

3 lives, 3 countries, 30 years of a changing nature

Context: This the story of 3 people who have been living 30 years of changing environment in their country.

MELE – “I was born in 1993 in **Tuvalu**”



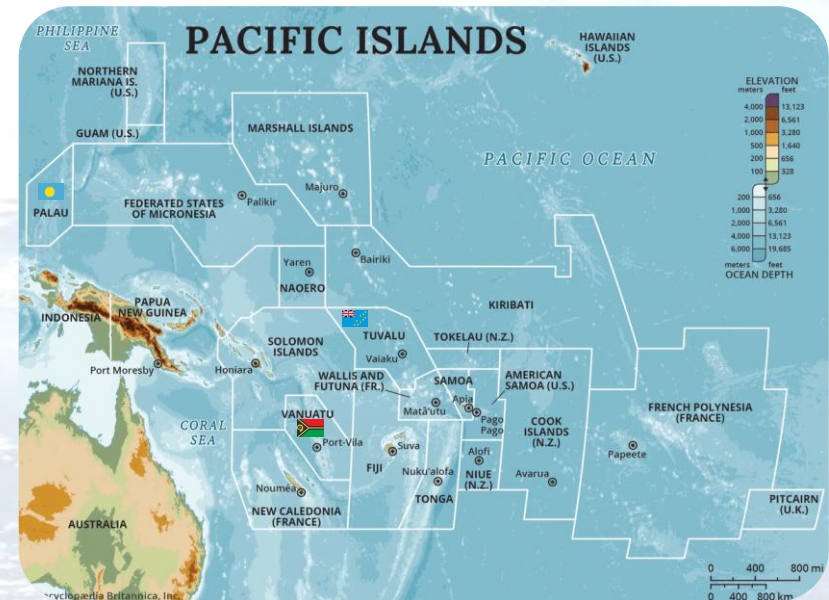
BUIL – “I was born in 1993 in **Palau**”



JOHN – “I was born in 1993 in **Vanuatu**”



Question: How have the atmosphere, rainfall and sea changed in their respective country since their childhood ?



Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica

Let's see the situation from 1993 to 2023

* We conducted our analysis until 2023 because the data of one of the indicators of interest (sea level anomalies) ends in 2023.

* Background picture source: <https://news.microsoft.com/source/asia/features/digital-earth-pacific/>

By age 30, all 3 were living in warmer-than-reference conditions



How to read these graphs ?

These numbers show how cooler or warmer temperatures were compared with the average of the 1971-2000 reference period.

Positive (+): warmer than the 1971-2000 average

Negative (-): cooler than the 1971-2000 average

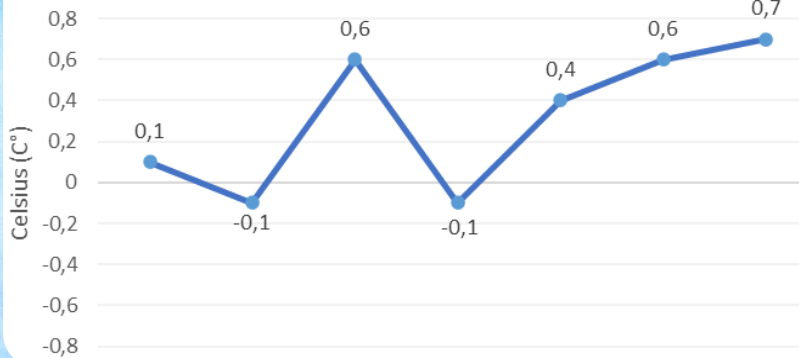
SURFACE TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES



TUVALU

AGE 0 AGE 5 AGE 10 AGE 15 AGE 20 AGE 25 AGE 30

1993 1998 2003 2008 2013 2018 2023



MELE:

