

### **Tuvalu islander, South Pacific**

"When I was young, I used to visit my aunts on one of Tuvalu's small islands, with three houses and kitchens. Twenty-five people lived there, but now those houses have all gone. It's just sand. Near my island, Nukufetau, other islands have been swallowed up by the sea. People say, 'why don't you move your people inland?' But there is no inland - it's all coastal.

On Nukufetau, the tarot roots that my family has eaten for generations grow less tall each year as the soil is becoming too salty. It's frightening me very much. I don't know what's going to happen. I'm worried about the island; this is the very best island I know, but unless there's a miracle, I think it's going to be drowned in the sea.

Somebody has to stop people doing the things that damage our environment. People must look at us, see us as people who want to live a normal life but we can't do that - other people are doing what they want for their own development. What about us? What about me and my family? What about everybody else here worrying like me?"