



GOVERNMENT OF KIRIBATI

GoK(12)DPF (Presentation 2)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FORUM

Tarawa, Kiribati
25 – 27 June 2012

Topic 2: MOBILISING CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES

Purpose

1. To present Government's intentions in mobilising Global Climate Change resources in support of Government's development aspirations. Government has long recognised that Climate change poses a significant risk to its development and therefore accessing these resources into the country will assist in realising our development goals and aspirations through mitigating these risks and adapting to Climate Change impacts.
2. This paper begins by presenting a brief background on the current situation with regard to climate change resourcing. This section describes the process in which Kiribati has gone through in regards to climate change with the support from external sources. The paper then highlights the National Framework on Climate Change and Climate Change Adaptation as the document identifying the way forward on the issue. Key impediments are identified within the context of resource mobilisation to implement these activities. The paper then concludes by presenting specific recommendations by listing areas of potential collaboration with development partners which are both pertinent and appropriate in addressing the multiple dimensions of the issue.

Background

3. Kiribati has been involved with climate change for quite some time now and since the issue gained global significance in the early 1990's, during this period, the issue has grown in significance within the national domestic agenda with some key undertakings having been implemented including the Kiribati Adaptation Program through the assistance of the World Bank,
4. The World Bank has been instrumental in pooling together Climate Change funding to implement initiatives in-country. The bulk of these resources have been through AusAid, NZAid, Japan and the GEF.

5. Kiribati as a country has gained some maturity on the issue over this time and Government has taken important steps to addressing the issue of Climate Change including shifting the portfolio responsibility to the Office of Te Beretitenti to reflect the urgency of the issue. This move has facilitated the development of a coherent policy framework with regard to the issue which is embodied in the National Framework on Climate Change and Climate Change Adaptation comprising of the following;
6. Mitigation: Reducing our GHG emissions not only is part of our effort in meeting our obligations under the Framework Convention but it also provides opportunities that will benefit our people in the long term. The National Energy Policy forms the basis of our effort in this regard.
7. Integration into National Planning Capacity: Planning for Climate Change and the national effort in meeting its consequences need to permeate into the development planning process at all levels. This includes sector plans, multi-year budget frameworks, Ministry Operational Plans. This implies that capacity at all levels from the planning through to implementation needs to be enhanced to meet this need.
8. External Finance and Technical Assistance: As international adaptation funding starts to come online, Kiribati needs to position itself in order to be able to both attract and absorb this assistance. Part of this will be to ensure that one-off project based interventions continue to be part of the national adaptation effort while at the same time, direct budget support for recurring annual adaptation activities are supported through this funding flow. Project based activities need to be mindful of the low capacity within key sectors and should therefore consider building or expanding existing capacity.
9. Population: Our population must remain at a level that facilitates our adaptation effort. This level must be maintained so that population pressures on all atolls remain adequate for the carrying capacity of our atoll systems.
10. The effort under this heading is channeled through six key areas:
 - a. Human Resources Development
 - b. Facilitation of overseas employment and permanent migration
 - c. Facilitation of local employment and income generation
 - d. Improvement of basic infrastructure and economic opportunities to attract and retain population on outer islands
 - e. Advocacy for population and informed parenting
 - f. Strengthening of health services especially for rural communities
11. Survivability and Self Reliance:

The ultimate consequences of climate change are a contentious issue for Government to deal with. However, Government must act now so that mechanisms are in place that ensures the welfare of its people now and into the future. As such then Government is advocating the need for its people to

relocate on merit and with dignity and not fall victim to tribulations of being environmental refugees.

Kiribati in partnership with the Australian Government in 2011 took the first substantial step in finalizing the Framework by undertaking a national summit in which the document was discussed with key representatives from the outer islands including those from the Line Group and the next steps in operationalising the Framework are now being discussed with AusAid

While Kiribati has been fortunate in the past in being able to mobilize substantial resources for our climate change activities, it has only been through the assistance of the World Bank that this has been possible, however, Kiribati also recognizes that if it were to be able to have full ownership of these resources including on where and when it should be directed, there is a need to be able to directly access these resources, this therefore implies that the right skills and knowledge are developed in the right places within Government to address this

Issues

12. Lack of sufficient skills and knowledge to meet donor funding requirements.
13. Current funding modalities for Climate Change assistance do not consider direct budget support even though on an annual basis Government is already having to allocate resources to meet these needs
14. Not enough in-country capacity for full implementation of identified needs and initiatives

Recommendations

15. To enhance and expand ongoing adaptation effort on climate change funding modalities into the country donor partners need to undergo a paradigm shift in their thinking to consider direct budget support as the essential first step towards mobilising external resources
16. A programmed approach is taken on the national adaptation effort to aid in the coordination, implementation and capacity development/building of this effort
17. Arrangements are made to operationalise the National Framework in coordination with the Office of Te Beretitenti
18. Timelines are put in place for the timely delivery of assistance.