

National Strategy and International Agreements Review – deliverable 2

REPORT FOR MFMRD



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Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFM	Community-based fisheries management
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMMs	Conservation and Management Measures
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities
EAFM	Ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management
ECD	Environment and Conservation Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GEWD	Gender Equality and Women’s Development
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
ICT	information communication technology

ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture
KDP	Kiribati Development Plan
KJIP	Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan
KPA	Key Priority Areas
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LPIDS	Line and Phoenix Islands Integrated Development Strategy
MCS	Monitoring Control and Surveillance
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MELAD	Ministry of Environment Land and Agricultural Development...
MEP	MacAlister Elliott and Partners Limited
MWYSSA	Ministry of Women, Youth Sports and Social Affairs
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
PIPA	Phoenix Islands Protected Area
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PROP	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program
S.A.M.O.A	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

1. Introduction

The Republic of Kiribati is a nation of 33 atolls and islands spread over 3.5 million km² of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Situated in the northern Line Islands of Kiribati, and over 3000 km from the nation’s capital of Tarawa, is the atoll of Kiritimati which forms the focus of this study. Kiritimati is the world's largest coral atoll by land mass and comprised of over half of the Republic of Kiribati’s total land area¹. Given the isolation of Kiritimati, there is a high reliance on the resources provided by the surrounding reefs and ecosystems for activities such as subsistence fishing, marine aquarium trade exports and sport fishing. The latest (2020) Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)² indicated 21.9 percent of the population lived below the basic needs poverty line, with low levels of employment (particularly for women) and high levels of unemployment being a challenge for most households in Kiribati. The dependency on fisheries resources and challenging socio-economic status features heavily in the Kiribati Development Plan which emphasizes that increasing sustainable returns from fisheries is critical to ensuring inclusive growth and private sector development. Furthermore the ‘vision’ from the Kiribati National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap (2019-2036) is “By 2036, a resilient, healthy, and prosperous Kiribati through sustainable coastal fisheries, underpinned by inclusive, collaborative and innovative approaches between communities and Government”.

1.1 Scope and methodology

Through the ‘Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program’ (PROP), the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD) of the Government of Kiribati, and the World Bank are bolstering the sustainable management of ocean and coastal fisheries. As part of this overarching programme, MEP have been contracted to support the improvement of the ocean economy in Kiritimati by providing a series of fisheries and ocean management plans. The primary objectives of the project are to produce a sport fishing management plan, ocean resources master plan, and review and support implementation of the marine aquarium trade management plan. Aside from this, strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) as a tool to support the effective implementation of the plans features heavily in the assignment, as does the consideration of cross cutting themes such as gender recognition and youth employment.

This specific report forms deliverable two (2) of the consultancy which seeks to provide a high-level review of the island development plans and strategies, associated policy and regional and international agreements. In doing so, the report will establish an understanding of the strategic priorities for Kiribati, and the alignment, or not, with the work being undertaken as part of this consultancy.

The study is desk-based consisting of reviews of various national and international plans, strategies, policies and guiding documents, which are categorised in Table 1 below on a national, regional, and international basis.

Table 1: Documents reviewed as part of the assignment.

National
Kiribati Development Plan 2020 - 2023 ³

Kiribati National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 ⁴
Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016 - 2020 ⁵
The Kiribati Gender Equality and Women’s Development (GEWD Policy) 2019–2022
Sub-national
Line and Phoenix Islands Integrated Development Strategy 2016 – 2036 ⁶
The Phoenix Islands Protected Area Management Plan 2015 -2020 ⁷
Regional
Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries
WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures ⁸
Parties to the Nauru agreement strategic plan 2019-2025 ⁹
The Noumea strategy: A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change. 2015 ¹⁰
2050 Strategy Blue Pacific Continent ¹¹
International
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ¹²
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

For each of the documents reviewed, a summary of the vision/mission statement (or other applicable reference), overview of key objectives or priorities and links to relevant international agreements is provided. Where applicable, the regional context is provided, and the relevance and alignment to MEPs project.

2. National perspectives

2.1 Kiribati development plan 2020-2023

Goals

The Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2020 – 2023 is the second development plan to implement the Kiribati Vision 2020 of a sustainable healthier, wealthier and peaceful nation. There are six (6) Key Priority Areas (KPA) which reflect common issues identified, or referred to as gaps towards desired goals, which include:

1. KPA 1: Harnessing our Human Wealth
2. KPA 2: Growing our Economic Wealth and Leaving No-One Behind
3. KPA 3: Improving our Health
4. KPA 4: Protecting our Environment and Strengthening Resilience
5. KPA 5: Good Governance
6. KPA 6: Developing our Infrastructure.

In setting the six (6) priority areas, Heads of Government Ministries collectively agree to place at the centre of the implementation of the Kiribati Development Plan, the following principles:

- Motivate ourselves and our teams to fully implement the KDP and support the priorities of the KDP;
- Work collaboratively with each other noting that we share a common purpose and that our goals are interrelated;
- Lead by example in all aspects of our responsibilities;
- Elevate serving our people to the top of our priorities;
- Understand the limitations of our financial resources, endeavour to work smarter and achieve more for the same number of resources

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

Central to the development of the plan is that all national indicators were aligned and mapped to the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that the reporting requirements associated with the SDGs were met by the KDP.

In addition, the obligations of Kiribati under certain Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is recognised as a specific strategy under KPA 4 (protecting our Environment and Strengthening Resilience). In particular this seeks to implement national obligations associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement decisions of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP).

Alignment Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

The KDP provides an overarching framework for the development of the Ocean Resources Master Plan (ORMP). KPA 2 (in particular 2.1a) and 4 provide targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relating to spatial planning and percentage of strengthened and improved areas for conservation as well as increasing the contribution of sustainably managed fisheries to GDP. However, missing from this KPA from a policy perspective is the omission of a specific KPI related to the marine environment.

Although of lesser relevance, but which must be considered in the ORMP is KPA 6 (Developing Our Infrastructure) which seeks to improve marine and coastal infrastructure to supports inter-island and international connectivity. This is also an important consideration in the review and revision of the marine aquarium trade management plan owing to the potential link with the export market.

2.2 Kiribati National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036

The Kiribati National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 aims to sustainably manage coastal fisheries and maximize economic returns to Kiribati’s coastal communities. It outlines a vision of “by 2036, a resilient, healthy and prosperous Kiribati through sustainable coastal fisheries

underpinned by inclusive, collaborative and innovative approaches between communities and government”.

