



Australia

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul *Fighting to save their ancestral lands*

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul are community leaders from the Guda Maluyligal Nation at the northernmost part of Australia in the Torres Strait. Their Indigenous ancestors have lived on the islands for thousands of years.

Now, because of climate change, their way of life, traditional knowledge systems, cultural practices and spiritual connections that have been passed down from generation to generation could be broken forever. Rising sea levels are causing more destruction each year by eroding beaches, destroying sacred cultural sites and cemeteries where ancestors are buried, wrecking food gardens, and putting the islands' infrastructure at risk.

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul, who are referred to as "uncle" by their communities as a sign of respect, have turned to the courts. They argue that the Australian government is taking insufficient action to prevent harm from climate change, resulting in the destruction of their lands and culture.

Unless urgent action is taken, many Torres Strait Islanders will be forced to leave their homelands as large parts become uninhabitable. This would be devastating to the communities. As Uncle Pabai says: "We are born to these islands, they are our mothers, our identities, who we are. For thousands of years, our warrior families fought off anyone who tried to take our homelands from us. But now, we could lose the fight to climate change."

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul's ancestors have lived on islands of the Torres Strait, the northernmost part of Australia, for thousands of years. Now their whole way of life – which as Indigenous Peoples is deeply connected to land, sea and sky – is at risk because of

climate change. If the islands become uninhabitable, they will be forced to break these connections and leave their homelands.

Take Action: Call on Australia to take urgent climate action

Demand the rights of First Nations communities in the Torres Strait are protected, by rapidly reducing carbon emissions in line with the world commitment of limiting global warming to 1.5°C in line with the best available scientific research.

Write to:

Prime Minister of Australia
PO box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister
Email: www.pm.gov.au/contact
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlboMP
Twitter / X: @AlboMP
Instagram: @albomp

His Excellency Scott Michael RYAN, High Commissioner
Australian High Commission
50 O'Connor Street, Suite 1301
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L2

Email: consular.ottawa@dfat.gov.au

Hashtags: #PabaiVCmth #W4R23 #W4RCanada

Show Uncle Pabai, Uncle Paul and their communities that you support them

Send your messages of support to show the Peoples of the Torres Strait that you support them in their fight to protect their island homes.

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul
c/o Amnesty International
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Broadway, NSW, 2007
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