

# FOOD SECURITY



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## FOOD SECURITY

### Handing over of LDCF-1 project donated boat to Maiana and Nonouti Island Councils



"Ensuring National Food Security In The Context of Global Climate Change"

The rollout of this project in July 2016 piloted in three islands; Maiana, Nonouti, and Abemama had blessed these islands tremendously. With nine (9) stakeholders, the roles, goals, and aims of this project had been disseminated faster with skills and knowledge offered and earned for these islands and those who conducted the activities. It is with hope that by the end of this project, locals from these islands will be able to learn how to adapt the impacts of climate change with skills and researches done in enhancing their economic and livelihood resources.



The handover of speed boats were conducted both on Saturdays with different time frames; 25 April 2020 in Maiana and 9 May at Nonouti. The feast celebrations also commemorate the handing over of a Contract of Agreement for the speed boats and were attended by island Mayors, Council of Older men, and council workers on each island, including officials from the two ministries; MIA and MFMRD. Prior the actual ceremonies, training was conducted for few days by Fisheries to the Councils' boatmen for proper operation and good maintenance.

Hence to that, the Mayors from each island, Maiana and Nonouti Island councils, have acknowledged this "gift" with gratitude, stating that this was one among their critical needs' and they're so thankful. The boat handed will be very helpful to equip the Island Council and to boost Council's effort enforcing their marine laws protecting their marine resources for present and future generations. They also affirmed their commitment in safeguarding their speed boat and to use it only according to their needs. The handover ceremonies were marked by cutting of cakes and the signing of the MOU that governs use and maintenance of the boat by the Mayors and the two representatives from both Ministries.

The elders from both islands quoted, "we are so grateful for this gift, and we hope for more future gifts from the project. Hence, we will utilize this gift for a communal benefit."



The team was comprised of officials from MELAD, Statistic Department, Ministry of Women, Youth, and Social Affairs who were accompanied by ECD's Director who will do the former handover of the island policy. The handover of Maiana island policy on the conservation of marine and land resources known as community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (CBMMP).

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## Training on Boat Safety, First Aid, Pastry and Tour Guiding at Maiana.



*Students smiling during the Workshop*

A training was carried out in Maiana by Officials from TAK in collaboration with the Marine Division, and the Kiribati Red Cross Society, on the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020. This is done as a part of the capacity building development program to support the game fishing initiative, as part of the ecotourism venture on the island.

The aim of this training was to ensure that the locals and communities have knowledge on Boat Safety, First Aid, Pastry and Tour Guiding. This activity should guarantee that: the people of Maiana are well prepared when the whole island is due to be opened up to international markets for fly-fishing games; and therefore they can organize their tour activities and programs.

The mayor and the leader of the Elders Association in Maiana (Te Bau Ni Maiana), whom were amongst the invited guests during the closing ceremony, applauded the successful completion of the training which had also been a way forward to the project in Maiana and to the local people.

The closing of the training program was combined with the handing over of the speed boat to the Maiana Island Council from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development.

*Some participants during the workshop*



## Abemama Fly Fishing Assessment and Agritourism Consultation



*Left: Kaboaua John Right: Jr George Kumkee at Abemama*

A follow up assessment on concluding whether Abemama is qualified to be developed as a game-fishing destination or requires more time was conducted by three officials, assembled by the Tourism Authority of Kiribati (TAK). This team was to undertake an initial exploratory assessment that was conducted back in 2018.

In this assessment, the team found out that there were no bonefish schools spotted which might seem to be an issue for Abemama regarding ecotourism development and fly-fishing tourism. The depletion of bonefish were found to be another case due to heavy netting pressure affecting the fish stock, making it hard to sight the bonefish as compared to the flats on Kiritimati and Fanning in the Line islands. The team recommended future development at Abemama, involving regeneration and protection of the bonefish stock through appropriate bye-laws, during aggregation and spawn seasons, not just for bonefish but for other marine finfish as well. Establishing marine protected areas were also encouraged but these initiatives lie within the various community leaders and the Island Council.

The team also initiated ideas in promoting Agritourism for local houseguest, schools, and communities to enhance the use of agriculture into business, landscape, and the beautification of the marine and land environments thus enhancing food security in the context of climate change.

