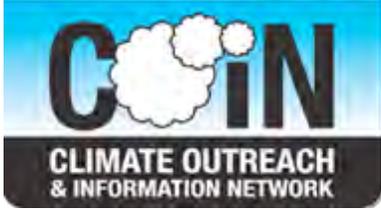


Migration and climate change

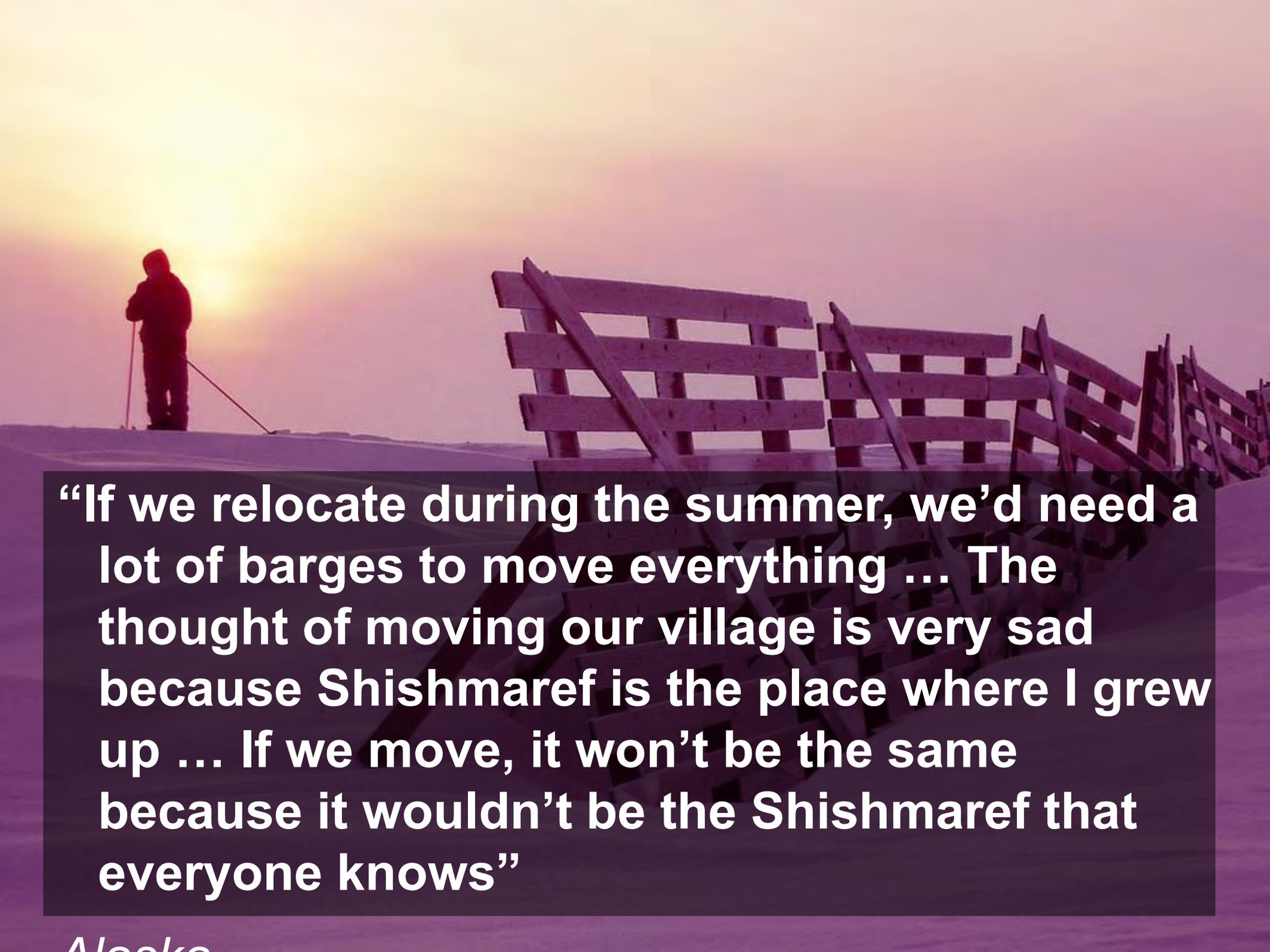




- The connections between climate change and migration
- The *kinds* of movement that climate change might create
- How we can respond
- ... and specifically the rights of people who move

