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Gender Strategy Paper for the Kiribati National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA)

Kiribati is situated in the Central Pacific Ocean and consists of 33 atolls with a total land area of about 800 sq km. The atolls exist in three separate groups – the Gilberts, Line and Phoenix. Each group has a separate Exclusive Economic Zone, with the total EEZ for Kiribati being around 3.5 million sq km. The atolls have a maximum height of 3 to 4 m above mean sea level. Not all of the atolls are inhabited, and some are not capable of being inhabited.

The total population of Kiribati during the 2000 census was 84494 and grew during the preceding 5 years at an annual growth rate of 1.7%. For the great majority, the livelihood is at the subsistence level, dependent heavily on natural environment resources. Monetized socio-economic systems are predominating in urban Tarawa and on Kiritimati island, but there is strong interdependency between these systems and that of the quality of the state of the environment.

Subsistence and sustainable means of livelihood are based on indigenous tree crops, namely coconut tree, pandanus tree, bwabwai (giant taro), breadfruit and banana. The productivity of these tree crops is dependent on a healthy environment. The coconut tree produces the important export product, copra; the pandanus tree bears fruits which are traditionally preserved for consumption especially during drought years; bwabwai is a prestigious crop; breadfruit and banana are the only fruit trees that provide varied diet from the mainstay of coconut, bwabwai, and fish.

This National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) document has 7 sections. This first section gives the background of the NAPA project and Kiribati setting. The second section deals with general environmental stress symptoms that have been noted, in particular the conditions and processes of key sectors demonstrating their vulnerability to climate change.

Section 3 sets out a Framework of Adaptation starting with simple trend analysis of climatic parameters followed by scenarios of climate change and sea level rise. This data forms the rationale for adaptation planning, mainstreaming, and linkages of NAPA with other environmental protection projects. Section 4 deals with identification of adaptation needs. It is observed that climate related hazards are being exacerbated and that traditional coping strategies are becoming ineffective. It describes how the projects were identified. It also contains information on KAP II to show how KAP II is complementary to the NAPA project.

Section 5 describes the prioritization process aiding the identification of the project profiles submitted in this NAPA document. Section 6 sets out the project profiles using a standard

format. Section 7 summarizes the NAPA process that has been followed to get approval of the NAPA document, at both the stakeholder and Cabinet levels.

Through the support of the ICI Project, SPC, Energy Programme was able to conduct a desk review of priority sectors (Water and Coastal Zone Management and Resilience Enhancement for Adaptation) and also conduct a field visit in Kiribati to deliver gender mainstreaming trainings for the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) officials who are implementing activities under the Coastal Zone Management and Resilience Enhancement for Adaptation) priority area.

Summary of the desk top review

NAPA	Recommended gender- sensitive approach	Gender-sensitive indicators
<p>Socio-economic circumstances</p> <p>The NAPA document highlighted some of the major events that were encountered by the Phoenix islands. The droughts in the late 1950s and early 1960 caused water to turn salinized and also spread of fatal diseases. This resulted in the re-location of its people to another foreign country. Employment level as per the 2000 census was low, only 9,200 of the 84,495 people were employed. High level of unemployment and population puts stress on environmental resources.</p>	<p>Provide information on how the drought has impacted on men and women, number of men and women unemployed.</p> <p>Provide disaggregated data that can be used as baseline.</p>	<p>Natural disaster Act and policies to be gender sensitised.</p>
Key sectors and projects		
Project	Recommended gender- sensitive approach	Gender-sensitive indicators
<p>Water Resource Adaptation project</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development and implementation of “Demand” pricing system for South Tarawa. 2) Improved Maintenance of existing water supply system. 3) Improvement on existing wells. 4) Risk assessment of water resources. 5) Impact assessment of urban groundwater supply system. 	<p>Ensure men and women are involved in survey and decision making to identify the different water needs of men and women.</p> <p>Encourage participation of women workshops (awareness) and capacity building programs.</p>	<p>Number of men and women involve in survey and decision making structure (project committee).</p> <p>Number of men and women participate in awareness workshops and capacity building programs</p>

