

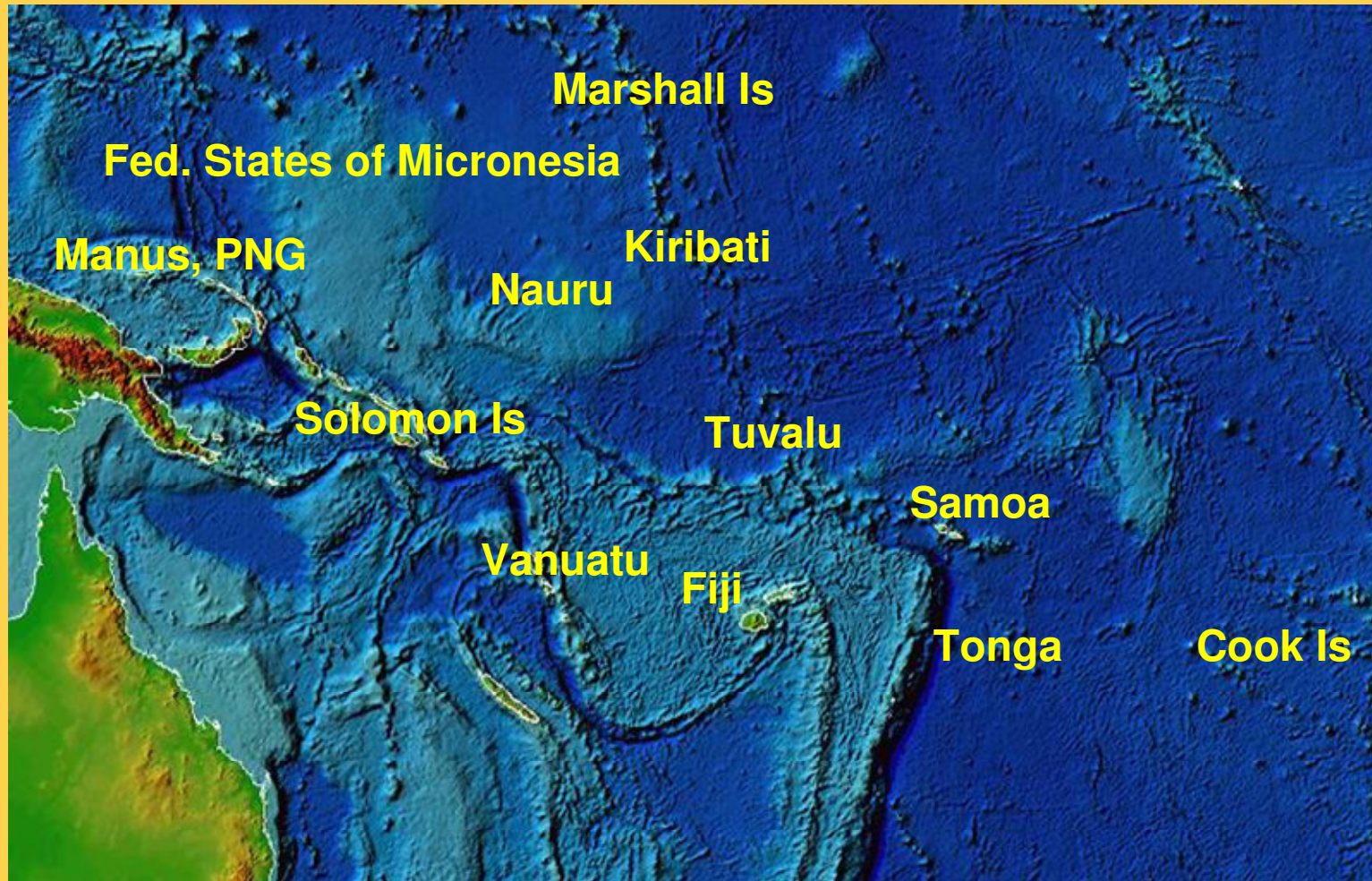
A tropical beach scene with several palm trees in the foreground and middle ground. The sand is white and slightly uneven. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation - in the Pacific

