



PC: MFMRD



NZPPOA - KIRIBATI

QUARTERLY REPORT

MARCH 2019

Prepared by: Research Monitoring Unit, Kiribati's Coastal Fisheries Division-MFMRD
Compiled by: Maria F. Sapatu, NZPPOA Technical Assistant

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ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS

Kiribati's Coastal Fisheries Division (CFD) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD) was tasked with implementing the baseline assessment of NZPPOA pilot site – Nanikaai, Kiribati.

This was follow up work after the Inception Workshop that was held on 23rd-25th January, 2018.

The objective of the assessment was to document the current status of Nanikaai's marine ecosystem.

The baseline assessment was carried out in phases which were;

1. Survey Scoping (January-February 2019)

Marine resources were categorized into corals, seagrass, invertebrates and finfish were considered to be studied, due to their abilities with calcification and rendered as good indicators for Ocean Acidification. Different zones of the site were selected to reflect the diverse habitats and obtain a wide coverage. These zones were (i) inter-tidal – to lower sub-tidal zone, (ii) lagoon, (iii) reef flat and (iv) outer reef slope.

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CORALS

2. Identification of Monitoring Approaches (February 2019)

Six monitoring methods were identified and conducted at Nanikaai site. These were the (i) Coral Point Count with Excel (CPCe), (ii) Distant Underwater Visual Census (D-UVC), (iii) Reef Benthos Transect (RBT) and (iv) Point Intercept of Transect (PIT), (v) Soft Infaunal Quadrat (SIQ) and (vi) Seagrass health assessment.

3. Reporting (February-March 2019)

The Research and Monitoring Unit (RMU) of the Coastal Fisheries Division data collection was then entered into the Reef Fish Integrated Database (RFID-SPC Regional Database) while other datasets were entered to the coral software and excel. All data sets were then validated and analysed for Nanikaai Baseline Assessment report.

CHALLENGES FACED

There were challenges encountered during the implementation of the NZPPOA Marine Baseline Assessment at Nanikaai site.

- The delay in releasing NZPPOA by the Kiribati Ministry of Finance and Economic development also delayed the marine baseline assessment that was planned for early 2019. The funds was received by Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development in February, 2019.
- Transport from the Coastal Fisheries Division to Nanikaai pilot site to conduct PIT and SIQ in shallow habitat was the challenge due to lack of transport on land provision in the budget. However, the provision of a one day hire for outboard boat was utilized for the provision of renting the truck transport
- Bad weather was experienced during the first week of implementing the Nanikaai assessment. This delayed the survey more and the survey in the lagoon and outer reef was suspended till the weather was better.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Acquittal reporting of NZPPOA funds
- Write up report of the Nanikaai Baseline Assessment and report back at NZPPOA workshop in April.
- Outreach program of ocean acidification at Nanikaai communities that will be conducted during the April Workshop.
- Capacity building to Coastal Fisheries Staff on Ocean Acidification monitoring program.
- Collaboration with SPREP on planning adaptation action for Nanikaai.