*Pic Below: Ladies on Abemama used canned tins for their flowers*







*Unimwane (Old Men) from the Bau ni Maiana Council exploring displayed brochures by ECD.*

## Enhancing Climate Change Activities at Maiana

Tarawa, 20/May/2020 -- A team from the Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Agricultural Development has returned from Maiana after a one-week official trip under the project 'Enhancing National Food Security in the Context of Climate Change' (known locally as LDCF2)

The team then conducted a household-level survey at one village on Sunday 3rd May. Designed to feed into an environmental vulnerability assessment study, the survey focused on how people are experiencing the impacts of climate change and human activities, how they are affecting the quality and integrity of the environment and the livelihoods of local people. The island will be revisited again for the completion of this Environment Vulnerability Assessment Study.

Throughout this trip, the team will also carry out prominent tasks and consultations with villages' representatives known as Participatory Rural Appraisal aiming in collecting information on the impacts of climate change to the marine and land environment. There are also tasks undertaken by this team enforcing Environmental policies such as investigating areas or businesses that might affect the Environment in any means. Other Environmental outstanding tasks against the effects of climate change will also be carried out. A team from MELAD left for Maiana on 1 May, 2020 undertaking the LDCF-I Project on resilience activities toward the impacts of climate change.

*Pic below: Principal from Tewaiwai JSS (Mrs. Tenamoiti) addressing her students about the impacts of climate change.*



*Pic above: A constuction of 'te buibui' also known as a local seawall.*

*Pic left: A team from ECD showing how to plant mangroves at Tebwanga Village*

*Photos by Teburenga Geraldine Tabwebweiti*







*Picture: Villagers from Kabangaki, Abemama smiling with their cooked bottled fishes.*

*Photo credit: Teitirake Kabwaua*

## **Post-Harvest Fisheries and Value Adding Training at Abemama**

A team of 5 officials from the Fisheries Division together for Abemama from April 21 to May 10 to conduct post-harvest training on the Island. The team undertook cooking training to the communities aimed in improving knowledge and skills of local communities on effective cooking methods that will help to enhance food security at the island level.

The training was a success as commended by Bwameri Taningaboo, an old man from Tabiang expressing how grateful they are for having Abemama chosen as one among those piloted islands, and they will make sure to practice those trainings. The Mayor, Linda Ueanteang added saying, "this project is useful as it teaches us the value of our environment and natural resources to be preserved and nourished, so we can use them in times of natural disasters."

These trainings are for future preferences and for this new generation to understand strategies and objectives on how to cater for their own survival either through livelihood, crops, and earning some income. The ocean is our second highly resources for our income and survival but mostly the first earning resource for the Kiribati's government.



*Mr. Teboboua Boraia from Abemama*

*"Without a quality ocean environment, we are less likely to survive"*

*Photo by: Teitirake Kabwaua*

# Connecting To the world



LDCF's communication team had created the project's twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram assisting the project in dispersing their activities in a diaspora world for food security news in the context of climate change.

The team found that their FB (Kiribati Environment and Conservation Division) and Websites (MELAD and ECD websites) are insufficient for a wider awareness nationally, regionally, and internationally, so by means through these social media apps, the team will update the inside and outside audiences about the project. For the past two months, the team had seen a great progressive of using these social medias and hope that they will be able to look for more alternatives in accelerating food security awareness for its three piloted islands (Maiana, Nonouti, and Abemama) efficiently and effectively. The team will also be utilized social medias reconnecting Kiribati throughout the globe for a blue and green Environment.

## Mangroves Nursery Home



June 5: Biodiversity and Climate Change Division together with LDCF's staff have built a nursery home for mangroves within their compound office. The purpose of this nursery home is to experiment mangrove seedlings before taking them out to plant them.

Mr Arawaia from the Biodiversity and Climate Change Division stated that it is better to grow those seedlings first before planting them out. But they never tried this before so, this is their first experiment to see how long it might take those seedlings to grow and also to test them out in the ocean. Though, this is their first try out, the team is so eager to learn more from this experiment and hope to get the best from it.



# International Commemorations



## WORLD OCEAN'S DAY

June 9: A power house of women from the Environment and Conservation Division have commemorated the World Ocean's Day a day late in showing their supports for a clean ocean. To celebrate this day, they did their plastics clean up at the lagoon's beach of their office. The temperature was crazy, but they managed to get 6 green bags full. These women were exemplar to the public and whom saw them cleaning that behind those laptops, they're passionate in keeping the Ocean clean, blue, and plastics free. That was a perfect demonstration of awareness to the public that a trash makes a difference with a sense of cleaning is everyone's responsibilities. Stop littering and be an exemplar like these beautiful ladies.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT'S DAY

"It's our duty as stewardships to safeguard and protect our Environment."

