

GEF – National Capacity Self-Assessment



Stock-take and Thematic Assessment Report

United Nations Convention to Biological Diversity



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LIST OF ACRONYMS.

Conservation International	CI
Conservation of Biological Diversity	CBD
Clearing House Mechanism	CHM
Crop Regional Organization Partnership	CROP
Environment and Conservation Division	ECD
Environment Youth Club	EYC
Food Agricultural Organization	FAO
Global Environment Facility	GEF
Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	K-NBSAP
Marine Protected Area	MPA
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development.	MELAD
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development	MFMRD
Ministry Operational Plans	MOP
National Development Strategies	NDS
National Economic Planning Office	NEPO
Phoenix Islands Protected Area	PIPA
Non Government Organizations	NGOs
Participatory and Learning Actions	PLA
Protected Area	PA
South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission	SOPAC
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	SPREP
United Nation Development Programme	UNDP
University of the South Pacific	USP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A very big thank you is given to members of the Steering Committee and Technical Team of NBSAP Add-On project (*names in annex 1*) for their invaluable contributions, and assistance during the execution of NBSAP Add-On project activities, especially for the planning of community consultations on the outer islands that provides invaluable data and information for the assessment of capacity building needs in Kiribati.

I wish also to thank the Chief Councilors, Clerk to Councils, unimwane and people on the islands of Butaritari, Nonouti, Nikunau and Kiritimati in the Line Group for their continuous support and active participation in all consultative programmes organized on their respective islands.

For the completion of questionnaires and short researches conducted on Teinainano Urban Council I would like to thank the following persons and government institutions for their continuous collaborative support to the project.

NGO (KANGO Secretariat)

Research and Public Awareness Section - MFMRD

Local Government Department – MISA

Women Interest Section (AMAK) - MISA

Kiribati Tourism Bureau – MCTT

Department of Consumers - MCIC

Curriculum Development and Resource Centre – MEYSD

Youth and Sport Department – MEYSD

Agricultural Development Division – MELAD

Environment and Conservation Division – MELAD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction.

The government of the Republic of Kiribati has recently secured funds from Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) project. The overall aim of NCSA is “to provide countries with the opportunity to articulate their own capacity needs and priorities with respects to the global environment, taking into account the three global conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation.” The implementing county is not bound to focus strictly on the three specified global conventions of biodiversity, climate change and desertification or land degradation. The country may wish to focus on one of the three thematic areas. Kiribati chooses to exclusively focus on the three thematic areas known as Rio Conventions - biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

On completion of the NCSA, the government of Kiribati will be able to identify priorities and needs for capacity building relevant to the protection of global national and local environment more effectively. The report may also contain important data and information for future development of national economy and livelihood of the people.

The United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity.(UNCBD)

The government of Kiribati ratified the UNCBD on August 16th 1994. As a party to this legally binding treaty, Kiribati has committed itself to undertake national and international measures to achieve the three major objectives of the convention; the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its component and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources,

Up to date, Kiribati has undertaken the following UNCBD projects in relation to the conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources; North Tarawa Conservation Area under the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Program SPBCP, the Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-NBSAP), the K-NBSAP Add-On and the National Biodiversity Framework under a new legal instrument, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Biodiversity Conservation in Kiribati.

The biodiversity in this context means all terrestrial and marine ecosystems, all plants and animal species and varieties found in these ecosystems including the knowledge, usages, beliefs and language that the people of Kiribati have in relation to their ecosystems and species. Conservation of biodiversity is always considered along with sustainable use.

As a nation with very limited resources we just cannot afford to sit back and let this serious degradation continues. “Now is the time to act” as someone said. If the biodiversity in Kiribati is not conserved or used on a sustainable basis, and if traditional conservation management and the knowledge and relevant language are not maintained

or strengthened, then forms of modern development by themselves may prove inadequate to sustain the people in the long term. (*North Tarawa Conservation Area, PPD, p.5*) It is the users and owners of the resource at the community level who hold the long-lasting key to biodiversity conservation

Status of Biodiversity Conservation in Kiribati.

Generally speaking conservation biodiversity in Kiribati has been seriously degraded in many ways, through human activities, absence of adequate management/policy for the conservation of biodiversity and other numerous detrimental factors to a pristine biodiversity of Kiribati. Biodiversity conservation always linked with sustainable use of biological resources and if the biodiversity of Kiribati is not conserved or used on a sustainable basis and if traditional conservation practices, the knowledge and relevant language are not maintained, modern development may prove by themselves inadequate to sustain the people in the long term. Conservation of biodiversity is considered

NCSA Specific Objectives.

NCSA has been mandated to undertake specific activities to accomplish GEF overall aim which is “to provide countries with opportunity to take the lead in articulating their own capacity needs and priorities with respect to global environment.....” To expand over the given aim of GEF the NCSA has developed the following specific objectives as guidance to the requirement of UNCBD:

- ❖ To identify, confirm or review priority issues for action within the thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation respectively.
- ❖ To explore related capacity needs within and across the three thematic areas.
- ❖ To catalyze targeted and coordinated action and requests for future external funding and assistance; and
- ❖ To link country action to the broader national environmental management and sustainable development framework.

Process and tools used.

It is through series of community consultations conducted during the implementation of NBSAP Add-On project that information and data for stock-take are collected, using the following tools:

Grassroots Level.

- ❖ Follow up island workshops.
- ❖ Open discussions held in mwaneabas
- ❖ Household surveys (randoming)
- ❖ Constructive interviews with selected members of the community (male/female) with outstanding traditional knowledge in conservation practices.)

National Level.

- ❖ Series of national workshops (attended by representatives of registered organizations and key stakeholders on each island.

- ❖ Group discussions.

Government Ministers Level.

- ❖ Workshops/Seminar with Members of Parliament.
- ❖ Open discussion on certain topics related to conservation.

Even though the above consultations are for the implementation of NBSAP Add-On most finding and results are quite relevant to UNCBD thematic assessment of NCSA. These findings were reviewed and assessed for their relevancy at the first NCSA workshop late in 2006.

Important Environment Issues.

The thematic assessment analysis indicates the following problems as important issues for developing capacity building relevant for implementing UNCBD requirements.

- (i) Limited Environment management Planning at the national levels
- (ii) Lack information on biodiversity in Kiribati
- (iii) Less use of traditional conservation practices on the island.
- (iv) Loss of ecosystems and species.
- (v) Drastic change of lifestyle mainly on the capital of Tarawa and Kiritimati.
- (vi) Lack of cooperation from local communities and between different sectors
- (vii) Lack of Research on Biodiversity status in Kiribati.
- (viii) Insufficient public awareness programmes.
- (ix) Absence of appropriate legislation on biodiversity conservation.
- (x) Ineffective traditional marine tenure system.
- (xi) Steady increased number of population.
- (xii) Insufficient funds for marine research
- (xiii) Unaware of adverse impacts of human activities on environment.
- (xiv) Dependent heavily on imported foodstuff and other commodities.

Partnership in the Process of NCSA.

As a participatory process NCSA has been highly consultative in nature, the process of collecting information and data is based on NBSAP Add-On project which is guided by NBSAP Steering Committee a multi-disciplinary body that comprises of representatives from different stakeholders. The group includes all government ministries, churches, NGOs through the Kiribati Association of Non Government Organization (KANGO), Youth Organizations, Women Organizations, Sport Clubs, Fishermen Associations and Farmers. Their participation and attendance in meetings and field assignments even though it is not encouraging, some of them are very attentive and should be commented for that.

Recommendations.

The following recommendations are based on environmental issues being identified and are most relevant for meeting the need to improve capacity building on the protection of biological diversity and global environment as required under the UNCBD.

