

# Recap Séquence

## Kiwis against climate change

### Séance 1



#### 1. Watch the video and describe the situation and the context in your own words.

In the video, many students but also other citizens of New Zealand are **demonstrating** in the streets of Auckland:

- to **protest against** the government's inaction concerning **climate change** and **global warming**
- to **make people aware** of the dangers of the situation
- to show all over the world that climate change is a current issue at stake
- to denounce **rising sea levels**

#### 2. Explain the protesters' demand.

- The protesters want the government to take action.
- They want everyone to change their attitudes about global warming before it's too late.

#### 3. Describe the various ways the students protested.

- All around the country, about 170,000 people demonstrated and blocked the main streets.
- They blocked Queen Street in Auckland.
- They blocked access to the city's port.
- They walked to Parliament.
- They formed a human line on Auckland's Key Street.
- They brought lifejackets, inflatable rafts, etc.

Il s'agit d'un reportage télévisé de l'émission néo-zélandaise *Newshub*. L'émission traite des différentes manifestations pour le climat qui ont eu lieu partout en Nouvelle-Zélande. Il y a plusieurs intervenant-e-s dans l'extrait vidéo. Nous entendons des journalistes ainsi que des manifestant-e-s qui témoignent face à la caméra.

Dans ce reportage télévisé, nous apprenons qu'environ 170 000 personnes se sont rassemblées et ont manifesté dans les rues des grandes villes en Nouvelle-Zélande pour protester contre l'inaction du gouvernement face au dérèglement climatique. Les journalistes soulignent que, parmi les manifestant-e-s, il y avait notamment beaucoup d'étudiant-e-s. Ces manifestations ont eu lieu dans de nombreuses villes du pays. Par exemple, à Auckland, les manifestant-e-s ont bloqué Queen Street ainsi que l'accès au port. À Wellington, le cortège est allé jusque devant le Parlement. Ces manifestations ont été saluées par Greta Thunberg, permettant ainsi aux Néo-Zélandais-e-s d'être entendu-e-s partout dans le monde.

Les journalistes expliquent que ces manifestations soulignent la détermination des activistes dans la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique. En effet, la journaliste Alice Wilkins prévient les téléspectateur-s : les étudiant-e-s n'en

ont certainement pas fini avec la lutte contre l'inaction du gouvernement face au dérèglement climatique ; ce sont les prémices d'une lutte qui ne fait que commencer.

Il s'agit là de la troisième manifestation de ce genre et surtout de la plus importante. Des dizaines de milliers de personnes sont descendues dans les rues pour participer à cette marche. À Auckland, les manifestant-e-s ont notamment mis en garde au sujet de l'élévation du niveau de la mer. Beaucoup de ces manifestant-e-s se disent frustré-e-s de ne pas être entendu-e-s par le gouvernement, malgré les actions entreprises. En effet, les manifestant-e-s ont défilé avec des gilets de sauvetage, des bateau gonflables. Ils/elles ont même formé une chaîne humaine.

En conclusion, ce reportage journalistique décrit une manifestation pour le climat en Nouvelle-Zélande. Il s'agit là de la troisième manifestation de ce genre, prouvant ainsi que ce mouvement est de plus en plus rassembleur. Les différents témoignages présents dans le reportage permettent de saisir l'engouement des manifestant-e-s mais aussi l'opinion d'un conducteur de poids lourds, dont le travail est affecté par ce mouvement protestataire.

## **Séance 2**

### **A land divided by climate extremes: what the IPCC report says about New Zealand**

*The first major assessment of its kind in seven years from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found the globe's ocean, land and air temperatures are rising, and the human influence is "unequivocal".*

*But what does the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report say about changes in New Zealand, and what can we expect for the future?*

The report finds that New Zealand land areas have warmed by 1.1C between 1910 and 2020. As the globe heats, New Zealand will become a land divided by weather extremes – rain will batter the west and south leading to floods, while high temperatures will bring drought and fires to the east and north. This weather is already playing out. This year, Westport on the South Island's west coast was devastated by flooding, while last year saw record high temperatures in the north, leading to a prolonged drought.

A senior scientist at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, Dr Nick Cradock-Henry, said drought was now New Zealand's costliest hazard.

"Our agricultural systems – including horticulture, viticulture, arable cropping and livestock – are sensitive to these changes, due to their dependence on stable, long-term climatic conditions."

Sea-level rise poses a risk to New Zealand's 15,000km of coastline, putting tens of thousands of houses in danger of more frequent and extreme flooding and erosion and exposing \$14bn worth of local government infrastructure to damage.

A research fellow at the Antarctic Research Centre, Lauren Vargo, said New Zealand would also see decreases in glacier ice and seasonal snow, leading to impacts on water resources, hydropower and tourism, and increases in ocean warming, which will affect resources like seafood.

The report predicts that the ability of forests and other green spaces to absorb carbon dioxide will be weakened with extreme temperatures and droughts.

While the country's share of global greenhouse gas emissions is small, its gross emissions per person are high and it is one of the world's worst performers on emission increases. Its emissions rose by 57% between 1990 and 2018 – the second greatest increase of all industrialized countries. Earlier this year, data showed New Zealand's emissions had increased by 2% in 2018-19.

In 2019, New Zealand passed bipartisan climate legislation setting a net-zero-by-2050 target for CO2 emissions, and set up the Climate Change Commission to map out a pathway there. The government is legally bound to formulate a policy response to the commission's report, which was released in June – but has not outlined what those policy steps will be.

Cradock-Henry said mitigation would now be insufficient to address the changes in climate presented in the report.

