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**GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND**

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*"Government has made it a high priority to take greater ownership and to put in place the necessary capacity to engage with the various source of climate financing"*

*Dr. Teuea Toatu*

## Minister adamant about climate finance

Kiribati's bid to tap into the multi-billion-dollar climate finance pledges under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is in full swing, thanks to Government commitment by establishing a new Climate Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and the submission of its first ever proposal to the Green Climate Fund late February 2018.

Finance Minister Hon. Dr. Teuea Toatu who spearheaded the formation of the new Climate Finance Division to handle the country's engagement with

with international climate financing regimes says it been long overdue for Kiribati to tap into these pledges, especially being at the frontline of climate change yet among the late-comers to access the funds.



*Dr. Teuea Toatu,  
Hon. Minister and  
National  
Designated  
Authority for Green  
Climate Fund,  
Adaptation Fund  
and Focal Point for  
the Climate  
Investment Fund.*

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## Kiribati's first GCF proposal submitted

*[February: 26 2018]*

The South Tarawa Water Supply (STWSP) project proposal was delivered on February to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) headquarters in Songdo, South Korea, by GCF's multinational accredited entity(AE), the Asian Development Bank, for funding consideration.

Finance Minister, Hon. Dr. Teuea Toatu says Government is pleased that efforts to access climate finance pledges under the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the Paris Agreement is being realized at the national level. The STWSP will be the largest transformative water project for Kiribati.

Finance Minister, Hon. Dr. Teuea Toatu says the livelihood of over to 50% of the population could significantly be under stress, given constant climate related impacts of sea level rise combined with increasing intensity of storms and a worsening wave climate to the only source of freshwater in the capital, South Tarawa, the Bonriki groundwater lens.

'Models suggest that climate change significantly increases the likelihood of extreme events (overtopping or droughts) that would render over 50% of the lens unusable for several years,' Dr. Teuea adds. 'an increasingly erratic precipitation pattern impacts groundwater replenishment, which in turn affects groundwater quality and quantity. The complete absence of surface water amplifies the difficulties. Thus, a growing population consuming more water, partly because of increasing temperatures, is facing a difficult situation.'

The multi-million-dollar project proposal is seeking GCF's financial support with an objective to provide 100% of South Tarawa's population with 24/7 access to safe drinking water, at a quantity of 57 liters per day per person, by 2024.



*Fetching water from a well: source  
(www.climate.gov.ki)*



*Children playing at sea at dusk.  
(source: www.abc.net.au)*



## Kiribati marks CIF engagement

### *Scaling Up of Renewable Energy Program - Investment Plan*

*[Feb:2018]*

A World Bank led mission to Kiribati in February to commence consultations and gather information to develop a national investment plan on renewable energy, marks the beginning of Kiribati's engagement with the Climate Investment Fund, under the Scaling Up of Renewable Energy Program (SREP-IP), through the newly established Climate Finance Division.

The mission saw consultations held with the SREP National Taskforce and stakeholders, where an outline of the SREP IP was discussed, a look at renewable energy technologies to be considered under the plan, barriers limiting the adoption of renewable energy as well as mapping ongoing renewable energy projects.

Climate Finance Director, Jonathan Mitchell says the outcome of this kick off mission will inform the drafting process of the Investment Plan scheduled to start on 14 March 2018. 'We're expecting the final Plan to be delivered ten days before Government sits to endorse it on April 30 2018, before submission to the Climate Investment Fund for consideration' he adds.

Kiribati's conditional commitment is to reduce emissions by 35,880tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually by 2025.

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## 2018: year of climate finance momentum

*[Feb:2018]*

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is focusing its efforts in 2018 to gain momentum in its efforts to access various sources of available climate financing to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change to the vulnerable communities in Kiribati.

Over the past year, the Ministry established a new Climate Finance Division to focus its efforts on increasing access to climate finance and has secured the resources required to build up its capacity to engage with various sources of multilateral climate financing.

In 2017, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a US\$585,927 readiness proposal prepared by the Ministry that seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to engage with the GCF and to develop a strategic framework and country programme to engage with the GCF and other multilateral climate change funds that are available for Kiribati to access.

In addition to the GCF funds, the Government of New Zealand made a contribution of NZD\$150,000 towards the readiness activities being carried out by the Ministry. The Government of Australia is also providing technical assistance through provision of a Director for the newly established Climate Finance Division of the Ministry. The USAID Climate Ready Project also provided technical assistance to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Climate Finance Division.



*Solar panels for power in the outer islands. (source: www.mise.gov.ki)*

*“Kiribati’s conditional commitment is to reduce emissions by 35,880tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually by 2025.”*

## WHO'S WHO IN OUR CLIMATE FINANCE EFFORT



Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, heads the new Division as Director of Climate Finance. As Director he's the secondary National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and focal point for Climate Investment Fund, supporting the Honourable Minister of Finance, Dr. Teuea Toatu.

Jonathan has worked in the areas of project and program management around climate change and environment having worked for regional, multilateral and donor organizations.



Ms. Taati Mamara, joins the Climate Finance Division as Program Finance Officer, having served in the same role at the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) Secretariat, she has extensive experience in account and audit procedure.



Mr. Rooti Terubea, joins the Climate Finance Division as Communications Officer, after having served in Government communications and in the mainstream media of the country.

### Minister adamant about climate finance

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“Government not wanting to waste time and with a desire to put the wishes of its people affront amidst the ongoing impact of climate change, it came up with three priorities that require immediate attention and financial assistance from climate financing regimes,” he said, “the priorities are water, coastal protection, and renewable energy.” Minister Dr. Toatu said.

He says the new division came into full operation just early January, yet it has been very busy facilitating the development of these three priorities into projects concept proposals with its stakeholders, and on top of that working in preparation to undertake consultations with all stakeholders to develop a strategic framework and country program, an important tool to engage with these important funds.

#### Climate Finance Calendar 2018

Event	Date	Venue
Climate Finance Assessment (led by PIFS)	24 April – 08 May 2018	MFED
GCF B. 20	3 -5 July, 2018	GCF HQ, Songdo South Korea
GCF B.21	23 – 25 October, 2018	GCF HQ, Songdo South Korea

#### Climate Finance Desk

Concept	Lead Agency ( stakeholders)	Fund (entities)
Coastal Protection (Soft Option) Preparation ongoing	MFMRD (Fisheries) -MELAD(ECD) -MISE(Water & Civil) -Office of President -MFED-CFD	Green Climate Fund (UNDP)
South Tarawa Water Supply (complete)	MISE (PUB & Water) -Office of President -MFED CFD	Green Climate Fund (ADB/WB) (submitted Feb 26)
Outer Island Water Supply (consultation/concept preparation ongoing)	MISE (Water) -MFED-CFD -Office of President -MIA	Adaptation Fund (SPREP)
Scaling Up of Renewable Energy Program (SREP-IP) (IP drating in progress)	MISE (Energy) -MFED-CFD -Office of President -MLPID -MELAD (Lands)	Climate Investment Fund (WB/ADB)