<p>6) Awareness raising.</p> <p>7) Sustainable community based monitoring system planning for Drought, its effect on Operations and distribution.</p> <p>8) Institutional strengthening and capacity building for sustainable water management.</p>		
<p>Simple well improvement Activities</p> <p>1) Visits by MHMS to outer islands to introduce the project through village welfare groups.</p> <p>2) Regular monitoring visits.</p> <p>3) Provide materials for mold for wells.</p>	<p>Ensure that the times of meetings are held when women and men are available. For example introduction of the project can be held in the evening to ensure that men and women participate in the discussion.</p>	<p>Time of meetings and number of women and men participate</p> <p>Materials produced are gender sensitised address both women and men's needs</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management and Resilience Enhancement for Adaptation</p> <p>Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raising; 2. Protecting and enhancing resilience of coastal assets; 3. Information and Data; 4. Institutional strengthening 	<p>When introducing adaptation solutions it is important to look at existing roles in the community and ensure that the project is not adding to existing workloads. Opportunities to involve all community members and share responsibilities for activities, even where these do not align with traditional roles, should be taken.</p> <p>Participatory monitoring of project activities is important.</p>	<p>Number of men and women participate in awareness raising workshops.</p> <p>Number of fish and other marines' resources harvested by both men and women.</p> <p>Number of men and women participating in the implementation.</p>

Field visit

SPC Energy programme with support from the ICI-Pacific project conducted a gender mainstreaming training for government officials at the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD). The ECD has several thematic areas under its operation as identified in the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy. These include:

1. Climate Change
2. Island Biodiversity Conservation and Management
3. Waste Management and Pollution Control
4. Resource Management
5. Environmental Governance

ECD Officials implementing the 5 thematic areas were trained on gender mainstreaming. One of the Gender Inclusive Practical tools used was the "problem -solving tree", this tool enables community practitioners to get an in-depth understanding of the environmental problems a woman or man encounters. The solution tree should assist the community practitioner to take action how to strengthen the community's resilience and empower the more vulnerable group in the community.

The following is an analysis of outcome from a group work at the training. The Biodiversity Conservation Unit (BCU) portfolio is: Mangrove planting (schools and communities); KAP III Outer island visit; and Environmental related program.

Problem	Causes	Impacts	Impact on women	Impact on men
Loss of Biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rise in sea level 2. Change in weather 3. Pollution 4. Over harvesting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Threat to Food security 2. Increase NCD 3. Less income generating activities 4. Threat to traditional knowledge-traditional medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase burden in looking for food for family • Increase burden in caring of family members • Increase stress in looking for other income generating activity • Increase health bills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase burden in looking for food for family • Urban drift to search for employment
Coastal Erosion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mining 2. Artificial sea walls 3. Rise in sea level 4. Sea water intrusion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Threat to food security 2. Loss of land and dispute among villagers 3. Less income generating activities 4. Water problems (unsafe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase burden on women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase burden on men • Urban migration

After identifying the problems, causes and its impacts groups were developed solutions using the solution-tree tool. The following are some solutions for the above problems:

Solutions	Responsible	Impact (Men and Women)	Gender sensitive indicators
Mangrove planting	Men, Youth & Women	More food and resources for family and income. Reduce the burden on women and men	Number of women, men and youth involve in mangrove planting; Yields of marine resources men, women and youth harvest.
Awareness workshop	Men, Youth & Women	Women, Men and Youths are trained and empowered to practice best methods to adapt to climate change	Number of men, women and youth participate in awareness workshop; Number of men, youths and women trained in best methods for adaptation to climate change; Number of men, women and youth implementing the best practices
Revive of Traditional knowledge	Men, Youth & Women	Traditional knowledge is transferred to the younger	Number traditional knowledge/methods

		generation	implemented by women and men. Number of youths trained on traditional knowledge.
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Source: Gender inclusive Training in Climate Change Adaptation, ECD, Kiribati, February 2014

The gender mainstreaming training empowers the ECD officials to integrate gender in their adaptation activities at the community level. This also assists the officials in having gender sensitive indicators for their projects that will assist in their reporting on the implementation of the NAPA (KAP III activities).

In summary, the NAPA document of Kiribati covers the seven key thematic areas/sectors which are most vulnerable to climate change in the context of Kiribati (water, coastal management; agriculture and food security; biodiversity; health; climate induced disasters). The document follows the guidelines of the UNFCCC international agreement on March 1994 and entered into force for Kiribati in May 1995. The document lacks gender sensitive indicators for its priority sectors and activities. Gender mainstreaming training and the use of practical tools can enhance the skills of government officials and empowers them to integrate gender in their ongoing NAPA activities.

References

SPC, 2013, Training Manual to mainstream gender into energy and community based adaptation projects.

SPC/GIZ, 2014, Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit: Tools for Practitioners (Draft)

Ministry of Environment, Land, and Agricultural Development, 2007, Kiribati NAPA