REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

THE NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY

Acknowledgements

Photo credit: Kiribati National Tourism Office

FOREWORD

Kiribati is one of the Pacific Island Countries seeking to maximise development benefits associated with trade. In Kiribati, trade growth has been significant over the years. Imports have increased from AU$80 Million in 2004 to AU$118 Million in 2014. Exports have also increased from AU$3 Million to AU$10 Million for the same period. The growth in trade is attributed to the indicative Government's Open Trade Policy, exemplified by the reduction of import duties to zero rate and the introduction of the Value-Added Tax (VAT) in 2014. The implementation of VAT seeks to enhance domestic consumption of goods. This Open Trade Policy also demonstrates Government's intent to improve trade competitiveness.

Improving trade competitiveness is expected to strengthen the country's competitive advantage in the global economy. In this connection, my Ministry is collaborating with relevant Ministries and Agencies in implementing strategies to support the development of the Private Sector through the development of value-added products and promotion of trade to generate income and employment opportunities, especially in the outer islands.

The implementation of product and export diversification strategies is expected to contribute to a variety of products in sectors where Kiribati has a comparative advantage. These sectors include production of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), Coconut Sap Sugar (CSS), Solar Salt, Handicrafts, higher value-added fish products, including dried and salted fish, export of clams and live fish.

My Ministry also seeks to improve the services sector, especially high-quality tourism products and service suppliers that can easily meet the overseas markets. The intention of these strategies is to improve market access by ensuring that our products are competitive, to the extent of meeting the set standards and requirements in export destinations, such as the EU, the United States, PACER Plus parties and Asian countries, among others.

It is also important to ensure that our imports from the trading partners contribute to a healthier, more prosperous and higher quality of life among the I-Kiribati. Achieving product quality objective is in line with the vision of the Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2016-2019, which seeks to enhance a better educated, healthier, more prosperous nation with a higher quality of life.

Improving the quality of goods and services is one of the major aspects of working towards achieving the vision of the KDP. To this end, my Ministry has adopted an integrated approach to promoting quality aspect of goods and services. In this context, my ministry secured technical and financial support from ACP-EU TBT Programme to develop the National Quality Policy.

The formulation of this policy has gone through a series of national consultations held from August 2016 to January 2017. The first mission was conducted in August 2016 to undertake the situational analysis. The findings and preliminary recommendations were presented in an inception workshop held in August 2016. A discussion paper was produced with the key findings and policy orientations. The discussion paper was translated into the Kiribati language to facilitate a better understanding of the issues. The paper was circulated to stakeholders for comments and inputs.

The second mission was held in October 2016. In-depth discussions took place on the draft Quality Policy during the National Consultative Dialogues held in Tarawa and Kiritimati. In addition, a group of

policy-makers and officials were trained on quality-related themes. The feedback and comments from the dialogue workshops were incorporated in the final discussion paper. The final discussion paper informed the development of the draft National Quality Policy (NQP). The draft policy was circulated to stakeholders in early December 2016.

The third and final mission was held in January 2017. The experts presented the draft NQP during a National workshop. A separate validation session was held with the members of the National Trade Advisory Committee (NTAC). The third mission also included further training of policy-makers and officials on quality infrastructure, legal aspects of Quality Policy and how to effectively implement the NQP. The NQP was finalised and endorsed in March 2017 based on the comments received from the National Workshop and inputs from NTAC
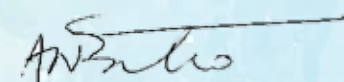
The National Quality Policy is a product of a series of consultations with various stakeholders following the above policy formulation process. The NQP is a high-level document, reflecting the country's goals and objectives in respect to quality of goods and services produced and traded nationally and abroad. The Policy defines the levels of quality and safety for the goods and services placed on the market. It also seeks to help businesses, including the Small Fish Traders from the Outer Islands, to improve their processes, to add value, and to increase their competitiveness.

The Quality Policy will also contribute to saving public money by enhancing effective institutional coordination in the area of quality promotion and reduction in the Government health budget. Working within the policy framework will allow our industry, tourism, fisheries, agriculture and services sectors to develop quality strategies. The strategies will improve our credibility and reputation as a supplier of quality products and services. The policy will seek to reduce the cases of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) by implementing strategies aimed at controlling trade in sub-standard products and low-quality food products in our local market.

It is envisaged that effective implementation of the NQP and the Action Plan, will contribute to greater awareness of national quality infrastructure in the country and consequent continual improvement of quality and productivity to enable Kiribati to face the challenges posed by the global economy, thus making it a just and prosperous nation as envisioned in the KDP 2016-2019.

I appreciate the efforts of the MCIC team, ACP-EU TBT programme, Commonwealth Secretariat, through the Hub and Spokes II Programme, and all who contributed to the development of this policy. I hope that the National Quality Policy will lead the nation towards accelerated social and economic development. The Government will provide full support towards the effective implementation of the National Quality Policy and Plan.

'Te Mauri (Health) Te Raoi (Peace) ao Te Tabomoa (Prosperity).

Hon. Atarake Nataara

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives

Table of Contents

Acronyms

AB	Accreditation Body
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCC	Asian and Pacific Coconut Community
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Community
APLMF	Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum
APMP	Asia Pacific Metrology Programme
APTC	Asia Pacific Technical College
ASP	Agriculture Strategic Plan
AUSAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CA/ CAB	Conformity Assessment/ Body
CCCPIR	Coping with Climate Change in The Pacific Island Region
CE	Conformité Européene
CIPM MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the International Committee for Weights and Measures
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COP	Conference of Parties
CP	Consumer Protection
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSS	Coconut Sap Sugar
DAP	Direct Aid Programme
EC	European Commission
EFA	Education for All
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
ESR	Institute of Environmental Science and Research
ESSP	Education Sector Strategic Plan
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GAP	Good Agriculture Practice or Good Aquaculture Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
GNI	Gross National Income
GOK	Government of Kiribati
GRP	Good Regulatory Practice
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HRD	Human Resource Development
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
ILC	Island Learning Centre
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisations
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IT	Information Technology

