



Investment Phase: Progress update

Republic of Kiribati

July 2025

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



General Information

Country	Republic of Kiribati	
Implementing Entity	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Agreement effectiveness date	03 April 2024	
Duration	60 months	
Anticipated end date	01 April 2029	
Reporting period	From: 31 March 2025	To: 30 June 2025
Approved amount	UNEP: \$ 10,58,652 WMO: \$ 572,450	
Disbursed amount	UNEP: \$ 9,524,387 WMO: \$ 190,798	

Summary

Highlights of key achievements

The SOFF Investment Phase in Kiribati made some significant progress, particularly under Outcome 1: GBON institutional and human capacity developed, during the period from 31 March to 30 June 2025. Key achievements included the successful conduction of the inception workshop, inauguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), organization of a stakeholder engagement workshop, delivery of an Environmental and Social Safeguards session by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) within the Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS), and endorsement of the 2025 workplan. Preparatory work is ongoing for the procurement of new and improved land-based stations, as well as for the establishment and upgrading of upper-air stations. These activities are currently in the planning phase, covering the development of technical specifications, land feasibility assessments, civil works design, and procurement of civil works. Regular monthly project coordination meetings—facilitated by UNEP with the participation of KMS and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)—continue to support implementation and alignment.

As part of **Output 1.1 – National consultations including with civil society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders**, the [inception workshop](#) and the [inauguration of the Project Steering Committee \(PSC\)](#) were successfully conducted on 11 June 2025 in Bairiki, Kiribati. The inception workshop and the inauguration of the

Project Steering Committee (PSC) were successfully conducted on 11 June 2025 in Bairiki, Kiribati. The events were officially opened by the Secretary to the Office of Te Beretitenti (OB) and were attended by 15 participants from UNEP, KMS, BoM, and a wide range of national stakeholders, including the World Health Organization (WHO), National Economic Planning Office, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Division, Environment and Conservation Division, and Local Government Division, with 53.33% female participation. In conjunction with the workshop, UNEP, KMS, and BoM jointly developed the 2025 workplan, which was subsequently endorsed at the PSC meeting. The next PSC meeting is scheduled to take place in October 2025.

Following these events, the Office of Te Beretitenti (OB), through KMS, hosted a one-and-a-half-day SOFF Stakeholder Engagement Workshop with members of the Kiribati National Expert Group (KNEG) on Climate Change and Disaster Risk. Held in Ambo, Kiribati, the workshop introduced the SOFF programme, including its scope, targeted islands, and expected outcomes. Participants shared insights from ongoing and past initiatives, explored opportunities for collaboration, and discussed expectations for implementation. The session was facilitated by KMS, with support from UNEP and BoM, and recorded 69.6% female participation.

Under **Output 1.2 – NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network**, the Kiribati Meteorological Service is scheduled to engage in a Gender Training session in July 2025. The session, to be led by the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs (MWYSSA), will focus on strengthening understanding of gender equality and social inclusion and is expected to inform the development of the SOFF Gender Gap Analysis and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Progress has also been made under **Output 1.3 – NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network**, particularly in the establishment of the PMU within KMS. As of the reporting period, a procurement officer and finance officer have been onboarded. The recruitment of the Project Manager is expected to be finalized in July 2025. For other technical positions—including meteorological observation and ICT staff—Terms of Reference have been developed, the recruitment process has been initiated, and vacancy announcements are scheduled for release in July 2025.

In parallel, BoM is supporting the planning of advanced meteorological training for KMS observers to be conducted in Australia. A total of eight KMS staff have been selected to participate in the Bureau’s BIP-MT course, scheduled to begin in September 2025, with a three-month in-country training duration. Preparations are ongoing and include standard arrangements such as visa processing and logistical coordination. In addition, KMS is expected to conduct in-country training for newly recruited meteorological observers during Quarter 3 of 2025.

While no major physical infrastructure activities were conducted during the reporting period under **Outcome 2 – GBON infrastructure in place and Outcome 3 Sustained compliance with GBON**, BoM and KMS continued technical preparations for the

upgrade of five existing Automated Weather Stations, including specifications for Kiritimati and Kanton islands. In addition, early-stage planning for the establishment of an upper-air observation station is underway. KMS is also carrying out preparatory work including land feasibility assessments, land permission, document submission to ministry of infrastructure, consultation and MoU Signing and site survey, civil works design, and procurement. These activities support the establishment of new and improved land-based stations, with implementation scheduled for Quarter 4 of 2025 through the first half of 2026.

Visual Stories and Key Media Coverage



11 June 2025 – the [inception workshop and the inauguration of the Project Steering Committee \(PSC\)](#) for the SOFF Investment Phase in Kiribati



12 June 2025 - [SOFF Stakeholder Engagement Workshop](#) with members of the Kiribati National Expert Group (KNEG) on Climate Change and Disaster Risk conducted in Ambo, Kiribati

Attachment:

[Kiribati SOFF Investment Phase Annual Report 2024](#)

Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed															
1.1 National consultations , including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted	# of inception workshops held	1	1	1	1	1		1				On-track	On 11 June 2025, the inception workshop and the inauguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the SOFF Investment Phase in Kiribati took place in Bairiki. The sessions brought together participants from UNEP, the Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS), the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), and a broad range of national stakeholders. As part of the proceedings, UNEP, KMS, and BoM collaboratively finalized the 2025 workplan, which received formal endorsement during the PSC meeting.		
	% female participation in the inception workshops	50	50	50	50	50		53				On-track	The events were attended by 15 participants representing UNEP, KMS, BoM, and a broad range of national stakeholders with 53.33% female participation.		
	# of stakeholder workshops held		1	1	1	1		1				On-track	Following the inception workshop, the Office of Te Beretitenti (OB),		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													through KMS, hosted a one-and-a-half-day SOFF Stakeholder Engagement Workshop with members of the Kiribati National Expert Group (KNEG) on Climate Change and Disaster Risk conducted in Ambo, Kiribati	
	% female participation in the stakeholder workshops		50	50	50	50		69.6%				On-track		
	Years in which stakeholder engagement plan will be drafted	X	X									Not yet started		
1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	Years in which Gender Gap Analysis and Gender Action Plan will be drafted			X	X							Not yet started		
	Years in which participation in regional coordination initiatives and forum are planned (tentatively)	X	X	X	X	X						Not yet started		
1.3 NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# of staff salaries paid	11	11	11	11	11		2				On-track	A procurement officer and finance officer have already been onboarded. The recruitment of the Project Manager is expected to be finalized in July 2025. For other technical positions—including meteorological observation and ICT staff—Terms of Reference have been developed, the recruitment process has been initiated, and vacancy announcements	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													are scheduled for release in July 2025.	
	Years in which trainings will be conducted	X	X	X	X	X						On-track	BoM is supporting the planning of advanced meteorological training for KMS observers to be conducted in Australia. Preparations are ongoing and include standard arrangements such as visa processing and logistical coordination. In addition, training for newly recruited meteorological observers is expected to be conducted by KMS in Quarter 3 of 2025.	
2. GBON infrastructure in place														
2.1 New land-based stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan			4	5							Not yet started		
2.2 Improved land-based stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		5									Not yet started		
2.3 New upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		1	1								Not yet started		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
2.4 Improved upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		1									Not yet started		
3. Sustained compliance with GBON														
3.1 GBON land-based stations' commissioning period completed , country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		5	9	14	14						Not yet started		
3.2 GBON upper air stations' commissioning period completed , country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		2	3	3	3						Not yet started		