

Kiribati energy management

Vision Statement: -"The People of Kiribati continue to enjoy a safe and healthy environment that is resilient to the impacts of global climate change and supports livelihoods, human health, and sustainable development"

The KIEP is formulated through a 3 year broad based consultation process with government, private sector, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Community Support Organizations (CSO), outer islands and regional organizations like the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP). The consultation process proved to be a challenge due to the broad coverage of the environment sector.

The Government of Kiribati recognizes the environment as one of the three important pillars of sustainable development. The environment, its goods and its services is the foundation of livelihoods, human health and economy in Kiribati. It formed our culture and heritage and shapes the unique custom, traditions and way of living of the Kiribati people. This harmonious interaction with our atoll environment has sustained our people since time immemorial and needs to continue to do so.

These challenges are most apparent in the heavily populated urban centres of Betio, South Tarawa and increasingly on Kiritimati Island. Increased human population, urbanization at alarming levels, degradation of the natural environment due to increased generation of nonbiodegradable wastes and pollution put both the environment and economy under tremendous strain.

We have learnt a lot during the formulation of the KIEP. The main lesson is the need to work together and as the National Political Focal Point for the environment, I invite and challenge you to join me in using the KIEP to make this implementation practical, concrete and a reality to fulfil the KIEP's Vision:

The development of the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP) is a notable national initiative on mainstreaming environment in the national development planning and this could not be accomplished without the contributions of many people.

Acknowledging the contributions of the State Own Enterprises (KOIL and PUB), NonGovernment Organizations (NGOs) which include the University of the South Pacific (USP), United Nations Development Programme, Kiribati Association of Non-Government Organizations (KANGO), Councils and Churches. Also appreciating the inputs received from the Outer Islands consultations undertaken during 2009 to 2011 including but not limited to Butaritari, Marakei, Abaiang, North Tarawa, Maiana, Aranuka, Abemama, Tabiteuea North and Onotoa

The support by the Secretaries in releasing their respective Officers to attend the series of consultations during the initial stage of the development of the KIEP and the subsequent submission of critical comments on the draft is acknowledged.

The inspiration of the former Director of the Environment and Conservation Division, Mrs. Tererei Abete-Reema, her leadership in securing the approval for the development of the KIEP and for galvanizing a strong support from staff in undertaking this national important work. Also recognizing the perseverance and unwavering support and determination by the present and former Environment and Conservation Division staff in the whole process in undertaking the ground work including the contribution in the drafting.

A special acknowledgement of the invaluable technical assistance provided by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP): Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra (Director), Dr. Jill Key (Capacity Development Adviser), Mr. Tapa Suaesi (Environment Officer) and Ms. Easter Galuvao (Biodiversity Advisor) are all gratefully acknowledged.

Since it was first settled, the people of Kiribati have relied on their natural resources for survival. They still do with an estimated 80% of the population primarily living a subsistence life style. The marine environment sustains them and they depend on it for food, transport, traditional practices and economic opportunity. On atolls the terrestrial environment is more limited but it is essential for water, food and shelter.

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