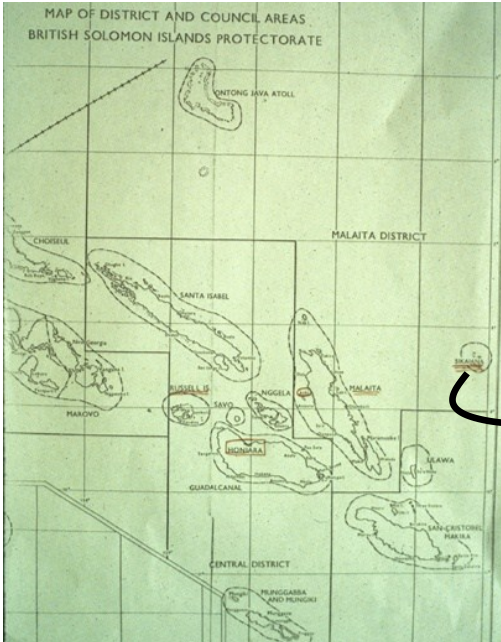




### **GLOBAL WARMING TAKES ITS TOLL ON SIKAIANA.**

*(Mandated by the people of Sikaiana, this report is written by Pastor George Vann.)*



**There is severe shortage of food on the atoll island of Sikaiana.** Reports reaching Honiara from Sikaiana say that the Community High and Primary Schools and the clinic will be closing down. Both the Malaitan and Sikaiana workers serving in the health and education institutions on the island can no longer sustain their livelihood due to the severe shortage of food. The Malaitans may be returning back home on any first available boat to call on the island.

Factors contributing towards food shortage are many. Some of which includes 1) Recent rainy season. 2) Luck of shipping service since February, 2012, and thirdly is the free roaming of pigs. But the fourth and most contributing factor is the seepage of sea water into taro

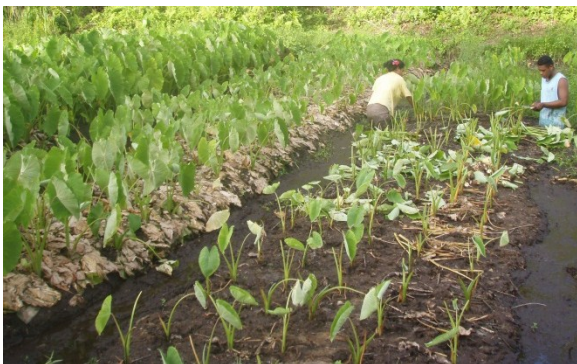
swampland from underground. This means the food crisis is permanent because of the perpetual nature of global warming. And both the Provincial and National

government have been informed of this crisis by the Chairpersons of the Sikaiana Disaster Committee, Mr. Kennedy Tui and Mr. Rex Kafo.



*Satellite Picture of the Atoll of Sikaiana*

Located on the Northern peripheries of the Solomon Islands, this outlying Polynesian atoll is reeling on the onslaughts of global warming effects. Shortage of food is becoming an ongoing phenomenon in the last decade. Once a lustrous taro cultured society with its unique traditional management of the tuber,



*Swamp taro cultivation on Sikaiana.*

the plant can no longer sustain the populace diet as it once had. Not that the natives has lost the technology of taro planting but that the rise of sea level is causing seepage through to the swampland where taros are planted. The salt water discriminatively kills the tubers of giant taros (kakake) and the smaller taro species.

The Polynesian natives of Sikaiana employ an unique method of taro cultivation. With this method the natives can utilise the same plot of swampland

for generations. This is an advantage because of the scarcity of land on the tiny atoll. The method of cultivation has sustained the populace's staple diet for centuries.

Sikaiana people give the glory and honor to God for wisdom and savvy that was innate in the founding ancestors. But at this juncture we need to pose an important question since



*Approximately three meters high of eroded coastline*

the threats of the modern world is of a kind not experienced before. The question is “What God given wisdom will the modern savvy man of Sikaiana employ to save our people and dear motherland from the threat of our sinking home and the ongoing phenomenon of food shortage?” In the light of the impending disaster will our passive personality change the course of calamity?

The issues of Sikaiana that needs to be urgently addressed are many. These four are just samples. 1) Improvement of Malaita Outer Island shipping services. 2) Resettlement of Sikaiana people. 3) A prolonged delivery of relief supply from 18 to 24 months. 4) Imposing the pigs byelaw to restrict free roaming. You can add to the list but the message I’m reading from our people of Sikaiana, as I communicate with them, is the need to organise in order to salvage *te lautama o Sikaiana* from the approaching destiny of our Atoll community. It is long overdue.

I am held accountable, and so is everyone of us for being passive in the cause for the common good. For knowing to do right but turning a blind eye is the evil of the modern man. Aloha Sikaiana, Toku Henua. Island of Contradiction.



*Ten meters of erosion on the coastline.*



*Erosion on the windward side of the island*



*Kakake taros affected by salt water.*