

ISLINGTON CENTRE, Eric, Claude and Nagesh - 21/11/22 - 3pm

Catch-up.

Checking Nagesh's phone number.

Escaping rising sea levels

The COP27 conference came to an end on 18 November. Was it a success? Opinions are divided.

In some countries, there is a real risk that villages will soon be under water because of flooding caused by global warming.

In Fiji, a group of more than 300 islands in the South Pacific, the government is working on a plan to relocate whole communities where homes are already under water or will soon be under water.

This is an enormous task. The population of Fiji is just under one million. In recent years, the islands have been regularly battered by cyclones.

So far, six villages in Fiji have already been moved. Moving a village is not just about moving houses. It involves moving schools, health centres, roads, electricity, water, the village church and even burial grounds. The whole infrastructure of the village must be moved.

The exercise of moving a village is made even more difficult because Fiji is a mountainous country.

Where a village is relocated, the original village becomes a ghost town. People whose families had lived in the village for generations feel that they have had to leave behind their grandparents, their parents and their history. But at least they feel safer.

Comprehension questions

1. Where is Fiji?
2. What is the population of Fiji?
3. Why does the Fijian government think that it is necessary to relocate people?
4. What are the particular problems associated with relocation?
5. What are the emotional issues for people relocating?
6. What are the benefits of relocation?

Any opinions re COP27 and whether it was a success