



Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Agricultural
Development
Bikenibeu, Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati



SAY NO TO PLASTICS
*They are threatening
our marine life*



Press Release

Mangroves for a Sustainable Green Environment at Maiana

August 19 2020: A team of four officers from the [Environment and Conservation Division](#) have spent five days on Maiana Island (31 July to 5 August) to assess a mangrove competition and to mobilise youth in mangrove picking and planting.

The team followed up a mangrove competition that commenced in November 2019. The assessment of this mangrove competition was based on the criteria developed by the local organising committee. A sense of community ownership and unity was demonstrated by the participation villages as indicated by healthy growth of their mangrove's plots for the competition, due to their regular monitoring as proper safeguard from waste, pests and human disturbance.

While on the island, the team advanced a National Youth Commemoration program held every first week of August, for the youth in Maiana with mangroves picking and planting. A total 42 youths youth representatives camped at Te Ingungu n Tabwakea Maneaba, Tebwangetua. At the end of the day, 2,483 mangrove seedlings were being picked, with the team providing small prizes in the form of snacks and candies to those who picked the most seedlings.

The team along with village representatives planted over 5,000 mangroves at Bubutei including mangrove seedlings picked by youth. In addition, the team conducted its own picking and planting with youth to conclude their camp program.

More than 4,000 mangroves were planted at 'Tekawanawana' site near Tebwangetua. The Mayor commenced that this first time mangrove picking and planting activity during Youth Day left a huge impact on these young people with a full understanding of the essentialities of sustaining a green and blue environment.

The team's mission was accomplished with more than 10,000 mangroves planted in total on the island. This is one of the Environment and Conservation Division's targets under the project 'Enhancing Food Security in the Context of Global Climate Change' (commonly known as the 'LDCF Project'): to increase mangrove coverage and habitat at the project pilot islands of Maiana, Abemama and Nonouti.

Mr Moiawa (ECD's officer) stated that with this activity, the probability of marine resources will be increased in the upcoming years.

One of the elderly participants said that activity would help encourage locals to engage in voluntary activities that are for a green and sustainable environment.

The team will revisit the island at a later date for a prize giving for the winners of the mangrove competition.

The trip was funded by the 'LDCF Project' which is supported by the [Global Environment Facility-Least Developed Countries Fund](#) and [UN Development Programme](#), and executed through the [Environment and Conservation Division](#) under the [Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development](#).

Picture 1: Some of the youth participants counting mangrove seedlings



Pic 2: Village participants lining up mangrove seedlings while planting them.

Pic 3: Youth participants listening to instructions before picking



Pic 4: Taking a group picture after they finished planting their mangrove seedlings



Pic 5: One of the villages` mangroves checked by ECD`s staff for the mangrove competition





Pic 6: ECD's staff conducting activities and checking mangroves for the competition