

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



UNDP

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/KIR/1*
18 April 1983
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Thirtieth session
June 1983
Agenda 5(b)

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

FIRST COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR KIRIBATI

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Kiribati for the period 1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$1.3 million

Illustrative IPF for the programme period (1983-1986): \$865 000

INTRODUCTION

1. The first country programme for Kiribati since its independence covers the 1983-1986 period and includes technical and pre-investment assistance corresponding to the national development plan objectives set out in the present development plan (1979-1982). The main parameters of the current plan are expected to be similar to those included in the next five-year development plan, which is currently being formulated.

*In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, annex 1), the first country programme for Kiribati is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator.

2. Within the time frame of the present development plan, emphasis is directed at strengthening the income-earning capacity of the country, through the creation of a new and diversified production base capable of sustaining economic self-reliance while at the same time maintaining balanced regional growth. This development strategy is designed to offset the loss of foreign exchange and government tax revenue resulting from the exhaustion of phosphate resources, which had been accountable for about 40 per cent of national income. This strategy also gives priority to the relocation of population and economic activities outside the main urban centre of Tarawa in order to help alleviate excessive urban drift and overcrowding and to facilitate the development of the country's productive potential through the commercial exploitation of its natural resources and the upgrading of national manpower resources.

3. During the next plan period, UNDP assistance will therefore support programmes directed at promoting the development of marine resources concentrating on the development of artisanal fisheries oriented towards meeting local consumption requirements, and modern tuna fisheries oriented towards export markets. Stress will also be given to the development of solar salt production for domestic and foreign market requirements. In support of these activities, relevant vocational training will be provided.

4. The UNDP country programme exercise was conducted by the Government with the active involvement of the UNDP field office and other United Nations agencies represented in the Pacific. In view of the limited and diminishing level of Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) funds available for the third programming cycle, the Government did not request the fielding of agency programming missions; however, the written views of United Nations agencies were elicited. The Government, in consultation with UNDP, undertook informal reviews of ongoing and proposed UNDP-financed projects to help in the determination of priorities for continuing UNDP assistance during the period.

5. In formulating the country programme, attention has been given to the co-ordination of UNDP assistance with that of other multilateral and bilateral donors. Steps were also taken to ensure co-ordination with assistance available under the UNDP Pacific intercountry programme.

6. The country programme includes detailed specific action of technical and pre-investment assistance requirements to be provided by UNDP during the 1983-1984 period. For the remainder of the programme period, UNDP assistance will be worked out in detail at a later stage during the course of regular country programme reviews. This will allow for the progressive adaptation of the Programme to the evolving national priorities for UNDP assistance.

7. UNDP resources taken into account for programming purposes for 1983-1986 total \$865,000. This consists of 80 per cent of the illustrative IPF for 1982-1986, reduced by the authorized budget level for 1982 of \$200,000. Also included is an amount of \$25,000 representing the under-spending of the second cycle IPF.

8. According to current government estimates, the total projected aid during the next five years will amount to approximately US\$ 60 million. The major donors will be the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (55 per cent), the European Economic Community (EEC) (20 per cent) Australia (13 per cent), Japan (7.5 per cent), UNDP (2.4 per cent), New Zealand (1.2 per cent) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) (0.9 per cent).

UNDP TECHNICAL COOPERATION ENVISAGED IN SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

9. The country programme includes a distribution of technical and pre-investment assistance in the main socio-economic sectors as follows:

A. Agriculture and Fisheries

10. National agricultural development strategy is oriented towards the expansion and diversification of livestock and crop production (concentrating initially on the improvement of the coconut industry), with a view to improving the nutritional status of the population and to building up self-sufficiency in basic food production for domestic and export requirements.

11. It is envisaged that in the next development plan the fisheries sector, will continue to provide the major thrust of the over-all economic growth. During the current programming period emphasis will be placed on the development of artisanal fisheries oriented towards meeting local requirements. The Government will undertake to provide the infrastructure necessary to the strengthening and upgrading of fisheries production at both the artisanal and the industrial levels, including the provision of training for fishermen who will implement and support the proposed expansion programmes.

12. During the country programme period, uncommitted funds of US\$ 200,000 have been earmarked for agriculture and fisheries. During the 1983-1984 period, the following assistance will be provided:

Assistance to Te Mautari Limited (KIR/80/005)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1983-1984: US\$ 193,750)

13. Managerial and Technical assistance is being provided to the newly incorporated tuna fisheries company, Te Mautari Limited. The corporation, created by the Government, is locally owned and is to be operated as a commercial concern. Under this project, a UNDP-funded managing director will be responsible for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of the Government's tuna fisheries programme. National counterparts will also be trained to assume managerial responsibilities upon the termination of UNDP assistance, which is envisaged to extend into July 1984. Engineering assistance required for the repair and maintenance of the fishing fleet of Te Mautari Limited will also be provided under this project through the services of a fleet engineer.

