



INTEGRATED OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN KIRIBATI

In 2006, Kiribati established the Phoenix Island Protected Area, one of the Large Scale Marine Protected Areas in the world, which constitute around 11% of Kiribati's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The Government of Kiribati further aims to scale up national efforts towards the creation of community and island based Marine Protected Areas throughout the country.

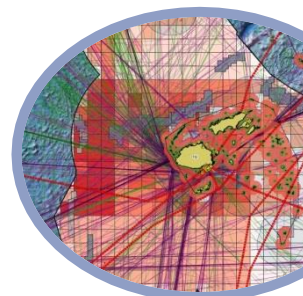
In 2017, the interim inter-ministerial ocean committee was formed, through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, to prepare for the United Nations Ocean Conference and discuss marine spatial planning efforts in Tarawa and Kiritimati Islands.

The members of this committee include technical experts from Government Ministries which includes:

- **Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development**
- **Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development**
- **Office of Beretitenti**
- **Ministry of Finance and Economic Development**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **Ministry of Justice**
- **Kiribati Police Service and Maritime Surveillance**
- **Ministry of Communications, Transport and Tourism Development**
- **Ministry of Health and Medical Services**
- **Kiribati Port Authority**
- **Ministry of Line and Phoenix Island Development**
- **Phoenix Island Protected Areas Implementation Office**
- **Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs**

This interim inter-ministerial ocean committee through leadership from Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, sought cabinet approval to institutionalize ocean governance related committees within government, which include the national over-arching steering committee for the Kiribati's EEZ, its technical GIS support committee and relevant policy instruments required.

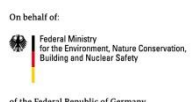
The Government is now moving into the direction of initiating marine spatial planning processes in Tarawa, Kiritimati Island and other Line Islands, as well as finalizing steps for institutionalizing functional ocean governance committees and policy instruments to oversee broad range of issues concerning EEZ of Kiribati.





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- 2014** In-country workshop on marine ecosystems services valuation with key stakeholders raising the awareness of Government stakeholders on the relevance of resource and ocean economic values
- 2014** Discuss with government stakeholders on the Marine Spatial Planning process
- 2015** Existing area based management tools reviewed
- 2015** Follow up discussions on the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process with Kiribati Government
- 2015** Open Source GIS software training conducted
- 2015** Dissemination of over 100 open datasets on marine aspects and customized national maps for Kiribati shared with key Government stakeholders (Departments of Environment, Fisheries, Mineral, Lands and Phoenix Islands Protected Area)
- 2016** Marine ecosystems services valuation report finalized
- 2016** Marine Atlas introduced to Kiribati
- 2017** Dialogue among Government agencies on Ocean Governance, MSP and Voluntary Commitments before the United Nations Ocean Conference
- 2017** Government of Kiribati endorsed an atoll scale MSP to be formulated for Tarawa and Kiritimati Island
- 2017** First MSP workshop and GIS capacity training to key Government officials in Tarawa resulting in preliminary spatial maps and information as basis for MSP of Tarawa
- 2017** Cabinet memorandum on officiating the MSP process for Tarawa and Kiritimati Island drafted, submitted by the Ministry of Fisheries and approved by Cabinet
- 2017** Marine Ecosystem Services Valuation soft launched by Ministry of Environment and featured front page in the local newspaper 'Uekera'
- 2018** Scoping exercise for the initiation of Marine Spatial Planning process in Kiritimati Island



Further reading: www.macbio-pacific.info/kiribati