

Flooding concept called off – New facts from the Maldives

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IPCC has constantly been claiming that global warming will also lead to a general rise in sea level over the globe. As a matter of fact, this is the main threat and negative side of the whole scenario on global warming.

This is also the main reason why the people of **Tuvalu** say that they intend to sue US as main responsible for their claimed rise in sea level and flooding threat.

The Maldives – a group of some 1200 islands in the Indian Ocean with a maximum height of only some 1–2 m – have always been pointed out as among those most vulnerable to become flooded in the near future. On the NASA website, we read “*Islands such as the Maldives are among those under most threat from rising sea level*”.

Well, true scientists don't accept opinions pushed upon them – they go to the actual spot and check the **Reality**.

Right so, in 2000, as president of the INQUA Commission on Sea Level Changes and Coastal Evolution, I therefore launched a major sea level research **project in the Maldives**.

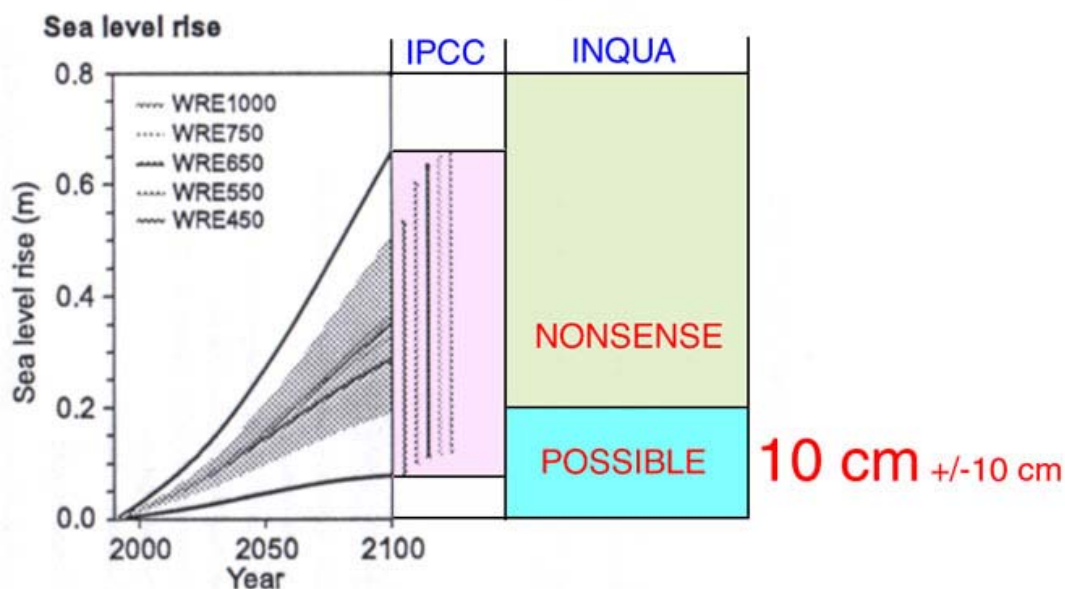
Very soon, and to our great surprise, we found out that sea level is by no means in the process of rising in the Maldives today. In the 1970ies, sea level even fell significantly.

Our story is duplicated from island to island. We measure it by different means. And, we listen to what the local people had to say. Always the same results: (1) **sea level is not rising**, and (2) **it fell in the 70ies**.

Our commission, hosting the true sea level specialist of the world, checked all other sources of information claimed to predict a present-to-future sea level rise. But no – it is simply not there. Satellite altimetry (original data, that is) record no rising trend. The Tuvalu tide-gauge record gives a flat line for the last 25 years. In conclusion the best estimate of our commission of future sea level by year 2100, would be +10 cm \pm 10 cm or, maybe even better,

+5 cm \pm 15 cm.

Hence we would prefer to call off the flooding concept and general condemnation of a future flooding of low-lying islands and coastal areas.



About the author:

Ph.D. in geology and head of Paleogeophysics & Geodynamics at Stockholm University in Sweden, 35 years in the lead of international sea level research, former president of an international commission on Sea Level Changes and Coastal Evolution, leader of the Maldives Research Project, author of hundreds of research papers and some books.

Documentation (sea level, from 1995):

The INQUA Commission – www.pog.su.se/sea

Authors homepage – pog.su.se.

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Plus numerous sea level papers in the period 1969-1995.

See also:

Lars Mortensen, 2004; *Dome Day Called Off*, TV-documentary, Danish TV, Copenhagen.