ITC	International Trade Centre
KCA	Kiribati Counselling Association
KCCI	Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KCDL	Kiribati Coconut Development Limited
KDP	Kiribati Development Plan
KIEP	Kiribati integrated Evironment Policy
KIT	Kiribati Institute of Technology
KPA	Key Policy Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCIC	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives
MICTTD	Ministry of Information Communication, Transport, Tourism, and Development
MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development
MFAI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
MFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MFMRD	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
MLHRD	Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development
MOE	Ministry of Education
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MTC	Maritime Training Centre (of Kiribati)
NAB	National Accreditation Body
NAMA	Nationally Adequate Mitigation Actions
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NIP	NIP National Indicative Programme
NMI	National Metrology Institute
NQP	National Quality Policy
NSB	National Standards Body
NTAC	National Trade Advisory Committee
NTDS	National Tourism Development Strategy
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
OIML	International Organization of Legal Metrology
PAC	Pacific Accreditation Cooperation
PACER	The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PASC	Pacific Area Standards Congress
PHAMA	Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PIPSO	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership or Purchasing Power Parity (for GDP)
PRIF	Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility
PT	Proficiency Testing
PTB	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
QC	Quality Control

QCC	Quality Coordination Committee
QI	Quality Improvement
QIS	Quality Infrastructure System
QMS	Quality Management System
RERF	Revenue Equalization Reserve Fund
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
RIP	Regional Implementation Plan
RSS	Really Simple Syndication
SI	System of Units
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMS	Short Message Service
SOE	State-Owned Enterprise
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures
SPSO	Pacific Sub-regional Office
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TA	Technical Assistance
TAFE	Technical And Further Education
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TRF	Technical Regulatory Framework
TRFG	Technical Regulations Focal Group
UL	Underwriters Laboratories
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	University of South Pacific
VAT	Value-Added Tax
VCO	Virgin Coconut Oil
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organization

Part 1 - RATIONALE

This part introduces the context in which the Quality Policy was developed. The general concepts underpinning quality policy and quality infrastructure systems are explained. The main linkages between the quality policy and other high-level Government documents are clarified.

1   ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Kiribati's economy is characterized by remoteness and vulnerability to internal factors and external chocks. Sustainable development has become a priority objective in recent years, due to the increased risk of flooding (32 of 33 islands rise no higher than 2 metres above sea level). This objective requires a delicate balancing of public investment in infrastructure (protection, water, etc.) and productive facilities.

The population of Kiribati was 103,942 in 2010, estimated at 107,000 in 2012 and 112,000 in 2015. In 2014, its Gross National Income (GNI) per capita estimates were US$2,950 (Atlas method) or US$3,340 (PPP method). GNI includes external revenues sources, which substantially complement the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Estimates for 2015 showed Kiribati GDP at ~US$193 million (PPP) or US$1,726 per capita.   The GDP growth had been irregular over the last decade, averaging 1.4% per annum 2008-12 and 3% over last 3 years. The economy is dominated by the services (64%) and agriculture sectors (26%) of GDP, with industry only contributing 9% of GDP (2012). Kiribati's economy is primarily based on the sale of fishing licenses, tourism, agriculture (copra), fishing, and subsistence agriculture (starchy crops) and coastal fishing. This is complemented to a lesser part by remittances (about 850 seafarers abroad in 2015), and the income from the natural resources trust fund. These two sources have been on a declining trend, due to the global economic slowdown that has reduced shipping and decreased the fund's performance.

Photo credit: Kiribati National Tourism Office

Economic development is constrained by a small and limited production capacity, weak infrastructure, insufficient skilled human resources, lack of energy and natural resources, and the country's spatial spread and remoteness from international markets. These are the constraints of Small Island Developing States, which have been well identified and documented by several Official Development Assistance (ODA) agencies. Mitigation solutions have remained scarce. In the case of Kiribati, the combined effect of population growth, change in life styles, and sluggish trade and economic growth resulted in a chronic trade and budget deficit. Drawdowns from the country's Revenue Equalization Reserve Fund (RERF) – a sovereign offshore fund – helped finance the government's annual budget. Kiribati is dependent on foreign aid, which contributed over 43% in 2013 to the Government's finances. Kiribati thus receives around AU$15 million annually for the Government budget from an Australian trust fund; and the aid funding from the United Kingdom, Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand equates to almost 10% of GDP.

Photo credit: Kiribati National Tourism Office

2   GOVERNEMENT VISION DRIVING THE NEED FOR QUALITY POLICY

2.1   Development policies

The economic development policy is reflected in the Kiribati Development Plan (KDP 2016-2019) that describes six Key Policy Areas (KPAs) as KPA1 - Human Resources Development, KPA2 - Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction, KPA3 - Health, KPA4 - Environment, KPA5 - Governance and KPA6 - Infrastructure. The KDP implementation (last evaluated in September 2014) reflected unequal progress, ranging from satisfactory for infrastructure, to average for governance and environment, and to insufficient for economic growth, health, and human resources development.

Improving economic opportunities for the population remains the central focus of development efforts. The Government is viewing human resource development, infrastructure and good governance as critical enablers. Employment abroad is also seen as an important development pathway. The Government is focused on employment creation in Kiribati and abroad. However, population growth still exceeds employment growth. The Kiribati Government faces difficulties in generating sufficient domestic revenues to provide all people with access to basic services.

The Government has recently developed an integrated development strategy for the Line and Phoenix Islands, which should guide quality deployment in this part of the country as well.

Besides the KDP, the Government has adopted a Private Sector Development Strategy that aims at fostering a more conducive business environment for enterprises. An example of action under this plan is the setup of a public-private partnership to operate a major hotel in Tarawa.

