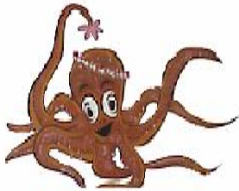




Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Agricultural
Development
Bikenibeu, Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati



SAY NO TO PLASTICS
They are threatening
our marine life



Press Release

A survey of ark shell aimed at restoring a marine food source for the people of Nonouti

A team from the Research and Monitoring Unit at the Fisheries Division visited Nonouti in late April 2019 for one week to assess the stock of ark shell on the island.

The purpose of the trip is to verify the stock of ark shell “cockled shellfish” locally known as *te bun* and to explore potential sites on the island that are habitable by this type of seashells and to facilitate future translocation program, in order to establish multiple populations to support the marine food sources for the islanders.

The team carried out consultations with seven village communities from Te Nanoraioi to Teuaabu and then the surveyed convened using the SPC Soft Infaunal Quadrant (SIQ) methodology – a survey protocol adopted from SPC to assess burrowed invertebrates status such as *te bun*, *koumwara* and *nikatona* and including their habitat

The result of the survey shows that *te bun* exists on the island but can only be found in Matang village with a relatively low density.

The team will conduct a translocation of the ark shell to three identified potential sites in the coming month such as in Makauro, Matang and Autukia village. They will also make a visit to Abemama and Maiana the other two pilot islands of LCDF-I Project in the next coming months too.

This activity is supported by the LCDF-I Project.

The Kiribati LCDF I Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), managed by the UNDP and implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) through the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD).

Te Kakaie iaon te bun i Nonouti ibukin kamaitan te tania ni maeu man te nama.

A tia n mananga kaain ana tiim te Botaaki n Akawa n Eberi 2019 ao n kabanea teuana te wiiki iaon Nonouti ibukin karaoan aia kakaie iaon maitin te bun ibukin boutokaan maiuia te botannaomata man marin taari ni kaitara bibitakin kanoan boong.

N te mananga aio ao ea karaoaki iai te kakaie iaon maitin te bun ao n nori taabo ke a kona n maeu iai ibukin ba ana kona n riki bwa oo ni kabwebwe ibukin te bun ibukin kamaitan te mari mai taari ke man te nama nakoia kaain Nonouti.

E karaoaki te maroro nakoia 7 kaawan Nonouti ao kamatebwaian aia nama

rinanon te (SQI)Soft Infaunal Quadrant te rabakau man te SPC) South Pacific Commission ibukin kamatebalian marin taari ake iai nananaia n aron *te bun*, *koumwara* ao te *nikatona*.

Mwin te kakae ao e kakoauaki bwa e ti kona n reke te bun n te kawaa ae Matang n te mwaiti ae rang uarereke.

A tia n barongaki bwa e na karaoaki kamwaingakin buun nakon 3 taabo ake a tia n katauaki bwa ana maiu ke te oo ni kabwebwe I taari (MPA) i Makauro, Matang ao Autukia n namakaiana aika ana roko. E bon karaoaki naba te kakae iaon te bun nakon Abemama ao Nonouti n namakaina aika ana roko.

For further information Contact

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Photo



Survey and assessment of "te bun" stock on soft bottom at the inter-tidal (Max Bitu, Principal Fisheries Officer)



Figure 4. g) and h) Photos of "te bun" encountered during the SIQ survey.