

FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT WORKSHOP, APIA, SAMOA



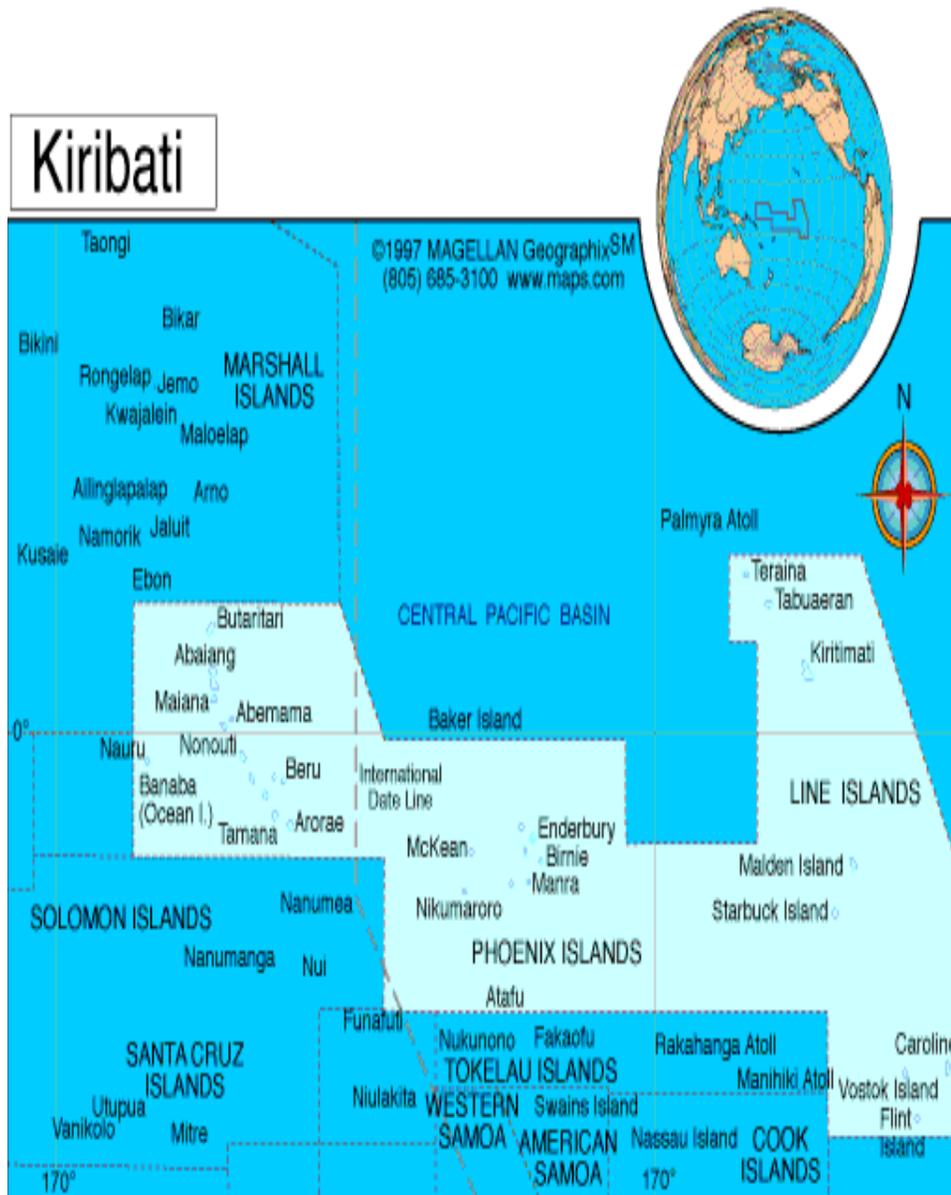
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PRESENTATION LAYOUT

- Introduction
- Overview of Biodiversity in Kiribati
 - Terrestrial Fauna and Flora
 - Marine Fauna and Flora
- Status and Trend
- Threats
- Conclusion



INTRODUCTION



- Group of 33 atoll islands in the Pacific ocean, straddling along the equator
- Includes 3 island groups - Gilbert group, Line Islands, Phoenix Islands
- 21 of the 33 islands are inhabited, the majority of which are in the Gilbert Island group
- Collective land area - 823 km²
- Exclusive Economic Zone - 3.55 million km²
- Total population - 90,000 (2005 census)
- 43% of the total population live in the capital - Tarawa

CONT'D...



- The atolls are narrow and low-lying of not more than 3 meters above sea level, making it vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise.
- The soils of Kiribati are porous and infertile and amongst the poorest in the world

OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY IN KIRIBATI

- Kiribati's biodiversity consist of the marine and terrestrial resources and the knowledge, use and belief that connects these natural resources to the people.
- Compared to other island countries, Kiribati has some of the lowest level biodiversity on earth. The marine biodiversity is somewhat more complex than the terrestrial biodiversity and reports to consist some of the corals found nowhere else in the world.



TERRESTRIAL FAUNA AND FLORA

- ◉ Terrestrial vegetation are limited to coastal strands vegetation (mangroves, pandanus, beach heliotrope, salt bush, coconut trees etc) and remnant strands of inland atoll forest (coconut trees, breadfruit trees, pandanus etc).
- ◉ Flora consist of approx 306 species, 27% of which are possibly indigenous
- ◉ Fauna comprises of mostly pigs, cats and dogs.

