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“Over US\$100 million accessed by Kiribati Government within 2 years, we’ve just started,” says Hon Dr. Toatu



Hon. Dr. Teuea Toatu,
Minister of Finance &
Economic Development

The Government of Kiribati journey into accessing funds from major climate financing instruments of the United Nations Framework on the Convention of Climate Change, has reached an indicative amount of around AUD\$117million within the last two years.

Speaking at the 10th Climate Investment Fund conference in January 2019, in Morocco, The Honorable Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Teuea Toatu noted that with the recent indicative funding for the Kiribati Renewable Energy Investment Plan of US\$5m, the funds

approved for the South Tarawa Water Supply project by the Green Climate Fund in late 2018 and the Adaptation Fund endorsement of a concept proposal for a water project in the outer islands, the Ministry now has a pipeline of projects amounting to AUD\$117 million of climate funds.

In 2017, Government made a strategic decision to establish a Climate Finance Division, which was a first for the country and the region. At the same time, Government prioritised the importance of climate finance and accelerated its efforts to mobilise the much needed resources to address the impacts that climate change is having on Kiribati.

“Our efforts are now coming to fruition and I am very pleased to note that within just two years, we are on track to mobilise AUD\$117million, the largest amount of funding for climate change in Kiribati to date, and we are grateful to our important multilateral and bilateral partners. Our journey to increase access to climate finance is only just starting and there is much work to be done to build our resilience to climate change.” Dr. Toatu said.

Green Climate Fund approves Kiribati's first project proposal



**Meet the new
Executive
Director**

SONGDO, 03 APR 2019

Yannick Glemarec takes up his post today as the new Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Selected by the GCF Board at its most recent meeting in February, the appointment of Mr Glemarec as head of the GCF Secretariat comes at a crucial time. GCF has entered its first replenishment in 2019 to marshal further funds to finance low-emission and climate-resilient ambition in developing countries. This follows a successful initial resource mobilization period, during which GCF has so far built a portfolio committing USD 5 billion for climate action in 97 countries.

Mr Glemarec comes to GCF with 30 years of international experience in climate change, development and finance. Before joining GCF, Mr Glemarec focused his efforts on promoting gender equality and empowering women as UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme in UN Women from 2015 to 2018.

Mr Glemarec begins his new position with a full schedule. He is due to attend GCF's first replenishment consultation meeting on 4 to 5 April in Oslo, Norway. This meeting is being held to help lay the groundwork for a pledging conference for contributors to GCF scheduled later in the year.

He will then take part in the Korea Global Adaptation Week from 8-12 April, before joining some of the World Bank spring meetings in Washington which are designed to bring together leading experts to find solutions to global challenges, as well as attending the Financing for Development Forum at the UN in New York from 15-18 April.

Javier Manzanares, who has been acting as Executive Director ad interim, resumes his role as Deputy Executive Director.

Preparations are underway in Kiribati to pave the way for the implementation of the biggest ever water project in the country, the South Tarawa Water Supply Project, where the Green Climate Fund is the major finance contributor alongside the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Kiribati.

In announcing the GCF B.21 approval 22 October 2018, Finance Minister, Dr. Teuea Toatu said GCF's contribution is capped at almost AUD\$40million (US\$28.63m), labelling the decision an historical one for Kiribati's first proposal that will have great impact and be a paradigm shift for the country.

"The journey to meet the funds requirements and to have even one proposal up for consideration has been arguably very difficult, this is a testament of Governments dedication and commitment to its people, and the beginning of a process to transform our islands and people to be resilient to the impacts of climate change as encapsulated in our Kiribati Vision 20," Dr. Teuea adds.

The project comes at a time when the main source of water supply for South Tarawa is significantly under stress and will continue to exacerbate with climate related impacts of sea level rise, droughts, intensity of storms and a worsening wave climate to the only source of freshwater in the capital, South Tarawa, the Bonriki groundwater lens.

"I am pleased that efforts to access climate finance pledges under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the Paris Agreement is being realized at the national level, and I wish to acknowledge our accredited entity, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for working with stakeholders in carrying us from the initial concept stages to the final stages of approval and we look forward to the positive implementation of this project with them."

The South Tarawa Water Supply project has a total project cost of almost AUD\$80million (US\$58.08m) dollars that will comprise of the grant from the GCF and co-financing support from Government, the Asia Development Bank and World Bank. The project will provide water 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to the South Tarawa population, targeting the livelihood of over to 50% of the country's population.

