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# Investment Phase:

Peer Advisor Semi-Annual Report

## Republic of Kiribati

January 2026

Submitted by


Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



## General Information

<b>Country</b>	Republic of Kiribati	
<b>Peer Advisor</b>	Australian Bureau of Meteorology	
<b>Implementing Entity</b>	United Nations Environment Programme	
<b>Agreement effectiveness date</b>	21 August 2024	
<b>Duration</b>	56 months	
<b>Anticipated end date</b>	1 April 2029	
<b>Reporting period</b>	<b>From:</b> 1 July 2025	<b>To:</b> 31 December 2025
<b>Approved peer advisory fee</b>	535,000 USD	
<b>Disbursed peer advisory fee</b>	178,315 USD	
<b>Percentage of financial implementation</b>	33.33%	
<b>Peer advisor's focal point signature</b>		
<b>Country's focal point signature (to confirm timely and quality delivery)</b>		

## Summary

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) supported the SOFF Investment Phase in Kiribati from July to December 2025, providing strategic, technical, and capacity-building expertise to the Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS). Coordination efforts between the Bureau and KMS contributed to notable progress under **Output 1: GBON institutional and human capacity developed**. Infrastructure implementation has been slower than planned, although while no equipment has yet been installed, procurement activities for upgrading five Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) is pending critical site-specific information, of which has been flagged as a key area of priority to address with project partners to advance planning tender preparations, aligning site works, procurement and delivery of equipment, and installation timelines. -specific information

### Key Contributions and Activities

Within this period, the Bureau successfully facilitated the first of two BIP-MT (Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians) trainings for seven KMS Observers and one Station Technical Officer. The ten-week program was delivered at the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre (BMTC) in Broadmeadows, Melbourne, and was supported through the Bureau's dual role as peer advisor and technical implementing partner. Following successful visa approvals, the Bureau worked closely with KMS to ensure participants were supported before, during, and after the course, including practical settlement assistance. A key objective of the Bureau's support framework was to address challenges faced by pacific participants undertaking intensive technical study in Australia.

### July

- Travel dependencies such as visas, confirmed return flights completed and long-term accommodation secured.
- Implemented improved financial processes for paying participants travel and living allowance in advance.
- Shared upper-air design documents and facilitated introductions between KMS and GHD (contractor) as a starting point for the new upper-air builds for Kiritimati and Kanton.
- Continued monthly coordination meetings between implementing partners (KMS and UNEP)

### August

- Prior of 1<sup>st</sup> September course commencement, the Bureau delivered orientation and induction from 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August to eight KMS officers who arrived safely in Melbourne on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Activities included establishing Australian bank accounts, setting up Australian mobile SIM cards and familiarisation of the public transport network.

### September

- BIP-MT commenced 1<sup>st</sup> September.

- Management of a code of conduct breach involving one KMS officer, owing to its sensitive nature, details are confidential, however, the matter was escalated to senior management and the KMS Director with the outcome being the officer's early return to Kiribati before finishing the course. The Bureau provided comprehensive travel, wellbeing, and safety support to the individual until their safe arrival home, and the matter was addressed by all relevant parties.
- Requested critical site-specific assessment information from KMS to be able to progress equipment specifications and procurement.

### **October**

- The Bureau's Pacific Observations Infrastructure lead joined project coordination meeting and provided instructions and next steps on what information is required from each site to progress procurement activities to upgrade the five existing AWS.

### **November**

- Seven of the eight KMS observers completed the BIP-MT course on 7<sup>th</sup> November, marking a major project milestone under **output 1**.
- Planning commenced for Joint Bureau-UNEP mission to Kiribati in January 2026.

### **December**

- Finalised travel and mission planning for January 2026.
- Developed draft of 2026 workplan.

### **Impact**

The successful completion of BIP-MT training by seven KMS officers represents a significant step toward strengthening Kiribati's meteorological capability and enhances the country's ability to share high-quality observational data, supporting improved operational practices and weather-related services. The Bureau's dual role as peer advisor and implementing partner ensured that participants received comprehensive technical training and pastoral support, aimed at fostering confidence and independence.

