



2019 I²SL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Denver, Colorado

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Marshallese Educational Initiative



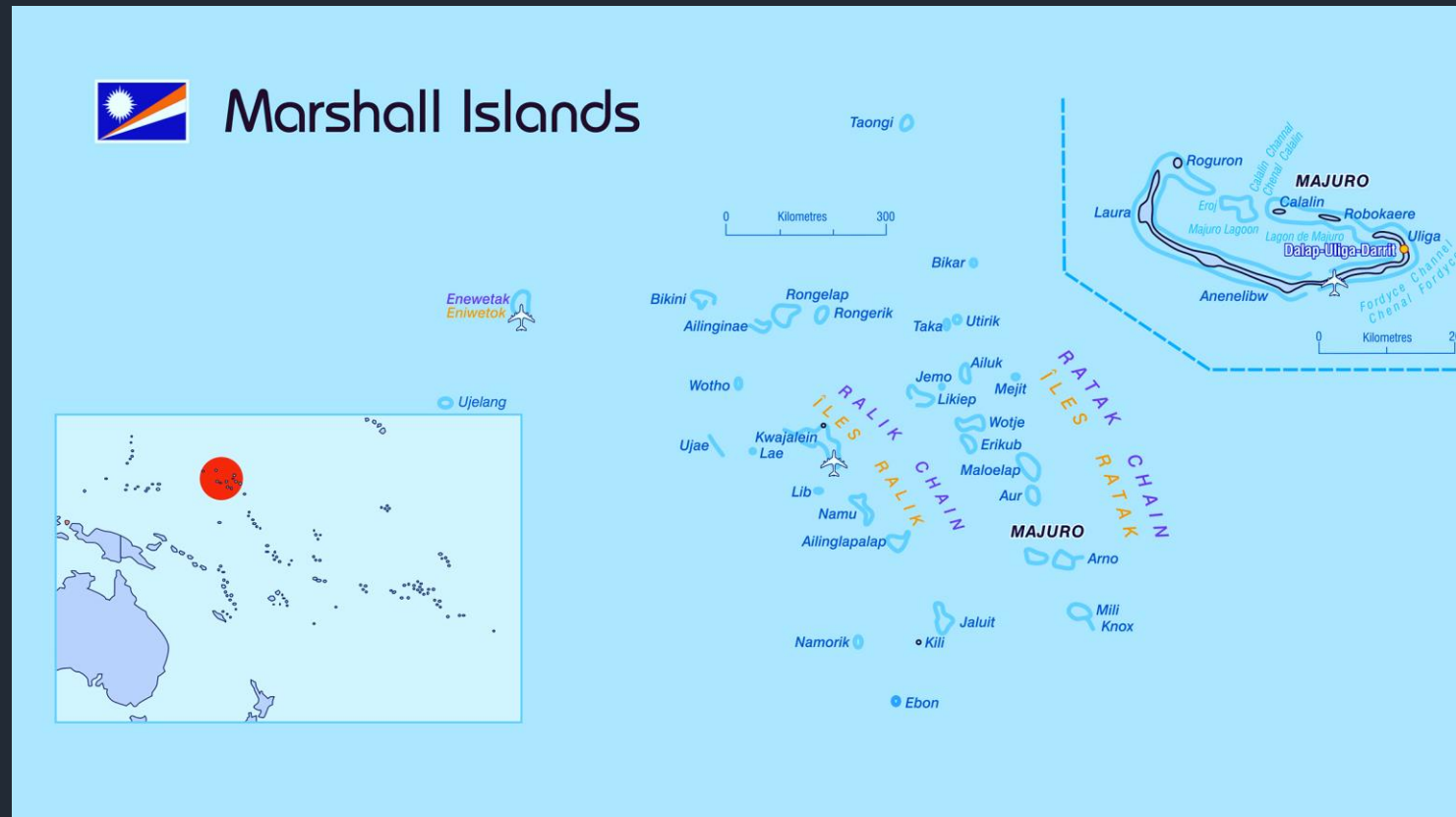


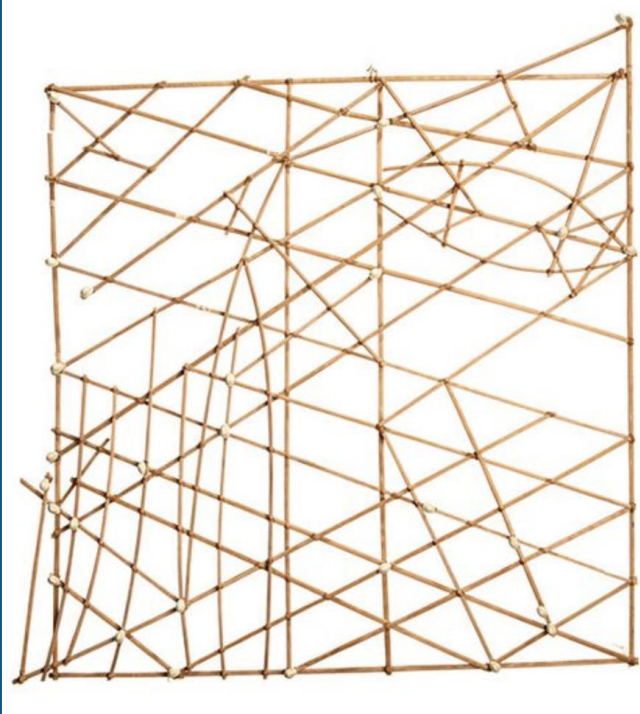
Two local residents wade through flooding caused by high ocean tides in low-lying parts of Majuro Atoll, the capital of the Marshall Islands.

