



# CLIMATE JUSTICE

## Discussion Guide

Tuvalu, a low-lying Pacific nation, is asking the question:  
**What happens to a country without land?**



Photo: KICO

**At the current rate of global sea level rise, it's predicted that climate change will completely submerge Tuvalu underwater, likely happening within just a few decades. Already, crops are being destroyed and drinking water is contaminated by saltwater permeating the soil.**

The people of Tuvalu are taking nature's warnings seriously and acting on this human-caused crisis now. UUSC's partner **TuCAN** bolsters the self-determination of Tuvaluans by protecting the most vulnerable and preparing for climate-forced displacement.

Should Tuvalu be the first nation to lose its land to climate change, Tuvaluan Minister Simon Kofe announced they are preparing for Tuvalu to become the "First Digital Nation." To preserve its sovereignty, Tuvalu is digitally recreating its land, archiving its rich history and culture, and moving all governmental functions into a digital space.

This digital transformation will allow Tuvalu to retain its identity and continue to function as a state, even after its physical land is gone.

This idea of digital migration as a solution is groundbreaking, but above all, it is heartbreaking. Yet, Tuvalu is not alone. From island nations in the Pacific to coastal communities in Louisiana and Alaska, communities who have contributed the least to the climate crisis are now paying its steepest costs. Every day, they are forced to confront immense challenges to their homes and livelihoods.

Your UU Service Committee funds organizations working to repair the harms that unjust systems have done to our planet and its people. **Our work happens in grassroots communities all the way up to the highest levels of international power.**

*Here are a few examples where we are working for climate justice around the world:*

- **In the Marshall Islands**, youth are on the forefront of educating a new generation to contribute to the survival of their island home and turn the tide on a climate-threatened future.
- **At the U.S. Gulf Coast**, Indigenous tribes have formed a legal coalition to fight for more resources and fair treatment during relocation.
- **At the global level**, several of UUSC's Pacific partners were among the groups who successfully secured the U.N. General Assembly votes needed to bring "the world's biggest problem to the world's highest court." This year, the International Court of Justice will clarify what obligations nations have to protect people from the disastrous effects of climate change.



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*What are some ways you and your congregation can support communities working for climate justice now?*