

# 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 scale up the efforts of previous projects to provide potable water to residents of the Southern Gilbert Islands, and especially Beru Island, 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, receive very low rainfall and are very prone to drought leading to crop failures and contamination of ground water sources. These conditions are being exacerbated by climate change.

Focusing on the people living in selected communities of Beru Island, 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 in selected vulnerable communities in Beru Island by enhancing infrastructure for water storage and supply on the island. Following community consultations and water assessments in Beru island, the most appropriate measures will be prioritised and installed. The measures may include enhanced rainwater harvesting systems, ground water extraction systems or solar powered desalination units.

Capacity building efforts will focus on providing technical support to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy on the operation and maintenance of desalination plants and the provision of training for water technicians.



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The project is working with selected communities of Beru 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



- Conducting technical water assessments in Beru Island to inform the design of appropriate water security measures for selected communities.
- Conducting community consultations in Beru Island to understand the community's concerns around water security and climate change.
- Together with communities and government stakeholders, selecting the most appropriate water security measures for scaling up in Beru Island.
- Designing, purchasing and installing the prioritised enhanced water security measures in selected Beru Island communities.

### 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 Beru 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.
- Conducting community-based impact assessments relating to reverse osmosis plants already established in the Southern Gilbert Islands to inform future plans.

## 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.