Where are the Marshall Islands?

Geography

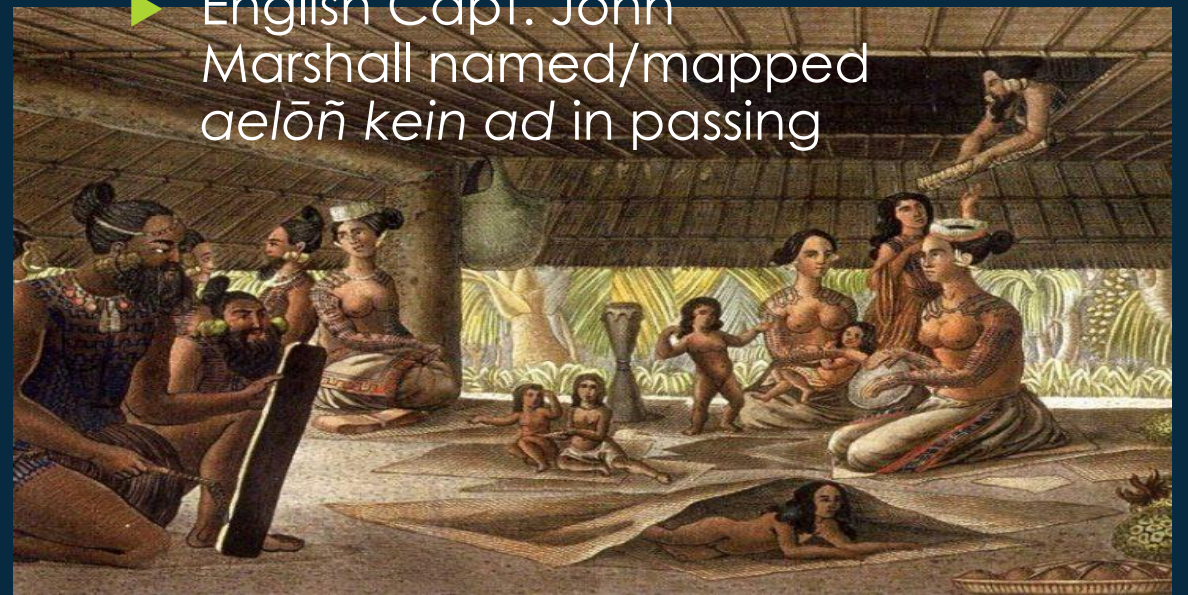
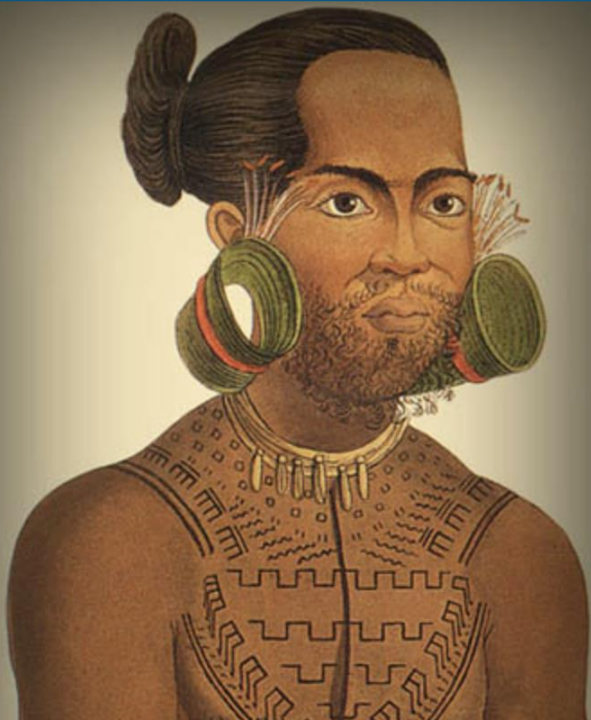
- Atoll: A ring shaped reef, island, or chain of islands formed of corals
- Exclusive economic zone covers an area of 750,000 square miles
- Archipelago consisting of two parallel island chains





