

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN KIRIBATI



Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Enhancing sustainable water security measures to adapt to climate change and disasters in vulnerable remote islet communities in Kiribati



Project focus: Water Sector



Project timeframe



1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

National implementing agencies



Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Office of the Beretitenti (President)

Beneficiaries



Direct benefit: **2,051 persons**

Indirect benefit: **110,136 persons**

Kiribati is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Project synopsis

The 'Enhancing sustainable water security measures to adapt to climate change and disasters in vulnerable remote islet communities in Kiribati' project will enhance the supply of potable water to residents of Banaba Island, one of Kiribati's most remote islands, through rainwater catchment systems, solar powered desalination units and ground water extraction systems.

How does this project address climate change adaptation in Kiribati?

Given the low elevation of its coral atolls, Kiribati is especially vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels, which include loss of land, flooding and saltwater intrusion into groundwater lenses. The southern Gilbert Islands, including Beru Island, and Banaba Island, one of Kiribati's most remote islands, receive very low rainfall and are very prone to drought leading to crop failures and contamination of ground water sources. In March 2021, Banaba Island faced an extreme drought and water crisis. The island had been almost a year without substantial rain. These conditions are being exacerbated by climate change.

Focusing on the people living in the remote atolls, the project will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and the rights of all residents. Skills in climate resilience will be enhanced, particularly for island council members and community leaders.

The project will focus on increasing the availability of potable water for the communities living in Banaba Island by scaling up the existing infrastructure for water storage and supply on the island. The measures will include "fit-for-purpose" infrastructure to house existing solar-powered desalination systems, additional storage for potable water and additional rainwater harvesting systems.



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The project is working with selected communities of Banaba Island to increase their water storage capacity and providing training to water technicians, community leaders and island council members.

Key Highlights

Increasing access to potable water



- Consultations to inform the design of water security measures in Banaba Island.
- Designing and constructing key infrastructure to house existing solar-powered desalination systems and the storage tanks and pumping systems in Banaba Island, expanding rainwater harvesting systems, and other measures.
- Installing a rain gauge in Banaba Island and compiling the rainfall data to inform future drought management.

Capacity building



- Providing experienced technical support to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy to advise on the day-to-day operation and maintenance of desalination units in Kiribati.
- Deliver on-the-job training and courses on desalination to the water technicians and revise the existing operations manual.
- Provide training to the communities in Banaba Island on the operations and maintenance of the enhanced water security measures.

Building community resilience



- Building the capacity of community leaders and island council members in climate resilience through accredited training.
- Assessing island development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.

Strategic planning



- Assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation projects and applying the results to national strategic planning.

Activities meet the following SDGs:



About the SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019-2023) is funded with € 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific island countries.

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.