The Liquid Continent

Locations/Network for Forum Countries

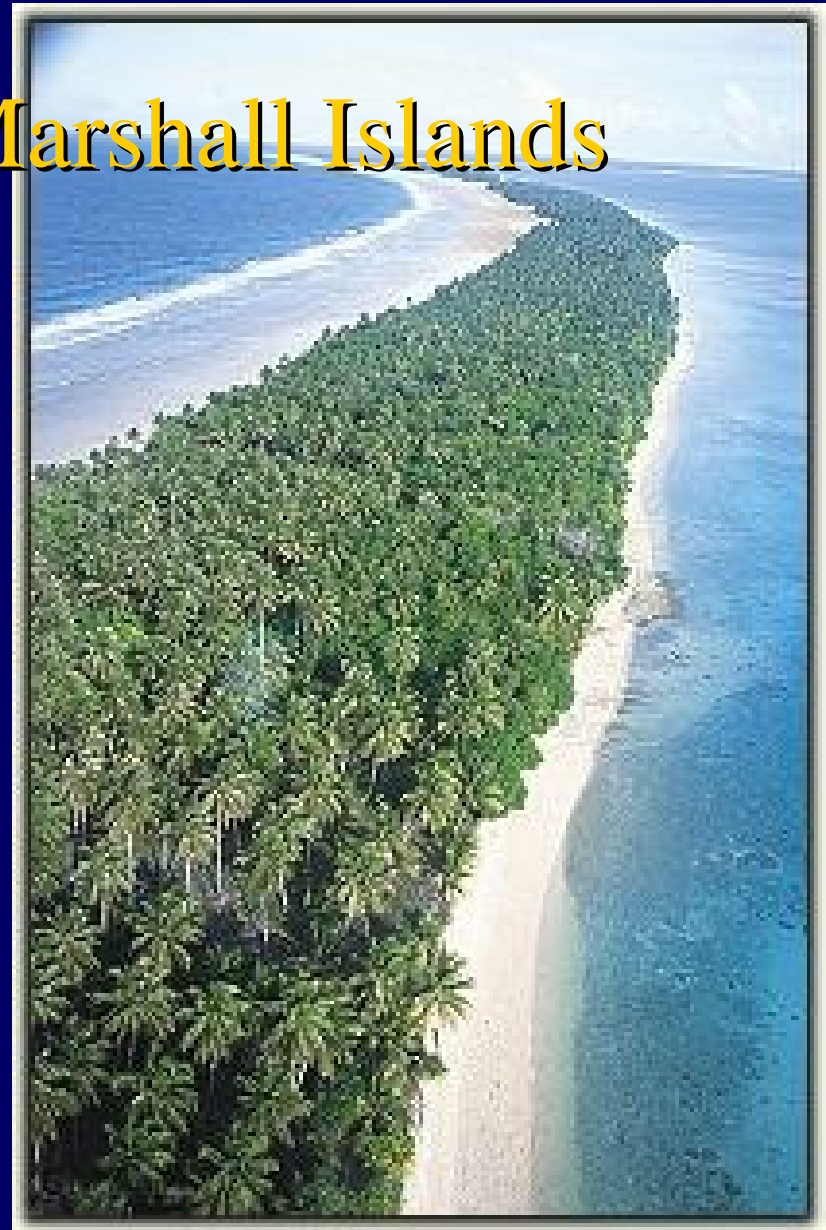


Context:

- 27 states (Polynesian/Melanesia/Micronesia):
- Average 95% indigenous peoples (7.5 million)
- 1/3 world's surface
- >1200 IP Pacific languages
- >50% plant species Melanesia/Polynesia found no where else in the world

The Republic of the Marshall Islands

- 34 coral islands
- 870 reefs
- With an average elevation of just 2.13 meters (7ft)
- Extreme narrow widths of the islands



TUVALU



- Average altitude of 1.83 meters (6ft) with a maximum elevation of only 4.88 meters (16ft) above sea level
- Salination of fresh ground water

KIRIBATI

- Consists of low lying atolls with an average elevation under 2 meters (6.5ft)
- The island of Tebua Tarawa was a landmark for fishermen. Now it is knee-deep under water.



King Tides

- Waves of 2.8 m high
- Breaching sea walls
- Flooded main hospital
- Contamination of water tables



