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International migration in Kiribati and Tuvalu: A context for evaluating the impact of global warming on population movement in atoll territories

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Themes

- ❖ **Distinctive places**
- ❖ **Resilient peoples – coping with increasing salinisation of fresh water lenses**
- ❖ **Adapting to population-environment pressures in the past**
- ❖ **Current migration outlets**
- ❖ **Increasing options for livelihoods in and outside atolls**

Population: Kiribati and Tuvalu

	Kiribati	Tuvalu
Population 1973	51,926	5,887
Population 1990/91	72,335	9,043
Population 2005/02	92,533	9,561
% change 73-05	78	70
% change 73-90	39	54
% change 90-05	28	6
Pop in NZ 2006 (eth)	1,116 (1.2)	2,625 (27.5)

Youthful populations

Country	% tot pop 0-14 yrs	% tot pop 15-24 yrs
Kiribati	36.7	20.9
Tuvalu	37.0	15.9
New Zealand	20.8	14.5

Futures for youth

In 2004 a group of Pacific leaders strongly advised everyone to:

“Listen to the needs and aspirations of the burgeoning population of young people in the region, and recognise the impact of bigger and more youthful populations on the resources required for education and vocational training, healthcare and job opportunities”

Doomed Kiribati needs escape plan

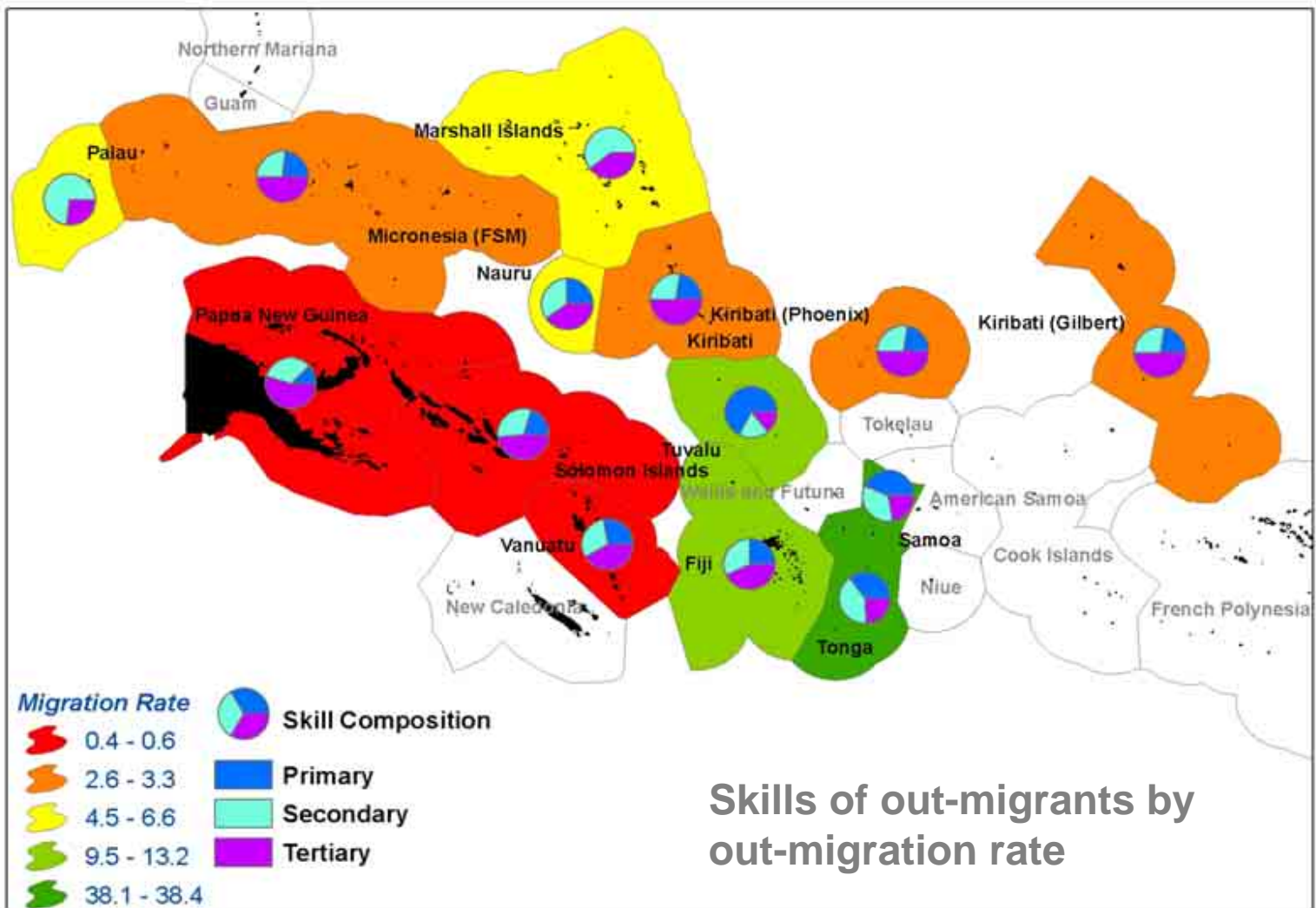
In a press release on 6 June 2008 in the *New Zealand Herald*, Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, stated that:

