

Looming threat



- The Maldives is the lowest-lying country in the world – it is just 2.4m above sea level at its highest point.
- Over 80 per cent of its land is below 1.6m. Rising sea levels are a very real threat.
- Present forecasts do not factor in an accelerated rise brought on by melting Antarctic ice sheets, which could raise sea levels by several metres, drowning the islands before 2100.

Emission scenario	2100 carbon dioxide concentration, parts per million (ppm)	Mean sea level rise (m)	
		2046-2065	2100
Low	421	0.24 (0.17-0.32)	0.44 (0.28-0.61)
Medium low	538	0.26 (0.19-0.33)	0.53 (0.36-0.71)
Medium high	670	0.25 (0.18-0.32)	0.55 (0.38-0.73)
High	936	0.29 (0.22-0.38)	0.74 (0.52-0.98)

NOTE: The upper safety limit for atmospheric carbon dioxide is 350 ppm. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have stayed higher than 350 ppm since early 1988.

Endangered isles

Maldives and Kiribati are members of the 44-member Alliance of Small Island States – countries highly vulnerable to sea-level rises and extreme weather events – that also includes Singapore, the Bahamas and Samoa.

	Maldives	Kiribati	Tuvalu
Average elevation	1.6m	2m	1.83m
Highest point	2.4m	81m	4.6m
Population	350,000	100,000	10,000

