

Kiribati Experience: Coastal Fisheries Enforcement

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ONE THING ... AND ANOTHER ...

It's one thing that a Fisheries Management Plan/Policy references the need for an MCS strategy

It's another thing ensuring the compliance team that enforces that strategy is fit for purpose!



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Moving from Words to Action

Less hui and more do-i (do-e)”



❑ Coastal Based Fisheries Management key approach to managing fisheries in the Pacific.

❑ Focused community involvement

❑ Raising community awareness

❑ MCS aimed at achieve voluntary compliance through community co-operation





One of the Coastal Community Challenge

- A reluctance of MCS officers to enforce the rules in small closeknit communities because of cultural norms
- where everyone knows everyone, and
- people are subsistence fishers and harvesting fish because of pure survival needs

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DON'T USE THE WORD ENFORCEMENT!



Kiribati Experience – Coastal Fisheries Enforcement



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Kiribati have faced a significant decline of their coastal fisheries resources

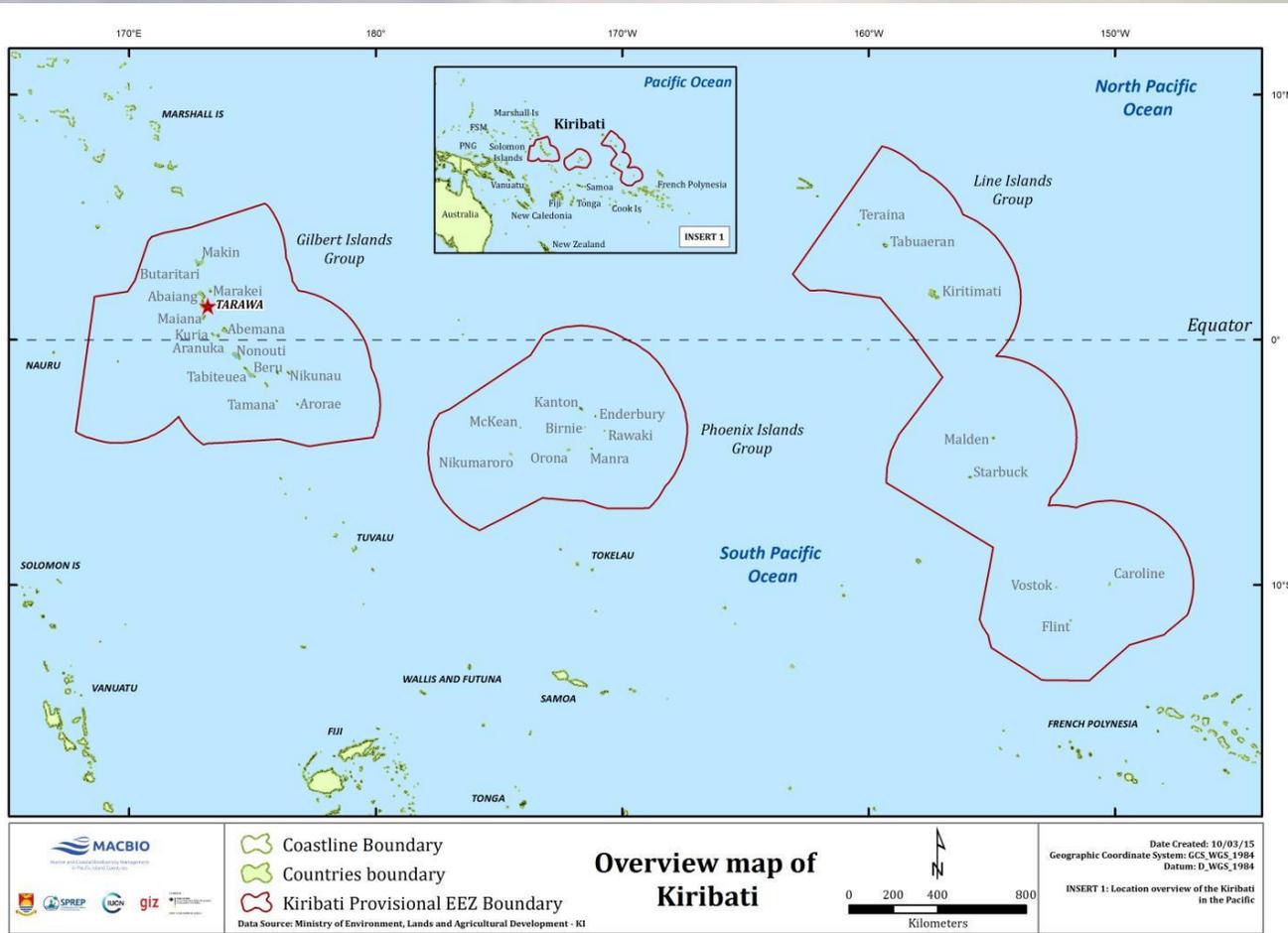
Director of Coastal Fisheries Mrs Tooreka Teemari will present Kiribati's MCS and enforcement response and their approach to the enforcement challenges to address the decline.