Kiribati National Expert Group 1st Biannual Meeting ends on a high note



Secretary, Mrs. Maryanne Mikaere Namakin, opening KNEG Meeting
[Photo by: OBComms]

The one-day 1st Biannual Meeting of the Kiribati National Expert Group, under the auspices of the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA) Readiness program lifted off with a positive turn out of members and with words of encouragement by the Secretary of the Office of Te Beretitenti, Mrs. Maryanne Mikaere Namakin on 24 February 2019.

Though the KNEG is an informal grouping of technical officials within Government, it also includes representation of the private sector, non-state actors, peoples living with disability group and faith-based organizations. Since its formation back in 2016, it has become an important body in planning and implementing a whole of country approach on climate change and disaster risk reduction, says Secretary Maryanne.

“The KNEG is a key body behind the KJIP - the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction, and being an important Government planning document, I wish to encourage our members for consistency and continuity in terms of participation, as your roles has become ever more important in Government quest to retain our islands and the lives of our people against climate change and natural disasters,” Mrs. Namakin said.

She adds the importance of KNEG is evident now with Climate Finance engagement, through the GCF NDA using it as a vehicle to drive national engagement and consultation aimed at developing project proposals to access climate finance from the UNFCCC instruments such as the GCF.

The meeting proper began with a comprehensive update to KNEG by the Director of Climate Finance, Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, with a presentation provided on the current status of the Divisions pipeline of project proposals and project concepts being developed under the NDA guidance as a matter of trying to achieve Government’s climate finance priorities such as water, coastal protection, renewable energy and sustainable sea transportation.

Program Finance Officer, Ms. Taati Mamara informed the KNEG of the status of the GCF readiness program and invited members to co-join with readiness activities that are complementary to Government’s climate change and disaster reduction priorities.

Communications Officer, Mr. Rooti Terubea took the meeting to a review of the Climate & Disaster Finance Assessment Report, an output of a review conducted in 2018 led by the Pacific Islands Forum with support from SPC, the Australian Government, ADB and the Government of Germany, the KNEG was invited to make comments and inputs into the report before being finalized.

The final item on the agenda, was an invitation of KNEG members to attend an open session of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group meeting (held February 26-28 2019). Climate Change Adviser, Mr. Choi Yeeting told the KNEG the LEG meeting in Tarawa is the second to take place in the country, and will be an opportunity for national experts to have up and close dialogue with this important body.

The meeting ended with commitments by the representatives of the Private Sector and Non-Government Organizations wanting the NDA to hold special consultations with their full members outside of KNEG.



**It's our 3rd
publication, want a e-
copy from our
previous volumes?
email:
rterubea@finance.gov.ki**

Scaling Up of Renewable Energy Investment Plan delivered by Hon. Dr. Teuea Toatu to the Head of the Climate Investment Fund-CIF

Kiribati's Finance Minister officially handed over the country's scaling up of renewable energy program investment plan to the Head of the Climate Investment Fund, on 12 December 2018, at the sidelines of the COP24 in Katowice, Poland.

Hon. Dr Teuea Toatu says the handing over of this important document marks the official submission of Kiribati's Scaling Up of Renewable Energy Program Investment Plan to the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) SREP Sub Committee ahead of its February 2019 meeting in Morocco for funding consideration.

Speaking at the handing over, Dr. Toatu says "the occasion not only marks the official submission of the investment plan, but more so on the national level it marks the completion of another major Government milestone on its climate finance priorities".

Dr. Toatu told Ms Mafalda Duarte, Head of CIF that "the investment plan is inline with Government's 20-year vision – KV20 which is a blueprint to transform Kiribati to a healthier, wealthier and peaceful nation. Government is grateful for the US\$300,000 from the CIF

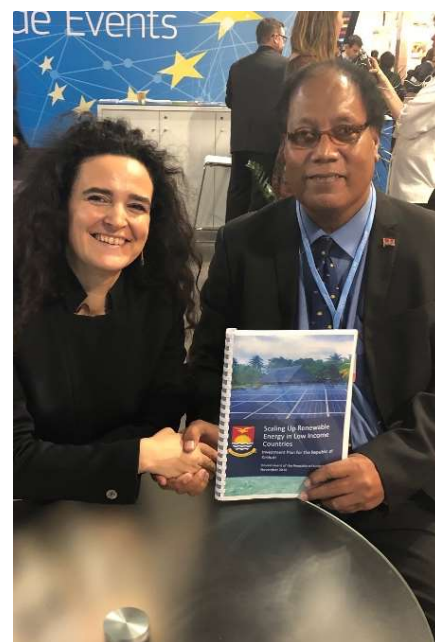
the developed of the investment and we acknowledge the support of the World Bank and ADB in this regard.