aelōñ kein ad

- ▶ *aelōñ kein ad* – our atolls
- ▶ Bwebwenato
- ▶ Ethnography
- ▶ Navigators
- ▶ Matrilineal society
- ▶ Aje drum
- ▶ English Capt. John Marshall named/mapped *aelōñ kein ad* in passing



WORLD WAR II

- U.S. forces captured the Marshall Islands from the Japanese in 1944
- After WWII, the U.S. occupied the archipelago (1944 – 1947)
- The UN created the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and administered by the US (1947 – 1986)

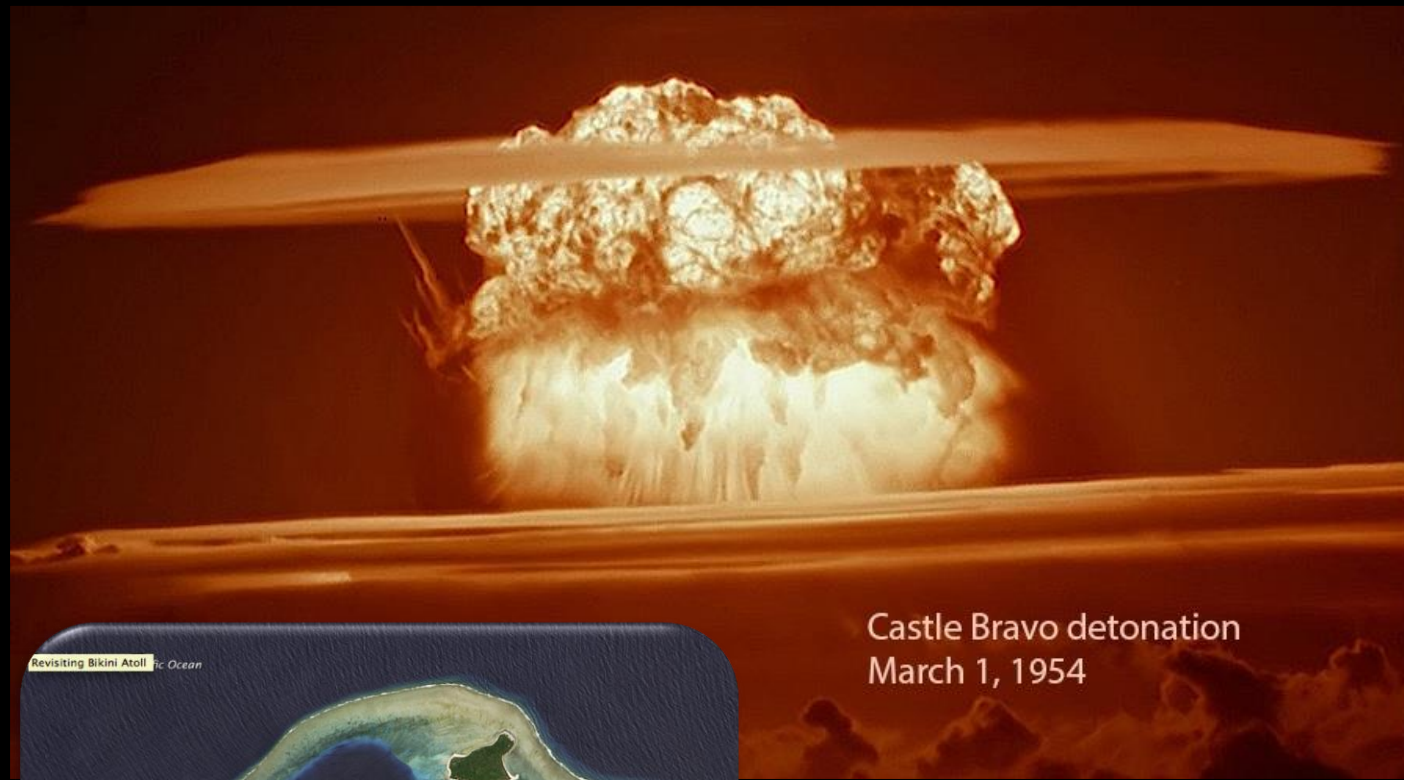


U.S. NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM (1946 – 1958)



- Bikini and Enewetak Atolls are chosen by the US to test nuclear weapons
- Forced relocations
- US tested 67 nuclear weapons on Bikini and Enewetak

