

A tropical island with palm trees and turquoise water under a clear blue sky.

Art Project

«Cry for help»

Tuvana-I-Ra / Mikhailov Island

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A small island of Fiji

- Named Tuvana-i-Ra by the inhabitants
- Discovered by Captain F.G. von Bellingshausen during the expedition to Antarctic (1819 – 1821), he named the island after the accompanying artist Pavel Mikhailov
- 1200 m long, 700 m wide; occasionally inhabited by people of the nearest atoll Ono-i-Lau

Consequences of Climate Change for Fiji

- Rising sea level
loss of living space (resettlement)
- Ocean warming
coral death, reduced fish stocks
- More and stronger cyclones
destruction of nature, houses and agriculture



house at Tuvana-I-Ra damaged by cyclone 2018

Art Project «cry for help»

Transform the island into a face crying for help

- Using material that is available on site – white sand, black volcanic stones
- Cutting of some plants is necessary to create lines, in compensation we plan new plantation e.g. mangroves
- The island is an indicator for rising / falling sea level
- Facial expression is alterable: from cry to smile, if the situation improves
- Agreement and support of the owners (clan) is existent
- Some inhabitants of Ono-I-Lau (40 km distance) are ready to work with us
- Financing via crowdfunding in 2020 and art actions

Draft version «cry for help» Tuvana-I-Ra / Mikhailov Island



Aims and hopes

Creating a geoglyph to get long-term attention for the region, which is threatened by climate change

- Watching the environment changes at Tuvana-i-Ra / Mikhailov-island
- Scholarship 1 artist – 1 month at Tuvana-i-Ra / Mikhailov-island
- To organize a museum at Ono-I-Lau (each artist leaves one piece for it)

Possibilities of the inhabitants of Ono-i-Lau:

- Organization of eco-tourism to generate income
- Counteract the moving away of young adults
- Recommissioning the aerodrome of Ono-i-Lau. At the moment a ship from Suva sails once a month, that means 5 days journey! This ship not only brings people to the islands, but also material and food. There are always months in which it breaks down.

project draft on the school wall of Ono-I-Lau