Guiding principles

The implementation of the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 is informed by six guiding principles:

1. Recognise women, youth and vulnerable groups’ contributions to coastal fisheries and promote more inclusive management platforms and livelihoods;
2. Recognise diverse users, their roles and responsibilities in coastal fisheries; promote community-based fisheries management (CBFM), co-management, capacity building, motivation and empowerment of communities;
3. Promote and strengthen partnerships and networking across all stakeholders and key players involved in coastal fisheries at the national, sub-national, regional scale and with international partners;
4. Promote ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management (EAFM) to ensure a holistic approach to decision-making processes and the improved management of coastal fisheries;
5. Promote good governance, transparency, accountability, and continually updated best practice in coastal fisheries management and sustainable development;
6. Promote innovation and use of information communication technology (ICT) in the management, monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement (MCS&E) of coastal fisheries.

Key objectives and priorities

The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 outlines four overarching outcomes:

1. **Empowered communities.** Communities are well-equipped, connected and have the capacity to monitor, address, withstand and build adaptive capacity to any changing conditions. These changes may vary in terms of time and scale from acute, immediate, and intense shocks to slow shifts in the environment. Community self-sufficiency means dependence on development aid is reduced, in part by developing a high level of local competence;
2. **Effective and conducive coastal governance.** The governance of coastal zones, designated fisheries, fisheries resources, and stocks are well attended to, coordinated, and supported through CFD programs within the various units functioning at multiple scales with continuous support from international and national partners. The roles of civil society in the management, enforcement of rules and regulations and behaviour change activities are highly integrated and mainstreamed into governance frameworks, which provide for fora for inclusive design and decision-making processes.
3. **Healthy and productive coastal fisheries.** Coastal ecosystems function optimally and provide important ecosystem services despite disturbance under climate change. Economically important species are thriving under responsible harvesting regimes. Resource users understand ecosystem dynamics, connectivity and feedback and recognize the impacts of different practices on coastal resources and ecosystems.

- 4. Vibrant, healthy, wealthy, and responsible people.** Social, economic, political, and physical living environments are conducive to maintaining the betterment of I-Kiribati wellbeing. Basic conditions of economic prosperity, security, sustainable food supply, stability and good health are attained through effective resource management (given the centrality of coastal resources in people’s lives in Kiribati). Across all levels and different scales, people develop a sense of stewardship of the ocean and actively participate in the management of their local fisheries resources for the benefits of all I-Kiribati.

To achieve these objectives, the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap identifies six focal action areas which include;

- Governance
- Information, knowledge, and capacity building
- Coastal fisheries management
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Food security and safety
- Markets

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 provides the framework for implementation of several international instruments:

- **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.** Many of the actions outlined in the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap, including its emphasis on inclusive approaches, empowerment of coastal communities, and the development of small-scale fisheries, contribute to objectives of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In particular, the Code of Conduct’s Article 6.18 states “recognising the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income, and food security, states should appropriately protect the rights of fishers and fish workers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to customary fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction”.
- **FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.** The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap emphasises community-based coastal resource management. Its objectives are strongly aligned with those of the Voluntary Guidelines, including Objective 8 “to contribute to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities and poverty eradication and to improve the socio-economic situation of fisheries and fish workers”.
- **Sustainable Development Goals.** The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap addresses issues of poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, equal opportunities, and sustainable coastal resource utilisation, all of which align with SDG objectives, In particular, SDG 14 addresses the sustainable use of the oceans seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Regional context

The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 provides the framework for Kiribati's implementation of regional principles and commitments to coastal fisheries management, including:

- **The Noumea strategy: A new song for coastal fisheries.** The vision of the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap aligns with the vision outlined in the Noumea Strategy of “sustainable well-managed inshore fisheries, underpinned by community-based approaches that provide food security and long-term economic, social and ecological benefits to our communities”. Furthermore, it contributes to the regional outcomes outlined in the Noumea Strategy of (i) improved wellbeing of coastal communities; and (ii) productive and healthy ecosystems and fish stocks.
- **Future of Fisheries: A regional roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries 2015.** This regional roadmap anticipates a 10-year timeframe for Pacific Island Countries to have put in place policies and legislation that provide for the involvement of coastal communities in the management of their fisheries resources. It further anticipates that communities will drive local management regimes with clear user rights, supported by national controls on export commodities. The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap aims to deliver these objectives in Kiribati.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

While the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 provides no specific provisions for sport fish management, marine aquarium trade management or Kiritimati, it nonetheless is highly relevant to this project.

The Coastal Fisheries Roadmap notes that the past introduction of an open access regime over the top of customary access rights has generated confusion and conflict over management and control of coastal fisheries and highlights the urgent need to boost management regimes and institutional capacity to better address monitoring and enforcement and ensure that coastal fisheries continue to support the I-Kiribati population.

The Coastal Fisheries Roadmap emphasises the need for collaborative approaches and strong stakeholder engagement to underpin coastal fisheries management. These needs will be reflected in the design of participative and inclusive development of sport fish, marine aquarium trade and ocean resources management support tools under this project, including via consultation with sport fisher associations, marine aquarium trade associations, and the tourism and marine aquarium trade industry.

The Coastal Fisheries Roadmap outlines several Focal Action Areas that are highly relevant to this project, and requirements will be reflected in the project's implementation:

- **Governance.** Coastal fisheries legislation must adequately enable EAFM principles and the integration of input from community stakeholders. New or amended legislation must be transparent, inclusive, and fit for context. Principles of inclusiveness and decentralisation will guide policy and regulatory design processes. These requirements, outlined in the

Coastal Fisheries Roadmap, will be reflected in the preparation of management planning documents under this project.

- **Information, knowledge and capacity building.** To enhance learning and local support of management interventions, technical insights from science-based knowledge will be integrated with existing local and traditional ecological knowledge. Under this project MEP brings extensive science-based knowledge, and through a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy will integrate local and traditional ecological knowledge.
- **Coastal fisheries management.** The management of coastal fisheries will respect the principles of EAFM, be inclusive and provide equitable benefits to all. MEP are well versed in the application of EAFM, including the consideration of economic outcomes in fisheries management planning.
- **Sustainable livelihoods.** People’s livelihood activities and opportunities need to be broadened, diversified, and improved to ensure a reliable and sustainable source of income. Income from marine-based activities can be improved through the observation of proper management. This project will establish management measures for high value but vulnerable marine species, including bonefish and flame angel fish, to safeguard sustainable utilisation and livelihoods.