Planned Relocation



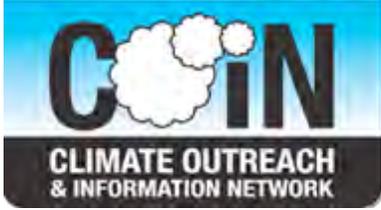


“If we relocate during the summer, we’d need a lot of barges to move everything ... The thought of moving our village is very sad because Shishmaref is the place where I grew up ... If we move, it won’t be the same because it wouldn’t be the Shishmaref that everyone knows”

“Carterets’ people are facing, and will continue to face, many of

Carteret Islands

Image: Wikimedia, Creative Common



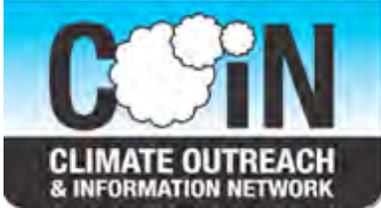
Communities plan in advance to move



Traditions and social connections are maintained



More common where an entire country's land mass is threatened



The relationship between climate change and disasters is complex.



Climate change is increasing the frequency and *intensity* of some disasters like Typhoons.





Displacement

“The rains came in the middle of the night, while most people were sleeping”

Pakistan

• Image: Rob Holden. Creative Commons / Flickr

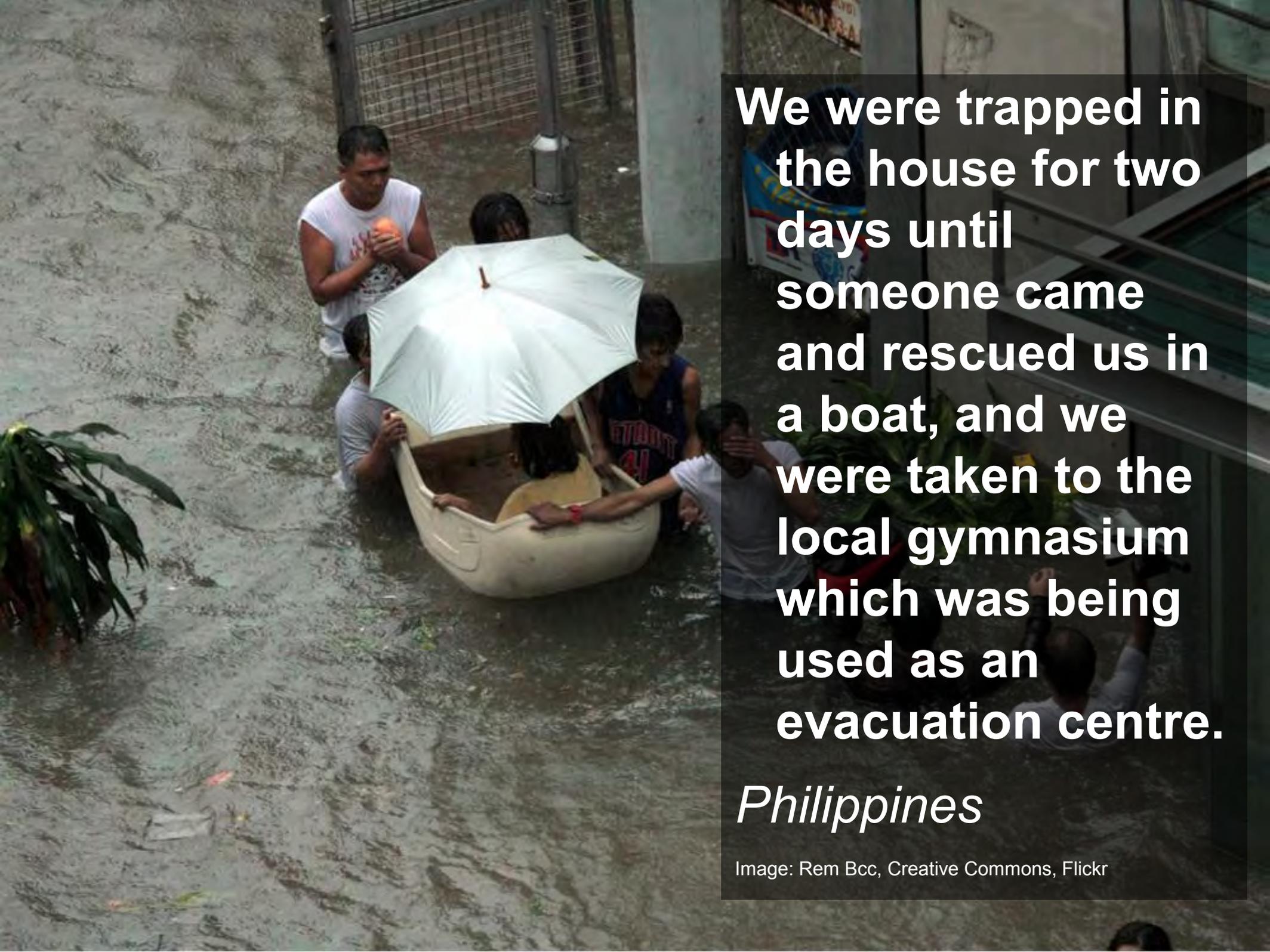


The water came at night and we didn't have time to save our belongings; we had to chose whether to save our children and ourselves ... We left everything and ran to save our lives

Pakistan

Image: DfID. Creative Commons, Flickr

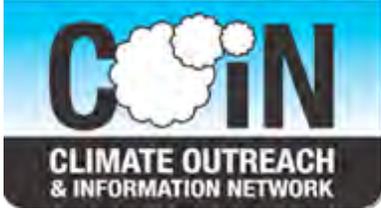




We were trapped in the house for two days until someone came and rescued us in a boat, and we were taken to the local gymnasium which was being used as an evacuation centre.

Philippines

Image: Rem Bcc, Creative Commons, Flickr