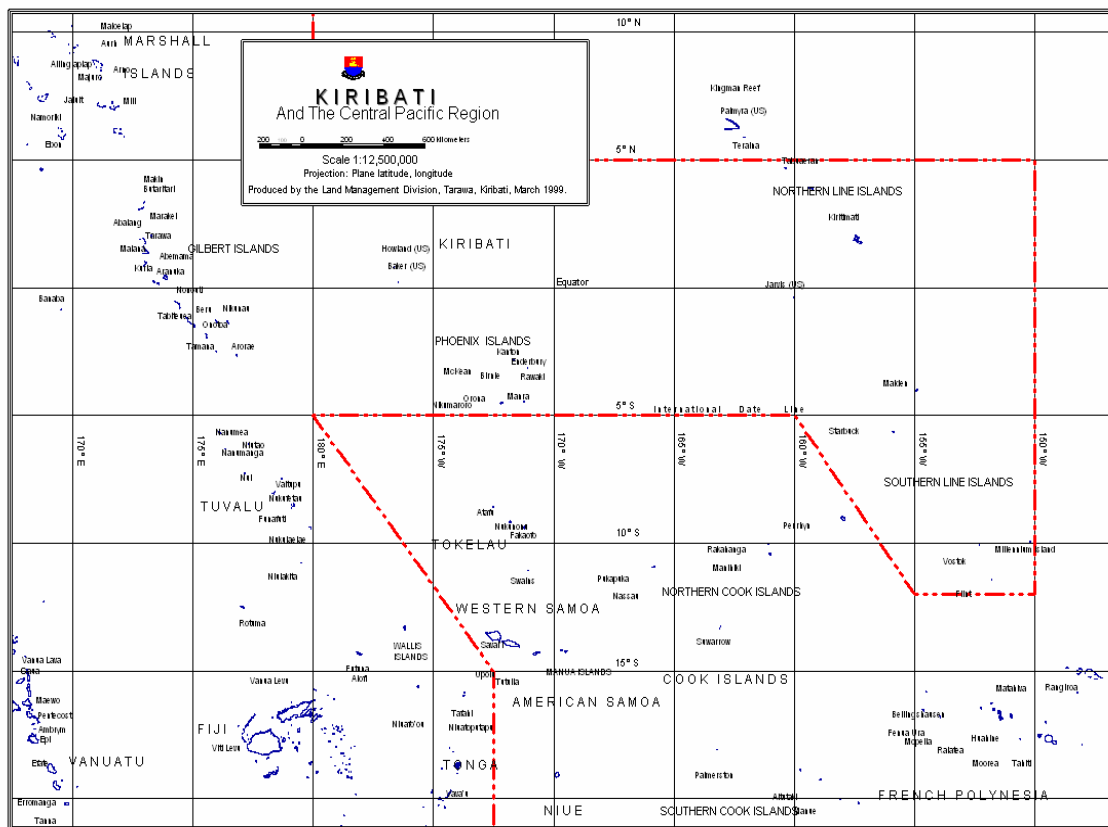
- ❖ Review and revise existing legislative framework on the protection of global and national environment.
- ❖ Establish conservation areas and marine protected areas in the island.
- ❖ Produce sufficient booklet, fact sheets, posters and newspapers on regular basis as an ongoing activity to maintain high level of capacity building in all levels of capacity.
- ❖ Disseminate educational material to all levels of education throughout the country.
- ❖ Improve methods of reaching out to the local community – public awareness raising campaign.
- ❖ Training for those working under the UNCBD program
- ❖ Maintain flow of sufficient financial resources for continuous improvement of capacity building.
- ❖ Integration of traditional conservation practices
- ❖ Undertake more comprehensive scientific research on the biodiversity of Kiribati and species, marine and on land.

1:0 INTRODUCTION.

1:1 National Context.

Take a pencil and follow a 00 degree line, (latitude) on the world atlas to the centre of the Pacific Ocean, there lies astride the equator a group of islands known as the Republic of Kiribati. It consists of 33 islands scattered over an ocean area of some 13 millions km². (*North Tarawa Conservation Area Project Document. Government of Kiribati 1995*) The total land area is only 822.8 km².

Map 1: Kiribati in the Central Pacific.



Source: Land Management Department, MELAD, Bairiki, 2006

All islands are of true atolls with reefs and islets that encircle or partly encircle lagoons, and reef islands, with no lagoons. Banaba is exceptional as it is the only uplifted phosphorous limestone island in the group.

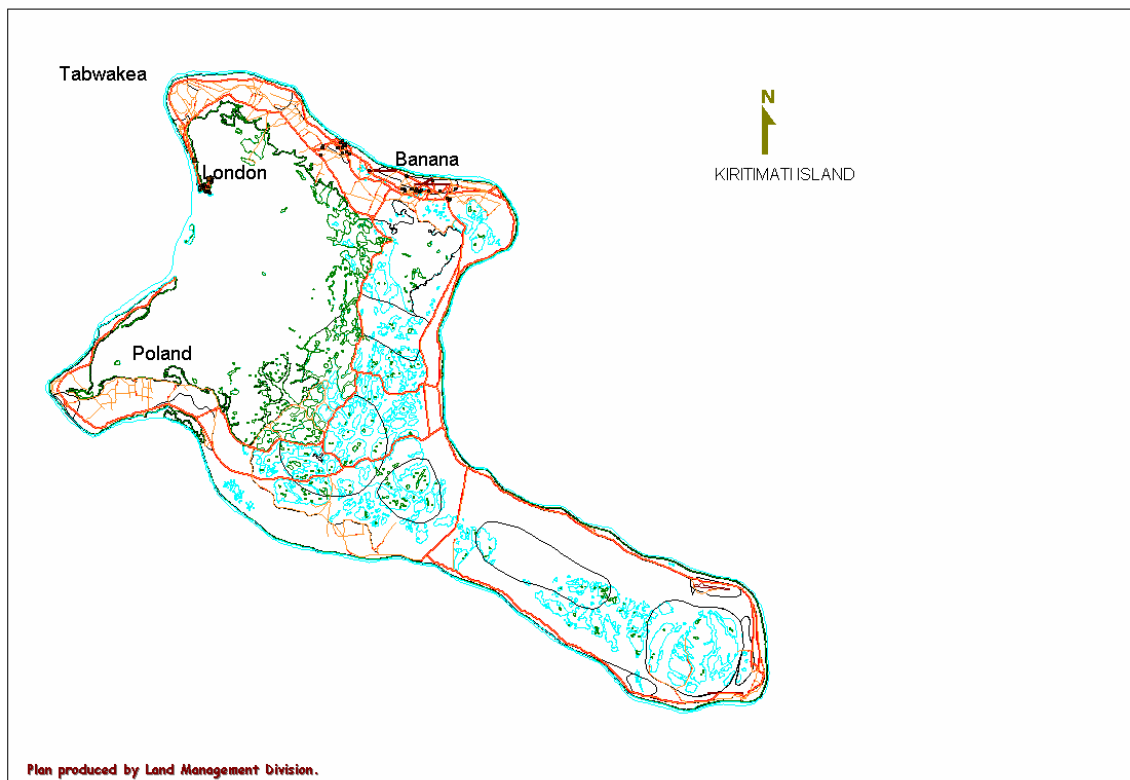
Due to the infertility of soil Kiribati has limited natural resources of commercial economic importance except for some marine products such as *Echeuma* seaweed, *Beche-de-mer* or sea cucumber, Sharkfin and Aquarium fish. Coconut products, mainly

copra and handcraft have traditionally been important export by value since the British Administration. Attempts to encourage private sectors develop market orientation of the economy have had limited success.

The extended family system that encompasses every near and distance relatives of one family unit contributes tremendously to the benefit sharing practices and livelihood of the people. All lands are customary owned and traditional marine tenure was abolished during the British Administration, based on the assumption that every place covered by sea belongs to the crown.

The role of **unimwane (elders)** in the mwaneaba (meeting house) is still highly respected and considered paramount. The introduction of Local Government Act of 1984, which provides for the establishment of local government through a system of Island Council on the islands is seemingly either supersede the role of elders or work harmoniously with **unimwane** in keeping peace and order on the islands.

Map 2: Kiritimati Island



1:2 Kiribati and the UNCBD

The Government of Kiribati has become a member by ratifying the UNCBD on August 16th 1994. The UNCBD operational focal point is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development. (MELAD). There are

two committees established to coordinate UNCDB related program, the Steering Committee, and the Technical Advisory Team.

1:3 The NCSA and other GEF funded projects in Kiribati

The National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) provided assistance to Kiribati for the production of self-assessment of capacity building needs in Kiribati. It is funded by GEF through UNDP, the Implementing-Agency in Suva. The project is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Land and Agricultural Development, the national Focal Point and implementing ministry of NCSA programme in Kiribati.

The primary goal of NCSA is **“to identify through a country-driven consultative process, priorities and needs for capacity building to protect the global environment”** This, is based on the overall aim of GEF that is **“to provide countries with opportunity to take the lead in articulating their own capacity needs and priorities with respect to the global environment.”**

1.4 The Three Rio Conventions.

Among other countries that have been given the opportunity to participate in this program (NCSA) Kiribati has also taken NCSA on board and is currently implementing the three Rio Conventions under which considerable discussion and activities have taken place to facilitate strategic planning and reporting and strengthen capacities in countries to comply with the respective obligations under each convention. The three Rio Conventions are known as: the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

1.4.1 United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity

(i) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. (NBSAP)

Under the UNCBD (GEF) Enabling Activity program Kiribati received fund for the initial NBSAP project in 1998 with an aim to undertake preliminary assessment on biological diversity. There were no in-depth assessments that have been undertaken, to determine the actual contributions of biological diversity to the livelihoods of the people and economy of the country.

(ii) National Biodiversity Framework (NBF)

Also, under the UNCBD (GEF) Kiribati ratified the Cartagena Protocol on 20th April 2004. As a signatory to the Protocol, Kiribati is able to secure financial assistance to undertake the National Biosafety Framework (NBF) project. This is also externally funded by GEF through United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The project completed in April 2006

(iii) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Add-On (NBSAP Add-On)

As a signatory to the CBD, Kiribati is obliged to undertake certain activities recommended by the COPs and fulfill objectives of the convention that are relevant to Kiribati. With the NBSAP Add-On project, the Kiribati government secured funds from GEF under the Enabling Activities programme. The main objectives of the project are: - (a) to assist the Government of Kiribati in assessing capacity building needs for specific priorities necessary to protect national biodiversity in accordance with NBSAP recommendations and the GEF and CoP/CBD guidelines. (b) to implement a country driven Clearing House Mechanism

In 2003 Kiribati, secured additional funds from GEF under the biodiversity enabling activities programme. The objective of the project is to assist the government of Kiribati to assess the needs for capacity building in relation to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and equal benefit sharing. In doing this the government of Kiribati has identified its priorities and seek to undertake activities that are inline with the guidelines for Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activities.