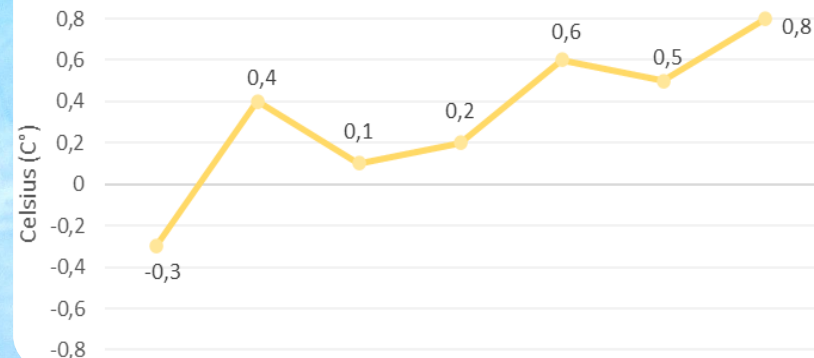
“The temperature did not rise every year in my country. But as I grew up, it got warmer years after years.”



PALAU

AGE 0 AGE 5 AGE 10 AGE 15 AGE 20 AGE 25 AGE 30

1993 1998 2003 2008 2013 2018 2023



BUIL:

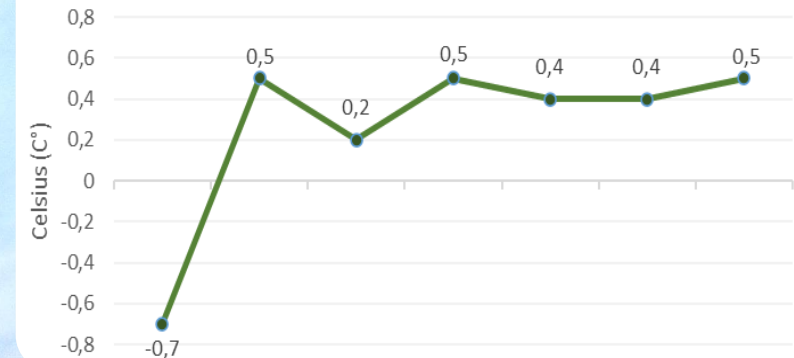
“I was born with cooler temperatures and grew up with warmer ones, reaching the warmest conditions by age 30.”



VANUATU

AGE 0 AGE 5 AGE 10 AGE 15 AGE 20 AGE 25 AGE 30

1993 1998 2003 2008 2013 2018 2023



JOHN:

“I was born with much cooler temperatures. But from age 5, they changed from cooler-than-average to clearly warmer-than-average.”

3 lives, 3 countries, 30 years changing rainfall patterns



How to read these graphs ?

These numbers show how much rain we had compared to the 1991-2020 reference period, stated here as “normal”.

Around 0 : Close to normal

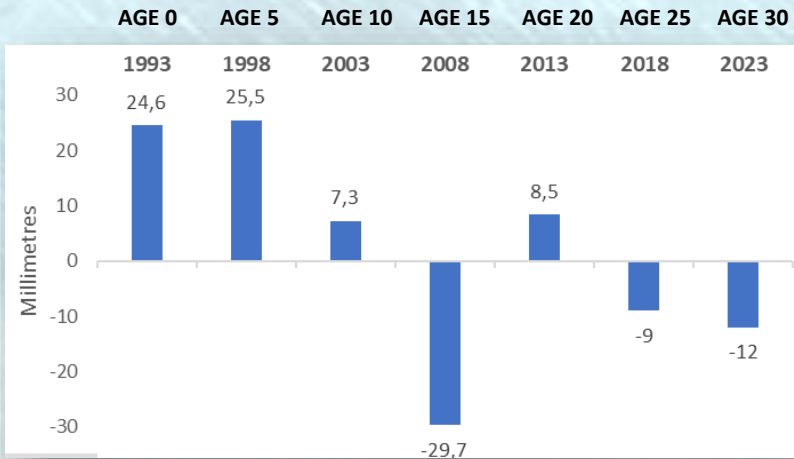
Positive (+): more rain than normal (wetter)

