

# GLOBAL FOCUS



# WATER

From unpredictable rainfall patterns to shrinking ice sheets, rising sea levels, floods and droughts – most impacts of climate change come down to water. The Climate emergency is exacerbating both water scarcity and water- related hazards (such as floods and droughts), as rising temperatures disrupt precipitation patterns and the entire water cycle. About two billion people worldwide don't have access to safe drinking water today and roughly half of the world's population is experiencing severe water scarcity for at least part of the year. These numbers are expected to increase, exacerbated by climate change and population growth.

# GLOBAL ACTIVIST - QUACK PIRIHI



At 5am on March 26, the Arctic Sunrise – a Greenpeace icebreaker built in 1975 and weighing just under 950 tonnes – set off on the coast of Costa Rica to intercept the Deep Sea Mining research vessel.

Over the next two hours, Quack Pirihi, a 20-year-old Indigenous activist and community worker from Tāmaki Makaurau, jumped out of the Greenpeace vessel and swam in front of the James Cook with a simple message: “Don’t Mine the Moana.” With nothing but a life jacket and the Tino rangatiratanga flag in the face of a ship,

But why is deep-sea mining happening in the Northern Pacific Ocean, anyway? Deep sea mining was brought up to governments by companies in the 1970s, and since then has been floating around, lobbied, researched and spun to nations as a beneficial industry. Pirihi believes deeply that having Indigenous and Pacific communities involved in activism – and conservation – around deep sea mining is important, as the moana is deeply tied to their history, culture and identity. It’s an industry that is creating environmental and cultural havoc for the people of the Pacific.

Using their TikTok to create a platform for Indigenous, Queer and Takatāpui voices, and also on their own journey of reconnecting with te ao Māori, Pirihi said they feel an obligation to show others, back home, the notion of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the moana and connecting the idea of liberation to Tino rangatiratanga. “I wasn’t just bringing one kaupapa to the table. I carried the weight of liberation for Māori, and waved it in the face of the coloniser,” Pirihi said.

**HERE IN THE UK:** Many people will experience climate change through its effects on water. In the UK, many people will experience climate change through its effects on water, and especially through floods and droughts. We expect more, bigger floods particularly during winter. Summer flash flooding may become more common. Rising sea levels will increase the risk of damage from storm surges. Average summer river flows may decrease across the UK, leading to reduced water availability and lower river water quality.