“his country may already be doomed by global warming ... under “worst case” scenarios it will be flooded by the Pacific this century and its 94,000 people will have to be re-settled in other countries ... To plan for the day when you no longer have a country is indeed painful but I think we have to do that”.

Tradition of overseas migration

- ❖ Labour migration, phosphate islands -- Banaba (Ocean Is) and Nauru
- ❖ Resettlement, Fiji, Solomons
- ❖ Plantation labour, Vanuatu and other Pacific
- ❖ Seafarers
- ❖ Temporary work and settlement, NZ

Pacific mobility worlds



Immigration policy changes, NZ

- ❖ 1986 Immigration Policy Review -- visa-waiver status conferred on Kiribati and Tuvalu
- ❖ 1992 Work Permit schemes established
- ❖ 2002 Visa-waiver status and work permit schemes replaced by Pacific Access Category
- ❖ 2007 Recognised Seasonal Employer “kick-start” state

Birthplace populations, NZ

Census	Kiribati	Tuvalu
1986	123	105
1991	225	252
1996	318	378
2001	504	1017
2006	822	1227

Ethnic populations, NZ

Census	I-Kiribati	Tuvaluan
1986	195	171
1991	231	429
1996	408	879
2001	648	1965
2006	1116	2625

PLT net migration, 1979-2008

March years	Kiribati	Tuvalu
1979-2008	509	219
1982-86	31	20
1987-91	70	53
1992-96	131	72
1996-01	90	85
2002-06	24	-22

Total net migration, 1979-2008

March years	Kiribati	Tuvalu
1979-2008	1,270	3,490
1982-86	70	120
1987-91	150	280
1992-96	170	600
1996-01	300	1,270
2002-06	460	630

New Zealand-born

Census	I-Kiribati	Tuvaluan
1991	78 (34%)	96 (22%)
1996	141 (35%)	312 (35%)
2001	231 (36%)	552 (28%)
2006	372 (33%)	954 (36%)

RSE recruitment 2008

- ❖ Kiribati -- 70, four groups, January to May, vineyards, Marlborough
- ❖ Tuvalu -- 99, two groups, January and March, apples and kiwifruit, Hawke's Bay and Bay of Plenty
- ❖ Tuvalu – 2.2% of population aged 15-49 in first recruiting round; Kiribati – .01% of population 15-49 in first recruiting round
- ❖ RSE could make a major difference in Tuvalu

Looking ahead

- ❖ I-Kiribati and Tuvaluans do not want to be “resettled” in New Zealand; they want options for improved livelihoods for children and future generations, just like NZers do
- ❖ What would options look like to allow for increasing numbers of Tuvaluans to find a future in New Zealand longer-term?
- ❖ What would options look like to allow for increasing numbers of I-Kiribati to find a future in New Zealand longer-term?
- ❖ Would they all want to come?

“Increased options”: Tuvalu

	Grad	Incre	Fast
2004-05	50	50	50
2009-10	80	80	100
2014-15	100	150	200
2019-20	150	200	400
2024-25	200	300	600
2029-30	250	400	800

Population scenarios: Tuvalu

	Grad	Incre	Fast
2005	9800	9800	9800
2010	10080	10080	10020
2015	10260	10100	9830
2020	10240	9820	8790
2025	9920	9010	8790
2030	9140	7460	5220

Population estimates: SPC and “increased options”: Tuvalu

	2010	2020	2030
SPC (2008)	9800	10210	10660
Gradual	10080	10260	9920
Increasing	10080	10100	9010
Fast	10020	9840	6470

“Increased options”: Kiribati

	Grad	Incre	Fast
2004-05	75	75	75
2009-10	150	200	500
2014-15	300	500	1000
2019-20	400	800	2000
2024-25	500	1000	3000
2029-30	600	1500	5000

Population scenarios: Kiribati

	Grad	Incre	Fast
2005	91700	91700	91700
2010	100000	99350	99030
2015	108520	106648	104420
2020	116630	112732	105140
2025	123660	116809	99060
2030	129130	117630	82200

Population estimates: SPC and “increased options”: Kiribati

	2010	2020	2030
SPC (2008)	100900	120290	138270
Gradual	100000	116630	129130
Increasing	99350	112730	117630
Fast	99030	105140	82200