(iv) The Country Driven Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)

The Country driven Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) is another component of the NBSAP Add-On project. The main goal of the Country driven CHM is to facilitate access to and exchange information concerning the Convention on Biological Diversity with more specific concern on sustainable use and benefit-sharing of biological resources The program started in August 2003 and expected to run for 24 months, it is now reaching the final stage of completion.

The following objectives are set to ensure a successful achievement of the overall goal of CHM in Kiribati.

- ❖ To raise awareness and public understanding on the Convention of Biological Diversity and the significance to biodiversity issues that is specific to Kiribati.
- ❖ To establish a national biodiversity information system that will provide reliable and accurate information on Kiribati's biodiversity. This information system will provide the basis for sound decision making in respect to national conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity.

The government of Kiribati recognized that a considerable amount of biodiversity related researches and surveys have been conducted in previous years by different foreign agencies. There are a number of reports and findings being produced as result of these researches and surveys, unfortunately, this information scattered among various agencies and offices of government in Kiribati. The national Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) will provide means of collecting and disseminating the information more effectively.

1.4.2 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

(i) National Adaptation Programme of Action.

Kiribati signed the Convention on 13th June 1992 and become a party by ratifying the Convention on 07th February 1995.

The ultimate objective of the Convention as stated in Article 2 is “..... to achieve stabilization of green house gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within the time frame sufficient to allow ecosystem to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed to a sustainable manner.”

With the UNFCCC Kiribati has also secured funds to fund for the provision of program and plans for acclimatization on the national level, through implementation of the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) which has been completed.

1.4.3 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

(i) Land Degradation.

Kiribati becomes party to the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in June 1998. The overall objective of this convention is “to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of draught in countries experiencing serious draught, through effective actions at all levels supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangementswith a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas”

To achieve this objective Kiribati is currently focusing on Land Degradation component of the UNCCD project. Land Degradation is one of the major environmental problems in Kiribati. Land Degradation in this context is realization of changes to the environment, severity of climatic variation impacts on the natural resources, impacts from pollution and wastes and unsustainable human development.

1.5 Review of UNCBD Kiribati’s Implementation.

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati in recognizing the important contributions of biodiversity to sustain the livelihood of the people in the last two to three thousands of years has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994. As a party to the Convention, Kiribati has certain obligations and commitments to comply with, as a way forward to meet its obligations under the UNCBD.

It is through its membership to the Convention that Kiribati is able to secure financial assistance from Global Environment Facility (GEF) to undertake certain projects that are

geared towards meeting Kiribati's obligations under the convention and as required by the Conference of the Parties.

Enlisted in the diagram presented below are some related UNCBD projects being funded by Global Environment Facility, the major funded project under this program is the Kiribati-National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Diagram 1. Review of UNCBD Kiribati's Implementation.

<u>Implementation Year.</u>	<u>UNCBD Projects.</u>
1992	The United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the 1992 United Nation Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro.
1994	Kiribati ratified the Convention on 16 th . August 1994.
1995	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme started at North Tarawa Conservation Area as a pilot project..
1998	The Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan project was approved and implementation started.
1999	Initial National Communication is completed
2000	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan endorsed by Cabinet.
2002	(i) Additional Funding for NBSAP approved (ii) CHM Established as a link to TSKL
2003	(i) Start Implementation of NBSAP Add-On Project. (ii) National Biosafety Framework (NBF) project started.
2005	NBF project completed.
2006	NBSAP Add-On project completed.

2.0 NCSA METHODOLOGY.

2.1 NCSA Objectives.

The primary goal of the NCSA is to identify priorities and needs for capacity building to protect the global as well as the national environment through a country-driven consultative process. The NCSA has more specific objectives to be accomplished and these include:

- ❖ To identify, confirm or review priority issues for action within the thematic areas of biodiversity, climate changes and desertification/land degradation, respectively:
- ❖ To explore related capacity needs within and across the three thematic areas:
- ❖ To catalyse targeted and co-ordinated action and requests for future external funding and assistance; and
- ❖ To link country action to the broader national environmental management and sustainable development framework.

What is therefore expected from NCSA on completion of its operational process is a document that outlines priority issues, capacity constraints and opportunities for capacity building for each thematic area of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

The following diagram outlines the main steps being taken in the process that are relevant to NCSA for UNCBD thematic assessment.

2.2 Main Steps and Specific Tasks used in the process.

Table 1. Main Steps used in the process. (refer annex I for further information)

Main Steps.	Tasks.
1. Inception- a planning, and preparatory meeting.	1.1 Selection of Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Team.
2. Maintain high level support	2.1 Meetings with MPs and Senior Government Officers and consultation with regional agencies.
3. Identification of requirements, priorities, and important COP's decisions.	This is done through consultations and literature review on the CBD obligations and CoP requirements
4. Literature review.	Literature review on previous reports and studies being made on the biodiversity of Kiribati.
5. Community Consultations.	By ways of action workshop, household survey, and constructed interviews.
6. Write up stock take and thematic assessment report.	Follow guideline provided for the writing of the final report and as required by the Committee.

2.3 Stock-take and Thematic Assessment.

The Stock-take exercise is an essential element of NCSA, it provides reliable basis for the capacity building assessment and sets guidelines for discussion and debate at the level of decision makers. The stock-take is not limited to high profile consultations and reports only, it covers a wide range of approach from grassroots people to official government sources. It also includes information available from Regional /International organizations and Universities

The Stock-take and Thematic Assessment component of NCSA are based on the outcomes and findings of the various national and follow-up Participatory and Learning Actions (PLA) workshops, community consultations and capacity assessment based surveys undertaken in four selected islands, three (3) in the Gilbert group, namely Butaritari in the Northern District, Nonouti in the central District and Nikunau in the Southern District. Kiritimati island represents the Line and Phoenix Group. The participatory surveys and constructed interviews undertaken served as the basis of the biodiversity inventory and capacity assessment for the two levels of capacity – “*institutional and individual*”. A series of National workshop organized on Tarawa and Kiritimati provides baseline for capacity assessment at “*systemic level*” A more specific approach in respect to stock–take and capacity assessment is brainstorming a list of main problems that affect biodiversity conservation in Kiribati, main gaps exists in current policy and management of biodiversity conservation at the institutional level. Household survey contributed substantially to the stock-take and capacity assessment at individual level.

All problems and issues referred are exacerbated in the limiting natural environmental factors such as small landmasses, periodic droughts, water scarcity and water salinity, soil impoverishment, poor and endangered plants and animals at the national level.(*K-NBSAP Report*)

2.4. Cross – Cutting Assessment.

The Cross-cutting Assessment is one of the NCSA aspects that focus on issues that cut across the three Rio Conventions known as Cross-Cutting issues. The underlined objective of the Cross-Cutting Assessment is to identify opportunities for cooperation and synergies across the three conventions.

The cross cutting analysis identify capacity constraints that affecting all three Conventions in different levels of cross-cutting assessment such as;

- Cross-cutting requirements under the convention
- Cross-cutting capacity constraints
- Cross-cutting capacity needs
- Cross-cutting opportunities
- Cross-cutting natural resource management problems.

The cross-cutting assessment will provide information on

- Constraints to meeting cross-cutting requirements:
- Cross-cutting capacity constraints and;
- Cross-cutting capacity development opportunities.

2.5. Action Plan.

This is the most important component of the National Capacity Self Assessment project. The Action Plan is the vehicle for ensuring that there is a follow-up to NCSA process and more importantly it mobilizes specific support to specific follow-up activities

The most important aspect of the Action Plan is to turn the results of earlier assessments into programmable, realistic, bankable actions that will be fully supported straight after the assessment. Some activities in the Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP) require lesser expenses or even no cost needed while some would be costly and need immediate implementation. A well documented and presented project document in this case would assist attracting foreign donors to sponsor.

The Cross-Cutting Assessment and Action Plan are included in stage two of NCSA procedure, and shall be discussed in more detail in the later part of this report.

3.0 STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN PROGRAMME AND CONSERVATION RELATED ISSUES.

3.1 Stakeholders involved.

The main objective of K-NBSAP Add-On project is to assist the government of Kiribati in assessing capacity building needs for specific priorities necessary to protect national biodiversity. As a community based project, a number of stakeholders, government and NGOs are very supportive to the K-NBSAP project undertaking. The assessment of capacity building needs has been done through series of community workshops as stated earlier, constructive interviews, household surveys, peer group discussions and the use of pre-prepared questionnaires, at the local community level. At the national level there were four workshops organized. Participants of national workshops were selected from all recognized organizations and key stakeholders on each island in the Gilbert Group, the Phoenix and Line Group.

For the purpose of NCSA a pre-prepared questionnaire is distributed to people resided on Betio and Teinainano Urban Council at higher and lower level position in government companies, institutions, private sectors and business people. Even though the response is not very encouraging, some very useful comments are received and are included as additional to major finding from K-NBSAP Add-On..

A complete list of stakeholders actively involved with implementation of K-NBSAP Add-On and NCSA project are annexed to this report as Annex 2.

3.2 NBSAP and NCSA

Data and information used in the stock-take and thematic assessment processes are based on results and findings collected during implementation of the NBSAP Add-On project, which has two main objectives to accomplished:

- ❖ to assist the Government of Kiribati in assessing capacity building needs for specific priorities necessary for the protection of national biodiversity in accordance with the NBSAP recommendations and GEF and CoP/CBD, and
- ❖ to implement a country-driven Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).

