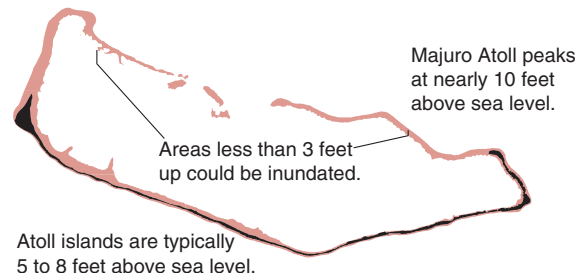


# How the atolls could disappear

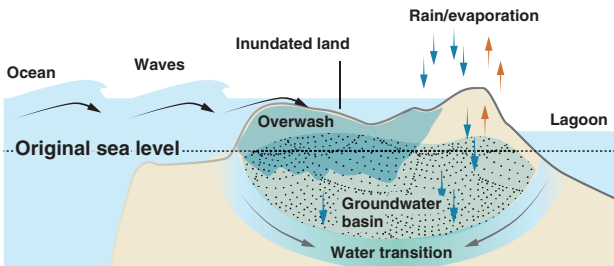
*Atolls, leftover rings of past volcanic activity, are the foundations of the Marshall Islands as well as small repositories for fresh water. Because of rising sea levels, the islands are at risk of disappearing.*

## Much of Majuro Atoll could sink underwater



## Freshwater reserves overtaken by waves

Fresh groundwater is limited to the small land area where rain and evaporation form in a porous basin. As the sea level rises, there will be less area for groundwater to pool.



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Graphic: Lorena Iñiguez Elebee, Los Angeles Times/TNS