Castle Bravo (1954) – 1,000x force of bomb dropped on Hiroshima

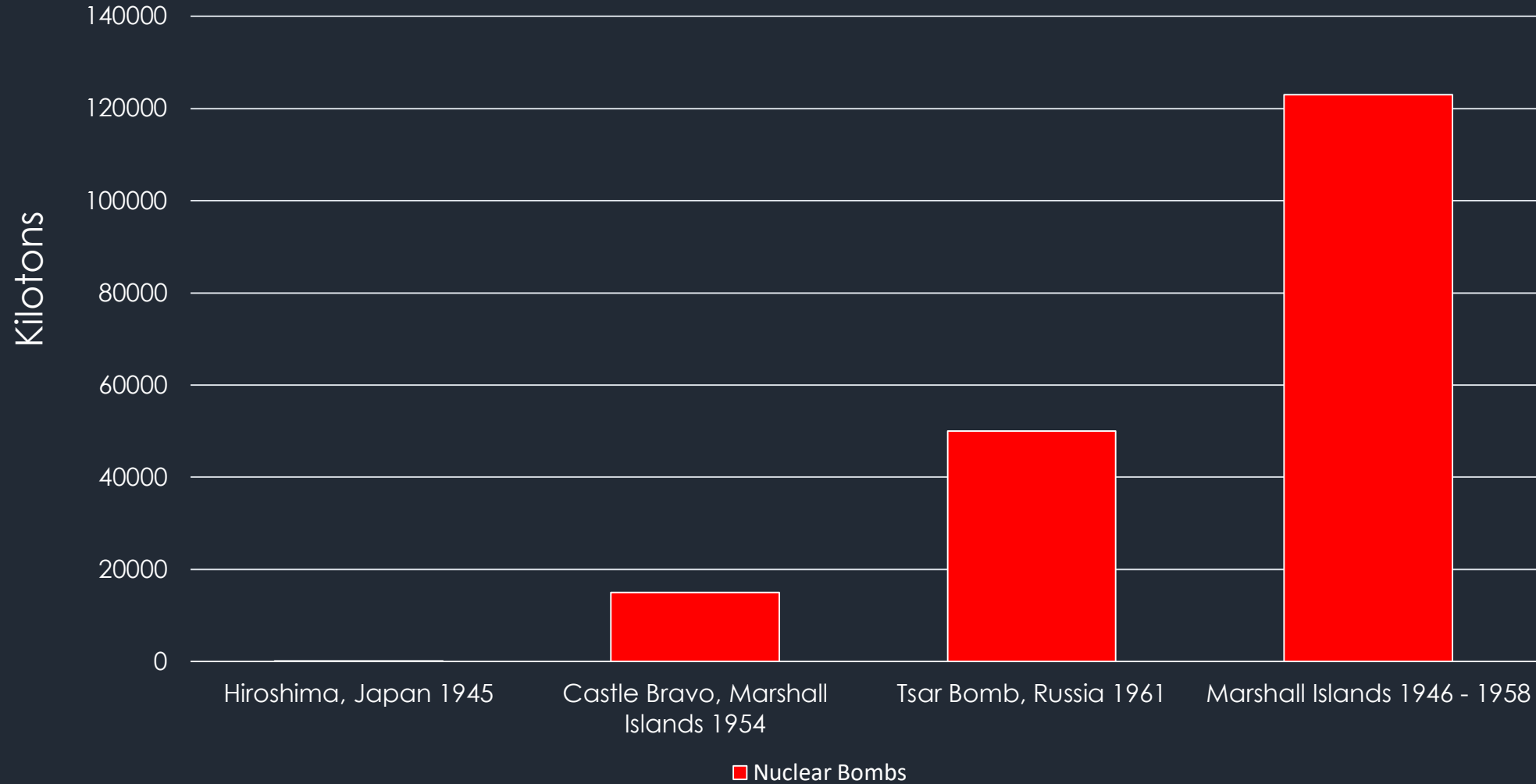


Castle Bravo detonation
March 1, 1954



Atomic Energy Commission doctor examines Yoshi, a Rongelapese boy, after Bravo; (left) the crater left at Bikini Atoll from Bravo, which vaporized 3 islands

Nuclear Explosion Power Comparison





COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION, 1986
(Set to expire in 2023)



NO VISA REQUIRED



EMPLOYMENT



EDUCATION



MILITARY



HEALTHCARE



FAMILY



ECONOMIC PACKAGE

U.S.-RMI Nuclear Legacy



ECOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

- Nuclear Waste / Runit Dome
- Prevalence of diabetes, cancer, illnesses with unknown causes
- Tropical Cyclone / Rising Sea Level



Dr. Hilda C. Heine

@President_Heine

Follow

Our parliament has officially declared a national climate crisis. As one of only four low-lying coral atoll nations in the world, the failure of the international community to adequately respond to the global climate crisis of its own making holds particularly grave consequences.



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 65

A RESOLUTION requesting the Nitijela to declare National Climate Crises as a Low-Lying Coral Atoll Nation.

WHEREAS, the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, highlighting the extreme vulnerability and special circumstances faced by low-lying coral atoll nations such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands – including projections for the significant or total loss of land mass and the implications for the security, human rights and wellbeing of the Marshallese people – and the continued difficulties as a low-lying coral atoll nation in mobilizing the necessary finance, support and investment from the international community to be able to adequately respond; and

