

Goal of Approach:

Protect, expand and manage water resources on low lying coral atolls against slow onset of sea level rise..

Input provided by: Strategic National Policy Unit and the Kiribati Adaptation Program, Office of the President, Kiribati

Main elements of the implementation strategy

The main elements of the implementation strategy are to:

- *Perform complete assessment of the aged water distribution system starting from the extraction to circulation to the delivery to the final consumer with the latest estimates indicating a complete overall on at least 50% of the system.*
- *provide foreshore protection mainly for major civil infrastructure that in turn provide protection to the water lenses this is done using combinations of concrete and soft measures*
- *provide an enabling environment for the general public to increase water catchment capacity.*
- *Another soft approach is to encourage people to practice water conservation as water will never be abundant except for the occasional rain showers that overflow the limited number of water catchments on the islands.*

Targeted beneficiaries

The targeted beneficiaries are the whole Kiribati population however preparatory works for the supporting infrastructure is ongoing and main beneficiaries to these preparatory works are:

- Office of Te Beretitenti/The Office of the President (OB) who were strengthened in capacity to coordinate and manage climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Line Ministries, particularly: Ministry of Public Works and Utilities (MPWU); Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD); Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED); Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA); Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD); Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS)) who received on-the-job training and TA in design solutions and adaptation measures.

Local development partners will be:

- Civil society notably local NGOs and the National Council of Churches who have benefited from capacity building sessions and viewed as vital partners to perform community engagement aspects of climate change adaptation;
- The private sector, particularly local consultants and contractors who will benefit through business opportunities for consultancy services and small works funded under the Project

Key benefits from the ongoing work preparatory work are knowledge gained and local capacity as well as infrastructure to assist people to become:

- *Resilient communities in terms of water requirements.*
- *Enhanced preparedness through reducing risk associated with droughts and salination of ground water sources*
- *Aware of targeted investments aimed at climate proofing developments*

Any significant lessons learned

- From the first Kiribati Adaptation Program, it was realized that the capacity and infrastructure building for the support services required is vital for the success of the project.
- Community participation and ownership is vital to ensure sustainability and relevance of interventions undertaken
- A balance of 'hard' physical investments and 'soft' behavior change and natural resource management solutions is a must
- Focus on integrating adaptation investments into national economic planning and preparation of sectoral plans and budgets for mainstreaming implementation

Resource requirements

including information/data needs, capacity needs and financial resources

- Financial resources for sustainability and expansion of projects to cover all islands in Kiribati
- Capacity building and strengthening both at institutional and national level.
- Data acquisition, management and sharing

Potential for replication or scaling-up

- KAP achievements are currently being replicated by subsequent phases of the programme including new programmes in the area of water resource extraction, management and protection.
- The programme as set ground work upon which future interventions that would see the scaling up of the interventions at a national level.

Any additional information

The 2000 World Bank Regional Economic Report estimated that by 2050 up to 25-54 % of areas in Bikenibeu, South Tarawa and 55-80 % of Buariki, North Tarawa, could become inundated. Extreme weather events associated with climate change and sea level rise could also severely affect the main Tarawa groundwater lens which supports approximately 50% of Kiribati population.

By 2050, if no adaptation measures are undertaken, Kiribati could face economic damages due to climate change and sea level rise of US\$8-\$16 million a year, equivalent to 17-34 percent of its 1998 GDP (WB 2000). To address these rising risks, the Government of Kiribati is undertaking an Adaptation Program, supported by the World Bank, the Global Environmental Facility, the Global fund for Disaster Risk Reduction and bilateral donors.

The Kiribati Adaptation Project was designed for implementation in three phases. Phase I involves preparation and identification of priority pilot investments for Phase II. The second phase of the project focused on pilot implementation and where water resources protection is one of the two key pilot components of the program. The program has just started its third phase and will focus on expanding and replicating pilot investments implemented in the second phase.

The program in its second phase was aimed supporting measures that reduce Kiribati's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and sea level rise by raising awareness of climate change. Its specific objective however, was to develop and demonstrate the systematic diagnosis of climate-related problems and the design and implementation of cost-effective adaptation measures. As such the focus was on the country's most vulnerable sectors in the most highly populated areas and includes Initiatives such as improving water supply management in and around Tarawa.