The NBSAP Add-On project is based mainly on a consultative approach. This is done through series of workshops organized on national and local levels. As mentioned earlier in this report, the selection of venues for island workshops is based on the islands geographical location, the island formation whether it is a reef island or island with lagoon and different weather pattern on each island selected through out the year. The islands selected as venues for community consultations are:

- (i) **Butaritari**, at the far north end of the Gilbert group representing the wettest and more luxuriant islands in the group. Butaritari has a deep lagoon encircled with rich barrier reef that provide home for all marine species on the island.
- (ii) **Nonouti**, represents much more drier islands in central. Unlike the island of Butaritari, Nonouti has low range of annual rainfall and is lesser luxuriant than the wettest island in the north. The numerous reef patches in the lagoon provide significant habitat for all marine animals. Noumatong islet at the western side of the lagoon is a nesting place for several sea bird species, such as Brown noddy, (*arious stolidus*) Brown booby, (*sula leucogaster*) White tern, (*Gygis alba*) Lesser frigatebird, (*Fregata ariel*) Great frigatebird, (*Fregata minor*) Black-naped tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) and Sooty tern. (*Sterna fuscata*)
- (iii) **Nikunau** Island represents the southern group of island and non-lagoonal formation. There is no lagoon and the island is surrounded with barrier reef that provides natural protection of the island from storm surf and tidal waves. The average annual rainfall for most of the southern islands is in the range of about 1000 mm, almost one third of the average rainfall in the north. The terrestrial vegetation on the island is limited to relic stands of inland forest. This includes culturally associated vegetations such as coconut-palm trees, giant swamp taro, pandanut trees and other variable vegetation, used for house constructions, canoe building hand craft and curving.
- (iv) The island of **Kiritimati** represents the Line Island in the far eastern group of the Republic of Kiribati. Kiritimati is the largest atoll in the Pacific with a

total land area of 388 sq km. A number of closed areas have been designated as bird sanctuaries used for the protection of 25 species of sea-birds, residential and migrants. There are also marine protected areas being designated specifically for game-fishing, the sites are closed for commercial fishing and individual daily consumption.

3.3 Conservation Related Issues.

The following table illustrates main environment issues as being identified during the participatory learning and action workshops, national workshops, community consultations, previously conducted as major components of the NBSAP Add-On capacity building needs assessment. The issues are associated with conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity in relation to biodiversity degradation. As tabulated, the issues are cross-referenced to the convention obligations, root causes and needs are also illustrated.

Table 2. Issues associated with conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity, their causes, and needs.

Issues	Obligations	Root Causes.	Needs
1. Limited Environment management planning at the national level	Article 6 (a) and (b) General measure for conservation and sustainable use-Develop national strategies and plan	Lack of appropriate legal instruments to support designated conservation areas for the environment and biodiversity	Improve provisions on biodiversity conservation in the current Environment Act 1999
2. Limited information on biodiversity in Kiribati.	Article 17 paragraph 1-2 Exchange of Information. Information from all publicly available sources	Less scientific researches and studies being undertaken on the biodiversity in Kiribati	In-depth scientific researches and studies on Kiribati biodiversity
3. Loss of traditional conservation practices on the islands.	Article 16, paragraph 5. Access to and transfer of technology. Patents and other intellectual property be recognized and used during implementation of Convention.	Less understanding and appreciation of the importance of traditional conservation practices.	On-going public awareness based on the importance of traditional conservation mechanisms
4. Loss of culturally and commercially important plants species.	Article 18, paragraph 4 Technical and scientific cooperation Develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies.	Lack of incentives for replanting plants/trees species by local communities. Limited appreciation of economic and cultural values of terrestrial atoll resource.	Improve traditional skills of cultivation, through training workshops and production of written materials.
5. Decrease abundance and availability of native plants/trees that are important for traditional medicine purposes.	Article 19 paragraph 1. Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits. Participating in biotechnological research activities	Clearance of sites for new development projects without incentive to replacing the felled trees and uprooted plants.	Include replant of trees and plants as conditional activities in any approved consents for large project development.

6. Severity of coastal erosion	Article 14. (b) and (e), Ensure that environment and biodiversity stay health and safe from any adverse impact of programmes and even policies.	Causeway construction Boat channel construction. Encroachment of reclaimed area to extend land space for residential purposes.	Construct more culverts on existing causeways. Seek for alternative causeway designs as well as seawalls
7. Insufficient and limited water supply especially on Tarawa and Kiritimati	Cross-cutting issue, related with Land Degradations and climate Changes..	Inexistence of large rainwater catchments. Less underground water reservoirs Population increase.	Establish large rain catchments and more underground water reservoirs. Decrease birth rate in Kiribati.
8. Loss of ecosystems and species.	Article 8 (a) In-situ Conservation. Establish a system of protected areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity.	Increase logging for firewood and construction of houses, airfields and playgrounds.	Enhance the knowledge of local communities on the importance of land and marine ecosystems
9. Increase number of endangered species in the wild especially on Kiritimati	Article 8 (d) and (h) In-situ Conservation. Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings.	Insufficient enforcement of closed areas designated for wildlife sanctuaries. Increase numbers of stray animals on Kiritimati Increase numbers of new invader species on the island.	Develop appropriate and effective measures for the protection of designated areas. Strict control over temporary settlement (nomadic type of settlement) for copra cutting on Kiritimati. Impose more effective control measures over increasing urban drifts to Tarawa and Kiritimati..
10 High level of pollution in the lagoon and underground water.	Cross cutting issue related to Land degradation	Change circulation of sea in the lagoon. (causeways) Unavailability of public convenience (toilet facilities) Use the lagoon as a dumping place for unsorted rubbish.	Construct more culverts on existing causeways. Develop more appropriate PLAs and awareness campaign on minimization of waste
11. Drastic change of lifestyle mainly on Tarawa.	Article 10 (c – e) Sustainable use of components of biological diversity .Encourage cooperation between governmental authorities and private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources	People rely more on imported foodstuff clothing and entertainment Increase of Exposure to the outside world and adoption of foreign influences.	Integration of traditional cultures into new introduced scientific practices on conservation and sustainable use of resources.
12 Lack of co-operation from local communities.	Article 13. (a) Public Education and awareness. Promote and encourage understanding of and the measures required for the conservation of biological	Less understanding of the importance of conservation and sustainable use. Less involvement of local	Enhance the knowledge of the local communities on the importance of land and marine ecosystems.

	diversity and inclusion of these topics in educational programmes.	communities in the process.	Delegate more responsibilities to local communities.
13. Depletion of marine resources	Article 9: © Ex-situ Conservation. Adopt measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitat.	Over-exploitation of inshore fisheries and shell fish Over-exploitation of significant marine ecosystems – mangroves, coral reefs and sea-grass beds particularly in South Tarawa. Over-harvesting of certain marine species such as giant clams (<i>tridacna maxima</i>) sardine(<i>sardinella</i>) and the ark-shell (<i>anadara antiquate</i>) Excess by-catch that are not needed.	Develop more infrastructures for culturing depleted marine resources. Introduce legal control over harvesting marine resources. Introduce by-catch policy in Kiribati waters and limitation of catch size.
14. High cost of traveling to outer islands	Cross-cutting issue related to all three conventions of Rio.	Scattered ness of islands and irregular scheduled of transportation.	Improve means of transportations and introduce regular schedule
15. Vulnerability to obliteration by long term sea level rise.	More related to UNFCCC.	The islands are flat coral and most vulnerable to a long term sea level rise	Need to adapt ourselves to the situation and consider look for further options.
16 Salinity of the water-lens and prolonged draught	More related to UNFCCC.	Severe coastal erosion and inundation during high tides and strong winds.	Protect coastal ecosystems and natural habitats of marine and coastal animals.
17. Continuous rainfall during dry season coupled with a shift in weather patterns.	More related to UNFCCC	Climate change and green house gases	Enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol and actively participate in the implementation of its requirements
18. Decrease of vegetation and loss of some culturally important trees	Article 14 (e) Impact assessment and minimizing adverse Impacts. Promote national arrangements for emergency responses to activities which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity.	Rapid urbanization and increased squatters settlement, especially on Kiritimati.	Encourage replanting of trees and rehabilitation of wildlife animals and endangered species.
19. Delayed accomplishment of assigned obligation.	Article 20 (a) Financial Resources. Provide financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention.	Insufficient budgetary allocation and lack of capacity building	Increase budget for conservation of biodiversity and enhance capacity of the people employed under the Convention.
20. Increased number of invasive alien species in the country	Article 9 (d) Regulate and manage collection of biological resources from natural habitat for ex-situ	Inadequate control over the introduction of such species.	Need appropriate legal framework and resilient enforcement.

	conservation purposes.		
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4.0 PRIORITY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS AND EXPERIENCES IN ADDRESSING THEM.

4.1 Priority Environmental Issues.

The tool used for setting priorities in this undertaking includes workshops and mini-workshops conducted on the outer islands and National workshops on Tarawa during the implementation of NBSAB Add-On project. The technical working group pre-select possible set of priorities, present it, normally at the last day of the workshop and seeking for the participatory consensus of the participants who give final approval and justification. The following environmental Issues are listed according to their priority as set out through participatory process.