WHEREAS, noting the Marshall Islands' climate leadership, including its 2050 "Til Eo" Climate Strategy to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and its enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce emissions by at least 32% on 2010 levels by 2025 and by at least 45% on 2010 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Nitijela decides to unite fully and unequivocally behind the science recognize the calls of the youth of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and their right to climate justice to stand in solidarity with other vulnerable nations

community to respond to and special circumstances faced by the Marshall Islands as a result; and
WHEREAS, the resolution will direct the current and future governments of the Marshall Islands to ensure the fight against climate change remains the country's top priority, including, most immediately through the Resilience and Implementation of a Low-Carbon National Adaptation Plan; and
WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is calling for the international community to consider additional ways to respond to and support the extreme vulnerability and special circumstances faced by the low-lying coral atoll nations of the world, and for other governments to urgently respond to the request of the UN Secretary-General for a global "pledge" and "pledge" to reduce emissions to be in line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement and consistent with keeping temperature increase within 1.5°C; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their Nitijela, to do as set forth in the attached Resolution 65; and that the Nitijela hereby approves, the declaration of "National Climate Crisis" as the Low-Lying Coral Atoll Nation.

I hereby certify:
1. That the Nitijela Resolution No. 65, was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 26th day of _____, 2019; and
2. That I am certified the Nitijela Resolution No. 65, was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedure of the Nitijela.
I hereby place my signature below the Check the _____ day of _____, 2019.