Negative (-): less rain than normal (drier)

RAINFALL ANOMALIES



TUVALU

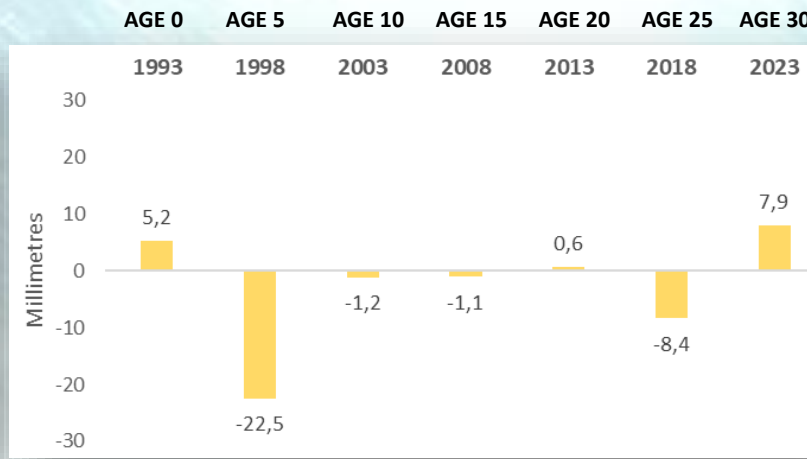


MELE:

“My life started with much wetter years than normal ones. It was very dry when I was 15, then we had more rain again than normal at age 20, and we ended with drier conditions by age 30.”



PALAU

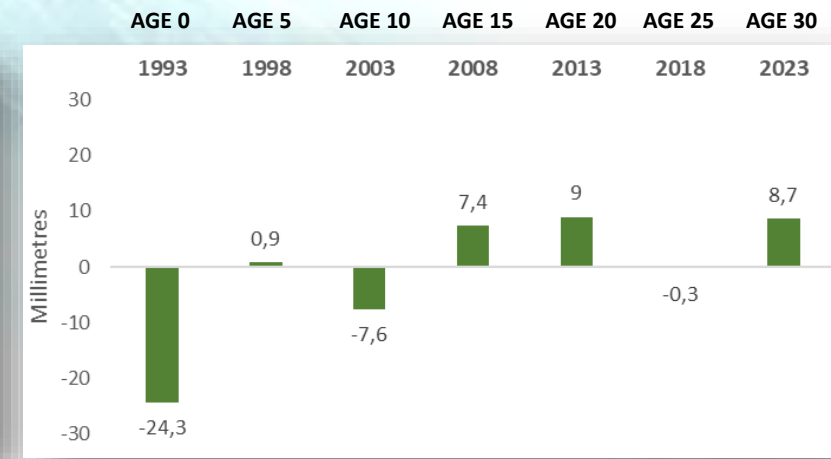


BUIL:

“My country rain story was a roller coaster: dry at five, almost normal during my teenage years, then drier and wetter again as an adult.”



VANUATU



JOHN:

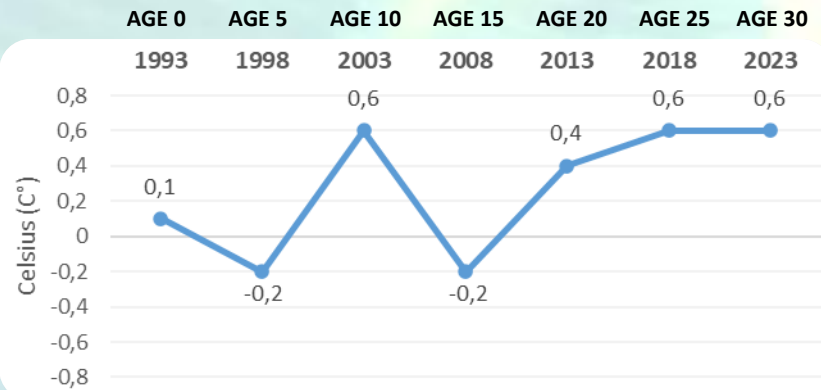
“I was born during a very dry year, but as I grew older, I saw more wetter years than normal.”