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Brief Background

Made up of 33 islands scattered throughout the equator

Big Ocean States of 3.5 Million Square Kilometers

Land area is 811 km square

Population is 122, 735 (2020 population census)

72-207 kg / person/year- fish consumption



Triggering factors

- Overpopulation
- Increase number of fishing boats
- Species declining
- Recreational fishing- special case for Kiribati



Management Approaches/Strategies for Coastal Fisheries

Community-based fisheries management Programs 2014 to date

43 years of evolution in Kiribati's coastal fisheries law and policy

- 1977 Fisheries Ordinance 1977, renamed Fisheries Act 1979 (now repealed)
- 1978 Prohibited Fishing Areas (Designation) Regulations 1978
- 1979 Fisheries Conservation and Protection (Rock Lobster) Regulations 1979
- 1981 Fisheries (Processing and Export) Regulations 1981
- 2008 Fisheries (Protection of Bonefish on Kiritimati) Regulations 2008
- 2010 Fisheries Act 2010, amended in 2015 and 2017
- 2012 Fish Export Regulations 2012
- 2013 National Fisheries Policy 2013–2025
- 2013 Draft Sea Cucumber Regulations 2013
- 2014 Draft Management Plan for the Protection of Certain Coastal Marine Species 2014
- 2015 Shark Sanctuary Regulations 2015
- 2018 Draft Kiritimati Island Marine Aquarium Fishery Management Plan 2018
- 2018 Commonwealth Blue Charter (CBC) 2018
- 2018 Cabinet endorses the establishment of the National CBFM Steering Committee (now National CBRM Taskforce) 2018
- 2019 Coastal Fisheries Roadmap 2019–2036
- 2019 Fisheries (Conservation and Management of Coastal Marine Resources) Regulations 2019
- 2019 Kiribati stepped forward to lead CBC Action Group on sustainable coastal fisheries 2019²
- 2020 Cabinet endorsed the establishment of the National Coordinating Taskforce for CBC Action Group 2020
- 2020 Draft Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations 2020
- 2020 Draft Fisheries (Penalty Notice) Regulations 2020

Achievements so far

- Effective seasonal closure for certain species
- Community driven management plans
- National Joint enforcement taskforce(JET)
- Incident Book
- Inspection SOPs



Size limits for 10 key fish species, 5 species of invertebrates and 2 species of turtles.



Seasonal closures during full or new moon periods for 3 key fish species and power of Director to declare closed season for other coastal marine species.



Catch quotas for 5 species of invertebrates.



Special protection for true giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*), called *te kima* in I-Kiribati.



Mesh size restrictions for gill nets and other fishing gear limitations.

[Responsible Use of the Inshore Fishery in Kiribati: The Influential Role of Fisheries Officers - YouTube](#)



Challenges



Pending of court cases

Repeated breaches by stubborn fishers

Gaps in regulation

Not enough space to store exhibits

Open access right to fish in coastal waters

Multiple fishing and landing sites

Lack of fisheries prosecutor



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Actions forward

**Finalization of
Penalty Regulation
and Amendment to
Coastal Fisheries
Regulations-on-going**

**Volunteer
Engagement expert
in Communication
and Behavioral
Change -pipelined**

**Strengthening of
Coastal MCS & E
sector**

**Daily Awareness and
Inspection
Programs-on-going**

**AI-Small boat
tracking device-
pipelined**



Kiribati Enforcement video

[Kiribati: Fisheries enforcement officers in action - YouTube](#)

Thank You