IMPACTS

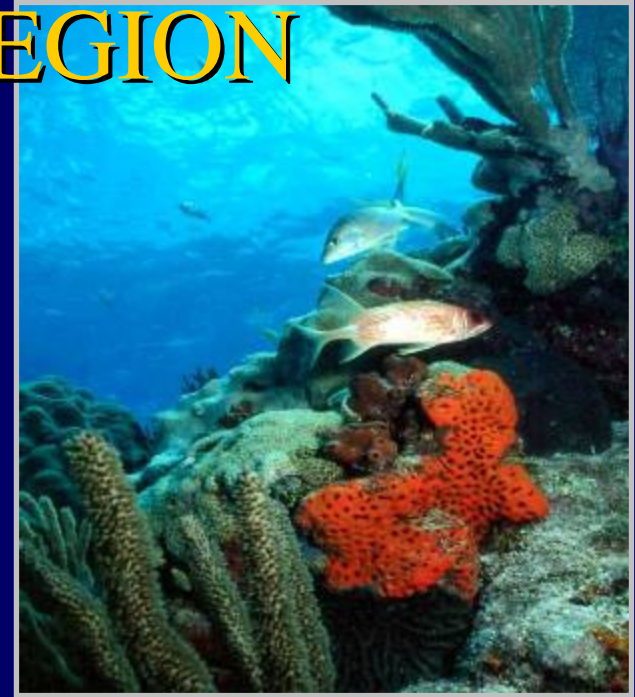
Low elevations and high percentage of coastlines make the Pacific a very vulnerable and high risk region for the impacts of Climate Change. That is:

- Rising of sea-level
- Increasing number of cyclones
- Coral bleaching
- foreshore erosion