Hon. Kenneth A. Kook
Speaker
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands.

Marion R. Heine
Chair
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands.

4:56 AM - 10 Oct 2019

280 Retweets 361 Likes



24 280 361

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Land elevations are low, with a mean height above sea level at 2 meters
- Severe storms, flooding and drought
- Loss of arable land
- Coastal erosion



Majuro after a storm.

Effects of sea level rise in the islands

Sea levels in the Marshall Islands are rising at a rate of more than three millimeters per year, meaning a potential rise of more than 80 centimeters by the end of this century. A rise of only 62 centimeters would put much of the capital, Majuro, under water.

● Land loss at a sea level rise of 62 centimeters



Source: Mark H. Stege, Chief Research Advisor,
Marshall Islands Conservation Society

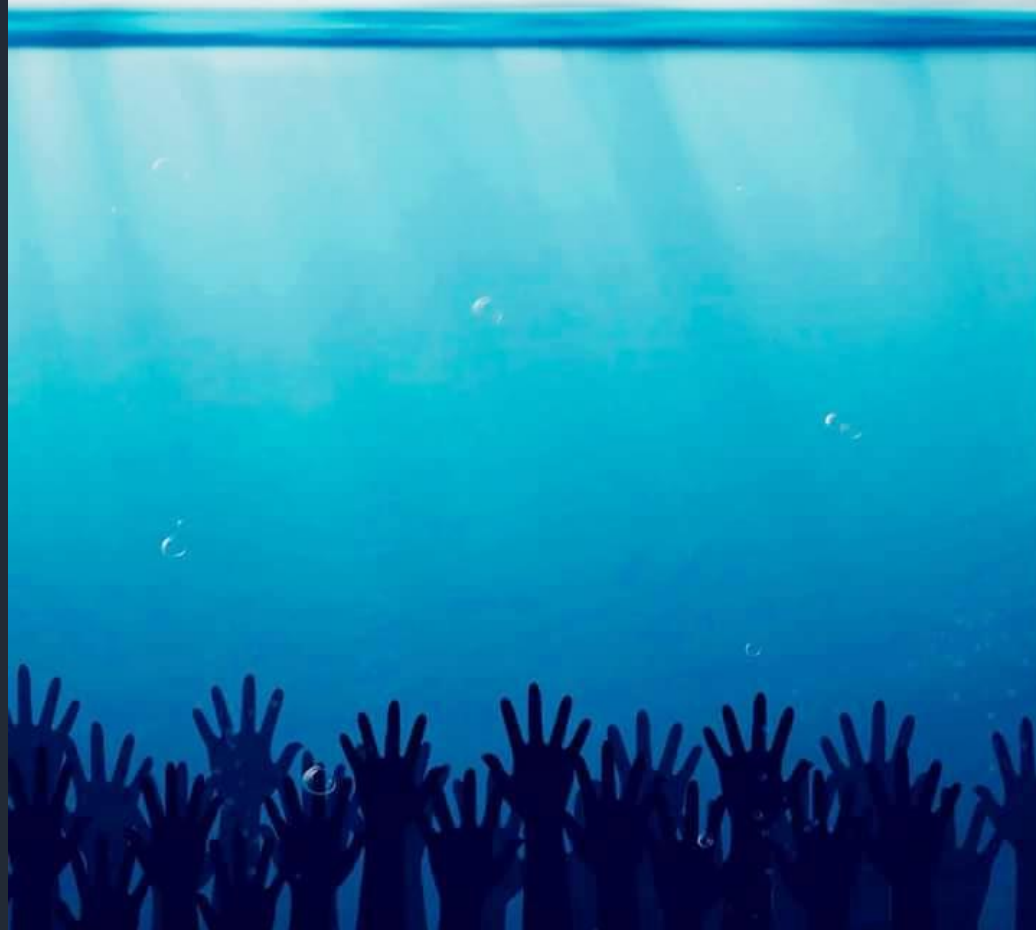
Mashable

- 1.5°C
- Most of the islands are less than a 1.6 km wide
- Coral extinction





MARSHALL ISLANDS



CULTURAL GENOCIDE

- Profit over Planet
- Glacial melt, rising sea level
- Loss of land = loss of culture