The investment plan ties in with the country's climate change policy 2018 and energy policy 2009 both of which seeks to promote sustainable renewable energy development and set out medium term targets which are vital to deliver Kiribati's Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 48.8 per cent and fossil fuel consumption by 45 percent in South Tarawa, and 60 percent on Kiritimati Island by 2025.

The plan identifies technologies and projects that are best suited to meet Government's objectives. It outlines steps that need to be taken to implement the projects as well as financing modalities that will ensure affordable, cost-effective energy for I-Kiribati people.

The \$8 billion Climate Investment Funds (CIF) accelerates climate action by empowering transformations in clean technology, energy access, climate resilience, and sustainable forests in developing and middle-income countries. The CIF's large-scale, low-cost, long-term

financing lowers the risk and cost of climate financing. It tests new business models, builds track records in unproven markets, and boosts investor confidence to unlock additional sources of finance.



Hon. Minister Dr. Teuea Toatu and Ms. Mafalda Duarte, Head of CIF

Climate Finance stakeholders driving national priority, completes concept note development of coastal protection project for GCF review.

The Climate Finance Division and National Designated Authority office has developed and submitted a Coastal Protection project concept note proposal for review by the Green Climate Fund, February 28 2019.

The concept note is looking at both soft and hard protection measures to cover all the inhabited islands of Kiribati, and its development is spearheaded by the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development with support from key government sectors such as the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, the Ministry of Infrastructure & Sustainable Energy



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MFMRD team leading Taskforce discussion on coastal protection concept note

Adaptation Fund endorses

Outer Island Water project

AUD\$11.7million (US\$8.3million) water project concept note anticipated to enhance resilience in the outer islands of Kiribati was endorsed by the Board of the Adaptation Fund during their Thirty-second Meeting in Bonn, Germany from 11-12 October 2018.

Hon. Dr. Teuea Toatu, Minister for Finance & Economic Development and Designated Authority for Kiribati to the Adaptation Fund says this is the largest ever proposal for the outer islands to increase access to safe and reliable water.

“Our outer islands are characterized by high exposure to multiple climate hazards but especially coastal inundation and saltwater intrusion which affects quality and quantity of potable drinking water. In essence, our sources of water are becoming limited, leading to health and sanitation issues in our outer island communities.

This is a Government priority very much like the water concern in urban South Tarawa,” Minister Toatu said.

Director of the Climate Finance Division, Mr. Jonathan Mitchell says the project concept note has been developed by Government who has selected the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as an entity of the Adaptation Fund to develop the proposal.

Mr. Mitchell said the endorsement of the concept note by the Board paves the way for the development of a full proposal for funding consideration. The next steps for us now will be to work with stakeholders and SPREP to develop a full proposal.

Climate Finance stakeholders driving national priority, completes concept note development of coastal protection project for GCF review.

from p 4

Sustainable Energy, the Office of the President and the NDA, who are sitting members of the Coastal Protection Task Force set up by Government to advance support in accessing finance for this priority area.

Director of Fisheries, Mrs. Tooreka Teemari says the development of the concept note has taken the Task Force about 2 months to complete after going through different processes required such as data collection, building and developing narratives of the concept, budgeting then finally putting all into a GCF concept note template.

“In a way the consultations we’ve had, had sort of informed us about the GCF process and guidelines on how to develop a concept note, as well as knowing the inside out of GCF NDA national process, GCF being the newest of climate fund, we’re excited to have been able to drive the development of the concept note and being part of this important process and especially eager to learn the outcome of the review by GCF.” Mrs. Teemari said.

Stakeholder consultation with Climate & Disaster Finance Team led by PIFS and SPC in 2018



Kiribati shares experience at GCF NDA Global Conference

[Songdo, South Korea] 9 Oct 2018 – Kiribati was among countries invited by the Green Climate Fund to share its experience on multilateral climate finance engagement to more than 90 countries worldwide attending the GCF NDA Conference, in Songdo, South Korea.

Representing Kiribati as NDA, was the Minister for Line & Phoenix Islands Development, Hon. Mikarite Temari.

Minister Temari told the conference that as small and vulnerable as it may be, Kiribati's climate resilience building is highly dependent on available climate change resources from multilateral sources such as the GCF.