June 5: ECD's staff was able to collect 1789 mangrove seedlings in honouring of the World Environment's Day. These seedlings will be placed at their nursery home for their first experiment in seeing how long it would take these seedlings to grow. Arawaia Moiwa stated that growing these seedlings before planting them was discovered to be the best way for mangroves' growth. This will be their first experiment and his team were excited to see how the turn up of these seedlings.



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"The Ocean and Environment are refugee areas for every living and non-living creature, so safeguarding them give us a breath to inhale for today, tomorrow, and the future."

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## Assessments of Marine Resources, Fisherman Demographic, and Resource Mapping for Maiana

**June 10 2020:** A team of ten officials from the Research Unit of Coastal Fisheries Division had returned from Maiana Island after conducting surveys on marine resources (finfish and invertebrate) including creel survey targeting fishermen on the island and to develop the Island Spatial planning from 27<sup>th</sup> April till 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The main purpose of this visit was to reassess the status of marine resources after a survey conducted back in 2018. This survey will support the existing management plans that were developed by communities for conserving and sustaining food security from their marine resources and propose for new by-laws which could conserve species which are on the decline. The team also aims to produce the Island resource map with an objective to identify sites with their significant features.

The team had managed to gather information from fishermen through a creel survey to see how fishing activities are conducted and what types of fishing equipment have been used. Due to their island by-laws and the ban of splashing in 2019, the number of bone fishes has increased and could be seen in areas close to the shore. The GIS-Officer (Ueakeia Tofiga) funded under LDCF managed to produce a resource map of Maiana detailing important sites such as; fishing ground for finfish and invertebrates, fish spawning area and important resources' sites on land.



*Above pictures: First pic – Te bun found at Tematantongo, second pic – Sea Cucumber endangered (Bohadschia vitiensis - Te Kanimnim)*

*Three pictures down: First and Second pics: Examples of finfish observed at Maiana and their habitat, third pic: Rateiti (FO) interviewing Temaua(fisherman)*



## Sandfish farming community consultation monitoring on Abemama Island

**June 10, 2020:** On the 8th to 31st May, 2020, three officials from the Coastal Fisheries Division at Tanaea had visited Abemama to undertake sites survey for the establishment of mini hatchery set-up, monitoring and evaluation of sandfish and giant clams deployed last November. The team also conducted a workshop with some targeted communities on farming management practices. From the site monitoring, the team concluded that these sandfish and giant clams taken from Tanaea last year were severely damaged while some of the pen components went missing. This could have happened due to bad weather. To address this issue, the team recommended an awareness program conducted throughout the island so locals and communities are aware of the essentialities of those pens for community support and protection. The team had surveyed some potential sites for further recommendation to the appropriate authorities. The workshop of sandfish farming was also a way in encouraging other villages to outsource this farming at their respective villages for economic benefits and livelihood support. Locals at North Tabiang expressed their gratitude to the team for piloting their village in this initiative and look forward to future visits.

*Below: Workshop with a community at Tabiang*



*Picture above: Mrs. Miriam & Mr Tetika at a workshop at Tabiang  
Pic. right: A picture of a clam size a 20 cents.*



## **Adaptation through Traditional Knowledge and Skills in response to Climate Change**

June 03, 2020: The Ministry of Internal Affairs through Culture and Museum Division joined by Tourism had returned from Maiana after a five (5) days visits in Maiana. The team was consisted of 8 officials including an officer from Tourism.

The purpose of this trip is to implement activities that were carried out few months ago in enhancing Food Security and resilience actions against climate change. With these activities, locals would take the initiative in planting long term food crops such as breadfruits, fig trees, pandanus, coconuts, babai, and other reviewing traditional knowledge and skills. Villages were consulted on these skills and knowledge with the hope that they would revive cultural and natural sites along with awareness programs targeting their upcoming cultural trade fair.

The team was fortunate enough to gain number of traditional knowledge and skills from locals. These knowledge skills are hard to be passed down from families to strangers and considered as family's treasures, however, locals in Maiana have understand the concepts of their skills in saving human kind especially the new generation in Maiana against strategic events of climate change specifically with food security. With 9 recorded knowledge and skills, the team will utilize them in promoting the essentiality of food security.

With last knowledge and skills collected last visit, they have been reviewed and ready for the next step to be transformed into a "Knowledge Book," gained from the island of Maiana.



*Nurturing the babai pits*



*Plantation program at Buota Village, Maiana*



*Teaching other women how to make "te bukinikana",*

**THE REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL AND  
CUSTOM VALUES ARE RESISTANCE  
RESOURCES AGAINST CLIMATE  
CHANGE**