Kiribati also has an Agriculture Strategic Plan (ASP 2013-2016) and an Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP), led by Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development. The ASP features the biosecurity objective, stated as 'increased compliance with international standards' with two outputs related to trade facilitation for agricultural products (training in import risk assessment and import specifications, access to markets, and support to quarantine system).

2.2   Quality Markers in Government Strategies

The strategic documents and plans of the government and ministries include quality elements; however, most are not explicit how these will be implemented. This National Quality Policy considers these elements, integrates them into a consistent framework, and develops practical content towards the generic indications in other plans.

The KDP indicates: "Towards a better educated, healthier, more prosperous nation with a higher quality of life". The quality of life entails every aspect of people's lives from security and welfare to culture and valorisation; the KDP further details:

- KPA1 - Human Resources: 'Improve the quality of education and training...' hence the need for a quality framework and certification of education or competences.

- KPA2 - Economic Growth: "…increasing domestic trade through strengthening existing industries… to boost domestic and external trade". This calls for, for example, products and export diversification strategies (coconut) and value-added economic activities in the fisheries sector. Here

also, the use of standards and certification would help to demonstrate quality of products and increasing market access.

- KPA3 - Health: "Strengthen the implementation of the Foods Safety Act and establish foods standards to safeguard consumer health and safety"; explicitly indicating the consideration of relevant food safety standards and certification/ inspection systems.

- KPA4 - Environment: "…approaches that protect bio-diversity and support the reduction of environmental degradation, as well as adapting… to climate change". The use of environmental standards (energy and water-saving standards), certification and enhanced capacity for biosecurity (inspection) would be relevant to this area.

- KPA6 - Infrastructure: "To improve access to quality climate change resilient infrastructure in urban and rural areas". Infrastructure and Construction is a domain where systematic use of standards and conformity assessment can reduce costs and improve performance; for example: introduction of mandatory robust seawall designs, application of the building codes and full compliance, periodic reviews and update, widening of use of safe water and sanitation programmes, promoting use of renewable energy in all sectors of the economy. There is a need to define and promote the relevant codes, standards and labels, and to expand the use of standards and conformity assessment in public tenders.

3   WHAT IS A QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM?

> ❖   Quality: the level of fulfilment of customers' requirements (stated or implied).
> ❖   Infrastructure: the components or features of an organization.
> ❖   System: a set of elements that interact together to perform as a whole.

A Quality Infrastructure System (QIS) consists of a dynamic equilibrium of activities by public institutions, operators and users, and the interactions among these, which enable a country to achieve quality objectives. These national objectives cover both quality and safety aspects, as well as the requirements imposed in international trade. The QIS will evolve as necessary to meet the changing needs of Kiribati. The QIS should also operate as a system, meaning that the different institutions and components should work in a coherent manner.

An effective QIS aims at defining quality requirements and providing acceptable evidence, recognized at the international level, that products, services, processes, systems, persons or bodies conform to such quality requirements. An effective QIS results from the satisfactory fulfilment of all the seven functions listed below and detailed in Annex E.

1.   Setting and implementing a national Quality Policy
2.   Setting and implementing a Technical Regulatory Framework
3.   Accreditation
4.   Standardization
5.   Metrology
6.   Conformity assessment
7.   Quality promotion and use

4   WHY IS AN EFFECTIVE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM NEEDED FOR KIRIBATI?

At the national level, the Government and the Private Sector share the responsibility to ensure that all economic activities are carried out in the most efficient manner. Defining standards for products, services, processes, systems, persons or bodies and ensuring conformity to the set standards is one way to achieve this goal. For example, requiring civil works firms contracted by the Government to test all materials in laboratories, whose competence is recognized through accreditation, reduces risks of faulty workmanship and failures – public funds are thus efficiently used.

The Government also has the responsibility to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

- Ensuring that industrial products are safe to use can be achieved by requiring the goods sold to comply with international safety standards, such as those set by the International Electro-Technical Commission for electrical appliances.
- For products intended for human consumption, health and safety objectives can be achieved by adopting an integrated food chain approach and scientific risk assessment and mandating best food safety practices, such as the use of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) tools or international food safety standards.
- Other public security functions rely on calibrated instruments to check specific parameters such as speed, alcohol in blood, or presence of illicit substances in cargo, hence the importance of metrology.

Because of Government's objective to target export-led growth, in a context of globalized trade, the QIS of Kiribati should be recognized by foreign trading partners. To that end, the QIS must be aligned with international best practices and requirements. The setting-up and operation of an effective and credible QIS is, therefore, not a choice but a necessity for Kiribati to participate fully in international and regional trade. In consequence, all the policy objectives of the Government require that standards for products, services, processes, systems, persons or bodies are defined and that conformity to these standards is demonstrated though proper testing, certification or inspection.

5   WHY A NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY?

The QIS relies on a set of policies and legal frameworks to fulfil the seven main functions. The combination of the seven policy statements must be coherent, contributing to a QIS that produces acceptable evidence of conformity for products, services, processes, systems, persons or bodies in a way that satisfies the country's needs (fitness for purpose) on a continual basis.

To ensure such coherence, Kiribati needs an overall national policy for implementing quality, with specific measures covering each of the seven QIS functions. Because the QIS functions can be under the jurisdiction of different Ministries or departments, as well as with the Private Sector (e.g. private laboratories and certification bodies), the overall national policy must be driven by Government but agreed on by stakeholders through a process of consultation. This overall policy is called National Quality Policy (NQP) of Kiribati and its preparation was entrusted to MCIC. The NQP is an explicit

commitment by the Government and stakeholders, defining how the seven functions making up the QIS are organized and implemented in Kiribati, to have an <u>effective</u> QIS.

This NQP embodies a vision, a goal, and objectives for implementing quality at the national level, as well as a set of specific policy statements and measures covering each of the seven functions. The Government of Kiribati, by agreeing to implement the NQP, demonstrates its political will and its commitment to provide the necessary human and financial resources to achieve an effective QIS.