With the following Biodiversity Prioritization matrix, three criteria are applied to measure prioritization of each issue, scale of problem, level of concern and the ability to adequately address the issue and finally ranking

Table 3: Biodiversity Prioritization Matrix

Num ber	Issue	Scale of problem*	Level of Concern*	Ability to adequately address issue*	Priority Ranking*
1	The need for measures to conserve habitats and ecosystems in and outside their natural environment.	N	H	L	1
2	Incorporate existing conservation regulations into one act of law and develop byelaws pertaining protection of natural resources.	L	H	M	3
3	Measures for the collection of reliable data and information and effective dissemination of information to communities.	N	H	M	4
4	A strong need for intergration of traditional practices and new science and management tools over the conservation, protection and management of biological diversity on land and at sea.	T	H	H	5
5	Identify areas/component of biological diversity that are important for conservation and sustainable use.	N	M	H	4
6	Enforcement of control over importation of alien species to Kiribati and eradication of invasive species,	T	M	M	3

	invaders that have settled down on the islands.				
7	Enhancement of community understanding of the importance of conservation of island biodiversity.	L	H	M	4
8	Restoration of customary ownership over certain reef patches in the lagoon and deep sea.	L	M	H	5
9	Incorporation of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity within the National Development Strategies	N	H	H	3
10	A need to develop appropriate legal instrument to support designated specific areas for biodiversity conservation (both on land and at sea)	N	H	M	1
11	A need to regulate the use of destructive fishing methods and practices that have implications on marine environment and resources	N/L	M	M	2
12	There is a strong need to enhance the capacity of local governments to be able to undertake other required responsibilities from all sectors of government - (Fisheries, Agriculture, Environment and etc)	N/L	H	M	1
13	Restoration of degraded ecosystem and recovering of threatened species	L	H	H	2
14	Impose restrictions on the use of agricultural fertilizers to enhance soil for agricultural productivity, due to possibility of creating agricultural runoff to sea and freshwater lens underneath resulting in water pollution.	T	M	H	1
15	Maintain continuity of traditional knowledge systems and lifestyle.	L	H	H	2
16	The need to improve the ability and confidence of primary school teachers to use resource materials effectively in environmental education	N/G	M	M	3
17	Formulation of appropriate management policy for environment and workable plan for future development.	N	H	H	5
18	Need to improve public awareness and production of appropriate resource material for use in schools at different levels.	N	H	L	2
19	Revival of communal systems for making decision under the revival of the “mwaneaba” systems for managing the resources.	L	H	M	4

20	Need to include sufficient budget for conservation undertakings in the government budgetary allocation.	N	M	M	2
21	Establish Conservation areas and marine reserves on the islands.	L	H	L	1

Key: *For “scale” enter L = Local, N = National, T=trans-boundary or G =Global

*For “level” and “ability” enter L = low, M = medium or H=high

*Provide relative ranking from 1 to 5 of the problem(s) being faced by the country (1=most severe problem(s), 2=second severe problem(s). The same ranking can be given to different issues where appropriate.

(The format is adopted from NCSA: A Resource Kit. Chapter 2, page 30.)

4.2 Obligations of UNCBD.

.As a contracting party of the UNCBD and in pursuant of the main objectives of the Convention, Kiribati is obliged to undertake certain obligations as consistent as possible to the requirements of the Conference of the Parties. The following table illustrates UN CBD obligations and requirements by the Conference of the Parties based on the following objectives of the UNCBD; the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Some of these requirements need further extension of a set timeframe.

Table 4. UNCBD Obligations.

Requirements of the Parties	CBD Obligations
National and regional action plans.	General measure for conservation and sustainable use Article 6 (a), (b)-Develop national strategies and plan
Identify component of biodiversity important for conservation and monitor their potential conservation	Identification and monitoring-Article 7(a, b, c, d)-identify components of biological diversity suitable for conservation and sustainable use.
Establish a system of protected areas that need special measures.	Identification and monitoring Article 8 (a, b, d, e,-in connection to Article 8 to 10
Regulate biological resource significant for the conservation.	In-situ conservation Article 8-(c, j, k,-)Regulate the use of biological resources important for the conservation.
Management strategies for the recovery of species.	In-situ conservation Article 8 (f, g, l,)-Restoration of degraded ecosystems.
Alien Species (eliminate/control)	In-situ conservation Article 8(h)-Eradication of alien species.
Public participation	Ex-situ conservation Article 9 (e)-Provision of financial support, national and overseas.
Maintain facilities for conservation/research.	Ex-situ Conservation Article 9 (b)-Maintenance of research facilities on plants, animal and micro-organism
Training	Research and Training Article 12 (a) & (b)-Maintain programs for scientific and technical education for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

Public Education	Public Education and awareness Article 13 (a & b)- Encourage understanding of the importance of and the measures required for the conservation of biological diversity
Environmental Impact Assessment	Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impact- Article 14: 1 (a – e) Procedures requiring EIA
Information exchange/intellectual properties.	Exchange of Information. Article 17 (para 1-2)- Information from all publicly available sources
Clearing house for technical information	Technical and scientific cooperation Article 18 (para: 1- 5) Establish Clearing House mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.
Reports	Reports Article 26 Each contracting Party shall.....present to the Conference of the Parties reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this convention.

4.3 Experiences in addressing the issues.

The initial K-NBSAP project has identified priorities, strategies and action plan in relation to the conservation of biodiversity in Kiribati. With a revised strategy and action plan under the additional funding of K-NBSAP the following issues are considered more relevant for capacity building needs assessment.

4.3.1 Inadequate implementation of general measures for conservation within and outside natural habitat and sustainable use of the natural resource. (CBD Article 6, 8, 9,)

- Inevitably, there are quite few people within the community and government institutions with relevant skills in managing protected areas, marine and terrestrial.
- As with the National Development Strategy, protected areas are not considered for their potential contribution to the national economy. The absence of budgetary allocation for the establishment of protected sites also reflects its low-profile consideration at the national level.
- The absence of workable plan to improve management of protected areas in the country prevents effective implementation of general measures for conservation within and outside natural habitat and environment.
- Lack of coordinated approach toward the implementation of general measures for conservation. It is vitally important at this stage to identify and assess capacity building needs to ensure a more coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation.

Outstanding Work.: Establish Conservation Areas on the island

4.3.2 Inappropriate methodologies applied to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to biodiversity component (CBD Article 14 a - e)

- Minimal study and research has been undertaken to identify and assess gaps in existing methodologies currently used for conservation implementation. Unfortunately, reports and results of these studies are not given proper archival treatment as they should have.
- With the unavailability of appropriate data and information on biodiversity the grassroots people would not be able to understand the importance of biodiversity conservation and thus increase more specific threats to certain component of biodiversity.
- With reference to capacity building program detailed recommendations for on going actions to enhance capacity of grassroots people is needed with more specific attentions to the kind of methodologies used to minimize adverse impacts on biodiversity.
- Identify training and awareness raising needs for grassroots people, key stakeholders in local communities, Conservation personnel and Environment officers is vital. Reaching out to high ranked people in the community such as government Ministers and Members of Parliament and Old people is highly recommended.

Outstanding Work: Evaluate and mitigate specific threats to biodiversity.

4.3.3 Preservation of biodiversity related knowledge of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyle. (CBD Article 8 (j))

- The indigenous people and local communities have shifted tremendously from subsistence to cash economy and hence neglect the importance of traditional conservation practices, innovations and knowledge with which they have survived since the arrival of the first settlers on these atoll.
- For many generations these traditional practices, innovation and knowledge are the most effective measures for traditional biodiversity conservation. They have been passed on from generation to generation through oral traditions. The shift from subsistence to cash economy in modern lifestyle brings to fade the significant importance of traditional conservation practices, innovation and knowledge.
- It is important to assess measures for capacity building that will ensure the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge practices and innovations significant to biodiversity conservation.
- There is an urgent need to maintain the potential role of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations through existing conservation initiatives, which are managed through the traditional systems

Outstanding Work: Preserve traditional Conservation knowledge.

4.3.4 The National Bio-safety Framework. (NBF) (Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety)

- As a relatively new issue to most people in Kiribati, there is a need for more effective public awareness raising programme through whatever media is available. This will certainly enhance capacity building of local communities.
- The main goal of NBF is to formulate actions and legal framework necessary for addressing bio-safety issues in the national and international levels. The public is expected to assist with the formulation of appropriate actions and legal framework of NBF.
- NBF contributes tremendously to the protection of biodiversity and provides long term safety for sustainable use of whatever resource available from time to time. Additional allocation in the national annual budget is required for the implementation of NBF.
- It is considered vitally important to develop/enhance capacity of the general public on National Bio-Safety issues, advantages and disadvantages.

Outstanding Work: Arrange for on-going public awareness program on NBF and conservation of biological diversity.

4.3.5 Management of Undisturbed habitats and species.

- High ranked decision makers do not have sufficient data and information of possible designated areas, habitats and special species that have global value. This is due to insufficient public awareness campaign and unavailability of written information. Arrange for more frequent meetings, seminars and even face to face confrontation with Members of Parliament, Secretaries, managers and those involved in making decision.
- Data and information should be published and disseminated to rightful recipients, individual, organizations, schools at different levels, churches and even grassroots people in villages.
- Cooperation and collaboration with other relevant sectors in this context is important, working harmoniously with a specialized group of experts is an advantage, the main challenge here is to seek for potential donors to provide budget for implementation.