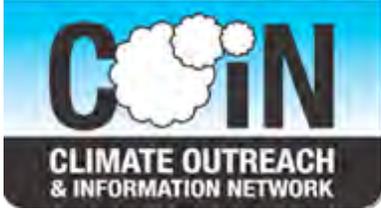


People have little or no choice about when they move or where to.



We'll contrast this other kinds of movement where people have more choice, later in the talk





The climate change impact combines with other forces – such as conflict, poverty and inequality

People tend not to cross international border, and they tend to move short distances

Migration

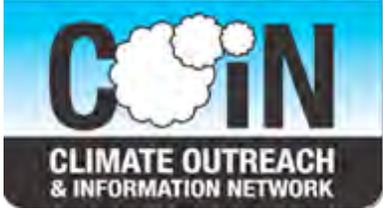


“The rain is coming later now, so that we produce less. The only solution is to go away, at least for a while. Each year I’m working for 3 to 5 months in Wyoming. That’s my main source of income. But leaving my village forever? No.”

Mexico

Image: Kate Rotramel. Creative Commons, Flickr



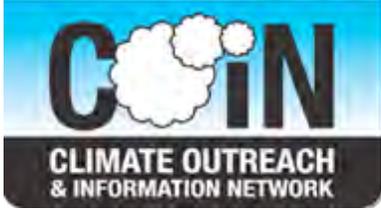


People have *more* choice about when they move and where to. But still not complete choice



People often move to find work





Rather than moving permanently people often move seasonally, or during times of environmental stress

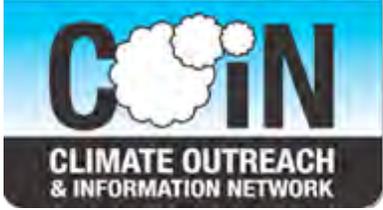
Whole communities tend not to move together. People often move alone, leaving family members behind

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape in India, showing terraced agricultural fields on a hillside. The fields are arranged in a series of curved, stepped rows, with some areas appearing golden-brown and others green. The surrounding area is densely forested with lush green trees. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, casting shadows across the terrain.