The NQP also establishes a mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of the measures and take corrective actions when needed.

PART 2 - POLICY

This part describes the policies that provide an orientation of the National Quality Plan (NQP) for each of the seven functions of the QIS. It also lists the policy measures that Kiribati adopts to achieve the vision, goal and objectives of this Quality Policy.

6   PURPOSE

The Government, through Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Cooperatives, is issuing this policy with the following intent:

Vision

Kiribati's products and services comply with relevant standards and technical regulations on regional and international markets, thus withstanding comparison to similar products and services from other countries.

Goal

To realise an effective national Quality Infrastructure System (QIS) capable of raising the quality of products and services, thus boosting Kiribati's export-led growth while providing for better well-being for I-Kiribati.

7   OBJECTIVES

By setting this policy and action plans, the Government of Kiribati is pursuing the following objectives.

1. To contribute to the objectives of the Kiribati Development Plan.

2. To develop and sustain an effective QIS to fit the needs of the country and seek QIS alignment with international best practices to enhance its effectiveness and relevance.

3. To provide a national quality promotion strategy that assists the country's enterprises in becoming more globally competitive, by promoting and supporting the use of standards and conformity assessment in all spheres of economic activity.

4. To raise the quality and safety levels of products and services in Kiribati, both locally manufactured and imported, in the aims of protecting consumers, achieving better social and environmental protection and improving livelihoods.

5. To build the capacities of each institution involved in the NQP implementation, allowing line Ministries and other groups to achieve their quality objectives.

6. To involve and support the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations in formulating and implementing the NQP; including though public-private partnerships, when relevant.

8   APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

Application

The national Policy primarily affects the producing and trading sectors, which are invited to define their needs and objectives when defining the quality levels of their products and services. While the application of the Policy is voluntary, the Private Sector should recognize the benefits of actively engaging in its implementation.

The National Quality Policy affects the public bodies that use quality-related functions, or that ensure a regulatory role. When relevant, the action plans of this Quality Policy will be coordinated with and/ or integrated to the annual Ministerial Strategic and Operational Plans, thus influencing resource allocation.

The National Quality Policy considers all the legal texts in force at the date of publication. Certain dispositions would require amendments to existing laws or the creation of new texts.

This policy does not consist in a regulatory disposition in any sector/ Ministry. Instead, it delineates proposition and generic tools that will help to achieve better regulations.

This policy does not apply to the Defence and Law and Order sectors, which might have separate and ad hoc dispositions to assure effectiveness of their systems and performance of their personnel. Where needed, functions of the QIS remain available for these stakeholders.

Responsibilities

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives shall be responsible for supervising and coordinating the implementation of the NQP. This includes liaison with Aid Agencies and Official Development Assistance partners; specific emphasis should be given to linkages with the Trade Facilitation framework promoted by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). MCIC should also arrange for the regular monitoring and evaluation of the NQP, including maintaining indicative budgets and possible funding sources/ commitments. MCIC will be responsible for leading the policy review at the end of the implementation timeline.

Other Ministries and technical agencies are responsible for adopting and implementing those parts of the NQP that are relevant to their respective mandate and strategies. The policy statements indicated for specific sectors (See 11.8 to 11.12 below) are not meant to supersede, but rather to supplement, the Ministries' policies for these sectors. When an action plan requires action from more than one Ministry, a coordinated approach will be sought by MCIC. Each Ministry is responsible for identifying the upcoming needs related to any of the seven quality functions, and provide feedback through the coordination sub-committee (see 9.1, 11.1 below).

The Private Sector and the organization of the Civil Society are responsible for engaging actively with the NQP implementation (through action plans), and for providing information and feedback to MCIC.

Timeline

This Policy comes into force after its endorsement by the Cabinet and its official publication. The Policy covers the same time span as the main Government strategic plans with which it is linked. The Government is committed to implement the provisions of this NQP within a period of seven years from the date of its approval, covering two KDP periods.

MCIC will be responsible for monitoring the progress in implementation, using a monitoring framework associated with the action plans; a brief yearly progress report will be prepared and circulated. The first milestone will be a policy review organized at the end of 2019 or early 2020 (matching KDP evaluation). The policy review would include recommendations to change priorities in the action plans. The resulting review report will be presented to the Cabinet.

The second milestone will be a policy evaluation at the end of the cycle, in 2023. The evaluation should assess in detail the achievements of the action plans, identify areas of low performance and their causes, and highlight any new trend or issue for consideration. The evaluation report will be used as the basis for policy formulation workshops, resulting in the Policy document for subsequent years.

A monitoring and evaluation table for the Policy is presented in Annex B.

9   IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NQP

9.1   Lead Ministry and Coordination Committee

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives is given responsibility for supervising and facilitating the implementation of this NQP.

A Quality Coordination Committee (QCC) will be created at the initiative of MCIC, as a sub-Committee of the National Trade Advisory Committee, to coordinate the implementation of this Policy. The members of QCC will be drawn from representatives of the Private Sector, relevant Government agencies, consumer associations, professional associations and other relevant bodies or development partners, as recommended by the members of QCC.

The QCC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate achievement of the NQP objectives. The QCC will, in close collaboration with concerned Ministries:

a)   review and discuss forthcoming information on the implementation of the QIS;

b)   analyse issues arising in relation with the QIS, request information from concerned institutions and conduct research to obtain information and data as necessary;

c)   guide and advise the relevant stakeholders, Ministries and other Agencies, in implementing the NQP and its action plans;

d)   foster and arrange liaison with regional or international quality-related bodies or programmes that might support NQP in Kiribati;

e)   develop, review, and endorse recommendations in relation to establishing policies, functions and roles of the quality institutions concerned, and in relation to modernizing the legislation, rules and procedures for the concerned bodies and departments; and

f)   monitor and oversee the NQP implementation and action plans, and organize the Policy review (mid-term) and evaluation as planned.

