1.5 Stay Alive

At the start of the 2018 UN Talanoa facilitative dialogue to evaluate and strengthen climate action, AirClim is submitting to the UN the film 1.5 Stay Alive, to answer the questions (1) Where are we?; (2) Where do we want to go?

AirClim calls on the UN Talanoa Dialogue to implement the 1.5°C target from the Paris Agreement by strengthening climate action plans for 2020, 2025 and 2030. The Talanoa process involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling. AirClim is submitting to the dialogue the film 1.5 Stay Alive, which presents strong voices from the Caribbean region for the legacy of the 1.5°C target.

The film won first prize at the world’s oldest environmental film festival in Barcelona in 2016, in the category of short documentaries up to one hour. The 1.5 Stay Alive film is about climate change in the Caribbean region and explains why there is a need to stay below a 1.5°C global temperature increase to avoid dangerous climate change and protect vulnerable people. The film lets experts and musicians from the Caribbean region tell their own story and perform music about the threat of climate change to local people and the environment in the region, including more frequent and violent tropical storms, sea level rise and the death of coral reefs. Well-known musicians from the Caribbean have composed songs on the theme of 1.5 – to Stay Alive for the film and thus hope to raise awareness.

In the waters just south of the United States of America the world’s second- and third-largest coral reef ecosystems are very seriously threatened by climate change (see map). Millions of tourists visit the Caribbean region every year and enjoy the sea and its rich biodiversity. But soon climate change could mean the end for the corals, as bleaching
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AirClim is supporting the 1.5 – to Stay Alive call from the Caribbean countries by submitting to the Talanoa facilitative dialogue the film 1.5 Stay Alive (https://www.youtube.com/embed/vH1SwOLFH_w), which presents strong voices from the Caribbean region for the legacy of the 1.5°C target.

Events occur more and more often. Science tells us that many corals do not survive at a global temperature increase above 1.5°C and increased ocean acidification. Sea level rise is already affecting many coastal zones, including the south coast of the USA. In the film, local people speak about the loss of their homeland on the US coast of the Mexican Gulf in Louisiana, and about already having to abandon their communities.

One of the key speakers in the film is the meteorologist and international liaison officer Carlos Fuller, from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) in Belize, who has for the last two years been chair of the scientific and technological body of the UN Climate Convention. At the beginning of 2018, 5Cs made a statement about the situation caused by climate change in the Caribbean. The statement concludes: “The emerging science message is clear: Urgent global action taken now, and which goes well beyond what has already been committed to, is needed to delay the onset of more adverse Caribbean climate states. This is what is implied in the region’s stance that 1.5°C must be an end-of-century global goal. ‘1.5 to Stay Alive’, the central message anchoring the Caribbean’s position, is more than a just a catchy slogan. It is a rallying call for the global community to take action now, from those most vulnerable to climate change.”