

Press Release

Fisheries marine survey on Abemama Island during February/March, 2018

A team from the Research and Monitoring Unit of the Coastal Fisheries Division had just returned Friday 16th March from Abemama after spending almost a month on the island. The Officer in Charge of this program, Mr Max Pita, commented that the visit to Abemama is part of the program to carry out underwater marine survey to identify and provide the status of the existing coastal fisheries.



The marine survey program conducted in Abemama is part of the Fisheries Division's activity under the Food Security (LDCF) Project, in which one of its many outputs, is focused on promoting the monitoring and research to provide the current status of inshore fisheries for Abemama. The nature of the activity involved the assessment of the coral cover, finfish and invertebrates of great importance towards supporting local communities' livelihoods and ensuring a sustainable supply of the resources as source of food security for the future, particularly as climate change worsens. The outcome of the assessment would provide the status of the fishery and significant functional roles to the marine ecosystem containing economic species, such as sea cucumber, and the role such species play in the marine environment.

Another aspect of the activity was to provide the assessment on the adverse impacts of climate change on the coral reef ecosystems. Impacts of climate change continued to pose serious threats to low lying Islands like Kiribati and other neighbouring islands in the Pacific. Especially impacts like rising sea level, warming of sea surface temperature resulting with coral reefs under stress making them vulnerable to natural competition, and any potential induced human impact such as pollution from land-based activities and destructive fishing practices.

Abemama had been reported as one of the islands in the Central Gilbert Group of Kiribati with high incidences of fish poisoning from ciguatera (toxin causing fish poisoning). Based on the anecdotal information given from the locals, a follow up sampling program was conducted on both deep and shallow marine habitats at Tabiang village at the far North of the island, which is considered one of the sites with high levels of ciguatera from known cases of poisoned reef fish. The sampling was also conducted within the vicinity for later analysis.

The final assessment program involved the survey of potential sites for recreational activities, particularly at identification of interesting habitats and diving sites to support eco-tourism. A discovery of a cave inside the lagoon with the depth of 70 metres and a pristine extensive massive coral species,

close to Bike islet was one of the interesting discovery of the team during this visit. Working towards the restoration and conservation of healthy marine ecosystems, identified sites were marked with the GPS such as a proposed site for a Marine Protected Area for future use and support toward efforts to boost development aspirations of Abemama Island communities, not forgetting that conservation of the marine environment is of paramount significance.

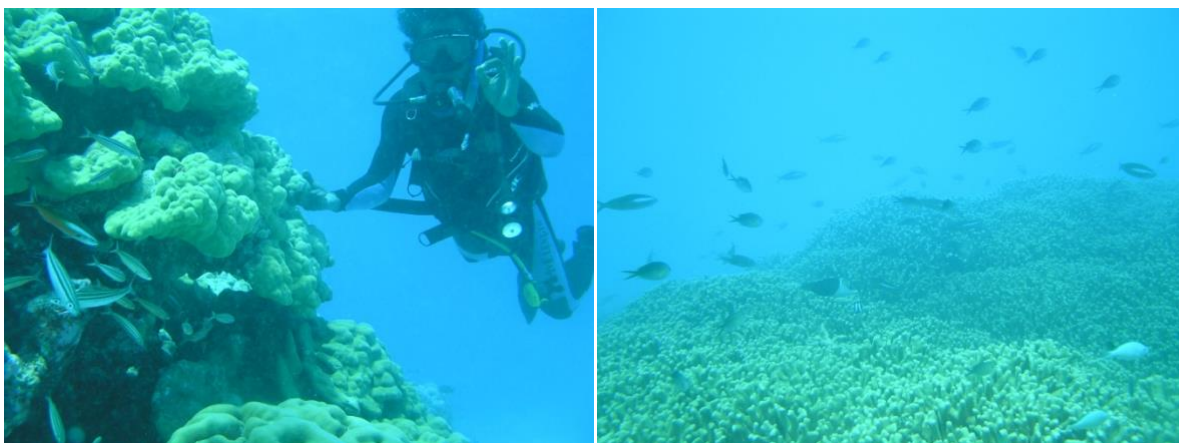


Te kakae i taari i Abemama ibukin marin te aba, Beberuare/Maati 2018

A karairaki n te Kanimabong are e bwakara tebwima-onoua (16) iai bongin te namwakaina ae Maati man te abamwakoro ae Abemama, kain ana tiim te Botaki n Akawa are a tabe ma te waaki n kakae ao wakinan te kamatebwai i taari. A tiku n karaoa aia mwakuri aio iaon Abemama n te maan ae e kaan teniua (3) te wiki. E kaainaki te tiim aio irouia niman taan mwakuri man iteran mwangan te Botaki n Akawa are e tabe ma karaolan 'Te Kakae ao te Tutuo' i taari (Research and Monitoring Unit).

Aio te mwananga are e a kakoroaki nanona man te Botaki n Akawa ao n mwanenaki karaoana iaan teuana ana karikirake te Tautaeka are e bo boto iaon Tanian te Maiu n kaitara te kanganga man Bitakin Kanoan boong ke te Least Developed Country project on Food Security (LDCF). E tauaki taekan ao karaolan te karikirake aio n te Botaki n Mwakuri ibukin te Enwaromenta, Aaba ao Karikirakean te Ununiku.

N aron are e mwaneweia Max Pita, temanna te aobitia are e kaira karaolan te kakae aio iaon Abemama, ao e kamatoa n taekinna bwa "Te waaki n kakae i taari n aron karaolan te warebwai ma kamatebwaian aron maiun rakai ma kaubwain taari, e na kona n rang ibuobuoki n anganira te kamatata iaon tein ma aron maiuraoin marin mataniwin te aba inanoa".



lai teniua iteran aron te waaki n kamatebwai aio, bwa: 1) kamatebwaian aron maiun rakai ma warebwai iaon iika ma kaubwai n aron te kereboki ma te were; 2) karaoan te tutuo iaon taabo ake a kakoauaki bwa a nganga; ao ai 3) kakae an ao tauan mwin taabo ake a kona n riki bwa taabo aika a kona n kainaki ao n kawakinaki ibukin boutokaan te kaneweaba ao te taraiaro ae e teimatoa, ngkai a kakoauaki bwa a teimatoa aron kaubwaia ma maria n te tai aio.



Imwin te waaki n kakae aio ao e na kona n kawenea te riiboti iaon tein ao aron kaubwain Abemama mai nanao ao n kona n katerei itera aika a na kona n ibuobuoki nakon kawenean babaire ibukin kamanoan marin Abemama ake a noraki man ana boutoka te Botaki n Akawa ao te Karikirake aio n reitaki ma te Kauntira n Abemama.

lai te kantaninga ae e abwabwaki bwa te waaki n kakae aio e na rang n ibuobuoki ibukin karaoan ao wakinan kawenean kainibaire ake a na kona n ibuobuoki nakon kawakinan te otabwanin i taari ma kaubwain ao marin taari inanao ibukin tanian maiuia kaain te abamwakoro ae Abemama man te waaki n mwakuri n ikarekebai irouia rabwata aika a kakaokoro n te Tautaeatka ao te abamwakoro n reitaki ma kaain te abamwakoro iaon te itera aio.

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