While the project aligns with several specific actions under the Coastal Fisheries Roadmap, those of particular note include:

- 3.1 Promote and improve stock enhancement programs targeting vulnerable and threatened marine species;
- 3.2 Promote and improve an integrated ecosystem-based conservation and management approach to protect and conserve fisheries habitats;
- 3.3 Promote CBF approaches to support coastal fisheries management;
- 3.4 Strengthen legislation, island bylaws and community management plans to support the conservation and management of coastal fisheries;
- 3.5 Promote and adopt integrated management through the collaboration of government, communities, island councils and civil society in the planning, preparation, consultation, implementation and M&E phases of fisheries management;
- 3.6 Develop an effective and robust monitoring and compliance framework on existing legal regimes to address fisheries management.
- 3.7 Enhance a mechanism to support effective decision-making based on reliable and up-to-date fisheries data; and
- 3.8 Develop coastal fisheries permit system for the sustainable management of key commercial species.

Monitoring, control and Surveillance (MCS) also forms a key objective in the roadmap ‘Promote innovation and use of information communication technology (ICT) in the management, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCS&E) of coastal fisheries’. This will be heavily reflected in the development of the Sport fish management plan, and review and implementation of the Marine aquarium trade management plan, given the requirement of MCS and enforcement to balance the needs of communities with healthy fish stocks.

2.3 Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016 – 2020

Vision

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2020 was developed with the following vision statement “The people of Kiribati continue to enjoy their natural biodiversity that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and supports the socio-economic livelihoods”.

Guiding principles

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 is guided by the following principles:

- **Good governance and leadership.** This principle implies upholding good governing practices of transparency, accountability, shared responsibility, and equity in the consideration of environment requirements in development practices. It respects everyone’s rights to a clean and healthy environment. It also recognises that the Government will lead national efforts to protect and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and will always consult the local community.
- **Food security and nutrition.** This principle recognises that biodiversity plays a critical role in meeting the food needs of people, reducing hunger, and improving individual health. It emphasises the need to promote staple local food and sustainable use of Kiribati’s land and marine resources.
- **Collective responsibility.** It is generally accepted that to effectively manage, protect and sustainably use the environment and its goods and services, everyone has a responsibility. This principle recognises that each individual holds a key responsibility in managing its environment. It also recognises critical roles of different government sectors and institutions in sustaining the good health of the environment.
- **Respect for traditional knowledge, practices and skills.** I-Kiribati people have valuable indigenous knowledge and practices that can contribute to the sustainable use and effective management of their natural resources and the environment. The traditions and practices are important elements of their culture and heritage that forms their national identity.
- **Integration of biodiversity in economic development aspirations.** This principle recognises the challenge in reconciling and balancing the need to protect and conserve biodiversity and the development needs. This emphasises the critical importance of credible, relevant and legitimate scientific investigations and information to the integration of biodiversity into the development planning and implementation.

Key objectives and priorities

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 identifies nine priority areas of national concern:

1. Protected and conservation areas;
2. Ecosystem management;

3. Species conservation and sustainable use;
4. Communication and education;
5. Capacity building;
6. Invasive alien species/ biosecurity;
7. Traditional knowledge and practice;
8. Environmental governance;
9. Research and information.

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 provides a framework to meet Kiribati's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2020 Aichi Targets. Of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, all are adopted in the NBSAP.

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 contributes to other international agreements that Kiribati is a party to, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and the World Heritage Convention. It also aligns with several biodiversity-related conventions that Kiribati is not party to, including the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and Flora (CITES).

Regional context

The Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 - 2020 provides guidance to Pacific Island countries and territories, regional organisations and NGO's, the international donor community and other partners who are working together to achieve the global 2020 Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological diversity through the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and other international, regional and local conservation initiatives. The regional framework facilitates coordination, cooperation, synergy and complementarity amongst the numerous national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed and implemented by Pacific Island Countries.

A development

National context

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 was prepared by the National Biodiversity Planning Committee and staff of the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of MELAD.

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 aligns with and contributes to several policies, including:

- **Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy**¹³ which outlines a sustainable environment vision of “the people of Kiribati continue to enjoy their natural biodiversity that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and supports the socio-economic livelihoods”. This policy provides guidance and direction for government and local communities in protecting, managing and utilising the natural resources and enhances environmental protection;

- **Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan¹⁴**. This national policy aims at increasing resilience through sustainable climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction using a whole-of-island approach, It also addresses plans for mitigation. Under Strategy 4 it stresses the need for local communities to preserve and promote local good, sustainability of marine and water resource management.
- **Kiribati National Fisheries Policy 2013-2023**. This policy provides guidelines on the protection, conservation, and management of Kiribati fisheries resources through sustainable practices. The policy also aims to enhance food security, sustainable livelihood and build climate resilient fisheries.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 addresses the period up to 2020. The current project commenced in 2023. It is not clear whether this strategy has been updated, however, it is likely that major goals and targets remain relevant at this time.

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016-2020 identifies nine priority areas, each having specific actions and targets. The following targets have direct relevance for the current project:

- 1.2. Establish at least 3 community-based management plans for coastal resources (fisheries and mangroves) by 2018;
- 2.7. Reduce the use of unsustainable fishing practices by 2020 by 30%;
- 2.14. By 2017, national guidelines and policies for the development and management of ecotourism activities will be developed and ready for implementation and use;
- 2.17. Develop regulation on the protection of ecotourism resources;
- 3.7. By beginning of 2017, bonefish bylaw for selected islands (e.g., Nonuti Island) will be ready for implementation;
- 4.3. Revisit Nonouti Island by 2017 for consultations and awareness on importance and value of bonefish conservation;
- 5.2. Strengthen the capacity on fisheries surveys; and
- 5.10. By early 2017, refresher training for Fishing Guides including Catch and Release Fishing Techniques conducted.

2.4 The Kiribati Gender Equality and Women’s Development (GEWD Policy) 2019–2022

The GEWD Policy was launched by the Ministry of Women, Youth Sports and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) in 2019 against the backdrop that gender equality and women development are the key mechanism to address economic and social disparities.

Vision: All Kiribati men and women reach their full potential

Mission: Uplifting the status and livelihoods of the Kiribati people through the strengthening of mechanisms within Government and others institutions to mainstream gender and addressing gender inequalities.

Goal: Mainstream Gender in government policies, plans, budgets, and programs to enhance equal opportunities between men and women and women Empowerment in the development process.

The policy focuses on five (5) priority areas which include:

1. To progressively implement a gender mainstreaming approach to achieve gender equality
2. To improve the economic empowerment of women
3. To support stronger, informed families
4. To improve women’s political representation and leadership
5. To eliminate sexual and gender-based violence

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

The GEWD links to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as well as to other gender equity agreements in the region such as those listed below.