Outstanding Work: Provide Protection measures for the natural habitat and ecosystems

4.3.6. Establish Marine Protected Areas on the island.

- Restore traditional marine tenure which was banned by the British Administration during the Colonial Period
- Organize suitable Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) programme for local communities with focal emphasis on conservation and protection management of biological diversity in Kiribati.
- There is a need to control the collection and harvesting of marine and terrestrial endangered/rare species.

Outstanding Work : Regulate, where appropriate the use of harmful techniques for harvesting and collection of any biological resources.

4.3.7 Complete Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) for biodiversity conservation.

- To establish a national biodiversity information system that will provide reliable and accurate information on biodiversity in Kiribati.
- A considerable amount of biodiversity related researches and surveys have been undertaken in the past by different agencies. These have resulted in abundant important information on biodiversity. Unfortunately, this information is scattered among various agencies in Kiribati.
- The biodiversity database will provide all necessary information required for the effective and efficient implementation of the CHM

Outstanding Work: Conduct in-depth scientific field survey on status of biodiversity and literature review on previous reports and studies on biodiversity in Kiribati.

4.4 Overview of Progress and Achievement.

Looking over the Progress and Achievement of Government of Kiribati commitment to implement UNCBD obligations it is noticeable that there are some ups and downs happening during the implementation timeframe on certain obligations. The following table demonstrates the existing level of capacity building as reflected in the progress column included. The “needs” column illustrates possible proposal to be taken on board for developing capacity building necessary for the implementation of the convention requirements.

Table 5. Overview of Progress and Achievement.

CBD Obligations	Progress.	Needs
General measure for conservation and sustainable use. Article 6 (a), (b)- Develop national strategies and plan.	The Revised Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity conservation completed.	Endorsement by Cabinet before enacted.

Identification and monitoring. Article 7(a, b, c, d)- identify components of biological diversity suitable for conservation and sustainable use.	This is partly accomplished. Inventory compilation is done as part of NBSAP Add-On project.	More in -depth scientific research is required to complete this obligation
Identification and monitoring. Article 8 (a, b, d, e,-)in connection to Article 8 to 10 Establish a system of protected areas that need special measures to be taken to conserve biological diversity, develop guidelines for the selection of conservation areas.	Partly accomplished - Some areas has been identified but not yet officially designated. -There is no management policy available and local people do not understand the importance of protected areas.	There is a great need of legal framework and management policy related to conservation.. Local communities need on going PLA programs.
In-situ conservation. Article 8-(c, j, k,-)Regulate biological resources important for the conservation. within or outside protected areas.	Partly accomplished. Most regulations currently enforced are part of Wildlife and Marine Resources Acts. No provision specifically address conservation.	There a need here for an act that covers all main components of conservation and protection of national and global environment.
In-situ conservation. Article 8 (f, g, l,)-Restoration of degraded ecosystems, and recovery of species.	Not being addressed. -There is no strategy in place at the time of the assessment.	Comprehensive scientific research/study is needed
In-situ conservation. Article 8(h)-Eradication of alien species.	Very little is being done, - it is on and off activities, mostly done on voluntary basis.	Sufficient budget is needed and on going public awareness campaign developed
Ex-situ conservation. Article 9 (e)- Cooperate in providing financial support for the establishment and maintenance of conservation facilities in developing countries.	Not being addressed. - Conservation is not a priority by many.	Need of financial and human resources and . establish reserve fund mechanism (Trust Fund) for conservation on the island.
Ex-situ Conservation. Article 9 (b)-Maintenance of research facilities on plants, animal and micro-organism	Not being addressed, -no facility being established -Lack of capacity building to maintain facility	Need to establish facility for conservation and research and archival policy for secure keeping of the record.
Research and Training. Article 12 (a) & (b)-Maintain programs for scientific and technical education for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its component.	This is on-going.	Need to focus more on people working under the Convention from time to time. -need sufficient funds for training activities, formal and informal
Public Education and awareness Article 13 (a & b)- Encourage understanding of the importance of and the measures required for the conservation of biological diversity	The public awareness program is an on going activity and should continue.	Sufficient financial support and availability of suitable material are needed. It is vital that the public is well versed with relevant information of biodiversity conservation and other related issues.
Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts on the environment- Article 14: 1 (a – e) Introduce appropriate procedures requiring EIA and ensure that its program and policies are duly taken.	This is done at administrative level, policy and legal back up are in place, but outcome is sometimes not up to it.	Need more enforcement of the existing regulation, increase number of Environment Inspectors and review the existing regulation

Exchange of Information. Article 17 (para 1-2)-Information from all publicly available sources including intellectual property that are relevant to the conservation of biological diversity, and promote cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts.	Partly addressed due to lack of information and data. Exchange with outside world is not an issue. It is on the national level that poses more problems due to scattered ness of the islands and lack of information on indigenous conservation knowledge.	Need sufficient budget to support exchange activities, collection of indigenous knowledge and conduct in-depth scientific research.
Technical and scientific cooperation Article 18 (para: 1- 5) Establish Clearing House mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use.	Partly addressed, the program has been established but still pending for the hosting company (TSKL) to put it on.	Need more explanation to the company concerned for an urgent need for the CHM.
Reports Article 26-Each Contracting Party shall.....present to the Conference of the Parties reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this convention.	Partly done, due to a long delayed completion of project, frequent changes of project personnel and lack of report writing capacity.	In country training on report writing is needed. This is applied to all workers engaged with writing report as required under the Convention. Improve coordination measures between all sectors concerned.

4.5 The three levels of Capacity Building.

The section contains list of requirements under the Convention, result of stock analysis that leads up to a complete understanding of the capacity needs, constraints and opportunities. The list of requirements and obligations are already provided in *Table 2* above. The table provided hereunder displays capacity constraints under three levels of capacity at systemic, institutional and individual levels, based on environmental issues identified earlier.

Table 6; Capacity Building Levels.

Issues	Individual Level	Institutional Level	Systemic Level
1. Ineffective management of designated protected areas	Lack of participation in management process	Lack of community oriented conservation mechanisms at the local communities.	Limited environment management planning at the national level.
2. Incapability of local community councils to carry out their responsibilities	Limited technical human resources to deal effectively with marine and terrestrial resources	Local communities do not have adequate capacity to operate marine reserve areas, and conservation areas, they rely heavily on national government.	Limited capacity of local government in outer islands to undertake other required responsibilities from government sectors.
3. Lack of knowledge by the local communities on the importance	Very little is known by members of the community on the important of all living	Lack of information sharing and dissemination to wider community by targeted representative of	Limited means of transportation between islands. Reaching out to the local community is

of living resource.	resources in Kiribati	local communities (grassroots people)	very costly and time consuming.
4. Insufficient community support to government initiatives related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	Limited public understanding on the significance of biodiversity. Lack of accountability for the effects of one's action on the environment	Insufficient community supports towards national government initiatives on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	Non-inclusion of environmental science as an examinable subject under the Common Entrance Examination. Lack of appropriate resource materials on the environment, in some non-government schools, environmental material is almost nothing
5. Heavy dependence on imported food stuffs resulted with discontinuity of traditional practices/skill.	Heavily dependent on imported foodstuffs. Discontinuity traditional systems due to changing lifestyle	Loss of cultural values, for example; dancing practice, undervalue of traditional foods over imported foodstuffs traditional skills and knowledge.	Traditional conservation practices and knowledge have been narrowly focused on certain species that are culturally significant to society – turtle and others as totems..
6. Loss of biodiversity and degradation of the natural environment	Attitude problem towards biodiversity resources as reflected in negative behaviours resulting in loss of biodiversity and degradation of the natural environment.	Lack of cooperation from local communities	Lack of cooperation between government Ministries, divisions and department..
7. Inundation of low areas of land along the coastline during storm surge of very high tide.	Land clearing through careless burning or cutting of vegetation.	Inundation of low areas of land along the coastline during storm surge of very high tide.	Isolation and fragmentation nature of the islands.
8. The “who cares” attitude toward a fragile environment.	Less understanding by individual on the importance of environment and conservation of biodiversity.		Lack of appropriate legal instrument to support designated areas for biodiversity conservation on land and at sea.
9. Uncontained solid waste disposal contaminating coastal zone and freshwater lens			Absence of well designed sites for disposal and proper treatment of this type of waste.
10. Frequent use of destructive methods of fishing	People concentrated on short term benefit and less consideration of sharing with future generations.		Absence of regulation on the use of certain destructive fishing technique.
11. Coastal erosion due to poorly designed seawalls	Construction of reclaimed areas on coastal line.	Construct boat passages and causeways for easy access.	

and causeways.			
12. High increase rate of population.	Strong belief against Family Planning	Lack of institutional support to family planning campaign.	
13. Limited cooperation and co-management between national government and local communities .		Lack of cooperation from local communities, the information pose contradiction to traditional ownership over land and marine resources.	

5.0 OUTSTANDING WORK TO ADDRESS PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ISSUES AND CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS.

5.1 Important Capacity issues, gaps and actions.

Following on from the three levels of capacity building stated above a number of gaps are identified and critically translated into actions to address major issues of capacity as tabulated below. The list also illustrates links between capacity issues and requirements of the Convention, the existing gaps, main causes or capacity barriers, and proposed actions to address issues. The issues are

Table 7. Capacity issues, gaps and actions.