“The village is getting wealthier now that the towns are providing opportunities for people ... Then they send money home through money orders. Then we are able to fulfil our needs with that money. That is how we exist.”

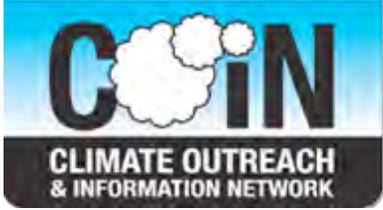
India

• Image: Koshy Koshy, Creative Commons on Flickr



The flow of *remittances* can become an important part of the economy



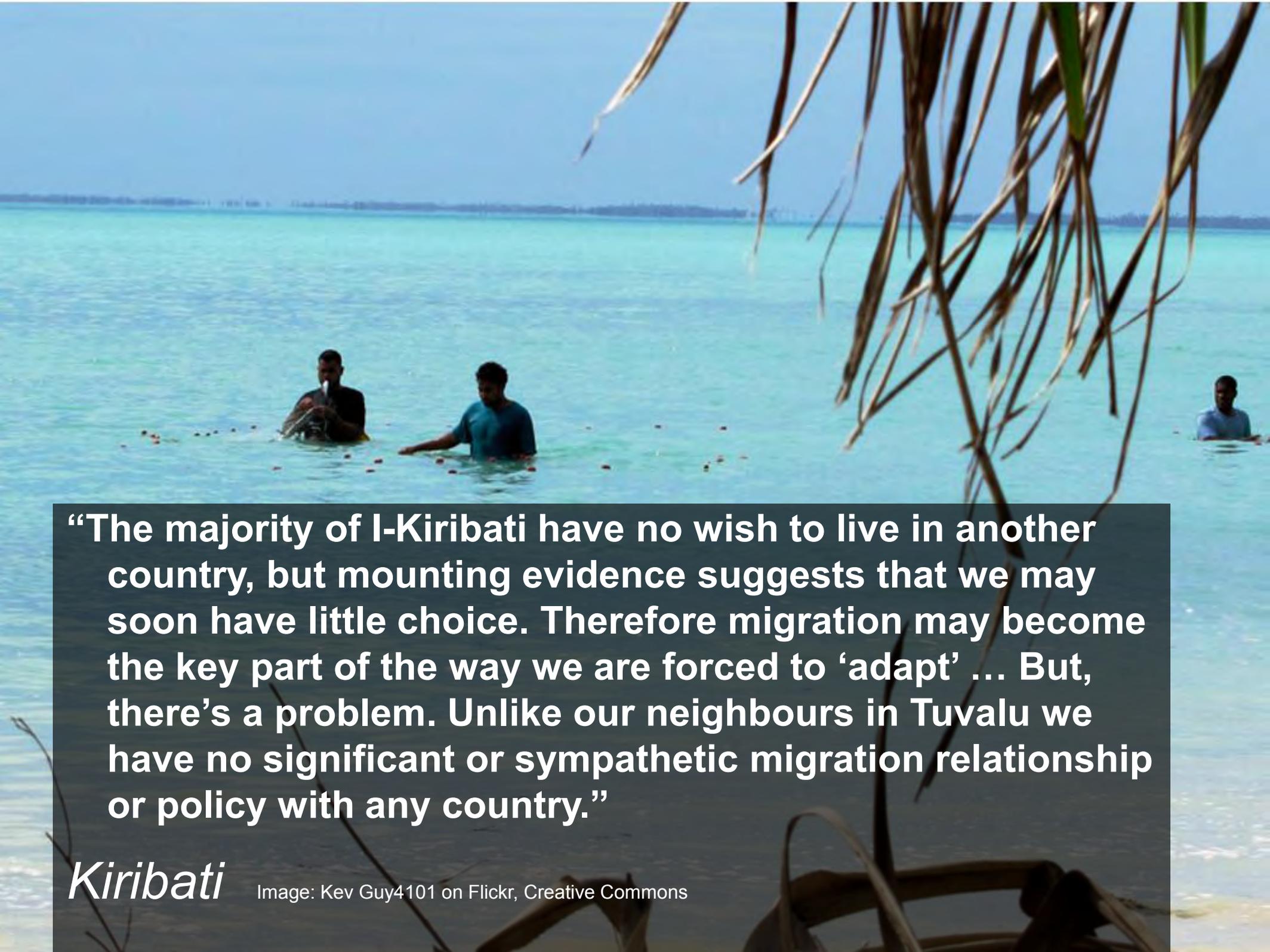


Questions?



Immobility

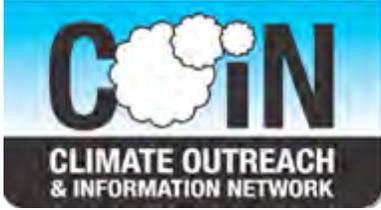




“The majority of I-Kiribati have no wish to live in another country, but mounting evidence suggests that we may soon have little choice. Therefore migration may become the key part of the way we are forced to ‘adapt’ ... But, there’s a problem. Unlike our neighbours in Tuvalu we have no significant or sympathetic migration relationship or policy with any country.”

Kiribati

Image: Kev Guy4101 on Flickr, Creative Commons



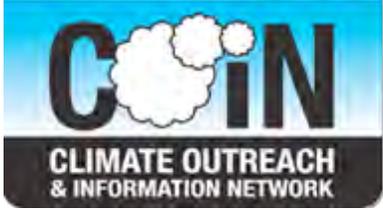
Climate change could actually lead to *less* movement



Moving require resources, and as livelihoods are degraded it becomes harder to move



Some people will want to move, but find themselves trapped



Protecting people who move in the
Some (good and bad) options



1. New Treaty ?

Pros

- Clean slate for drafting
- Establishes this as an important issue within the int'l community

Cons

- Difficulty of getting consensus between states
- Definitional challenges. When and to whom should protection be given?



2. Amending the 1951 Refugee Convention ?

Pros

- an international treaty is already in existence and has a significant number of states parties