- The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012)
- Sustainable Development Goals (former MDG’s) (specifically SDG 5)
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (CRPD),
- Pacific Platform for Action for Women
- Recommendations of the Pacific Women’s Triennial, Outcomes of the Commission on the status of Women meetings.

In addition, the policy also creates a direct linkage to the potential of increased burdens on women and thus refers to the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2014-2023 (KJIP).

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

In the absence of a new gender policy, the project work should integrate all aspects of this policy into the 3 main pieces of work in this project taking special care to address inequalities, support economic empowerment, ensure equal access to engage and participate (eg are separate consultations or stakeholder sessions with different timing necessary), and include gender disaggregated data in both the management plans and training/implementation.

3. Sub-national perspectives

3.1 Line and Phoenix Islands Integrated Development Strategy 2016-2036 (LPIDS)

Vision

The people of the Line and Phoenix Islands will enjoy a safe and healthy environment that is resilient to the impacts of Climate Change and that supports productive, enterprise-based livelihoods, human health and sustainable development within a sound governance framework.

Principles

1. Sustainable in the long term
2. Enterprise led;
3. Climate change aware and responsive
4. Driven by community planning;
5. Adaptive to changing circumstances;
6. Based on sound Governance, Accountability and Rule of Law

Three strategic goals were developed in order to operationalise the vision, which included the following:

- Sustainable development of the LPIs economy: “A vibrant economy providing opportunities for all to participate”
- Sustainable Inclusive Social Development: “Creating a strong community and family life”
- Sustainable Environmental Conservation and Management: “Effectively manage the biodiversity and urban settlements of the LPIs”.

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

International commitments made by the Government of Kiribati provide the backdrop against the LPIDS development and aim to enhance existing national priorities. Alike several of the documents considered in this review, the Agenda for Sustainable Development and associated Sustainable Development Goals is inherently linked to the LPIDS. In addition, the Istanbul Plan of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs); Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway; outcomes from the Third International Conference on SIDS; and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism all informed the development of the LPIDS.

National relevance

The LPID links directly to the Kiribati Development Plan 2016 – 2019 (see section 2.1), with the high-level goals of the LPID feeding into the KDP development indicators.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

The high-level goals of the LPID has relevance to this project, particularly given their link with the KDP and wider SDG's in terms of economic growth, and sustainable environmental conservation and management. However, the strategic goals within the LPID do not provide specific reference to the marine environment. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework includes indicators and means of verification at a broad level but does not provide any differentiation between land based or marine based biodiversity and their associated expected results and indicators.

The action plan however refers to baseline Marine Resource and Opportunities Study for the Lagoons under Economic Development themed actions and Environment and Lands actions. Here it identifies a comprehensive GIS dataset and an urgent need to address environmental issues through ongoing data/ information collection and monitoring system that can be used by a range of partners. The progress towards achieving this action is unknown to the project team but will be explored in detail as the project progresses. The robustness of the management plans produced is underpinned by the extent and availability of data to inform the plans. The GIS dataset in particular is therefore of high importance in developing the Ocean Resources Master Plan which will require the current spatial and temporal distribution of existing activities and users of the marine environment to be known.

3.2 Phoenix Islands Protected Area Management plan 2015 -2020

While the Phoenix Islands Protected Area Management plan (PIPA) is not directly linked to the Line Islands and specifically Kiritimati, it can provide a useful example of regional protected area management.

PIPA's vision

To conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area for the sustained benefit of the peoples of the Republic of Kiribati and the world.

Mission

“To implement effective integrated and adaptive management that ensures the natural and cultural heritage values of PIPA are maintained, and where necessary restored, to achieve PIPA's Vision”.

Guiding principles

1. Intergenerational equity;
2. Ecological stability
3. Precautionary principle;
4. Integrated planning and management;
5. Adaptive management;
6. Ecosystem approach;
7. Resilience;

8. Stakeholder consultation and participation;
9. Capacity-building;
10. Technology transfer;
11. Transparency of decision making.

The PIPA Regulations (2008)¹⁵ set the long-term management objectives for this PIPA Management Plan:

1. To conserve and manage substantial examples of marine and terrestrial systems to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain genetic diversity;
2. To conserve depleted, threatened, rare or endangered species and populations and, in particular, to preserve habitats considered critical for the survival of such species;
3. To conserve and manage areas of significance to the lifecycles of economically important species such as tuna;
4. To prevent human activities from detrimentally affecting the PIPA;
5. To preserve, protect, and manage historical and cultural sites and natural aesthetic values;
6. To facilitate the interpretation of marine and terrestrial systems for the purposes of conservation, education and tourism;
7. To accommodate within appropriate management regimes a broad spectrum of multi-use human activities compatible with the primary goal of marine and terrestrial conservation and sustainable use, including appropriate fishing, ecologically-sound tourism, and sustainable economic development;
8. To provide for research and training, and for monitoring the environmental effects of human activities, including the direct and indirect effects of development activities; and
9. To ensure consistency between all activities taking place in the PIPA and any third-party conservation contracts into which the Minister may choose to enter with the advice and approval of the Cabinet for the conservation and long-term sustainable use of the PIPA.

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

Several international agreements and commitments were met in the development of the PIPA, including the following:

- **World Heritage Convention (WHC)** - Kiribati became a party to the WHC in December 2000. PIPA submitted to the WHC for listing as a natural site in January 2009 and inscribed as a natural site in August 2010.
- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**. Kiribati became party to the CBD in August 1994. The three objectives of the CBD, to conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable use and ensure equitable access to resources are core principles of PIPA.
- **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**. The shallow coral reefs, lagoons and brackish wetland systems in the Phoenix Islands fall under the convention description of wetlands and could be listed as a site under Ramsar.
- **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. Kiribati ratified the UNFCCC in February 1995, and is one of the most vulnerable of all countries to climate change impacts, as a result of sea level rise and impacts to freshwater and

groundwater resources. As a natural Climate Change Research Laboratory, PIPA can help Kiribati and the world understand climate change impacts to atolls, and research in PIPA can be of global significance.

- **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).** Kiribati was party to drawing up the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) under the WSSD. PIPA helped Kiribati in meeting the MDGs, particularly MDG 8, on environment and sustainability.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

While there are no direct links between the PIPA and this project, the PIPA demonstrates characteristics of good planning including governance; use of science and research; spatial mapping and zonation; licensing; enforcement; reporting. In addition, the guiding principles particularly around ecological stability, participatory approach, adaptive management, ecosystem approach and integrated planning and management are likely to be driving factors within this assignment.

