

- scientific research and writing, including the history of science
- ideas of the human, including meditations on animals and animality, the body, and disability studies
- narratives of "greening the campus," including initiatives related to recycling, transportation, and energy
- environmental rhetoric and ecocomposition
- ecopedagogy and the scholarship of teaching and learning
- undergraduate research and creative work the literature of environmental hope and joy.

## Nissologising

In this section we hope to contribute to communication among island scholars, by keeping ISISA members informed of current research projects. The success of this section will rely on you providing the editor with short summaries of your most current research projects.

### Island voices for tackling climate change

By the Many Strong Voices team

Story provided to ISISA by Ilan Kelman

For more information, see <http://www.manystrongvoices.org> or contact Ilan through <http://www.ilankelman.org>



One of Fiji's outer atolls, highly vulnerable to sea level rise (photo by Ilan Kelman).



A beach along the south coast of Viti Levu, Fiji (photo by Ilan Kelman).

As climate change continues to take a toll on communities, new and creative efforts are also continuing to determine how to deal with this long-term disaster and its spin-off effects. One project, Many Strong Voices <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>, joins coastal communities from around the arctic and from the 51 Small Island Developing States (SIDS; <http://www.sidsnet.org>) in recognition of the similar vulnerabilities to climate change which both regions experience.

Many Strong Voices, launched in December 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme, brings together arctic and SIDS participants to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, climate change challenges. Those involved include international organisations, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, research institutes, communities, and individuals whose livelihoods are strongly tied to sustainable management of natural resources.

The aims are to:

- Develop capacity to strengthen the role of these vulnerable regions in negotiations on greenhouse gas mitigation and on climate change adaptation.



Sunset near Nadi, Fiji (photo by Ilan Kelman).



Akureyri in northern Iceland (photo by Ilan Kelman).



A House on Upolu, Samoa which was damaged by Cyclone Heta in January 2004 (photo by Ilan Kelman).



Building a sea wall on western Tongatapu, Tonga: An appropriate or inappropriate adaptation strategy? (photo by Ilan Kelman)

- Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions.
- Increase understanding of needs and solutions.
- Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.

The focus is catalysing local action across the arctic, including arctic island communities, and the SIDS, recognising the important and complementary contributions of sound research, outreach, and lobbying. While external and top-down interventions and exchanges are useful for supporting local action, the most effective manner of reducing vulnerability and living with climate change is through community-based initiatives. Many Strong Voices provides the inspiration, impetus, and opportunity to build and maintain community-based processes related to climate change which are solidly based on sustainability principles, policies, and practices.

Throughout, one important theme has been recognising that climate change is just one challenge and opportunity amongst many others facing all islands. Other ongoing concerns include rapid rural-to-urban migration, the potential loss of languages and cultures through emigration, population growth, gender and minority inequities, erosion of local knowledge and experiences, manipulation by and dependence on rich governments and corporations, and unsustainable natural resource extraction.

These multiple stressors must be considered simultaneously to ensure that tackling one problem, such as climate change, does not create or exacerbate other problems emerging from the myriad of social and environmental challenges with which islanders have dealt with over past millennia. Dealing with climate change should contribute to addressing these other issues and vice versa.

**With such comprehensiveness, cooperation, and exchange, Many Strong Voices--involving many strong islander voices--will be heard, leading to positive action for positive change.**