The Bureau developed and distributed a feedback survey to all participants to capture their experiences before, during, and after travel and settlement in Melbourne. This survey is designed to gauge the effectiveness, relevance, and necessity of the Bureau's support framework for Pacific participants studying in Australia and will inform improvements to maximise the learning and living experience for future cohorts.



Figure 1 - KMS Cohort first orientation day of arrival, Collins Street, CBD



Figure 2 - KMS outside Bureau of Meteorology Office, Docklands



Figure 3 – Traveling to BMTC on the train – Orientation week, Melbourne



Figure 4 – KMS team arrive outside BMTC, Orientation Week – Melbourne, Australia



Figure 5 – Introductions to BIP-MT facilitators and BMTc staff



Figure 6 – KMS team with custom fitted PPE kit for safe hydrogen handling – BMTc, Melbourne Australia



Figure 7 – Kiribati Meteorological Service Graduating Officers – Melbourne, Australia

## Implementation progress

Services or activities listed in the peer advisor's ToR and assignment agreement must be included in the category "activities conducted/contribution" below. Sections that are not relevant or covered in the TOR can be left blank.

Output	Indicator (Please copy the indicators from RBM section of the funding request)	Activities conducted/contributions (Please list all activities that will be conducted by the peer advisor relevant to the output. Please add rows if more than one activity will be conducted)	Implementation plan <sup>1</sup>					Status	Challenges and risks
			Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5		
<b>1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed</b>									
<b>1.1 National consultations, including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted</b>									
1.1.1 Inception workshops at the national and sub-national level targeting different stakeholders, including CSO and private sector.	# Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau will participate in the 2026 steering committee meeting in Tarawa Mid-January</li> </ul>		1	1	1	1	On track	
	%Female Participants	-		50	50	50	50	On track	
1.1.2. Stakeholder engagement workshops on the implementation of the SOFF project deliverables	# Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple meetings with stakeholders throughout the second half of 2025, the Bureau attended meetings virtually and contributed to discussions on SOFF deliverables</li> <li>Participation in monthly coordination meetings with IE and KMS</li> <li>Ongoing advisory services, delivering technical guidance and support on infrastructure planning, annual workplan development and capacity building.</li> </ul>		1	1	1	1	On track	
1.1.3. Development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure that future stakeholder engagement is more strategic and systematic	%Female Participants	-		50	50	50	50	On track	
	Years in which Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be drafted	-						Not Yet Started	
<b>1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed</b>									
1.2.1. Development of Gender Gap Analysis and Gender Action Plan for mainstreaming Gender into SOFF initiatives	Years in which Gender Gap Analysis and Gender Action Plan will be drafted	-						On track	-
1.2.2. Participation in the regional coordination initiatives and forums, including Regional SOFF coordination workshop in 2024 and other events	Years in which participation is planned (tentatively)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bureau's Pacific Observations Infrastructure Lead and KMS Station Technical Officer attendance at the Weather Ready Pacific Regional Observations Workshop in Christchurch - November 2025</li> </ul>						On track	

<sup>1</sup> Indicate which year the activity is targeted to be conducted.

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			Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5		
<b>1.3 NMHS human capacity</b> required to operate the GBON network developed									
	# Staff Salaries Paid	-		11	11	11	11	On track	-
	Years in which trainings will be conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT) was successfully delivered. Seven of the eight Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS) officers achieved competency certification upon completion of the intensive 10-week training program. This milestone represents the successful delivery of a key output under <b>Activity 1.3</b> and contributes directly to <b>Outcome 1: GBON institutional and human capacity strengthened.</b></li> <li>○ The course was delivered face-to-face at the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre (BMTc) in Melbourne and facilitated by the Bureau of Meteorology in its complementary role as a Technical Delivery Partner.</li> <li>○ Comprehensive support and guidance provided to participating KMS officers. Key support services included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visa application guidance and coordination</li> <li>○ Logistical planning and organisation, including international travel, transport, and accommodation arrangements.</li> <li>○ Proactive financial support</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ A structured orientation and induction program led by the Bureau of Meteorology, delivered to KMS officers. Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Safety briefings and overview of support services</li> <li>○ Cultural acclimatisation sessions focused on navigating daily life in Melbourne</li> <li>○ Training centre induction and guided tour of the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre (BMTc)</li> <li>○ Introductions to course instructors and training staff</li> <li>○ Assistance with the purchase and setup of Australian mobile phone services, safety gear and climate appropriate attire</li> <li>○ Guided practice session using the Melbourne public transport network</li> <li>○ Experience Feedback Survey developed and distributed to participating KMS officers for completion</li> <li>○ Preparations for the next BIP-MT to commence Q2 of 2026</li> </ul> </li> </ul>						On track	<p><b>Challenge:</b> Ensuring participants selected for overseas training are professionally suitable and appropriately endorsed is critical to align expectations across their organisation, partner agencies, and the broader project objectives.</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> Misconduct or anti-social behaviour during overseas training poses safety risks to participants and others, creates reputational risk for all agencies, and may lead to public scrutiny and loss of trust in the SOFF project.</p>