4. Regional perspectives

4.1 Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries and A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea Strategy

Endorsed in 2015 by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries sets out seven (7) clear goals for oceanic and coastal fisheries, with eleven (11) associated strategies to address the goals up until 2025. The Roadmap requires the delivery of an annual ‘fishery report at the annual meeting of the Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee. The report card acts as a process to measure success towards achieving each of the strategies.

The New Song was also developed in 2015 during a regional workshop on the future of coastal fisheries management. Specifically, the New Song Strategy calls for an enhanced focus on coastal fisheries management and related development activities in the Pacific region, particularly by incorporating community-based ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. It is designed to provide direction and encourage coordination, cooperation and an effective use of regional and other support services in the development of coastal fisheries management.

The development of the New Song preceded the Regional Roadmap thereby allowing the key outcome areas in the New Song to be captured in the coastal fisheries implementation strategies in the Regional Roadmap. The alignment between the two documents have enabled a standardised mechanism for both instruments, thereby meaning the annual ‘fishery report card’ is used to assess progress for coastal fisheries on a 5 yearly basis for the New Song and Regional Roadmap.

Table 2 below highlights the alignment between the two instruments overarching outcomes, goals and strategies.

Table 2: alignment between the New Song outcomes and Regional Roadmap goals and strategies (source: Donato-Hunt and Eriksson, 2017)

New Song Outcomes	Regional Roadmap - Coastal fisheries goals and strategies
Overarching Outcome 1. Improved wellbeing of coastal communities	
Overarching Outcome 2. Productive and healthy ecosystems and fish stocks	Goal 2. Resilience Within 10 years, all FICs will be implementing strategies to manage the various threats to coastal ecosystems. Only by conserving fisheries habitats, controlling pollution and addressing damage from outside the fishing sector can we develop resilience to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.
Outcome 1. Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights	Goal 1. Empowerment Within 10 years, all FICs will have put in place policies and legislation that provide for the involvement of coastal communities in the management of their fisheries resources. Supported by national controls on export commodities, communities will drive local management regimes with clear user rights.
Outcome 2. Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy	Strategy 1. Provide relevant information to inform management and policy
Outcome 3. Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale	
Outcome 4. Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEAFM	Strategy 2. Re-focus fisheries agencies to support coastal fisheries management
Outcome 5. Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning	Strategy 4. Develop and enforce strong and up-to-date legislation, policy and plans
Outcome 6. Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence	Strategy 3. Ensure effective collaboration and coordination of stakeholders
Outcome 7. More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups	Strategy 5. Ensure equitable access to benefits and involvement in decision making
Outcome 8. Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes, and contributing to improved fisheries management	Goal 3. Livelihoods Within 10 years, all FICs will have adopted policies to develop alternative livelihoods for coastal communities that are impacted by declining fisheries resources. In most cases, overfishing occurs because coastal communities have no alternative. Aquaculture, water-based tourism and small-scale fishing for tuna provide options, but many solutions will lie outside the fisheries sector.

Relevant international and regional agreements and conventions

The two strategic instruments align with several regional and international reporting commitments and are included in the selection of indicators for the annual ‘Coastal Fisheries Report Card’.

These include:

- Sustainable Development Goals (targets 2.1, 3.4,14.4, 14.7)
- SIDs Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (58.a, 58.b, 58.e, 58.g, 58.h, and 58.o)
- Aichi Targets (1, 2, 4 ,11, 17, 19)
- FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (5a, 5b, 6, 7, 8, 10)
- Melanesian Spearhead Group Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries (Objective 3.1, 3.2, objective 2)
- Micronesia Challenge

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

Given the focus on coastal fisheries, both documents are very relevant to MEPs assignment. In particular, Outcome 5 of the New Song and Strategy 4 of the Regional Roadmap place emphasis on strong and up to date policy and planning which directly link to MEPs three specific outputs to a) produce a Sport Fishing Management Plan b) support the implementation of the Marine aquarium trade Fish Management Plan and c) Develop and Ocean Resources Master Plan. Central to the development of the three management plans is a genuine participatory approach and co-management strategies will feature in the plans as a mechanism for implementation, which aligns well with Outcome 1, 4 and 6 and Strategy 3 of the New Song and Regional Roadmap, respectively.

In addition, the instruments place importance on diverse livelihoods to ensure a reliable and enhanced sustainable source of income. On this basis, the assignment will establish management measures for high value but vulnerable marine species, including bonefish and flame angel fish, to safeguard sustainable utilisation and livelihoods.

4.2 Parties to the Nauru Agreement Strategic Plan 2019-2025

The Nauru Agreement was developed and executed in 1982 as a platform for the Parties to collaborate more closely to develop common fishery management approaches and increase their level of participation in tropical tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific. This strategic plan implements the Delap Commitment agreed in 2018¹⁶. The focus of the agreement has changed as Parties have identified an urgent need to strengthen and formalise much of their work as a collective and within the PNAO in order to consolidate and build on the substantial gains achieved so far.

PNA Members are Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu plus Tokelau.

Values and Principles

- Ecologically Sustainable Fisheries Management
- Cooperation and Collaboration on zone-based management
- Mutual Benefit
- Respect and Integrity
- Good Governance and Transparency
- Mutual Support and assistance
- Independence

This Strategic Plan is based around three core Objectives – a stronger PNA, growing PNA influence on tropical tuna management, and PNA being able to identify and capture additional opportunities.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

The PNA while being an important strategic document for the management of tropical tunas in the Western Central Pacific, has lesser relevance on the assignment at hand given the focus on coastal fisheries for this project. That being said, crossovers may be evident in the sport fishing management plan which could consider the inclusion of certain blue water species such as tuna, albeit not forming a key species in the management plan (given the existing regional management approach for tuna).

However, specific objectives from the PNA which are of relevance and could be applied within the context of this project includes maximizing economic returns, understanding the influence of climate change in the fishery and implementation of management and conservation measures. In addition, the capture of socio-economic opportunities and cooperation to enhance such opportunities is relevant for Kiritimati.

4.3 WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was established via the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Vision

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

Non-binding decisions

Non-binding statements and recommendations addressed to members of the WCPFC and Cooperating non-members are described in Resolutions.