9.2   Implementation Responsibilities

Each Ministry is responsible for the implementation of parts of the NQP that are relevant to their mandate and should provide the necessary resources, both financial and human. The relevant Ministries should also ensure that the NQP implementation interfaces seamlessly with their strategic plans, wherever these impinge on each other.

In Kiritimati, a NQP task force should be set-up for ensuring that NQP implementation is fully linked to Development Strategy for Line and Phoenix, and for better interaction with the QCC.

The Ministries will liaise closely with the Quality Coordination Committee in this regard, by designating upon request of the MCIC one or more officers to share in the work of the QCC and to act as 'quality focal person' within their Ministry/ Agency.

10   FINANCING OF THE NQP MEASURES

A rough estimate indicates the NQP will require an investment of about AU$5,340,000 (over 6 years), and the recruitment of 15 additional officers (plus 6 local project managers, contracted); the operations will generate recurrent costs to the tune of AU$263,100 per year.

A table showing the indicative cost implication of the policy is presented in Annex D. It is of vital importance to make the public and private financial resources available for the implementation of the NQP. The Government will finance the establishment, development and enhancement of QIS institutions under its responsibility. The financing of Private Sector institutions and organizations will remain the responsibility of the Private Sector, as is their involvement in committees and similar structures at the national, regional and international levels. However, given the small size of demand for standards and conformity assessment services, it might be impossible to rely on a pure user-pay policy. Therefore, the Government might consider public funding for operating costs of bodies providing commercial services (metrology, certification); the use of public-private partnerships would also be considered. The Government may also rely on ODA funds to support various phases of set up and development of the quality infrastructure functions in Kiribati. A table presenting possible sources of support and funding is presented in Annex C.

In particular, the Government will be responsible for financing the following:

a)   the establishment and maintenance of a QIS Resource Centre at MCIC, where users will be able to access information related to standards and conformity assessment;

b)   the institutional capacity building plans and initiative, which will be part and parcel of the NQP implementation;

c)   the establishment and maintenance of industrial and legal metrology services, considering that part of this budget would be funded through the fees and levies paid by the users of measuring equipment;

d)   membership fees, as relevant, to appropriate international or regional bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP), the Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Programme (APLMF), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), etc.;

e)   the upgrading of certain official controls, which ensure that technical regulations are complied with in order to safeguard the public in the areas of health, safety and fair trade. This includes

the strengthening, both in mandate and resources, of the Consumer Protection Department and Metrology Unit at MCIC. Additional resources would be considered for the Quarantine and the Environment Protection Division at The Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development (MELAD), and possibly for the Environment Health Division at the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS);

f) the establishment of a centralized analytical laboratory serving the agriculture, environment, food and fisheries sector; and

g) awareness raising and promotion activities entrusted to MCIC and other stakeholders.

11 POLICY STATEMENTS & POLICY MEASURES

11.1 Setting and implementing the National Quality Policy

Policy

The Government of Kiribati will:

- continually endeavour to consult stakeholders on the content and orientation of the NQP during its formulation and its implementation;
- enhance standards awareness among public service policy-makers, producers, regulators and consumers and encourage the systematic use of conformity assessment procedures to improve and demonstrate compliance of products, services, processes, systems, persons or bodies, both in the voluntary and regulatory areas;
- strive to create, consolidate or strengthen QIS institutions and services (e.g. testing, calibration, inspection, certification…), through either public bodies, private endeavours, or public-private partnerships;
- exercise oversight on QIS functions to ensure their continual effectiveness, relevance and efficiency through adequate bodies designated to that effect;
- foster close cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations.

Policy Measures

Immediately after the adoption of the NQP, Government and MCIC will hold consultations with concerned partners to start implementing the Policy and Action Plans including measures related to the following:

- seeking external funding to strengthen QIS functions and institutions, such as new testing and calibration equipment, both in the public sector as well as in the Private Sector, taking care not to duplicate resources;
- strengthening human resource capacity in standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment;
- establishing the Quality Coordination Committee intended to supervise the implementation of the NQP, on behalf of the Government and in collaboration with stakeholders;
- regularly assessing the evolving needs of in each of the seven QIS functions, identifying possible gaps and implementing measures to bridge these.

11.2 Setting and Implementing a Technical Regulatory Framework

The regulatory framework function consists in establishing principles, rules, and coordination or review mechanisms that are useful to improve regulations.
The purposes are:

- to ensure transparency, consultation, and consistency while elaborating regulations;
- to verify that proposed regulations do not constraint trade; and
- to achieve synergies between the different regulatory bodies.

Policy
The Government will:

- establish a technical regulatory framework that complies with the requirements of relevant agreements and protocols, of which Kiribati is Party;
- apply, to the extent feasible, the principles of Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) when preparing, adopting or applying technical regulations so as not to create unnecessary obstacles to international trade;
- use international standards, where these exist and are relevant for Kiribati, as basis for technical regulations.

Policy Measures
As soon as possible after the adoption of the NQP by Government, MCIC, in collaboration with other Ministries, will establish a Technical Regulations Focal Group (TRFG), which will:

- review, amend and draft primary and secondary legislation as required to implement the National Quality Policy including on Consumer Protection, Food Safety, and Quality Infrastructure;
- involve relevant ministries and committees to develop a technical regulatory framework and exchange information on Non-Tariff Measures;
- promote Good Regulatory Principles, including guidance to regulators in:
    - transparency and public consultation mechanisms,
    - mechanisms for assessing policy alternatives through an evidence-based process, e.g. using Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) tools
    - approaches to minimizing the burden of regulations on economic operators, and
    - implementation and enforcement mechanisms and domestic coordination;
- publish regulatory guidelines; organize awareness activities and training programmes for regulators to help understand and apply GRP, RIA and other operational themes (inspection, legal, metrology…);
- oversee, comment and technically advise the Government about the quality of draft technical regulations submitted by any Ministry or department;
- review the technical regulations currently in force to assess their compliance with the technical regulation framework, in respect to effectiveness, transparency, and accountability;
- enhance national capacities for import control and market surveillance (non-food products), including mandating adequate standards for safety or performance, e.g. oil products,

electrical devices, engines….; and OIML references for trade-related measuring devices;

- boost consumer protection, via regulatory channels (MCIC Consumer protection Division) and by fostering the creation of an independent Kiribati Consumers' Association.