Important Capacity Issues.	Requirements.	Capacity Needs	Capacity Barrier	Capacity Opportunities	Proposed action for Addressing issues.
1. Limited Collaboration between sectors.	Article 10 (e) Encourage cooperation between governmental authority and private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources	Need to visit people on regular basis, running training workshop for key stakeholders on the island.	Scattered ness and isolation of islands coupled with high traveling cost.	Full involvement of stakeholders in planning and implementation	Improve collaboration among relevant national governments and relevant CROP agencies.
2. Limited data and information	Article 17shall facilitate the exchange of information.....	Produce and disseminate more information to local communities	Absence of comprehensive research undertaken on biological resources in Kiribati.	Develop Clearing House Mechanisms on scientific information of biodiversity.	Improve and enhance knowledge and understanding on the status of biological diversity among different sectors of society and the general public.
3. Insufficient public awareness campaign.	Article 13: Public education and awareness	Arrange for display of more effective public awareness campaigns.	High cost of the media available in the country.	Media training for those working under the convention and search for aid funds from funding agencies.	Develop biodiversity outreach program to meet different levels and needs of the general public.
4. Inadequate human and funding resources	Article 10: para.1&2 Financial resources.	Increase budgetary allocation for conservation..	Insufficient budget provisions for conservation in the annual recurrent budget.	Search for aid donors and writing of project document.	Increase national budgetary allocation to fund for the protection and management of biodiversity

5. Absence of appropriate legal framework and policies in relation to biodiversity conservation in Kiribati.	Article 6 (a): General measures for conservation and sustainable use	There's need for a well designed legal framework aimed to the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use	Inadequate enforcement of environment act and policing/control of activities with adverse impact on the environment	Review and revise existing regulations for the protection of biodiversity and environment.	Enforce and enact an environment legislation that allows for the protection of species, viable populations and associated habitats of ecological, natural heritage and cultural significance
6. Limited training opportunity for staff members working under the convention.	Article 12 (a) Research and Training	There is a special need to develop training program for scientific and technical education for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	Limited budgetary allocation for training and capacity building enhancement	Search for courses available at higher level education, tertiary and university programs.	Identify and provide appropriate capacity building programs to local experts, who are working in the field of biodiversity protection.
7. Incorporate all planned activities relevant for implementing general measures of the convention in the Ministry Operational Plan (MOP)	Article 9 (a) Ex-situ conservation.	Collaborative implementation of both the Ministry Operational Plan and obligations under the Convention is vital for enhancing capacity building.	This is given a low priority status in the National Development Strategy.	Look for technical training opportunities in relation to conservation of biological resources	Ensure that any strategic plan set for biodiversity conservation are incorporated in a National Development Strategy
8. Transfer and combination of intellectual property with modern conservation technology.	Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology,	Restoration of traditional conservation practices and use them along with modern conservation technology.	Change of lifestyle from traditional subsistence to cash economy	Encourage research on traditional conservation practices.	Develop and restore the use of intellectual property along with modern conservation practices.

5.2 Priority of National Capacity Building Issues and Convention Obligations.

Analysis of thematic assessment identifies the following national capacity building issues and the Convention related obligations

Table 7: National Capacity Building Issues.

1. Enhance knowledge of people on the importance of conservation areas and protection policy.	Article 8 (f), (g), (l) In-situ conservation.
2. Improve incentives of the people working with the island council on the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity.	Article 11. Adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological resources.
3. Develop human capacity within local communities to address conservation of biodiversity	Article 13 (b) Develop educational and public awareness program.
4. Increase training opportunities on the importance of biodiversity conservation	Article 13 (a) Encourage understanding of the importance of conservation of biological diversity.
5. Regulate the use of destructive methods of harvesting/fishing.	Article 9 (d) Regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
6. Encourage the use of family planning to control population increase on a small land mass	Article 14 (b) Introduce appropriate arrangements to ensure that the environmental consequences of its programs and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account.
7. Maintain the use of indigenous knowledge systems and associated biodiversity conservation among young generations.	Article 16: (5) Access to and transfer of technology including important reports and intellectual property.
8. Develop method of translating foreign technical terminologies and concepts currently intervene with the local daily used vocabulary.	Article 18 (para:4) This is central to all aspects of implementation of the conventions, all activities should be in vernacular otherwise people would not be

<p>9. Unavailability of sustainable financial mechanisms for the protection and management of biological diversity.</p> <p>10. Limited collaborative implementation of convention obligations among relevant groups and organizations.</p>	<p>able to understand.</p> <p>Article 20: (paragraph 1) Financial resources Contracting party to provide financial support to achieve objectives of UNCBD.</p> <p>Article 5 cooperate with other contracting parties locally and internationally.</p>
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5.3 Implementation and/or Capacity gaps

1. Absence of appropriate legal framework in relation to conservation of biodiversity and control over resource use.
2. Non-existence of conservation areas on the island.
3. Non-existence of conservation areas on the island.
4. Undocumented indigenous knowledge systems on biodiversity.
5. Unsustainable financial mechanism for biodiversity management.
6. Loss of natural habitats, ecosystems and certain culturally important species.
7. Lack concern for family planning control.
8. Lack of collaboration among relevant government department and regional/international organizations.
9. Insufficient public awareness raising and training programs.
10. Insufficient vocabulary for translating new environmental terminologies in use.

5.4 Underlying Capacity Development Needs to Address Gaps.

This section provides for the purpose of the Stock-take and Thematic Assessment under the NCSA project, important capacity development needs that are relevant for enhancing capacity building of Kiribati to accomplish its obligation under the UNCBD. The “needs” that are identified in this case are reflections of issues that are specifically related with.

5.4.1 There is a great need of legal framework and management policy for the protection of biodiversity in Kiribati

- Enact and enforce an environment legislation that allows for the protection of species, viable populations and associated habitats of ecological, natural heritage and cultural significance
- Implement general measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation..

5.4.2 There is urgent need of conservation areas on the island and Marine protected areas

- Establish conservation areas at appropriate sites on the island.
- Establish Marine Protected Areas at areas designated by local and fisheries experts.

5.4.3 In-depth scientific research and study is greatly needed on the undocumented indigenous knowledge systems on biodiversity.

- Conduct research into indigenous systems on biodiversity conservation.
- Make available all documents contains indigenous knowledge, roster of experts and produce red book on species.
- Seek assistance and work with relevant CROP agencies to undertake research on alternative commercial resources in Kiribati.

5.4.4 The need of sustainable financial mechanism for biodiversity management.

- Create sustainable financial mechanism for the protection and management of biological diversity
- Increase government budgetary allocation for conservation activities and implementation of convention objects relevant to the National Development Strategy.
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5.4.5 There is a need to enhance knowledge of people on the importance of natural habitats, ecosystems and certain culturally important species.

- Improve and enhance knowledge and understand on status of biodiversity amongst different sectors of society and general public.

5.4.6 Need to actively support family planning control.

- Include family planning as supplementary item to biodiversity public awareness program, concentrating on adverse impacts of increased population on the environment.

5.4.7 Need of collaboration with all relevant government/private sectors and regional/international organizations.

- Maintain collaboration with relevant government organization.

- Seek assistance and work with relevant CROP agencies to undertake research on biodiversity natural resources and to develop maps on important terrestrial and marine habitats.

5.4.8 Need of effective and sufficient public awareness raising and short term training programs.

- Develop more effective public awareness campaign through radio media, newspapers, TVs and registered local drama group.
- Develop national Clearing House Mechanism to host information and data that reflect the status of biological diversity and national environment in Kiribati.

4.5.9 Need to raise efficiency of vocabulary for translating new environmental terminologies in use

- Develop method of translating new environmental terminologies to develop vernacular vocabulary.
- Form up a group of language experts (vernacular) to manage language problems encountered.

6.0 SUMMARY PRIORITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF KIRIBATI (to implement the UNCBD and address biodiversity conservation issues)

6.1 Levels of Capacity.

Table 8 Capacity Levels, Constraints and Opportunities

Capacity Level.	Constraints	Opportunities.
Individual.	<p>Limited training opportunities.</p> <p>Limited information and data for biological diversity conservation.</p> <p>Scattered ness of the islands.</p> <p>Dependency on introduced conservation practices.</p>	<p>Search for training opportunities, locally and overseas</p> <p>Improve production skills of quality resource materials for schools and public.</p> <p>Establish efficient methods of disseminating information and frequent outreach to communities.</p> <p>Encourage uses of traditional conservation practices and integration with modern technology.</p>
Institutional.	<p>Insufficient vocabulary for translating new environmental terminologies.</p>	<p>Establish a recognized group of language experts to develop reliable methods of translating new foreign words into vernacular.</p> <p>Publicize new words for official and</p>

	<p>Insufficient public awareness raising and training campaign.</p> <p>Lack of collaboration between all government and private sectors.</p> <p>Insufficient published data and information on biodiversity/conservation.</p> <p>Limited training opportunities for staff working under the Convention</p>	<p>daily uses.</p> <p>Produce more suitable printed material and disseminate to all level of education and the general public.</p> <p>Establish collaboration with all government and private sectors.</p> <p>Request assistance for in-depth scientific research financial and human resources</p> <p>Search for training opportunity and funding for local and overseas training.</p>
Systemic.	<p>Ineffective public awareness on the conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>Absence and insufficient legal framework and management policy in relation to conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>Limited budget allocation to meet cost of conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Undocumented indigenous knowledge systems on biodiversity</p> <p>Unsustainable financial mechanism for biodiversity conservation management.</p>	<p>Engage some one capable in producing effective public awareness raising programme in the media.</p> <p>Review existing legislation and identify gaps existed with a view to fill in the gaps.</p> <p>Increase budget allocation to meet cost of conservation</p> <p>Conduct research into indigenous knowledge systems on biodiversity conservation, and produce red book on species</p> <p>Seek assistance from CROP agencies for undertaking such in-depth research.</p> <p>Establish Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund.</p> <p>Increase Government budgetary allocation for biodiversity conservation as reflected in the National Development Strategies.</p>

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ANNEXES

Annex: 1

Main Steps and specific Tasks used in the Process.

