



# Environmental Justice & Climate Action

## 2017-18 Program Overview



*By the numbers*  
11 partners    9 countries  
15 Pacific islands



### PROGRAM FOCUS

Through research, advocacy, and grassroots partnerships, UUSC's Environmental Justice & Climate Action program advances the rights of populations facing severe climate change impacts in Alaska and the Pacific. Through our Innovation Fellowship grant program, UUSC also supports a grassroots organization working with indigenous and tribal communities on innovative solutions to climate change impacts in the delta region of Louisiana.



### WHY ALASKA & THE PACIFIC?

- Rising sea levels
- Rapidly accelerating coastal erosion
- Climate induced natural disasters
- High reliance on coastal habitats
- Geographically isolated
- Inadequate support systems
- Lack of local and international climate forced migration rights protections

*More information on reverse.*

# UUSC Environmental Justice & Climate Action

## Program Overview Continued

### ALASKA

As the Arctic disproportionately bears the consequences of a rapidly changing climate, Alaska Native communities are facing an urgent need to relocate due to erosion and sea level rise. Minimal government assistance has left villagers to cope with weather-related changes and erosion caused by thawing permafrost by themselves. UUSC is partnering to enhance Native communities' activism and ability to respond to the environmental changes impacting their livelihoods.

### THE PACIFIC

Many islands in the Pacific are young sovereign nations that only recently gained independence after years of colonialism and occupation, including by American, British, Australian, German, and Japanese forces. This, along with strong connections to the land, is why it is essential for communities to lead the response to climate change in the region - deciding for themselves if, when, and how they relocate. UUSC and our partners are supporting island communities as they build protections in place and relocate to higher ground.



### PARTNER EXAMPLES

**Te Toa Matoa:** UUSC partner in Kiribati that is working to incorporate the rights and needs of people with disabilities into disaster and risk management related to climate change.

**Alaska Institute for Justice:** UUSC partner collaborating with 16 Alaska Native Tribes to bolster their ability to adapt to a radically changing environment and to protect their rights if they are required to relocate.

**Pacific Climate Warriors:** UUSC partner advocating for an end to fossil fuels in a way that respects the cultural and religious values of Pacific Island people.