11.3 Accreditation

There is no benefit at present for Kiribati to develop an accreditation function, because of human resources constraints (competent officers and assessors). The opportunity costs for developing domestic accreditation services will remain high; therefore, cost-recovery would be very low, as long as very few conformity assessment bodies (laboratories, inspections) are operating locally. Accreditation services would, therefore, be sourced by national accreditation bodies available in the region (Australia - New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Korea, among others. Subsidization should be considered to compensate the extra costs (e.g. transportation, assessors' accommodations) incurred.

Policy
The Government will:
- seek to establish MoU or partnership with one or more internationally-recognized national accreditation bodies in the Pacific region;
- strengthen the standard information point so that relevant information can be easily accessed by laboratories or certifiers, such as the relevant management system standards, proficiency testing and reference material providers, trainers for ISO 17025, etc.; and
- consider a financial support scheme for conformity assessment bodies' candidates for accreditation, to partially compensate the extra costs of using external providers.

Policy Measures
As soon as possible after the adoption of the NQP by Government, MCIC will:
- designate focal persons for coordinating accreditation services matters, and build their capacity to handle such issues;
- identify possible National Accreditation Body (NAB) partners and start discussing an agreement;
- engage with the conformity assessment bodies currently active in Kiribati, assess their needs, and disseminate information on accreditation and conformity assessment; and
- establish and implement capacity-building activities in conformity assessment bodies, in collaboration with partner accreditation body.

11.4 Standardization

Standards are tools that facilitate trade. When companies produce goods according to an international standard, their goods are more easily accepted elsewhere. The role of standards in economic performance is equally important: because they are prepared through a large consultation of industry stakeholders, standards often represent an optimum solution, featuring characteristics that are obtainable at the lowest possible cost. Thus, by using standards, operators become more effective.
The standardization function in Kiribati would be limited, considering the limited production base. National standards would be prepared for specific sectors or activities. The economic operators in the import/ export sectors, either for commercial or regulatory purposes, may refer to existing standard already in use in destination markets.

Policy

The Government will:

- assist developing and publishing national standards, e.g. for raw materials, local products and services, based on the expressed needs of industries and service providers;
- ensure that national standards are periodically reviewed, to the effect they remain in line with technological developments, market trends and international requirements;
- encourage the use of good standardization practices and the adoption of relevant international and regional standards based on the needs of industry and the society; and
- maintain membership in international standards organizations, such as ISO and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Policy Measures

As soon as possible after the adoption of the NQP by Government, MCIC will:

- strengthen the standardization unit and build capacities to provide information and resources for international standards and certification systems (where possible develop a trade portal with standard related information);
- facilitate and support the preparation of national or sectorial standards;
- ensure the final edition of locally prepared standards and their validation as national standards; and then store, maintain, review and diffuse these;
- seek adhesion to Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) and ISO as an observer member, and share information with these organizations; and
- conduct awareness seminars to disseminate information about the benefit of standards to various target groups.

11.5   *Metrology*

Metrology is typically divided into three fields:

- Scientific Metrology, which deals with the definition of units and measurement methods;
- Industrial Metrology, which deals with maintaining accuracy of measurements through an unbroken chain of comparisons with measurement references; and
- Legal Metrology, which aims at providing a fair playing field for any commercial or legal transaction based on measurement (energy metres, ethyl metres, speed radars, market scales/ balances, petrol pumps, pre-packaged goods sold by weight/ volume, and much more).

Policy

The Government will:

- develop the metrology function at MCIC with additional staff members, and entrust the responsibility for Industrial and Legal Metrology to this Unit;
- confer to the Legal Metrology Unit the responsibility for type approval of measuring equipment, have them verified on placement into service and, thereafter, have them regularly calibrated and verified;
- ensure that all national measurement standards in the custody of the metrology Unit are traceable to the International System of Units (SI); and
- engage with regional metrology organizations.

Policy Measures

After the adoption of the NQP by Government, MCIC will:

- establish one metrology centre that includes a documentary space and calibration laboratories meeting requirements to operate with secondary or working standards and with measurement instruments;
- plan and secure additional measurement standards and equipment, to cover the basic needs of the industry and regulators;
- ensure adequate capability for calibration labs through programmes for traceability, inter-lab comparison, accreditation, and advanced training for metrology officers;
- seek membership in OIML, and participation in the APMP and APLMF, as well as cooperation with National Metrology Institutes of the main trade partner countries; and
- organize awareness campaigns to ensure consumers, industry and traders will be aware of the interest of calibration.

11.6 Conformity Assessment

Conformity assessment consists of the demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled. The demonstration can be an inspection, a test (analysis or calibration), or a certification. The organizations delivering conformity assessment services are named as 'Conformity Assessment Bodies' (CAB).

Conformity assessment plays a central role in trade, as it increases the level of information readily available about how a given product conforms to stated requirements or standards. Conformity assessment services provide evidence that shipments conform to what has been ordered in quantity, aspect, and composition. When CAB are accredited (see below), their results are accepted across borders; then the shipments can be assessed only once at the origin.

Policy

The Government will:

- ensure that conformity assessment capabilities in Kiribati are always adequate to satisfy the country's needs[1].
- develop conformity assessment hubs meant as centralized units, e.g. an analytical laboratory and a national certification support unit;
- ensure that CABs have access to accreditation services (outsourced) to cover their scopes of conformity assessment; and
- use accredited conformity assessment results (i.e. test reports, inspection reports, certifications), where these are needed to develop national public policy and technical regulations.

