KIRIBATI

INTRODUCTION
The Gilbert Islands became a British protectorate in 1892 and a colony in 1915. They were captured by the Japanese in the Pacific War in 1941. The islands of Makin and Tarawa were the sites of major US amphibious victories over entrenched Japanese garrisons in 1943. The Gilbert Islands were granted self-rule by the UK in 1971 and complete independence in 1979 under the new name of Kiribati. Kiribati joined the UN in 1999 and has been an active participant in international efforts to combat climate change.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Taneti MAAMAU
Head of Government
President Taneti MAAMAU
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Tarawa
Legislature
unicameral House of Assembly or Maneaba Ni Maungatabu (46 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 811 sq km
Land: 811 sq km
Water: 0 sq km
Climate
tropical; marine, hot and humid, moderated by trade winds
Natural Resources
phosphate (production discontinued in 1979), coconuts (copra), fish

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
small, growing, environmentally fragile, Pacific island economy; major financial support from remittances, aid, and phosphate mining fund; tourism and fishing industries; poor business climate; inadequate anticorruption efforts; poor fiscal management
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $270 million (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $2,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - fishing, handicrafts
Agricultural products - coconuts, roots/tubers, bananas, vegetables, taro, tropical fruit, poultry, pork, nuts, eggs
Exports $84.75 million (2013 est.)
- fish/fish products, ships, coconut oil, copra (2019)
partners: Thailand 53%, Philippines 17%, South Korea 10%, Japan 9% (2019)
Imports $107.1 million (2016 est.)
- refined petroleum, netting, raw sugar, rice, poultry meats (2019)
partners: China 20%, Fiji 19%, Australia 12%, Taiwan 11%, South Korea 11%, New Zealand 7%, Japan 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
113,000 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.05% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
I-Kiribati 96.2%,
I-Kiribati/mixed 1.8%,
Tuvaluan 0.2%, other 1.8% (2015 est.)
Language
I-Kiribati, English (official)
Religion
Roman Catholic 57.3%, Kiribati Uniting Church 31.3%, Church of Jesus Christ 5.3%, Baha’i 2.1%, Seventh Day Adventist 1.9%, other 2.1% (2015 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 56.3% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 2.77% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)
as of October 2021