"We're already feeling the effects of climate change which is making it virtually impossible for us to adapt and mitigate within our means and capacity. However, utilising our policies and plans as guiding documents, Government is determined that there are immediate priorities that require urgent action and of which are transformative and paradigm shifting initiatives, such as water, coastal adaptation, renewable energy and sustainable sea transportation." Minister Temari said.

While Kiribati through the Climate Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning is developing proposals for its immediate priorities, Minister Temari says Government is now commencing with its



Hon. Mikarite Temari (far right) at the GCF NDA Global Conference in Songdo, S/Korea

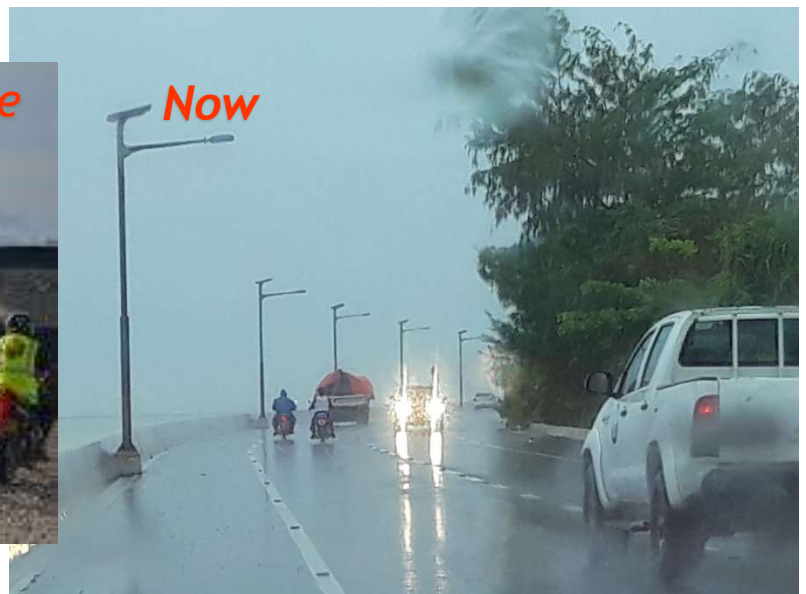
GCF Readiness activities that will render into a country program, but more importantly in the long term; is building climate finance capacity at the national level.

Kiribati received approval for approximately US\$586,000 which will be used to support the work of the NDA and to also carry out consultations to develop our strategic framework and country programme that will identify our climate change priorities to engage with the GCF in the medium to long term.

At a panel discussion, Hon. Mikarite Temari took time to call on the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, both serving the Paris Agreement to focus beyond 2020 upon which pledges to climate financing will exceed 100billion a year and make GCF presence in the Pacific a reality.



Before



Now

USAID Climate Ready project assist on Standard Operating Procedures for climate finance

Mr. Noa Seru, Senior Policy and Finance Adviser and Mr. Ravinder Singh, Climate Fund Technical Specialist from USAID Climate Ready program met Secretary Mr. Benjamin Tokataake and Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, Climate Finance Director on a mission to assist the Division to setup a Standard Operating Procedure for climate finance engagement core functions. The mission is part of USAID Climate Ready assistance to Government.

Secretary Mr. Tokataake said “Government has prioritised climate finance and with our relatively new Climate Finance Division, we want to get things right from the start and this means getting the systems, procedures and processes in order to support our efforts to accelerate access to climate finances. We acknowledge the important partnership with USAID Climate Ready, which will strengthen our institutional capacity and lay down concrete foundations for the Ministry.”

Director Jonathan Mitchell says as a partner in our climate finance access engagement, having an intervention or assistance for this matter by the USAID Climate Ready project, will assist the new Climate Finance Division within the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development, having a proper ‘standard operating procedure’ in place.

“To put this into perspective, the Division was established by Cabinet in 2017 since then it has managed to recruit core officers to join the Division in Program Finance



L-R: Jonathan Mitchell, Ravinder Singh, Benjamin Tokataake and Noa Seru

and Communications, by the end of 2018, we’ve managed to facilitate the development of strong pipeline of proposals to the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and Climate Investment Fund, and undertook a climate change & disaster risk management finance assessment through a regional project under the Pacific Islands Forum together with other key partners. Now we’re engaging with USAID Climate Ready to assist us on standard operating procedures that will lay the framework on how the Division operates within its given mandate to access climate finance and how to deal with multilateral partners and national stakeholders, especially as we move forward to undertake a national consultation to develop a Strategic Framework & Country Program under our GCF readiness program” Mr. Mitchell said.