By age 30, the sea in the 3 countries was warmer than the reference

 **How to read these graphs ?**
These numbers show how cooler or warmer the sea was compared with the average of the 1971-2000 reference period.
Positive (+): sea warmer than the 1971-2000 average
Negative (-): sea cooler than the 1971-2000 average

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES

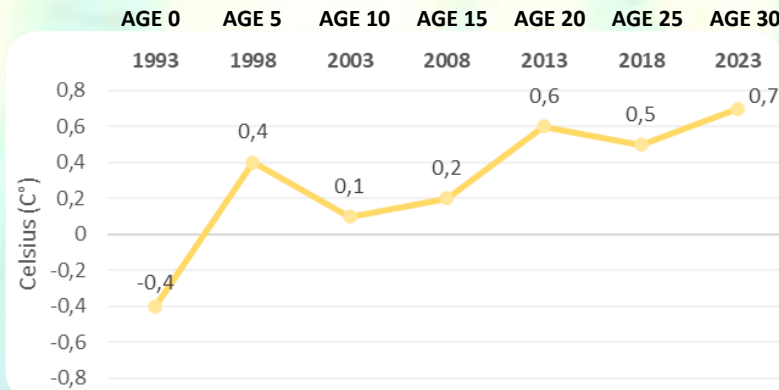
 **TUVALU**



MELE:

“The sea around me didn't get warmer every year. It went up and down, especially in my childhood and teenage years. But as I grew older, warmer conditions became more common.”

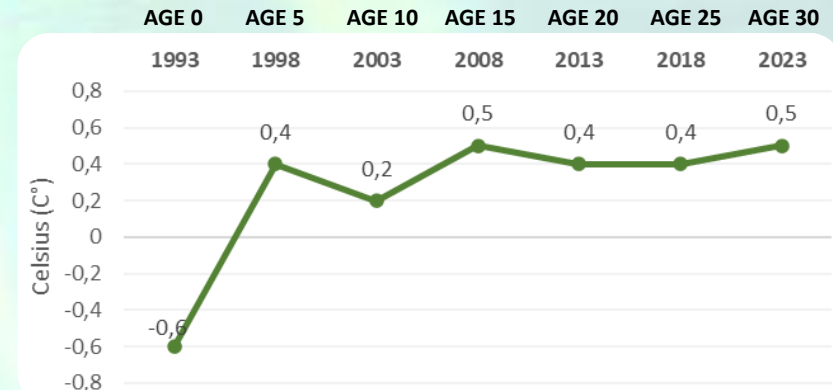
 **PALAU**



BUIL:

“When I was born, the sea was cooler than the historical average. By the time I was 30, it was consistently warmer.”

 **VANUATU**



JOHN:

“I was born into a cooler sea. By the time I was 5, it had moved above the historical average, and it stayed warmer throughout my teenage years and adulthood.”

3 lives, 3 countries, 30 years of a changing ocean



How to read these graphs ?

These numbers show if the sea was close, below or above the 1971-2000 reference level.

0 : Around the 1971-2000 reference level

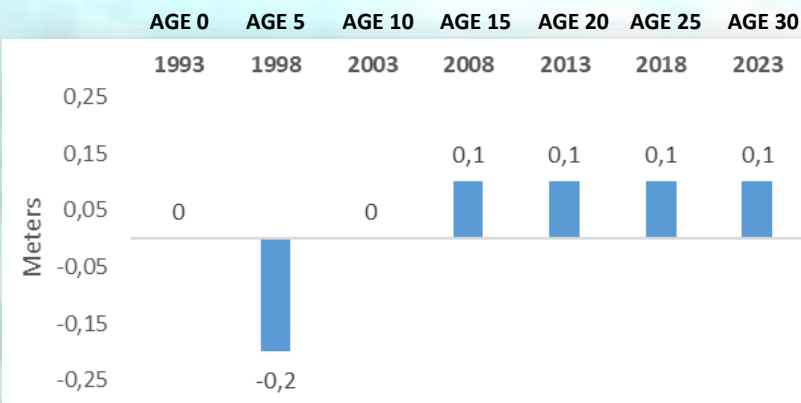
Positive (+): Above the 1971-2000 reference level