At the time of writing there are six Resolutions of the WCPFC:

- **Resolution 2005-03** on Non-target fish species;
- **Resolution 2008-01** on Aspirations of Small Island Developing States and Territories;
- **Resolution 2012-01** on the best available science;
- **Resolution 2017-01** on the Provisional Application of CMM 2017-01 on Tropical Tunas;
- **Resolution 2018-01** on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels; and
- **Resolution 2019-01** on Climate Change as it relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Of these, only Resolution 2012-01 on the best available science is somewhat relevant to the current project.

Binding decisions

Binding decisions relating to the conservation and management of WCPFC fish stocks are described in Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

At the time of writing there are 41 CMMs of the WCPFC:

- **CMM 2004-03** on Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels;
- **CMM 2004-04** on Conservation and Management Measures;
- **CMM 2006-04** on Conservation and Management Measure For Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific;
- **CMM 2006-07** on Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme;
- **CMM 2006-08** on Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures;
- **CMM 2008-04** on the Prohibition of the use of Large Scale Driftnets on the High Seas in the Convention Area;
- **CMM 2009-02** on the Application of High Seas FAD Closures and Catch Retention;
- **CMM 2009-03** on Conservation and Management for Swordfish;
- **CMM 2009-05** on Prohibiting Fishing on Data Buoys;
- **CMM 2009-06** on Regulation of Transshipment;
- **CMM 2009-09** on Vessels without Nationality;
- **CMM 2009-10** on Monitoring Landings of Purse Seiners at Ports so as to Ensure Reliable Catch Data by Species;
- **CMM 2010-01** on North Pacific Striped Marlin;
- **CMM 2011-03** to Address the Impact of Purse Seine Activity on Cetaceans;
- **CMM 2012-03** on Implementation of the ROP by vessels fishing north of 20N;
- **CMM 2013-04** on WCPFC Implementation of a Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI);
- **CMM 2013-05** on daily catch and effort reporting;

- **CMM 2013-06** on the criteria for the consideration of conservation and management proposals;
- **CMM 2013-07** on the special requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories;
- **CMM 2014-02** on Commission VMS;
- **CMM 2014-03** on standards, specifications and procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels;
- **CMM 2014-06** on the development and implementation of a harvest strategy approach for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO;
- **CMM 2015-02** on South Pacific Albacore;
- **CMM 2015-06** on a Target Reference Point for WCPO Skipjack Tuna;
- **CMM 2016-02** on Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area;
- **CMM 2017-02** on minimum standards for Port State Measures;
- **CMM 2017-03** on the protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers;
- **CMM 2017-04** on Marine Pollution;
- **CMM 2018-03** on mitigating the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds;
- **CMM 2018-04** on Sea Turtles;
- **CMM 2018-05** on the Regional Observer Programme;
- **CMM 2018-06** on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorisation to Fish;
- **CMM 2019-01** on Cooperating Non-Members;
- **CMM 2019-03** on North Pacific Albacore;
- **CMM 2019-04** on Sharks;
- **CMM 2019-05** on Mobulid Rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area;
- **CMM 2019-07** on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the WCPO;
- **CMM 2021-01** on bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;
- **CMM 2021-02** on Pacific Bluefin Tuna;
- **CMM 2021-03** on the Compliance Monitoring Scheme; and
- **CMM 2021-04** on Charter Notification Scheme.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

Of these, only CMM 2006-04 on Southwest Pacific Striped Marlin, CMM 2010-01 on North Pacific Striped Marlin, and CMM 2009-03 on Swordfish are somewhat relevant to the current project. Importantly, CMMs do not place any restrictions on WCPFC member parties developing domestic fisheries. Hence, the only implications for the current project are related to stock status (CMM 2009-03 reports that stock assessments indicate swordfish are not overfished, whereas both CMM 2006-04 and CMM 2010-01 report some indication of

overfishing on striped marlin stocks) and stock data (e.g., length frequency data of the type that could feasibly be collected by catch-release sport fishing could complement existing sources of fishery dependent data on these species).

There may also be some links to MCS aspects of the sport fish management plan in circumstances where a commercial fishing vessel also engages in charter services for sport fishing as it may have VMS installed as per CCM 2006-06, have a UVI and be on the record of fishing vessels, however this would be very rare.

In summary, there are minor implications for the sport fishing components of this project, but only if management plans specifically consider offshore species that include striped marlins and swordfish.

4.4 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

The development of the Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent is set against the backdrop of Pacific countries occupying an important place in global strategic terms which has led to geopolitical competition impacts on these Member countries. The regions' ecological and natural resources are facing increasing commercial interest particularly through the 'Blue Economy' lens. However, these resources and the people of the Pacific reliant on these resources are also under significant pressures of the adverse impacts of climate change.

The strategic document therefore aims to maximise economic value at the same time as addressing the most significant threats to the region, such as climate change.

Vision: "Resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives".

Values:

- Recognise regional cooperation and shared commitment to work together, as an important platform for achieving the greatest benefits for our people.
- We value and depend upon our vast ocean and our island resources and the integrity of our natural environment.
- We treasure the diversity and heritage of the Pacific and seek an inclusive future in which our faiths, cultural values, and traditional knowledge are respected, honoured and protected.
- Embrace good governance, the full observance of democratic principles and values, the rule of law, the defence and promotion of all human rights, gender equality, and commitment to just societies.
- Ensure peaceful, safe, and stable communities and countries, ensuring robust security and wellbeing for the peoples of the Pacific.
- Encourage innovation and creativity and respect our cultural values and traditional knowledge.

- Support full inclusivity, equity and equality for all peoples of the Pacific.
- Strive for effective, open and honest relationships and inclusive and enduring partnerships—based on mutual accountability and respect—with each other, within our sub-regions, within our region, and beyond.
- Recognise the importance of a regional architecture that includes the Pacific Islands Forum at the apex, and that works closely with regional, multilateral, and global partners.