- in many countries a legal system is already in place to determine refugee status

Cons

- Support within the international community?
- Risk of renegotiating the convention



3. Expanding the UN Guidelines on Int

Pros

Already drafted and adopted by some states

Cons

Getting international agreement

Not legally binding

definitional issues voluntary/forced



4. Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Pros

- Already on the radar - S. 14(f) Cancun Adaptation Framework

Cons

- Not the focus of the UNFCCC
- Negotiating nightmare?



5. Creating/Amending Regional Treaties



Pros

- May be more regional consensus as countries face similar challenges
- With fewer countries involved in negotiating more chance of consensus



Cons

- Definitional issues



6. Human rights and non-returnability test



Pros

- Focus on 'returnability' broadens categories of people who may benefit
- By considering on a case by case basis and with a focus on return the definitional complexities are overcome

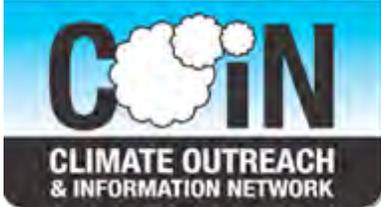


Cons

Migration and climate change

Alex Randall





CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

COIN's work on migration and climate change is funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF). The Foundation is an international charitable foundation with cultural, educational, social and scientific interests.

www.gulbenkian.org.uk



THE FUNDING NETWORK

The Funding Network (TFN), founded in 2002, enables individuals to join together to crowdfund social change projects.

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