



mill



# Village life in the Amazon



# Bird life Aotearoa forests



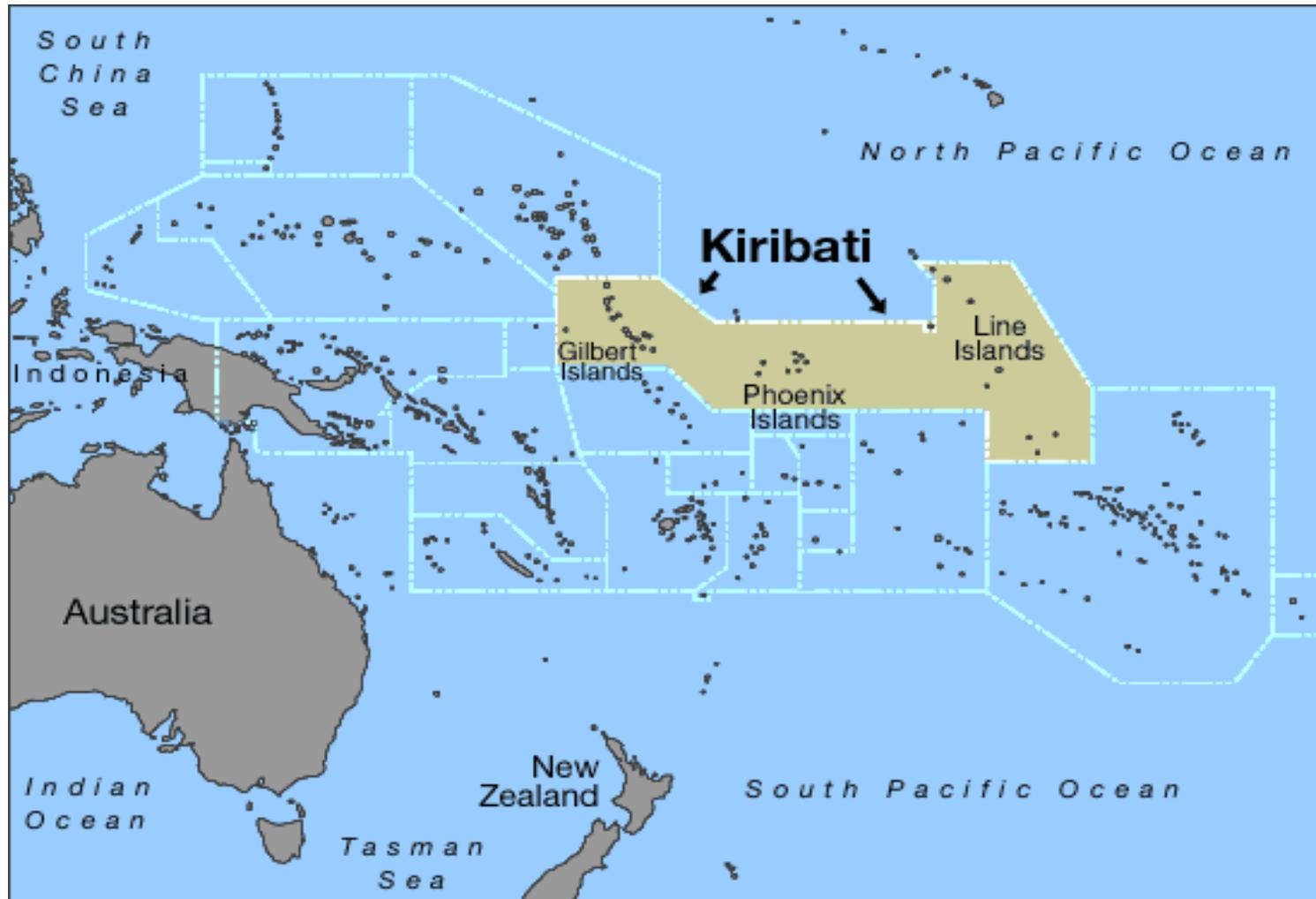
# Fishing in the Amazon



# Westland



# Kiribati



# Kiribas land



# The Pacific Ocean in the homes



# Oceanification



# Being swallowed by the Ocean



# Swallowed by the sea



Which should we feed?



Or this



# Choices we make

- The choices we make today will deliver a future for the most marginalized communities
- We have a duty to ensure that we do not worsen their plight
- We need effective political leadership on climate change or we need to change the ineffective ones and we need it now before it is too late for the Pacific.

# Indigenous Participation in UNFCCC

- In Bali Indigenous Peoples were shut out of much of the meeting as Governments debated mechanisms that will impact on our forests, our lives, our lands and our futures
- We will not accept that our participation in planning the future of our worlds is limited to the role of passive victim while industry is enabled in yet another wave of colonization

# Colonization is

- The grab of someone else's resources to fuel the greeds of a developed economy
- For most of the last 1000 years Indigenous Peoples lands, forests, waters and other resources were plundered by the throne rooms of England, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and more recently, the United States
- We will not spend the next 1000 years being plundered by your boardrooms