

Innovative Project Story

Kiribati South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project (STREP) in synergy with the Kiribati South Tarawa Water Supply Project (STWSP)

“Overcoming drought, increasing water and energy access in Kiribati through inclusive, collaborative, climate-resilient design”

Cindy Tiangco, Senior Energy Specialist; PAEN/PARD

Wayne Brearley, CEO

Public Utilities Board

Tiaon Aukitino

Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy

Kiribati



Country Challenges

- **Climate change threats: rising sea levels, drought**
- **Remoteness, poor infrastructure**
- **Extreme land constraints and worsening;**
- **Economic and energy poverty; gender inequality, increasing population**
- **Weak institutional capacity and regulatory framework**
- **Reliance on development finance**
- **Reliance on imported diesel fuel**
- **Shallow unconfined groundwater**
- **GHG emissions**



Institutional Issues:

- **food and fuel supply disruptions**
- **High electricity cost**
- **competing land uses,**
- **resettlement/safeguards**
- **dependence on imported diesel and food;**
- **health, hygiene and sanitation issues**
- **lack of data and statistics;**
- **inaccurate and insufficient metering for utilities**

Kiribati South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project

Innovations: (What makes the project innovative?)

- Innovative financing modality through the \$750 million Pacific Renewable Energy Investment Facility; streamlined approval process (President) – PIC 11
- Use of F-TRTA to prepare projects and SSS for consultants engaged within the TRTA for Facility financing
- Scoping mission BTOR concept approval
- Leveraging cofinancing; early engagement and close coordination with government and cofinanciers (WB preparation of IP; WB and ADB working on concept – submission to SREP for PPG and project grant; [STWSP – GCF and WB cofinancing])
- Cross-sectoral approach; combining or synchronizing activities particularly procurement (Energy and urban and water divisions working with PUB and MISE that both cover water and electricity services).
- Increasing project readiness through advance actions
- Differentiated approach, Pacific Approach, FCAS



Kiribati South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project

3. Approach / Solution

- Holistic approach: combining infrastructure, regulatory framework, comprehensive capacity building, mitigation, climate resiliency/adaptation, supply and demand side interventions, awareness raising
- long term technical, financial, technical, and climate sustainability
- inclusive (gender mainstreaming, focus on poor and vulnerable),, community engagement, collaborative
- Gender sensitive tariff review, transaction advisory, enabling private sector investments; gender sensitive Energy Act,
- Consulting services (procurement, supervision, project management, capacity development program)
- Combined or synchronized procurement; country-specific approach to procurement and implementation arrangements; partial delegation of consultant recruitment; two kinds of batteries
- Innovative project siting, avoiding IR impacts
- Phased development – forecasting/scenarios, looking to innovative technology (floating solar); energy planning, software purchase and training; tariff review
- STWSP – reverse osmosis desalination with renewable energy offset

4. Story behind the story

- Co-financier focus on adaptation; stricter gender mainstreaming requirements
- Differing social safeguards triggers



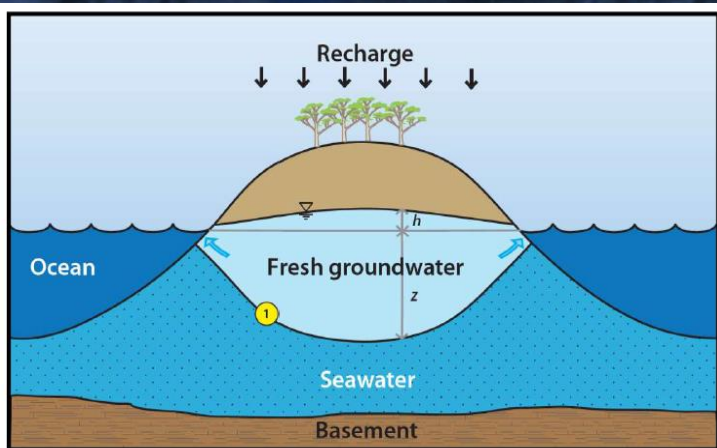
Kiribati South Tarawa Renewable Energy Project

Lessons learnt

- Early engagement and constant communication with cofinanciers.
- Close collaboration with government and project teams to ensure consistency, compatibility, cost-effectiveness and timeliness, and avoid duplication.
- Establishment of country offices for presence and daily interfaces in the field
- Internal ADB collaboration with PPF and SDCC on capacity building
- Use of country systems but with extensive capacity building and consulting support
- Think ahead



Bonriki lens water reserve



[Kiribati video](#)