Negative (-): Below the 1971-2000 reference level

SEA LEVEL ANOMALIES



TUVALU

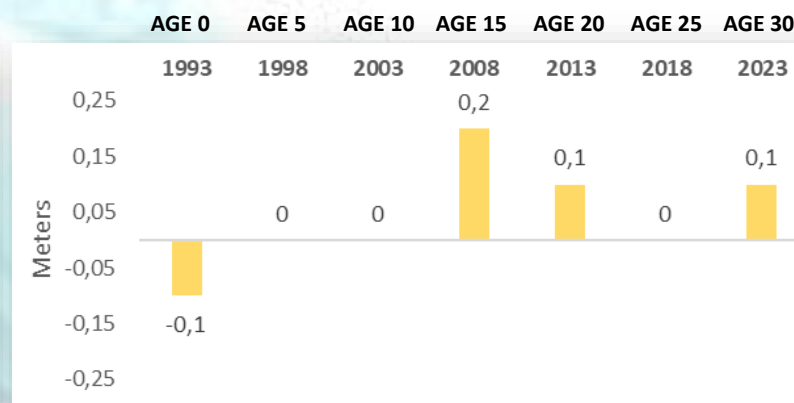


MELE:

“When I was little, the sea moved up and down. As I grew older, it stayed more often above the reference level.”



PALAU

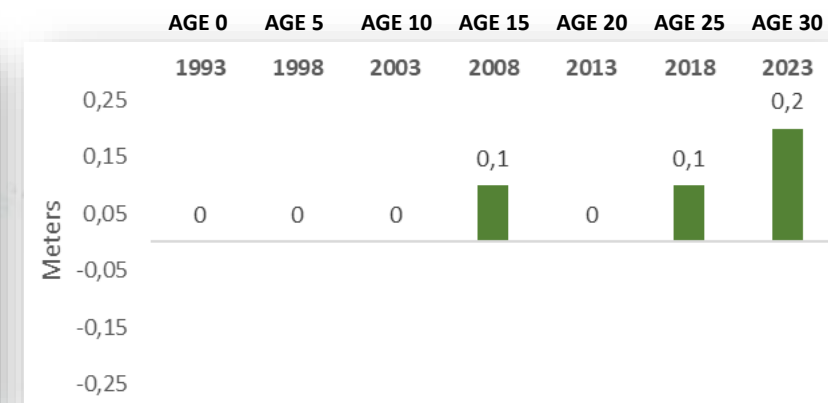


BUIL:

“I grew up watching the sea move: it didn't rise in a straight line, but by the time I was 30, it was higher than when I was born.”



VANUATU



JOHN:

“For much of my childhood, the sea level stayed close to the reference level. As I became an adult, it was above the reference level, reaching about 20 centimeters above this reference by age 30.”

Different countries, Different changes, A shared need to act now

WHAT HAPPENED IN 30 YEARS?

From 1993 to 2023, Tuvalu, Palau and Vanuatu experienced shifts in *surface temperature, rainfall, sea temperature and sea level*.

By age 30, all 3 lives had encountered a *warmer atmosphere and warmer ocean than their reference conditions*.

The changes were not identical across countries, but together, they show that *climate change is already part of everyday life in the Pacific island communities*.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Local action, *regional* cooperation and *international* support are needed to:

- ☐ *Prepare communities* for increasing heat, changing rainfall and rising seas
- ☐ *Protect* coastal ecosystems, water resources and infrastructure that buffer climate impacts

ACT TOGETHER