Policy Measures

As soon as possible after the adoption of the NQP, the Government will:

- assist optimizing the way tests are outsourced to various laboratories;

---

[1] NOTE: CABs in Government will be strengthened as necessary but, where Private Sector CABs would have a comparative advantage for operating CA services in certain technical areas, Government may consider financially supporting these Private Sector CABs with donor funds or within Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) arrangements.

- organize testing functions under a centralized analytical laboratory that would ensure testing for different Ministries and for private operators alike;
- prepare a laboratory investment and capacity-building plan, presenting the needs over a mid-term for equipment, human resources, supplies, capacity building and assistance;
- enhance the competence of laboratories based on a Quality Management System (QMS) compliance to ISO/ IEC 17025; and
- design and create a national certification resource centre (public status, or public-private partnership), responsible for supporting the preparation[2] of certification in Kiribati. This includes support to sectorial stakeholders' groups in developing certification schemes relevant to their activities; immediate needs are the Mauri Mark and the certification of organic products.

11.7 Quality Promotion and Use

Policy

The Government will:
- organize campaigns to promote quality with the view to raise knowledge and quality awareness in the community;
- promote the application of quality tools to improve products and services through the creation of annual national quality awards;
- develop the consumer's protection function, and support consumer organizations to disseminate knowledge and information about standards and quality;
- contribute to the creation of a pool of national consultants in quality management to support producers and services to apply quality management systems; and
- include specific quality requirements in government procurement contracts to encourage suppliers to demonstrate conformity through accredited testing, certification or inspection.

---

[2] The centre would also facilitate access to third party certification services, but would not provide such services over the period of this policy document; because the volume of certification is too limited.

Quality Promotion Workshop

Policy Measures

After the adoption of the NQP by Government, MCIC will

- organize and run public awareness campaigns in collaboration with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) or consumer organisations that highlight specific issues (energy efficiency, the safety of goods, environment, etc.);
- celebrate the World Quality Day, with an emphasis on sharing information on progress of the NQP and related quality initiatives;
- organize, in collaboration with chambers and associations, a regular programme of awareness raising and education, targeting the companies' managers and technicians;
- organize annual quality awards in collaboration with industry associations and/ or chambers of commerce and industry;
- develop a Quality Mark or label to promote products and services matching certain levels of quality (national or international standards);
- prepare a plan in cooperation with education organizations to set up a curriculum for quality professionals; this would include both theoretical training and qualification as practitioners (United Kingdom or Australia-based schemes); and
- consider including specific quality requirements (a reference to standards and CA procedures) in public tenders, in consultation with Government procurement offices.

11.8   Quality in the Fisheries Sector

Photo credit: Kiribati Fish Ltd.

Policy

- The National Fisheries Policy of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD) is the reference document; specific quality elements might be added in the subsequent versions.
- The basis for quality and safety in fisheries products are also included in Fisheries Act 2010 amended 2015, the Fisheries Export Regulation 2012, and the Kiribati Industry Standard (2016).
- Regional policies related to Fisheries and Marine Resources should be considered when they include quality entries relevant for Kiribati.

Photo credit: Kiribati Fish Ltd.

Policy Measures

MFMRD will strive to:
- develop the competent authority's scope and function, as well as their capacity for inspection of fisheries products, vessels, and processing plants;
- secure the recognition of the competent authority by the EU's Food and Veterinary Office;
- prepare membership of Kiribati to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or Office International des Epizooties (OIE) agreements, including when needing to undertake stock assessment surveys;
- develop a regulatory framework for aquaculture (Good Aquaculture Practices, zoning);
- increase the quality and value of the small-scale local fisheries products, through the development of quality and hygiene standards, adequate handling infrastructure, and testing; and
- build capacities, at each stage of the supply chain, to satisfy markets requirements, such as hygiene for local supply, and catch's chain of custody certification, sustainable catch, and eco-friendly certifications for foreign markets.

Photo credit: Kiribati Fish Ltd.

11.9   *Quality for Environment and Agriculture Products*

Policy
- MELAD has issued the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP 2012) with relevant quality elements.
- Bases for quality and safety of agricultural products are included in Biosecurity Act 2011.

Policy Measures

MELAD will strive to:

- raise awareness on, and develop the use of risk-based approaches to inspection, including the recognition of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures (SPS) certificates from other countries;
- prepare Kiribati's full membership in the OIE and in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC);
- develop the capacity of the Biosecurity Department to check and fight invasive species;
- establish or expand areas as pest or disease-free and get recognition for such status;
- develop relevant production standards for agricultural products (e.g. for virgin coconut oil, coconut products, pest management, Good Agriculture Practice or Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP), fruit grading, etc.)
- develop capacities for testing and certification of agricultural products, as per 11.6 above;
- accelerate implementation of the framework for waste management and recycling (KIEP 2012 - Waste management components 2 and 4); and
- regulate the importation of used cars, either by mandating pre-shipment inspection to quality standards, or age limitation or both to complement dispositions of the Ministry of Finance.

11.10 Quality of Food and Drug Products

In this document, quality of food and drug products is understood as covering both quality and safety features.

Policy

- The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) indicate their vision for the Kiribati Health Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019 is *"A healthy population that is well supported by quality health services"*. The primary goal for the Kiribati Health Strategic Plan is: *"To improve population health and health equity through continuous improvement in the quality and responsiveness of health services, and by making the most effective and efficient use of available resources".*
- Food safety pertains to the strategic objective N° 4, 'reduce prevalence of non-communicable diseases'.
- The bases for quality and safety of food products are included in the Food Safety Act 2006, and the Food Regulations and Standards (2014).

