

amenities as public trash and recycling cans in Tioga-Nicetown. Moreover, the air quality is some of the worst in the city, with the SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) bus depot contributing.

Transportation is another issue. Tioga-Nicetown has Broad Street Line stops and the Wayne Junction Regional Rail station. But the subway is beyond walking distance for many, and the Regional Rail's suburban routes are of little value to the almost 60 % of residents who work within the city.

Tioga-Nicetown's troubles are equally plain to see and hear. In August, bullets whizzed through the streets during a midday gun battle that injured six police officers. In the wake of the shooting, neighbors described feeling unsafe and ignored.

Definitely, ghetto problems that are so common in the USA are to be solved not only in a particular area, like Tioga-Nicetown, but in the whole country. After the number of ghettos is reduced, crime and poverty rate, as well as unemployment will be decreased. Somehow there should be taken not only short-terms decisions, but also long-term solutions, including first of all fundamental changes that can come only from within the black community: a reduction in the number of kids born to single, usually poor, women and the change of people's attitude.

## **E. Волкова**

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE FIJI ISLANDS

Fiji is an island nation that is situated in the South Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago of 333 islands which are quite unique in their own way. The Fiji archipelago is surrounded by a coral reef, shallow lagoons and steep drop-offs featuring a fantastic variety of colorful soft corals, over 1,200 species of fish, and a dozen species of whales and dolphins. Fiji is a migratory pathway and breeding ground for whales – Fiji's EEZ became a whaling sanctuary in 2003. There are more than 100 species of birds in Fiji and there are several small islands with nature reserves protecting the unique birds. It is also home to 5 of the world's 7 marine turtle species and 3 kinds of sea snakes. Fiji is home to more than 2,000 local plant species, many of which have medicinal uses. Because of the mountainous nature of the islands, there are numerous streams and waterfalls.

Fiji faces some of the most devastating consequences of extreme weather patterns. Global warming has been linked to the large injection of anthropogenic emissions of Greenhouse Gases into the atmosphere, resulting in an imbalance in the world's climate system. Observations reveal that the earth is getting warmer and mean global temperature keeps on rising annually. According to Fiji's National Climate Change Policy, global sea level will rise by a meter by 2100. The rapid rise in sea levels and the resulting saltwater intrusion have made some parts of the island nation uninhabitable. Warmer temperatures increase the island's susceptibility to deadly food- and water-borne diseases. Experts believe that the

growing intensity of Tropical Cyclones represents one of the biggest threats to sustainable development. Cyclone Winston ravaged Fiji, destroying homes, uprooting families and inflicting serious damage on the nation's sugar crop, a foundation of the Fijian economy, in February 2016. With winds recorded at 185 miles per hour and gusts up to 200 miles per hour, Cyclone Winston took its place as Fiji's worst recorded natural disaster and the strongest storm to ever to make landfall in the Southern Hemisphere. Damages from the storm totalled an estimated \$1,4 billion, which represents more than a third of Fiji's GDP.

There is a comprehensive list of 125 interventions to strengthen the climate resilience of Fiji. This includes recommended investments in critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, jetties, schools and hospitals, water and electricity supplies, as well as investments in agriculture and coastal protection. What is more Australia and New Zealand promised another \$336 million to fight climate change. In order to at least maintain the rate of temperature growth at current levels, scientists propose a total plantation of the planet with forests. At the same time, geoengineering may be a real option to prevent global warming. Geoengineering is an artificial method of thermoregulation of the planet. To reduce the penetration of sunlight into the Earth, scientists suggest spraying sulfur dioxide and sea water in the lower atmosphere. There are as yet no large-scale technologies available that would make it possible to create an air fleet of spray aircraft that can form a reflective layer in the atmosphere.

If nothing significant is done to stop the destruction of the Fiji Islands, the island nation may be wiped off the face of the Earth in the near future.

**К. Ганжа, К. Барановская**

#### US-MEXICO DRUG TRAFFICKING: THE ENDLESS BATTLE TO STOP

The distribution and elimination of drugs is a very serious and widespread problem. The authorities of all countries are aware of the existence of such a problem, but they can not do anything, because powerful mafias are behind this business. Since 2012, the number of traffickers in U.S. borders has steadily increased from 364,768 to nearly 500,000 in 2014. From 2012 to 2015 the U.S. Border Patrol has seized thousands or even millions kilos of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine. Now these numbers have doubled or tripled.

The leading country among delivers is Mexico. Mexican organizations have established drug transportation and distribution expansive networks along the U.S.-Mexico border in South Texas to supply drug distributors in every state in the country. The coastal borders of the USA are secondary channels. Despite the high volume of seizures, drugs are still finding their way across.

**Trafficking methods** include buying private old aircrafts to move product by way of bodypacking or through drug mules forced into service. Smuggling tunnels (underground method) are dug around the world. There are more than