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			Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5		
<b>2. GBON infrastructure in place</b>									
2.1 <b>New land-based stations</b> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The January 2026 mission will prioritise dependency planning to ensure procurement and installation activities remain aligned with approved budget and delivery timelines.</li> <li>On-demand peer advisory services with SMEs within the Bureau for consultation, guidance and support to KMS on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Station siting and exposure assessment</li> <li>Suggestions for suppliers of equipment and services</li> <li>Facilitate introductions and multi-party discussions.</li> <li>Assistance with budgeting for operation and maintenance of stations during compliance phase</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			4	5		On-track	
2.2 <b>Improved land-based stations</b> and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted technical guidance to support the collection of outstanding site information required to commence procurement and equipment selection phase.</li> <li>Support capture of critical site-specific data by engaging directly with KMS technical staff and providing a structured, detailed questionnaire to facilitate site assessments and compliance audits.</li> <li>Advising on procurement and implementation requirements, clearly outlining the procedural steps and responsibilities necessary to progress activities in line with the Bureau's role as the implementing partner.</li> <li>On-call expert technical advice and support</li> </ul>		5				Delayed	<p><b>Challenges:</b> Inter-agency coordination of workplan dependencies and activities.</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> Delayed procurement, installation and commissioning of new equipment.</p>
2.3 <b>New upper air stations</b> 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	<p>On-demand peer advisory services with SMEs within the Bureau for consultation, guidance and support to KMS on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Station siting and exposure assessment</li> <li>Suggestions for suppliers of equipment and services</li> <li>Facilitate introductions and multi-party discussions.</li> <li>The Bureau has shared a copy of its upper air design documents to use as a starting point or template for the construction on the upper air facilities to be built under SOFF.</li> <li>Review draft design documents and provide feedback</li> </ul>		1	1			Delayed	<p><b>Challenges:</b> Limited shipping services and difficult access to remote outer islands (Kiritimati and Kanton)</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> Installation and commissioning delay</p>
2.4 <b>Improved upper air stations</b> and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	-		1				Not yet started	-

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			Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5		
standard operating practices in place									
<b>3. Sustained compliance with GBON</b>									
3.1 <b>GBON land-based stations' commissioning period completed</b> , 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	On-demand peer advisory services with SMEs within the Bureau for consultation, guidance and support to KMS on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment or communications issues</li> <li>Quality management</li> <li>WIS2.0 configuration and setup</li> <li>WIGOS, OSCAR/Surface metadata setup and configuration</li> <li>Regional engagement support - assist KMS to connect and engage with other meteorological services, regional bodies, WMO and other hydro-met initiatives in the region.</li> <li>Undertake annual in-country peer reviews and contribute to terminal evaluation of the project</li> </ul>		5	9	14	14	Not yet started	
3.2 <b>GBON upper air stations' commissioning period completed</b> , 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	On-demand peer advisory services with SMEs within the Bureau for consultation, guidance and support to KMS on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment or communications issues</li> <li>Quality management</li> <li>WIS2.0 configuration and setup</li> <li>WIGOS, OSCAR/Surface metadata setup and configuration</li> <li>Regional engagement support - assist KMS to connect and engage with other meteorological services, regional bodies, WMO and other hydro-met initiatives in the region.</li> <li>Undertake annual in-country peer reviews and contribute to terminal evaluation of the project</li> </ul>		2	3	3	3	Not yet started	