Artisanal Fishing Boat Construction (Phase II) (KIR/81/002)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1983-1984: US\$ 46,000)

14. In support of the Government's programme to strengthen artisanal fisheries, this project will provide technical expertise required for the local construction, testing and evaluation of two prototype fishing canoes, one designed for the outer atolls and the other for urban Tarawa.

Milkfish Cultivation on Christmas Island (KIR/83/001)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1983-1984: US\$ 160,000)

15. Follow-up assistance to a feasibility study carried out under the completed project (KIR/75/002) on artisanal milkfish breeding and commercial production on Christmas Island will be provided through the services of a fisheries biologist, who will co-ordinate and monitor milkfish development programmes on Christmas island and other outer islands.

Livestock Development (KIR/83/002)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1983-1984: US\$ 22,000)

16. This project seeks to strengthen the livestock (particularly goat and poultry) extension programme of the Department of Agriculture through the services of a United Nations volunteer, who will assist in implementing animal husbandry extension programmes and provide training as appropriate in the outer islands.

Fisheries Study Tour (KIR/84/001)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1984-1985: US\$ 20,000)

17. A visit to the main tuna fisheries marketing centre on the west coast of the United States will be undertaken by senior local government fisheries officials. The study tour, which will extend over a period of one month each in 1984 and 1985, is expected to provide inter alia, the opportunity to exchange practical views and experience on ways in which Kiribati can further develop its tuna export industry.

18. A number of UNDP intercountry projects will also provide assistance in this sector: Fisheries Development Programme for the South Western Pacific (RAS/73/025); Livestock Development (RAS/79/027); and Regional Training in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (RAS/79/025).

B. Industry

19. The current plan's emphasis on the expansion and diversification of the country's small industry base is anticipated to be pursued further during the next plan period. Industrial activities will be oriented towards the promotion of the use of local materials, stimulation of local participation and entrepreneurship, encouragement of export and import substitution, fostering of employment opportunities and encouragement of domestic and foreign investment.

20. UNDP assistance towards the development and expansion of this sector will be provided under a project promoting the commercial production of salt:

Pilot Plant Solar Salt (KIR/80/002)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1983: US\$ 24,000)

21. Under this project, consultancies are being provided for the construction of pilot salt ponds and lagoons in Christmas Island. In this connection, test programmes are being carried out to determine the feasibility of producing salt on a commercial scale from solar ponds. The next phase of the project, with a production capacity of 500 tons per year will commence in 1983 with complementary assistance being provided by the Government of New Zealand.

22. Related assistance in this sector will be provided by the following Pacific intercountry projects: Development of Small-Scale Enterprises and Entrepreneurship in the Pacific (RAS/79/016) and Trade promotion Advisory Services and Training (RAS/79/017). In addition, the Special Industrial Services (SIS) programme of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will be utilized for various short term consultancies.

C. Transport & Communications

23. The development of reliable and economical transportation services, covering in particular domestic sea, land and air routes, has been identified by the Government as a fundamental national goal.

24. During the country programme period, UNDP assistance towards the improvement of this sector will focus on a project promoting the consolidation of aviation services.

Civil Aviation Survey (KIR/82/001)

(Estimated UNDP contribution for 1983: US\$ 13,000)

25. Under this project, technical assistance will be provided through the services of a transport economist who will undertake a review of the operation of the national airline, Air Tungaru, and make recommendations with a view to making adjustments, inter alia, in equipment, routes and pricing, that would help to ensure financial viability for the airline.

26. Related assistance in this sector will be provided by the Pacific intercountry project, Transport Survey (RAS/81/094).

D. Employment

27. The Government of Kiribati has given high priority to the upgrading of its human resources in support of national development. In this connection, vocational training programmes will be pursued to meet skilled manpower requirements in urban, but particularly in rural, areas. Programmes will also give attention to the selection and extension of appropriate industrial and agricultural technologies which can help to generate increased employment and income in rural areas. The Government will also be giving priority to population resettlement programmes on scarcely populated islands where productive employment can be assured. In addition to existing project allocations, a tentative earmarking of US\$ 40,000 has been made to support future UNDP activities in this sector.

