

# Contents

<b>1 Introduction</b> . . . . .	1
References . . . . .	10
<b>2 Geography, Economy and Environment of Atoll Island States</b> . . . . .	13
2.1 Introduction . . . . .	13
2.2 Types of Islands . . . . .	14
2.3 Atoll Islands . . . . .	14
2.3.1 Atolls and Coral-Reef Islands . . . . .	19
2.3.2 Raised Limestone Islands . . . . .	19
2.4 Coral Reefs and Foraminifers . . . . .	20
2.4.1 Coral Reefs . . . . .	21
2.4.2 Foraminifers . . . . .	24
2.5 Dynamic Coastal Environments . . . . .	24
2.5.1 Atoll Systems . . . . .	26
2.5.2 Coastal Erosion in Atolls . . . . .	28
2.6 Atoll Island States . . . . .	30
2.6.1 Urbanisation, Development Challenges and Vulnerability . . . . .	31
2.7 Conclusions . . . . .	32
References . . . . .	33
<b>3 Climate Change and Its Effects on Atoll Island States</b> . . . . .	35
3.1 Introduction . . . . .	35
3.2 Climate Change and Its Implications for Atoll Island States . . . . .	36
3.2.1 Sea Level Rise . . . . .	37
3.2.2 El Niño and La Niña . . . . .	41
3.2.3 Loss of Coral Reefs . . . . .	42
3.2.4 King Tides (Spring Tides) . . . . .	50
3.3 Natural Disasters . . . . .	54
3.3.1 Tropical Cyclones . . . . .	55
3.3.2 The Role of Tsunamis . . . . .	63

3.4	Wave Climate . . . . .	67
3.5	Coastal Erosion . . . . .	68
3.5.1	Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands . . . . .	71
3.5.2	Funafati Atoll, Tuvalu . . . . .	73
3.6	Changes in Precipitation and its Effects on Water Supplies . . . . .	77
3.7	Adaptation Measures . . . . .	79
3.7.1	Financing Adaptation . . . . .	80
3.7.2	Coral Reefs and Foraminifera . . . . .	81
3.7.3	Freshwater and Farming . . . . .	83
3.7.4	Insurance . . . . .	84
3.7.5	Migration . . . . .	84
3.7.6	Construction of Coastal Defences . . . . .	87
3.8	Conclusions . . . . .	97
	References . . . . .	98
<b>4</b>	<b>Climate Change Negotiations and AOSIS . . . . .</b>	<b>105</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	105
4.2	History of Climate Change Negotiations . . . . .	106
4.2.1	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) . . . . .	107
4.2.2	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change . . . . .	107
4.2.3	The Kyoto Protocol . . . . .	108
4.2.4	Recent Development in Climate Change Negotiations . . . . .	109
4.3	The Alliance of Small Island States . . . . .	111
4.3.1	Structure of AOSIS and Socio-Economic Profile of its Members . . . . .	111
4.3.2	The Small Island Developing States . . . . .	113
4.3.3	Climate Change and AOSIS . . . . .	114
4.4	Conclusions . . . . .	117
	References . . . . .	118
<b>5</b>	<b>Future Atoll Scenarios: Adaptation Strategies and Their Implication Under UNCLOS . . . . .</b>	<b>121</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	121
5.2	Maritime Boundaries and Baselines . . . . .	123
5.2.1	UNCLOS and Maritime Zones . . . . .	123
5.2.2	UNCLOS and the Determination of Baselines . . . . .	127
5.2.3	The Problem of Ocean Boundaries . . . . .	129
5.3	Future Scenarios for Atolls Island States and Sovereignty Implications . . . . .	131
5.3.1	Scenario I: No change . . . . .	134
5.3.2	Scenario II: Barren Rock . . . . .	134
5.3.3	Scenario III: Submergence . . . . .	137
5.3.4	Scenario IV: Protection of a Naturally Formed Island by Coastal Structures . . . . .	151
5.3.5	Scenario V: Lighthouse . . . . .	155

5.3.6	Scenario VI: Houses on Piles . . . . .	157
5.3.7	Scenario VII: Elevation of an Entire Island . . . . .	159
5.3.8	Scenario VIII: Floating Island . . . . .	167
5.3.9	Scenario IX: Reconstruction of an Island After it has Disappeared . . . . .	168
5.4	Conclusions . . . . .	169
	References . . . . .	171
<b>6</b>	<b>Alternative Solutions to Preserve the Sovereignty of Atoll Island States . . . . .</b>	<b>175</b>
6.1	Introduction . . . . .	175
6.2	The Lack of Consensus on the Criteria for Statehood . . . . .	180
6.3	Cession of Territory . . . . .	187
6.3.1	The Boers and the Preservation of the Government in a New Territory . . . . .	189
6.3.2	Political Climate Regarding the Purchasing of Territories by Atoll Island States . . . . .	190
6.3.3	Purchase of Rabi and Resettlement of Banabans: Examples of Cession and Merger of Territory . . . . .	191
6.4	Status of Acquired Territories . . . . .	197
6.4.1	Merger of Territory . . . . .	199
6.5	De-Territorialized State . . . . .	202
6.5.1	De-Territorialized States in History and Nowadays . . . . .	203
6.5.2	Political Trusteeship . . . . .	206
6.6	Government-in-Exile . . . . .	208
6.7	Recognition Scenarios . . . . .	210
6.8	Conclusions . . . . .	212
	References . . . . .	213
<b>7</b>	<b>Climate Change Displacement in Atoll Island States . . . . .</b>	<b>219</b>
7.1	Introduction . . . . .	219
7.2	Terminology Discussion . . . . .	224
7.2.1	Distinction Between Environmentally Displaced People and Climate-Change Displaced People . . . . .	227
7.3	The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and “Climate-Change Displaced People” . . . . .	230
7.3.1	A Convention to Protect Climate-Change Displaced People? . . . . .	234
7.3.2	Challenges Regarding the Creation of a Convention to Protect Climate-Change Displaced People . . . . .	237
7.3.3	A Metaphor of Human Rights and the Creation of a Convention to Address Climate Change Displaced People . . . . .	240
7.4	Complementary and Temporary Protection . . . . .	245
7.4.1	Under What Circumstances Could Complementary or Temporary Protection Possibly be Applied to Environmentally Displaced People? . . . . .	247

7.5	Use of Bilateral Agreements . . . . .	249
7.6	Soft Law . . . . .	252
7.7	Statelessness . . . . .	254
7.7.1	Statelessness and Atoll Island States . . . . .	254
7.7.2	The Right to a Nationality to Prevent the Statelessness of the Inhabitants of Atoll Island States . . . . .	258
7.8	Human Rights of Climate-Change Displaced People . . . . .	262
7.8.1	Is There a Relationship Between Climate Change and Human Rights? . . . . .	263
7.8.2	Does Climate Change Constitute a Violation of Human Rights? . . . . .	264
7.8.3	What are States' National-Level and International-Level Human Rights Obligations Pertaining to Climate Change? . . . . .	268
7.8.4	Time, Climate-Change Displaced People, and the Case of the Atoll Island States . . . . .	269
7.9	Other Possible Alternative Status and Conclusions . . . . .	276
	References . . . . .	278
<b>8</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks . . . . .</b>	<b>285</b>
	References . . . . .	289
	<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>291</b>