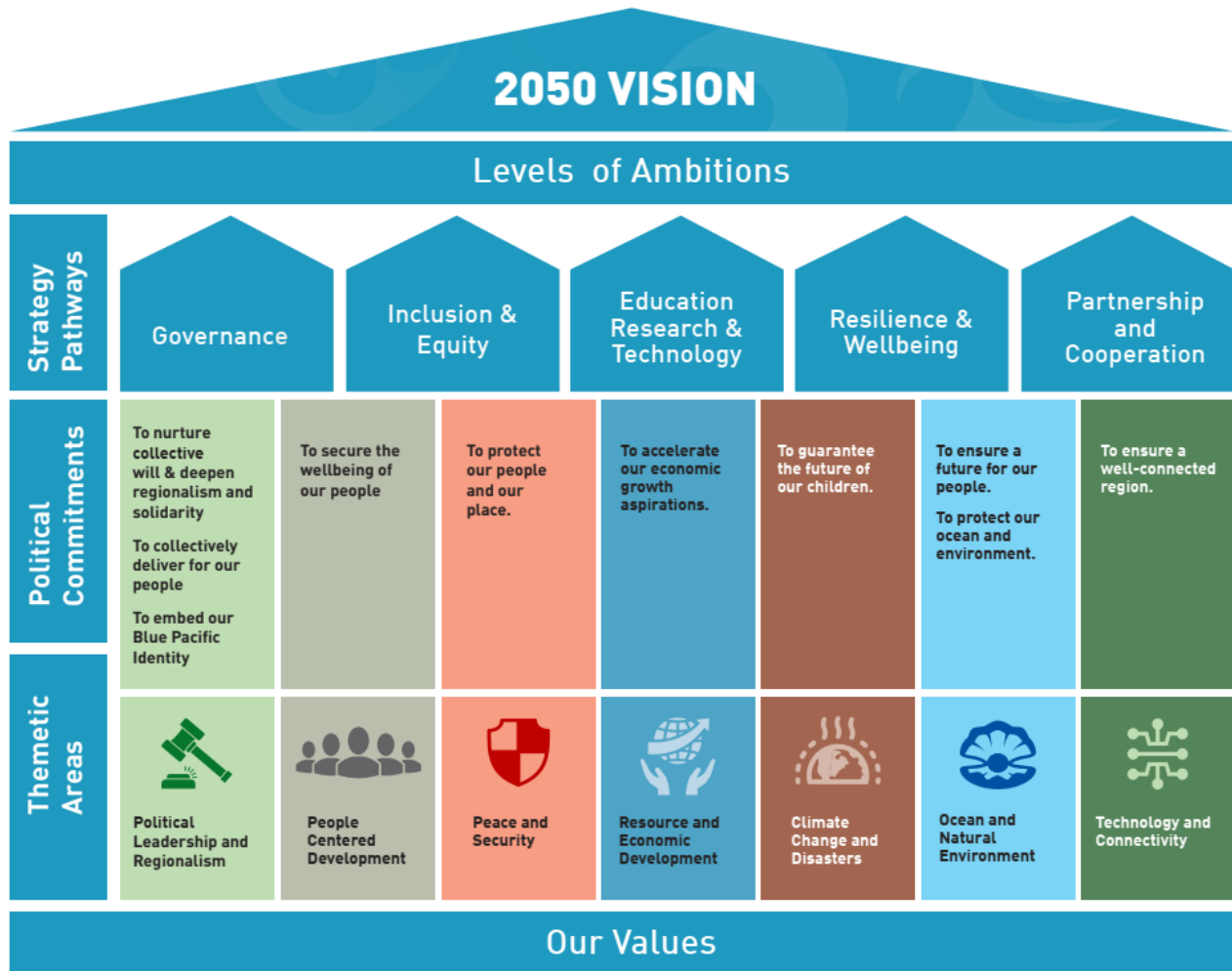


Figure 1: Visual representation of the core values, thematic areas, political commitments and strategy pathways for implementing the 2050 vision (source: 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent).

Relevant international and regional agreements, frameworks and conventions

The strategy builds on a number of regional agreements and declarations such as the Pacific Plan (2003), Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (2010), The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2012), The Framework for Pacific Regionalism (2014), The Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries (2015), The Blue Pacific Narrative (2017), The Boe Declaration (2018), and The Pacific Regional Culture Strategy (2022).

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent is very important to MEPs work in providing an overarching vision for the region. Three (3) thematic areas are of relevance to this project – Peace and Security, Resources and Economic Development, and Ocean and Natural Environment. The two (2) former themes focus on aspects such as economic security, environmental security, building resilience to disasters and climate change, diversifying investment portfolios (including into fisheries and aquaculture) and also emphasises the need for development of control measures and environmental, social and cultural impact assessments. The latter focuses on the regions stewardship of the Blue Pacific Continent through collective responsibility, commitment and investment in its oceans and lands. The collective responsibility and commitment links to this project where there is an emphasis on co-management of resources.

In addition, three (3) of the strategic pathways for achieving goals within the thematic areas align directly with MEPs approach to this project which include strong governance, inclusion and equity, and partnership and cooperation.

5. International Perspectives

5.1 FAO voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

Vision

Intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty.

Guiding principles include;

- Human rights and dignity;
- Respect of cultures;
- Non-discrimination;
- Gender equality and equity;

- Equity and equality;
- Consultation and participation;
- Rule of law;
- Transparency;
- Accountability;
- Economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- Holistic and integrated approaches;
- Social responsibility;
- Feasibility and social and economic viability

The SSF Guidelines address two overarching pillars, of which include 1) responsible fisheries and sustainable development; and 2) Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation.

Responsible fisheries and sustainable development is implemented through:

- Governance of tenure in small-scale
- Social development, employment and decent work
- Value chains, post-harvest and trade
- Gender equality
- Disaster risks and climate change

Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation through:

- Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration
- Information, research and communication
- Capacity development
- Implementation support and monitoring

Regional context

Many countries of the Pacific participated in the development of the guidelines through a regional consultation and agreement during the Committee on Fisheries in 2015. However, in the Pacific many of the objectives are linked and carried out through the “New Song for Coastal Fisheries”. Some gaps remain where the SSF Guidelines address certain issues that are not covered in the “New Song” including human rights, disaster risk reduction, value chains, etc.

Alignment to Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources and Fisheries Management Planning

Within the provisions of the SSF Guidelines, elements could be very relevant to all three pieces of work for the project - Ocean Resources Master Plan, sport fishing management plan and implementation of Marine aquarium trade management plan. These include but are not limited to the balance of rights and responsibilities with resource use; clarification of co-management roles (also linked to the New Song) under sustainable management; investment in human resource development, development and access to services supporting small-scale fishers/fish workers; creating decent work, addressing occupational health issues (e.g. in the marine aquarium trade fishery), and improving safety at sea under "Social Development". Gender equity, disaster risks and climate change provisions are also relevant but largely in place under

the New Song other than addressing implications of disasters on small-scale fisheries and trade.

In addition, the SSF requires MCS and enforcement to be in place to balance the needs of communities with the need for healthy fish populations and thriving marine habitats. This is particularly pertinent for the marine aquarium trade fishery, to ensure the sustainability of the fishery is maintained (or improved) given the reliance of this on community income. Furthermore, the SSF guidelines make reference to post harvest and trade, and the necessity to evidence a proportionate MCS system is in place to ensure sustainable fishing practices to gain access to national, regional and international markets.