- ◉ Avifauna for Kiribati is extremely rich and much of this are found in the Line and Phoenix groups.
- ◉ Supports some of the world's largest breeding colonies of the Phoenix petrel, Polynesian storm petrel, and sooty terns.
- ◉ The Wedge-tailed shearwater colony is reported to be the largest in the world.
- ◉ The Line Islands Warbler (Bokikokiko) found on the Line Islands, is the only endemic vertebrate species



BOKIKOKIKO - ENDEMIC TO KIRIBATI



MARINE FAUNA & FLORA



- The marine environment and ecosystems of Kiribati are still yet to be fully explored.
- Consist of approximately 400 finfish species alone. Other non-fish include turtles, a wide range of crustaceans, shellfish (both bivalves and gastropods) and holothurians.
- Sea grapes and seaweed are some of the common marine flora.

STATUS AND TREND

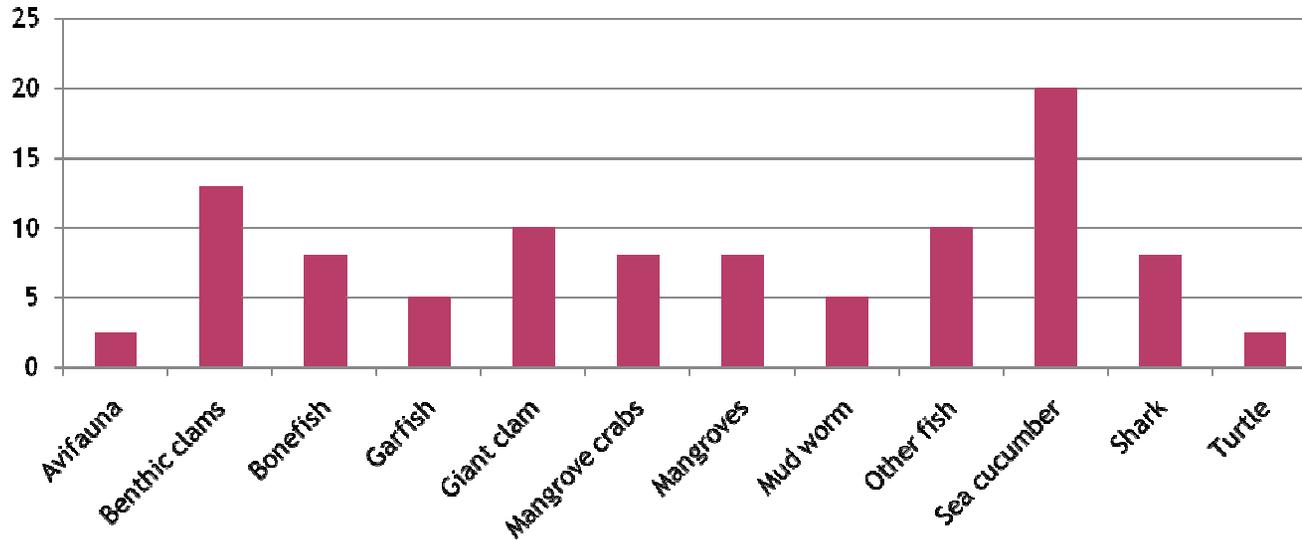
- The biodiversity of Kiribati is seriously threatened and in need of some form of protection.
- The Environment Act (as amended 2007) has been instrumental in safeguarding the threatened biodiversity. The Phoenix Islands Protected Areas (PIPA), the world's largest MPA, is protected at the national level under this Environment Act. The Wildlife Ordinance effective in Kiritimati Island is playing an important role in protecting the birdlife and turtles of the island. There are many wildlife sanctuaries and closed areas found on Kiritimati Island



- The NBSAP is another useful strategy adopted and in effect in conserving and preserving the degrading biodiversity of the nation.
- The POWPA project amongst other biodiversity related projects, is taking its effect in promoting community based protected/conservation areas.
- Mangrove conservation and rehabilitation is enhancing. A community protected area of size 1033 hectares has been established in North Tarawa.
- The National regulations for Protected areas and Protected Species are being finalized and it is anticipated to bring about effective management of the threatened biodiversity once it is enacted



EXAMPLE



- Through anecdotal surveys, sea cucumbers and benthic clams or shellfish clams need urgent protection



THREATS

- ⦿ The rapid population growth and fast changing lifestyle have brought about major negative impacts to the atolls' limited biodiversity, and continues to do so.
- ⦿ While overexploitation of natural resources is occurring at an alarming rate (especially in the capital - Sth Tarawa), invasive species are too taking their toll.
- ⦿ Invasive species currently found in Kiribati include: Polynesian rats, ship rats, house mouse, asian rats, feral cats, feral rabbits, mynah birds and wedelia.



- A number of eradication activities have been undertaken especially within the Line and Phoenix Group where the threat from these invasive species are much severe.
- Climate change continues to disturb the natural biodiversity of the atolls and which stands to be the greatest threat to the biodiversity's existence and survival and to the nation as a whole.



CONCLUSION

- ◉ The limited biodiversity of Kiribati are crucial assets to the people of Kiribati, socially, economically and ecologically. The state of our biodiversity is seriously threatened and effective measures and collective efforts are needed to sustain these resources.
- ◉ In the context of Kiribati, the biodiversity intertwines with our every day needs and cultures. It is our home, our food, our health, our knowledge and our custom. It is our past and our future.





KAM BATI N RABWA!!

