KAM NA BANE N MAURI



The effect of Sea Level Rise in Kiribati

Introduction

- Kiribati background
- Land
- Water

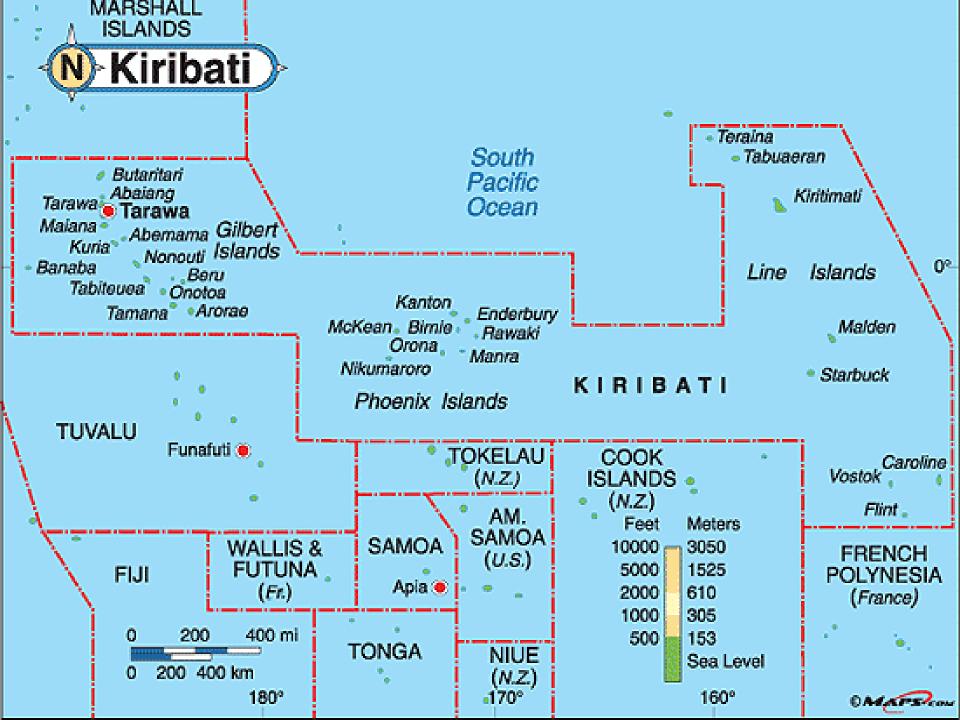
• 3 effects of Sea Level Rise

- a. Coastal Erosion
- b. Increase in Water Salinity
- c. Impact on Land and people's livelihood
- 3 ways to address the effect of Sea Level Rise to build the resilience of Kiribati people

a. climate change implementation in school curriculum.

INTRODUCTION

- **33 low lying atoll** islands lying across the equator
- 21 islands are inhabited surrounded by sea
- Atolls have limited food crops (coconuts, native fig, pandanus, breadfruit)
- Total population: 110,000 (more than half, live on South Tarawa – Capital Island of Kiribati)
- Islands: 3 meters above the sea (on average) & are vulnerable to sea level rise (Climate Change impacts)
- Climate change: national priority for Government; people's lives at risk; lots of uncertainties
 - Adversely impact the heart of I-Kiribati life; marine resources, the underground water (limited fresh water lens) and our mother land (Kiribati)



Priority Problems related to Sea Level Rise

1. Impacts of highest ties of each month



2. Increase in water salinity

3. Impact on agriculture and people's livelihood



Increase in sealevel rise

 Inundation: Flood/overflow of sea on land caused by the king tide (2.9 meters):

destroy homes and trees

- destroy local food crops
- pollute well water & washes sand/beach away



2. Increase in water salinity

- Limited underground freshwater only source of freshwater on the atolls
- Increased in water salinity
 - Affect the lives of all living species (on land)
 - Affect land (biodiversity)
 - * tree crops
 - * subsistence economy
 - * human health & wellbeing

Waterborne & airborne diseases increasing

Dangerous issue (No where else to get water causing increased prolonged drought)



3.Impact on people's livelihood

- **Caused by Land erosion**
- Causes violence & disputes
- Lose of culture & heritage
- Affect food crops
- Affect people's health







(Building & enhancing resilience of our most vulnerable people) <u>3 ways to adapt and minimize the effect of Sea Level Rise</u>

1. Implements Climate Change in national Curriculum

 e.g. Year 1 -4 New Topic introduced:
Health Living - the wash program
Year 12- 13 Students research on "The effect of climate Change in Kiribati"
Training Centre (MTC) & TVET Programme – Kiribati Institute Technology



2. Seasonal Workers Programme (Australia & NZ) VISION: TO BUILD A TVET SCHOOL FOR THE DISADVANTAGE BUT THIS NEEDS NEED TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL SUPPORTS.



2. OUTREACH -

BEHAVIORAL AWARENESS

- Change the mentality of our people through various Government & NGOs Outreach Programmes
 - Most people have very low seft-esteem
 - Lack of local community supports towards climate change projects implemented at different levels of society (national, island and village level)
 - Food security issues, especially those living in South Tarawa & within the vicinity of South Tarawa
- Implementation of national curriculum in schools
- Informal Outreach utilizing 'te mwaneaba system'
- Sharing of indigenous knowledge on agriculture.

Local community/People Involvement

 <u>Community involvement</u> & participation in the implementations of national climate change & other environment programmes at island & village levels

- Kiribati Government Small Grants Scheme (e.g. Kiribati Adaptation Programme III Resilient development projects & National Disaster Fund)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants to protect the global environment (biodiversity conservation; climate change & land degradation): focus on local communities projects e.g. rainwater harvesting programme; mangrove replanting

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Kiribati like other pacific islands, is a peaceful, loving, hospitable country not at war BUT we are **NOW** on the **front** line of deadly attacks by the impacts of climate change, the reason is **RISING SEA** LEVELS.