CIF endorses Kiribati Renewable Energy Investment Plan with US\$5m indicative allocation

Kiribati’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy Investment Plan has been endorsed by the Climate Investment Funds Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program sub committee, which also includes approval for an indicative allocation of US\$5 million in grant funding that will contribute towards the implementation of phase 1 of the Investment Plan and the largest renewable energy project for Kiribati to date.

At the Morocco CIF SREP roundtable meeting in January 2019, Dr. Toatu says that “the Investment Plan creates an important pathway toward meeting its international and national 2030 commitments under the Paris Agreement to increase renewable energy to the power grids by over 60%, cutting in half its current greenhouse gas emissions, reducing reliance on fossil fuel use and most importantly saving millions of dollars on imported fuels.”

The Investment Plan will require funding of US\$76.4million, which will be delivered in two phases with a focus on increasing renewable energy use to the power grids on South Tarawa and Kirimati Island. “The first Phase 1, which is likely to commence in 2020 has a budget of US\$15.4 million will focus on installing a solar plant with battery storage and undertaking infrastructure improvements, institutional strengthening and regulatory changes. The outputs of phase 1 will lay important foundations to commence phase 2, which is to ramp up renewable energy and battery storage for Kiribati to meet its 60% renewable target”, said Dr. Toatu.

The US\$5million allocated by the Climate Investment Fund will be combined with resources from the Asia Development Bank, our bilateral partners and also Government to meet the US\$15.4million needed to commence project implementation in 2020. Dr. Toatu acknowledged the contributions from multilateral and bilateral partners who are assisting Kiribati in being a part of the greatest challenge of this generation, climate change.

File Manager

GCF Progress

- South Tawa Water Supply Project full proposal submitted Feb 2018 : Approved by GCF B 21 Oct 2018. Value: US\$58.05million [GoK/ADB/WB]
- Coastal Adaptation Project: concept note completed and submitted to GCF Feb 2019 for review: Lead Ministry: MFMRD, supported by OB, MFED, MISE & MELAD
- Increasing RE(solar) in Kiritimati Island and South Tarawa Phase 2 (see Phase 1 under CIF tab): Lead Ministry - MISE. AE: WB/ADB
- Sustainable Sea Transport: Sub-regional project led by Govt of Palau: AE: SREP. Budget: US\$50million. Lead Ministry - MFAI: Concept stage in progress.

AF Progress

- 1. Outer Island Water Resilience Project Concept endorsed by AF Board Oct 2018: development of full proposal in progress: Lead Ministry - MISE. AE: SPREP. Budget: US\$8.2million.

CIF Progress

- Development of Scaling Up of Renewable Energy Investment Plan (SREP IP): Budget: US\$300K: WB/DHI [Investment Plan complete and delivered Dec 2018]
- SREP IP endorsed by CIF Board Jan 2019 + grant approval of US\$5million for Phase 1 of increasing solar power in Kiritimati and South Tarawa. Phase 1 total budget: US\$15.4million. Co-financing: GoK/CIF/EU.

Climate Finance Calendar 2019

Event	Date	Venue
National Stakeholders Consultation	Qtr 3	Tarawa
National Stakeholders Consultation	Qtr 3	Kiritimati Is.
GCF B.23	Jul 6-8 2019	Songdo, South Korea
National Gospel Day	Jul 10 2019	Betio, Tarawa
National Culture & Senior Citizens Day	Jul 11 2019	Betio, Tarawa
National Day	Jul 12	Betio, Tarawa

Climate Finance Stakeholder Profiles



Mrs. Tooreka Teemari is the Director of Fisheries, the first woman to take the realm of a male dominant sector. Apart from her busy schedule of looking after the country's coastal fisheries which extends to 12 nautical miles of Kiribati's territorial waters, she's an active secretariat of the Coastal Protection Task Force established to advance access of climate finance to protect atoll coasts of Kiribati islands both with soft and hard measures.



Mr. Choi Yeeting, is the Senior Policy Advisor on climate change and the National climate change coordinator at the Office of Te Beretitenti. His work requires coordination of climate change actions implemented through the KNEG and implementation of the KJIP and the Whole of Island approach, ensuring clear and coherent linkages between communities, stakeholders and government are coordinated in line with: CC policy, NDC, KJIP and the WOIA