1. Inception.

(i) The inception took place at Te Mwaea n Tangira mwaneabba on 17 August 2006, Bikenibeu, attended by representatives from all stakeholders including government ministries, communities, ngos, businessmen and private sectors .

(ii) Selection of Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Team-comprises of representatives from all key stakeholders and local consultants.

(iii). Meeting with National Project Coordinator (NPC) and Director of Environment and Conservation Division.(DECD)

2. High Level Support.

Involve higher officials in all process undertaken even to organize seminar with members of Parliament and workshop with all Chief Councilors.

3. Identification of Requirements, Priorities and Obligations.

This is done through consultations and literature research on the following areas of concern.

3.1 Specific requirements of CBD and important decisions made by COP.

3.2 Priority requirement from Kiribati perspective through literature survey and community consultations.

3.3 Root-causes of main capacity building issues for which the people and government are unable to accomplished obligations under the CBD.

References: *Handbook of the CBD, Earthscan Publication 2001, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Environment and Conservation Division, November 2005, A guide for Self-Assessment of Country Capacity Needs: GEF, September 2001.*

4. Literature review.

In addition to reports and studies being made on the biodiversity of Kiribati the following literature are also consulted:

(i) *The National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS)*

(ii) *North Tarawa Conservation Area Preparatory Project Document*

(III) *Lagoon Management Part two*

5. Community Consultations.

With the consultation step, the NBSAP Add-On project has been fully engaged with community participatory consultations by ways of action workshops, follow up island workshops national workshops, constructive interviews, household survey. People involved are key stakeholders on the outer islands and Tarawa .

It should be noted that most of these consultations were done few months before Kiribati takes NCSA on board.

6. Write Up Stock Take and Thematic Assessment.

Follow guideline provided for the writing of the final report and as required by the Committee.

Annex 2: Names of organizations involved in addressing conservation of biodiversity issues and their roles.

1. Government agencies.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Interest, Position & Official mandate.	Reason for Inclusion	Possible Role
1.1 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD)	As a developer of Marine resource the MFMRD also has mandate to protect marine reserves on the islands	MFMRD is responsible under the current act for establishment of marine protected areas in the country.	Establish marine reserve areas in the country and undertake research of marine species, status of species, number of species available and problems involved
1.2 Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA)	Responsible for island development and welfare of the people.	All development on outer islands should be channeled through MISA prior implementation.	Sit on Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Team. Approve establishment of conservation area at designated sites
1.3. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Development (MEYSD)	Responsible for developing formal and informal education of the young people of Kiribati.	Registered youth organizations are major supporters to environmental important activities	Provide appropriate reading material on conservation of biodiversity and syllabus on biodiversity for use at all level of education in Kiribati
1.4 Ministry of Public Works and Utilities (MPWU)	Has mandate to implement major projects in the country.	Work in collaboration with Environment Impact Assessment at Environment and Conservation Division, MELAD.	Sit as a member and Technical Advisor at meetings of the Technical Team and steering committee.
1.5. Office of the Attorney General (OAG)	Responsible for revision, reviewing and drafting appropriate act when needed.	There is urgent need to revise the existing Environment Act 1999	Review existing act and legislation on conservation of biodiversity, approve bye-laws related to conservation and protection of biodiversity.
1.6 Ministry of Line and Phoenix Islands (MLPI)	As a responsible ministry for the Line and Phoenix Island where most protected areas in the country are located – (Kiritimati and the whole of eight islands in the Phoenix Group)	Implementation of the Phoenix Island Conservation Project is progressing and MLPI should be fully involved in the whole process.	Sit on the Steering committee as a member and Support the Phoenix Island Conservation project.
1.7 Ministry of	MFED is responsible for	Because of the continuous	Speed up the release

Finance & Economic Development (MFED)	all financial transactions and transfer in the country.	and multiple procedural complications particularly in transferring funds of project to the implementing Ministry, it is considered appropriate MFED must be represented at the Steering Committee and also at technical team.	of project funds as timely as possible to prevent further delayed completion of a planned activity.
1.8 Ministry of Communications, Transport & Tourism (MCTT)	MCTT is responsible for the promotion of Tourism in Kiribati particularly Eco-tourism.	Eco-tourism and conservation of biodiversity are inseparable, the success of eco-tourism depends on an healthy and undisturbed biodiversity and so to biodiversity conservation.	Sit on the steering committee as member and promoter of biodiversity conservation at designated sites for eco-tourism.

2 Civil Society Organizations

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Interest, Position & Official mandate.	Reason for Inclusion	Possible Role
2.1 University of the South Pacific. (Atoll Research)	The highest academic learning institution in the country, mandated to promote capacity building in the region.	The institution has been involved with the writing of Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan during the initial NBSAP project.	Provide professional advices on improving capacity building in Kiribati
2.2 Foundation of the People of the South Pacific.	A well known professional organization in the region and world wide on assisting countries on matters	Has been involved with reforestation project , research on mangroves and conservation in general in the country.	Share experiences and knowledge develop capacity of local communities.
2.3 Boys Scout and Girl Guides	The Boy Scout and Girl Guide Organizations have had long term record of existence in Kiribati	Has maintained reputation by willingly offer services on voluntarily basis, (“a good turn”) whenever there is a need.	Sit as members of the Steering Committee and participate in Cleaning Up , replanting/reforestation scheme and other environment programme.
2.4 National Women Federation	An umbrella for all registered women associations in Kiribati.	The National Women Federation in Kiribati is known as one the active strand of any development and .strong supporters for any environment activities	Sit on the Steering Committee to keep a gender balance uplifted and provide input from the perspectives of women

3:3 Communities.

3.1 Church Groups	Recognized church groups in the country	Influential in the community	On going public awareness through school, meetings and training
3.2 Old People Associations	Traditional keeping order and peace mechanism in villages	Most respectful group of people in the community.	Maintain traditional conservation practices that are gradually forgotten.
3.3 Fishermen Organization	Registered fishermen organizations in Kiribati	Regular fishermen for either commercial or daily subsistence	Assist in disseminating information on the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources
3.4. Farmers	Registered farmers association in Kiribati.	Increase varieties of vegetable species and fruit bearing plants in Kiribati	Increase the number of edible vegetable species for commercial and daily consumption
3.5 Women Organization	Registered under the National Women Fellowship	Main producers of handcraft using marine and terrestrial resources.	Teach fellow women how to use resources wisely and sustainable
3.6 Youth Organization	Registered under the National Youth Fellowship	Has been right hand for environmental activities mainly on South Tarawa and Betio.	Reforestation and replanting mangrove where there is a need

4 Scientific and Technical Organizations

The following Organizations have contributed substantially to the establishment of conservation areas in Kiribati either directly or indirectly.

4.1 New England Aquarium	Has been granted permission to undertake survey on the Phoenix island.	The team is capable to undertake thorough scientific research on the Phoenix biodiversity (marine and terrestrial including avifauna)	Provide relevant report to the Government of Kiribati for the establishment of the Phoenix group as a unique rich marine protected area. .
4.2 Conservation International.	Well known mandate for the establishment of conservation areas, provision of technical assistance data and information on biodiversity in the region.	Well recognized organization in the region for it's high level of involvement in establishing many conservation areas throughout the Pacific.	Provide assistance, identifying suitable conservation areas, marine and terrestrial on some island in Kiribati.
4.3 United Nations Development	UNDP an Implementing Agency for GEF Enabling	As a regional controller and manager for GEF	Provides technical assistance to

Programme. (UNDP)	Activities has a mandate to manage all GEF Funded Project including NBSAP Add On Project.	funded projects in Kiribati, UNDP is responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress of projects currently operate in Kiribati	project officers and manages project funds. Keep the project on the right track.
4.4 United Nations Environment Programme	UNEP also channeled funds for some environment related projects in Kiribati such as National Biosafety Framework and PoPs projects	UNEP like UNDP have had long record of operation in the Pacific Region with outstanding excellent reputation of managing funded projects	Provide technical assistance to project officers and manages project funds. Assure that project are on the right track.

6 Regional organizations

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Interest, Position & Official mandate.	Reason for Inclusion	Possible Role
6.1 South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	As a Regional Organization of the Pacific, SPREP has a mandate to seek and provide technical assistance and disseminate information on conservation of island biodiversity	SPREP has the capacity to assist Pacific Island Countries in venturing through new island initiatives that would crystallize the future of these low lying islands	To provide assistance to Kiribati, developing capacity at individual, institutional and systemic level on biodiversity conservation.
6.2 Foundation for the People of the South Pacific, Kiribati.	FSP Kiribati has long record of existence in Kiribati and for the last few years the organization has shown interest in conservation undertaking in Kiribati.	To share experience and knowledge with other stakeholders related to the conservation and management of the resources.	Strengthen and develop capacity building for local communities to protect their environment and national biodiversity

