

Round: Sample
Time: 5 minutes

The Republic of Kiribati is an island nation comprised of a group of 33 islands in the tropical Pacific Ocean, with an average height of two meters above sea level. Kiribati is amongst the poorest and least developed countries in the world and has few natural resources.

1. The Government of Kiribati bought land in Fiji in 2014 to relocate their nation's population of 113,000 people, due to projected sea level rise. What is it about Kiribati's physical attributes that make it particularly vulnerable? (4 pts)

2. The fact that Kiribati is a developing country limits the options for resilience. Name 3 social factors that challenge efforts to relocate. (6 pts)

3. If all of Kiribati's residents move out of their national territory, there is the question of retaining sovereignty as a nation with associated rights. Name two things they stand to lose if they become stateless? (4 pts)

4. The formal, internationally recognized, definition of a refugee is set out in the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which established the rights of people seeking asylum in a country other than their own and the responsibilities of countries that grant asylum.

"A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

This convention also includes the concept of non-foulement.

"No contracting state shall expel or return ('refouler') a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

Would Kiribati citizens qualify as "climate refugees"? Why or why not? (6 pts)

ANSWER

Round: Sample
Category: Policy
Time: 5 minutes

ANSWER**ANSWER**

The Republic of Kiribati is an island nation comprised of a group of 33 islands in the tropical Pacific Ocean, with an average height of two meters above sea level, and a population of approximately 103,000. Kiribati is amongst the poorest and least developed countries in the world and has few natural resources.

1. The Government of Kiribati bought land in Fiji in 2014 to relocate their nation's population of 113,000 people, due to projected sea level rise. What is it about Kiribati's physical attributes that make it particularly vulnerable?

It's a country made up of coral atolls and coral island with an average maximum height of 2 meters above sea level (also acceptable: atoll, island, coral bedrock) (4 pts)

2. The fact that Kiribati is a developing country limits the options for resilience. Name 3 social factors that challenge efforts to relocate, or perform other in-country adaptations.

(6 pts total, 2 pts for 3 of the following)

- *Kiribati is a fishing-dependent nation, so jobs are not easily transferrable*
- *Multi-generation households mean that when one house is flooded, a large number of people in need of aid*
- *They rely on international aid and expertise from New Zealand and other developed countries for construction and renovation against inundation, especially for roads*
- *Freshwater is only available on the larger islands and the smaller islands are cut off by high tide*
- *Food security is threatened by increasing severity of storms and rising tides, drowning coconut trees and changes in the fish migration patterns*
- *Kiribati is a tiny country paying the debt of large, developed countries addiction to fossil fuels*
- *Kiribati is a member of the University of the South Pacific with 11 other South Pacific island nations, but the campus is in Fiji; brain-drain*
- *Pollution from untreated sewage and garbage, as well as mountains of marine debris washing ashore, makes inshore resources unsanitary and difficult to access*
- *Citizens have a personal and historical connection with the islands, and don't want to relocate*

3. If all of Kiribati's residents move out of their national territory, there is the question of retaining sovereignty as a nation with associated rights. Name two things they stand to lose if they become stateless?

(4 pts total, 2 pts for 2 of the following)

- *Cultural recognition and protection*
- *Exclusive rights to fishing grounds*
- *A vote in international fora, such as the UN*

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Would Kiribati citizens qualify as "climate refugees"? Why or why not?

(6 pts total, must include an appropriate explanation for the answer to get points)

- No, due to lack of persecution involved in the decision to leave the country.

-If yes, they qualify under the refoulement concept, given that his life is threatened due to his nationality because it is linked to an island that is facing complete and utter destruction.

REFERENCES:

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<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2015/mar/17/pacific-islands-losing-way-of-life-to-climate-change-in-pictures>

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