5.2 Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet was adopted by all United Nations Member States. Seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals fall at the centre of the Agenda which recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve oceans and forests. The global recognition and collaborative effort to implement this plan makes it one of the most influential agreements in international development history and is therefore no surprise that the SDGs have been referenced by several of the documents reviewed as part of this report.

While all the SDGs are equally important, SDG 14 ‘to conserve and sustainably manage the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development’ is of particular relevance to this project. Within SDG goal 14, there are four (4) targets which align directly with this project, as follows:

- **Target 14.4:** effectively regulate harvesting, end overfishing, IUU and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans
- **Target 14.7:** Increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- **Target 14.b:** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- **Target 14.c:** Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources

Indirectly, the project also contributes to SDG goal 2 ‘Zero Hunger’, 8 ‘Decent Work and Economic Growth’, and 13 ‘Climate Action’.

5.3 UN Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives:

1. The conservation of biological diversity
2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
3. The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

As part of the 15th Convention of Parties which took place in Canada in December 2022, the Global Biodiversity Framework committed to conserving or protecting at least 30% of global lands and waters by 2030 (known as the 30x30 target). This explicitly describes that parties should:

“Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.”

Kiribati signed up to the CBD, and to meet their obligations under this, developed their CBD Strategy and Action plan, as discussed in section 2.3. There is no evidence to suggest the 30x30 target has been integrated into any of the documents reviewed, but given this is a recent development, it is not surprising. This project, however, aligns directly with the 30x30 target by seeking to implement effective area-based conservation measures while also recognising and the respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

6. Conclusions

The PROP Project Appraisal Document (PAD) highlights the reliance on fishing for subsistence and commercial purposes for the local I-Kiribati population, estimating that consumption rates here are one of the highest per capita consumption rates in the world. This context is set in parallel to the need to address the increasing pressure on over exploited coastal fish species and ensure the domestic supply remains productive. Weak compliance with coastal fisheries management measures, largely stemming from limited community participation in decision making, lack of institutional capacity and conflicting interpretations of access rights, have exacerbated stock overexploitation.

This project seeks to address some of the challenges mentioned above, but in doing so, must recognise the associated national, regional and international context, and strategic positions of Kiribati in relation to fisheries management and sustainable development. This report has sought to provide a high-level overview of various national, regional, and international agreements, strategies and policies of relevance to this project. In light of this, seven (7) central ‘themes’ are evident and have been thread through several of the documents reviewed. These themes should therefore also provide the underpinning basis for the development of the management plans in this project. These key themes are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Guiding themes to the development of the Kiritimati Island Ocean Resources Management Planning

Key themes	Justification
Economic growth/economic empowerment	Economic empowerment and growth is a guiding principle of the national and regional strategic plans and policies. For example, the Kiribati Development Plan 2020-2023 KPA-2 targets “growing economic wealth and leaving no-one behind” while the Noumea Strategy aims to ensure that inshore fisheries provide long-term economic benefits and contribute to the improved wellbeing of coastal communities. MEP has extensive experience of applying an

	<p>Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and will apply these principles in the delivery of this project. This includes ensuring that fishery and natural resource management plans developed under this project give adequate consideration to both ecological and socio-economic objectives and outcomes.</p>
<p>Ecological Stability</p>	<p>The Kiribati Development Plan 2020-2023 KPA-4 aims to “protect the environment and strengthen resilience”, while the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2013 promotes ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. Ecological stability is a central principle of natural resource management, and MEP has an extensive track record in this field. Fishery management plans developed under this project will address the status of target stocks to ensure that harvests are within biological limits, and where appropriate will also highlight the need for adequate research and monitoring to support this goal. Throughout the project, precautionary principles will be applied.</p>
<p>Community participation/co-management</p>	<p>Stakeholder participation is a central theme across the majority of national strategic documents, as well as regional and global commitments such as the Nomea Strategy and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2013 in particular aims to “recognise diverse users ... and promote community-based fishery management”, and this roadmap provides the key policy framework for the fishery management planning activities under this project. Furthermore, extensive literature highlights the many advantages of involving stakeholders in the natural resource decision-making process and that stakeholder involvement is a key ingredient of good governance. MEP will implement a comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy, and aims to ensure that</p>

	stakeholder inputs are identified and incorporated into management plans.
Gender Equality	Gender equality is explicitly addressed via the Kiribati Gender Equality and Women’s Development Policy 2019–2022, but is also integral to other strategic plans and policies including the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2023 which aims to “recognise women, youth and vulnerable groups’ contributions to coastal fisheries and promote more inclusive management platforms and livelihoods”. The advantages of stakeholder participation in natural resource decision-making have already highlighted. Key to this is ensuring that the full range of stakeholder perspectives are considered, including for the vulnerable and marginalised groups that are often excluded from such processes. MEP’s stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy will take steps to identify and include marginalised groups, while training and capacity support will be designed with inclusivity as a core principle.
Good Governance	The majority of Kiribati’s national strategic documents consider governance issues as a guiding principle. The Kiribati Development Plan 2020-2023 KPA-5 addresses “good governance”, the Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan 2016–2020 emphasises “good governance and leadership”, and the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2013 aims to promote “good governance, transparency, and accountability”. In implementing this project MEP will emphasise transparent and participative decision making, and ensure that management plans define the clear roles and responsibilities that contribute to accountability and good governance.
Food Security	Given the reliance on coastal ecosystems for food and nutrition, it is not surprising that food security is a priority throughout Kiribati’s strategic plans and polices, including the National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019-2036 and the National Biodiversity Strategy and

	<p>Action Plan 2016–2020 as well as in the linked regional strategies. This project aims to support the implementation of management plans for aquarium and sport fisheries. While not food fisheries themselves, they have considerable potential for interaction. Sport fisheries may target species that are also consumed, meanwhile the improved management of these fisheries will contribute to biodiversity maintenance and the reduced risk of tropic cascades that may impact food fish stocks and fisheries. The Ocean Resource Master Plan will address issues that include spatial planning and resource conflict, ensuring that growth and development in one maritime sector does not detriment other critical sectors and ecosystem services, including food provision.</p>
<p>Sound evidence</p>	<p>While sound evidence is not an explicit target or guiding principle of Kiribati’s strategic plans and policies, the need for evidence-based approaches is implicit in the fact that measurable targets are established by these plans. In implementing this project MEP will reference the best available data and information. Furthermore, where information shortages are identified, MEP will ensure that management plans specifically address issues of research and monitoring.</p>

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