TODAY OUR PACIFIC REGION SUFFERS

- Loss of coral reefs



- Increase in frequency and severity of cyclones

- Loss of coastal land and infrastructure



- Changes in rainfall patterns: droughts and flooding



- Human health impacts

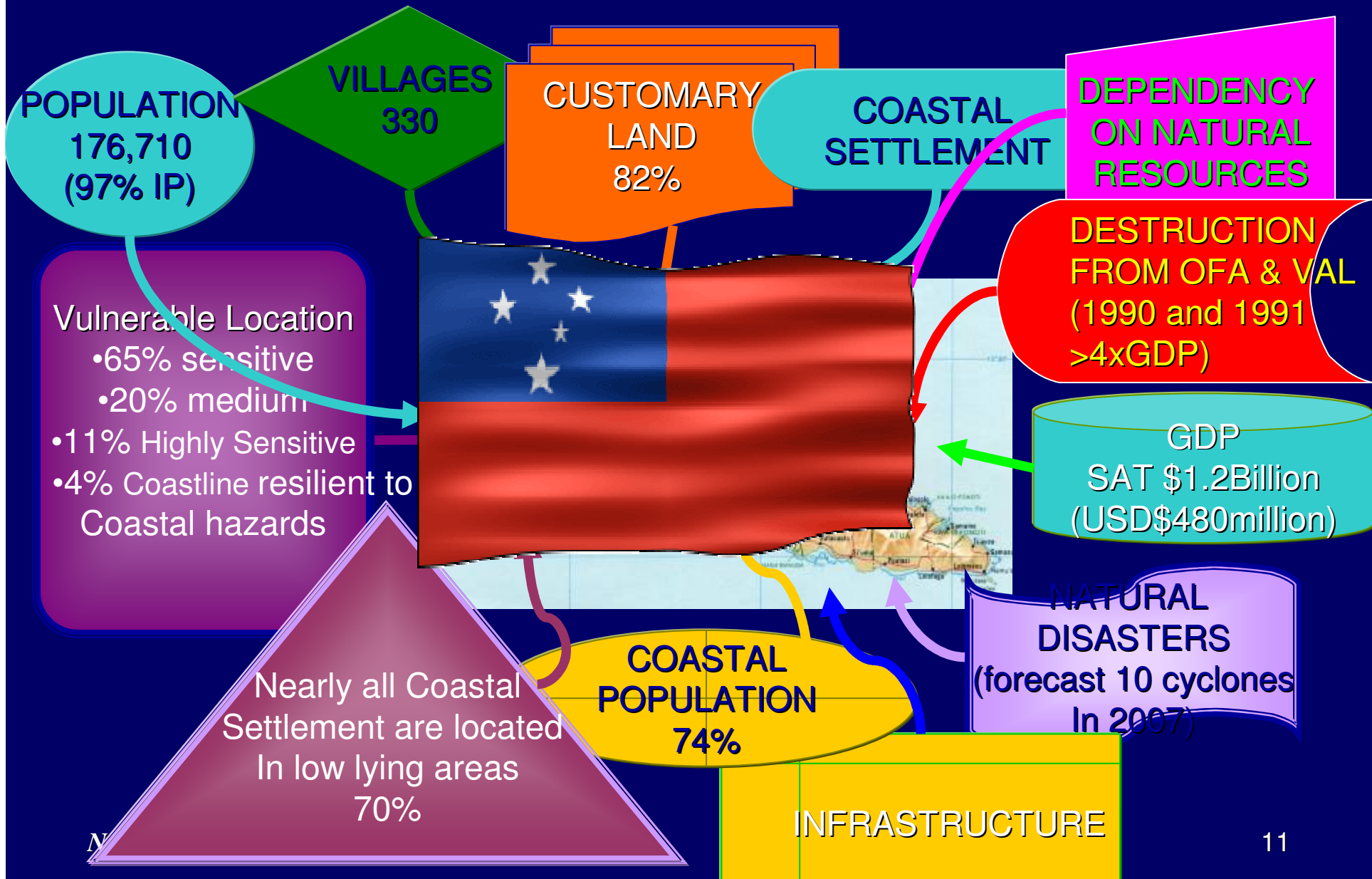


- Loss of crops due to temperature extremes and rainfall changes



- Threat to drinkable water

ABOUT SAMOA



Effects of Climate Change – Impacts, Vulnerability, Adaptation

- *Agriculture and Food Production*
- *Water Supply and Quality*
- *Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation*
- *Health*
- *Forestry*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Energy Production*
- *Urban Settlement*
- *Village Communities*



New York 2008





- loss of cultural imperative – kava ceremony for full acceptance
- traditional anchorage of delivery affected
- neglect seeking feedback from indigenous peoples
- no time to focus on listening obligations, learn from indigenous peoples
- not clear on who benefits
- no importance to live with indigenous peoples in villages to ‘learn by sitting at elders
- dialogue with churches – divine interventions (annual fasting week)

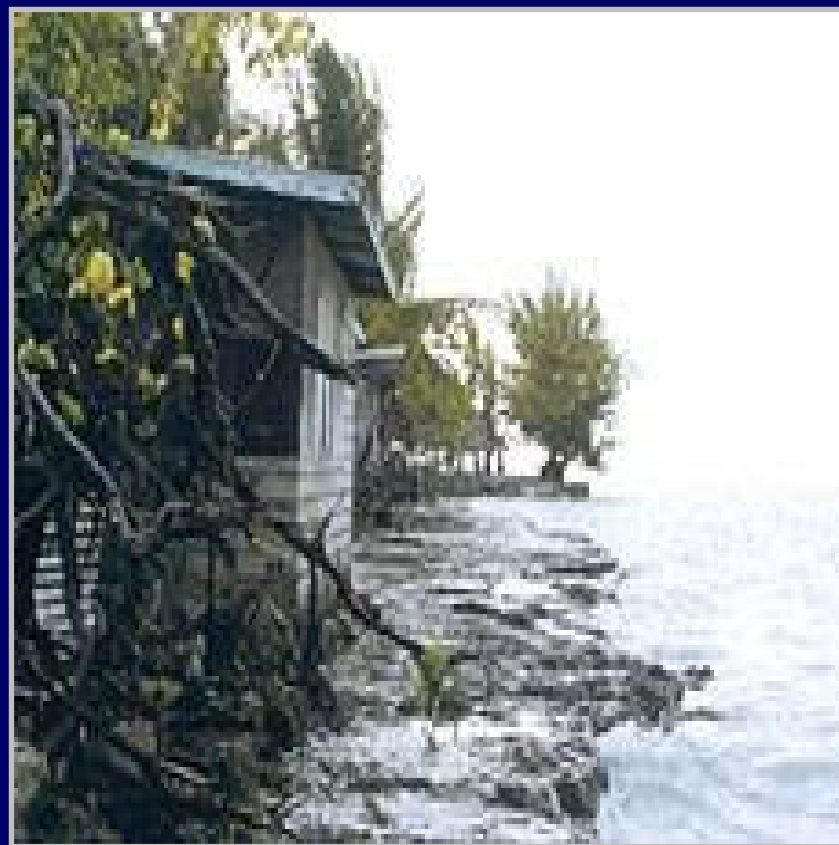
- NO THEORETICAL DISCUSSIONS
- QUESTION OF LIFE AND DEATH
- HOW FAR CAN WE ADAPT TO NEW WEATHER CONDITIONS?
- DO WE STILL HAVE A CHOICE WHERE TO LIVE?
- SLOW EVACUATION PROCESS FOR TUVALU.

“It is frightening for us in the Pacific to be told by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that with the sea level rising at the rate of 6 cm per decade, by the end of the next century the sea level will have risen between 40-110 cm.

In practical terms, it means by the end of the next century many of our atolls and their inhabitants will have vanished from the face of the earth. ”

Sunaone Mamaloni, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, UNCED Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992

New York 2008



OUR PACIFIC IPs CALL TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE MOVEMENT

Let us embrace our:

Mutual Vulnerability

Let us embrace our:

Accountability to Each Other

Let us challenge each other on our commitment to:
solidarity for cc



FAAFETAI TELE LAVA!

(thank you)