“The report is a stark reminder of the need for adaptation. Adaptation will require strategic and even radical adjustments to practices, processes, capital and infrastructure in response to climate change, and must begin now.” Greenpeace has called upon the government to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint from agriculture, New Zealand’s biggest climate polluter.

“If New Zealand is to retain the ‘clean, green’ image that so much of our export market is built on, the government must cut climate pollution from intensive dairying and catalyze a shift to regenerative organic farming,” its spokesperson, Christine Rose, said.

*Eva Corlett, The guardian.com, 10 August 2021*

### **1. List the present and future consequences of global warming on New Zealand according to experts.**

- The country will suffer from heavy (torrential) rain and floods in the west and in the south. As it has already happened in Westport this year.
- The increasing temperatures will result in droughts and fires in the east and the north. Record high temperatures in the north have already led to prolonged drought in the north.
- Tens of thousands of houses and \$14bn worth of local government infrastructure could be destroyed due to sea-level rise.
- These climatic conditions will endanger / jeopardize New Zealand’s agricultural systems, water and food resources, hydropower and tourism.

### **2. Pick up the government plans to fight against the Climate change crisis.**

In 2019, Arden’s government adopted the Zero Carbon Act to to cut / reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 and created the Climate Change Commission to lead / plan / pave the way. Net zero refers to achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

The government wants to inspire and speed up the shift from intensive to regenerative organic farming, as its agriculture is responsible for most of its pollution.

### **3. Is New Zealand up to the “clean, green” image it advertises? Justify.**

NZ projects this clean and green image to the world. Yet, its greenhouse gas emissions consistently increased from 1990 to 2019.

Although New Zealand’s share of global emissions is small, its gross emissions per person are high.

Plus, New Zealand was asked to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint from its agriculture, its biggest climate polluter.

## Séance 3

A Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm run by a Kiwi<sup>1</sup> looks for agri-tech solutions to global problems. If you are feeling overwhelmed<sup>2</sup> by apocalyptic mid-century climate scenarios, avoidable only if we can radically curb<sup>3</sup> greenhouse gas emissions, consider an even more pressing problem.

By 2050, the world will need to feed 10 billion people. That will require a 70 per cent increase in current food production and a leap forward in innovation as significant as Norman Borlaug's green revolution of the 1950s and 1960s, which massively increased crop yield<sup>4</sup> and is credited with saving hundreds of millions of people in the developing world from starvation<sup>5</sup>.

We will literally have to do more with less, a situation that is fueling an investment boom in cutting edge<sup>6</sup> agri-tech companies – estimated at US\$735 million last year alone by analyst group PitchBook. Now a Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm run by a Kiwi is opening an office in Palmerston North to tap our own agri-tech industry for answers to that existential problem.

"I have a passion for what we can do here. There's a lot of great technology and science that is not being commercialised," says Arama Kukutai, the co-founder of Palo Alto-headquartered Finistere Ventures.

The pioneering agri-tech investor has taken stakes in companies from Ireland to Israel, but also has a strong weighting of New Zealand companies in its portfolio, thanks to Kukutai's roots in Ngaruawahia and long association with the New Zealand agricultural sector. Zeakal, BioLumic and Invert Robotics are among Finistere's local investments, with the company often leading a group of investors who bring international networks and industry links, as well as money to the table.

**Beyond meat substitutes**

Finistere, says Kukutai, is on the hunt for innovations that can disrupt sectors, not 'me too' ideas. That means less of a focus on plant-based meat alternatives, epitomised by the likes of Beyond Meats, which listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange last month, or New



Zealand's own pea protein-based chicken substitute producer SunFed.

"We are looking at novel technology in 'protectable' areas," he says.

"We are doing some work around molecular proteins and in algal protein production. There are algal<sup>7</sup> compounds that have the effect of sweetening. They could be replacements for sugar or synthetic sweeteners."

Another area of focus for Finistere is on technologies to help reduce food waste. US supermarkets alone lose US\$15 billion annually in unsold fruit and vegetables, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

"From field to farm, as well as inside the supply chain, waste is a massive issue," Kukutai says.

Finistere has invested in Danish company Telesense, which uses sensors to monitor the contents of grain elevators, where a year's inventory of food can be stored at any one time.

"When you think about all the inputs that went into producing it, to waste any of it adds another environmental problem. It's another way of addressing food security," says Kukutai.

† Peter Griffin, *How agri-tech innovation in NZ can help solve the world's most pressing problems*, noted.co.nz, 2019

1. citizen of New Zealand 2. submerged 3. reduce  
4. agricultural productivity 5. hunger 6. modern  
7. related to or caused by algae

### 1. Use figures from the text to describe New Zealand's role in the fight against global warming.

- 2050 and 10 billion: the estimated number of people who will live on earth in 2050. This means that the planet will have **to provide** food for 10 billion people.
- 70%: it's how much more food the world will have to provide its citizens.
- 1950s and 1960s: period when a massive revolution took place concerning **cropped food**.
- US\$735 million last year: the estimated amount of money spent on innovative technologies concerning food production.
- US\$15 billion: **cost of food waste** each year in the US.

### 2. List how New Zealand companies are trying to innovate to protect the environment.

- Some companies are trying to use **synthetic sweeteners** from algal compounds to replace sugar.
- Some companies are specializing in **waste reduction**.
- They have created a technology that controls grain elevators.

### 3. Explain how food waste is being addressed in your own words. Give examples from the text.

- They store food so as not to throw it away. They can keep uneaten food for a whole year.
- They try **to produce** less so as to avoid food waste.