Policy Measures

MHMS will strive to:

- shift towards modern integrated strategy for food safety/ environmental health[3], including more coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MELAD) and the Local Councils;
- revise the official food control approach towards a more proactive and effective approach based on risks levels[4], including automatic recognition of food safety certificates from other countries;
- enhance the role and operational activities of the National CODEX committee as an inter-ministerial coordination vehicle;

- establish guidelines for a better coordination of border controls, including clarifying the roles of Customs and Kiribati Port Authority, and solving the issue of disposition of unsafe imported food;
- develop capacities for testing and inspection, with a centralized approach to conformity assessment as per 11.6; and
- improve quality in the procurement of medicines by introducing requirements for quality standards and conformity assessment in the tenders, and by ensuring a basic randomized quality control of medicines at delivery points.

11.11   *Quality in the Tourism Sector*

Photo credit: Kiribati National Tourism Office

Policy

- The National Tourism Development Strategy (NTDS) of the Ministry of Information Communication, Transport, Tourism, and Development (MICTTD) includes relevant quality

---

[3] This means the recognition of the linkages existing between the primary, processing and market stages across sectors and, in consequence, the setup of systems shared across agencies to deliver food safety.

[4] Risk levels are set for each product group, by defining possible hazards, analysing the consumption patterns, and assessing the possible impact of the hazard (severity). This allows focusing on products that may have the highest impact on public health.

elements.

- Developing high-end tourism in Kiribati will require improving both tourist infrastructures (buildings, wharfs, beaches, etc.) and the quality standards used.
- MICTTD strategic plan reads: 'upgrade the standard of accommodation and tour services'; subsequent plans would detail how this will be done.

Policy Measures

The Ministry in charge for Tourism, in close consultation with private operators, will strive to:

- ensure consistent and regular promotion, in the region and abroad, of Kiribati as a 'quality tourism' destination;
- improve the country's tourism offer by defining themes and quality levels based on visitors' expectations, including, for example, fishing, nature observation, health and fitness, and culture;
- help operators define material, contents and designs supporting the above themes, under the form of standards or code of practices; and
- enhance or develop certification schemes (labels or marks) for sites, for accommodation facilities, for handicraft products, and for professional staff.

Kiribati Local Handicrafts: Photo credit: Kiribati National Tourism Office

Students: Marine Training Centre

Policy

- The Kiribati Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) reflects Kiribati's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals' Objective 2, detailed in the six Education for All (EFA) goals. It also reflects Kiribati's regional commitments to Forum Pacific Education Development Framework endorsed by Forum Education Ministers in 2009. The ESSP is also aligned with the KDP 2016-2019.
- The ESSP is entirely centred on the notion of quality, with specific goal 1 stated as "*Deliver a high quality, coherent and relevant school curriculum for Kiribati children*".

Policy Measures

Ministry of Education will strive to:

- complete the adoption of the national qualification and assessment framework;
- enhance the competence of teachers and promote the use of outcome-based educational methods;
- include the traditional cultural skills in the national curriculum;

Ministry of Labour will strive to:

- align further local curriculums on the Pacific/ international qualification frameworks (for the Maritime Training Centre, Kiribati Institute of Technology, and University of South Pacific), and seek recognition of equivalence with countries in the region;
- build-up/ enhance curriculums for quality management and food safety management with sector-specific modules (fish product safety, hospitality, ecotourism…); and
- develop personnel qualification and certification services (trainers, assessors) for these specific skills.

PART 3 – QUALITY ACTION PLANS

12 ACTION PLAN Nº1 FOR STANDARDS AND QUALITY PROMOTION

Lead: Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Cooperatives

Short Term (2017 - 2020)

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Set up and carry out the Monitoring plan for the NQP	Meetings, communication costs
Establish the Quality Coordination Sub-Committee under the National Trade Advisory Committee (NTAC)	Links with EIF during the implementation of NQP and Trade Policy
Set up the Quality Infrastructure Resource Centre: - Designate two MCIC officers in charge of gathering information, and on-line resources on standards and CA, and handling requests - Provide adequate, dedicated working space - Set up Information Technology (IT) systems, network and website - prepare activity plan for this unit (incl. links to trade facilitation) - Capacity building for the two persons	One large room, 4 desks, 4 computers, internet access, printer filing cabinet, etc.; smaller unit in Kiritimati (PC network allowing replication) Regional Quality Improvement (QI) expert, 2 missions * 2 weeks
Foster and facilitate the creation of Kiribati Consumers' Association - Take part and assist consultations and meetings among the public - Facilitate and expedite registration of the new association - Identify support sources and facilitate linkages	European Commission (EC) regional project (Governance and Civil Society) Support from the International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) Consumers International, UNDP, Suva through governance programme; CANADA Fund for local initiatives
Seek adhesion to World Trade Organisation (WTO), PASC, Asia-Pacific Economic Community (APEC), and ISO as observer member, and share information with these organizations	Membership fees, travel in region Liaise with ISO office (Singapore) and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's (PIFS') WTO desk for support
Identify possible accreditation body partners and start discussing an agreement	Travel Liaise with Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) on possible cooperation
Support the preparation of national/ sectorial standards	

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
- Engage with identified groups (local fisheries, handicraft, education) to define needs - Provide training on how to prepare and agree on standards - Quality parameters for imports of petroleum and its products, preferably based on international standards - Adopt regional/ international standards for electrical and electronics appliances - Adopt regional energy labelling standards for consumer goods (including air-conditioning equipment, refrigerators, and lights)	Local travel, facilitation Standardization experts (regional): 8 missions 1 week Technical experts to assist preparation (3*2 weeks)
Assistance to Conformity Assessment Bodies - Engage the CABs active in Kiribati, assess their needs - Gather information on accreditation, calibration, and conformity assessment - Capacity-building activities in CAB, in collaboration with partner NAB or others	Lab mapping and assessment mission by Technical Assistance (TA) expert (3 weeks) TA: laboratory experts (~10 weeks); linkages with Fiji (University of South Pacific (USP) and/or The Pacific Community (SPC)); Support from regional trade agreements
Awareness & Promotion Campaigns - Prepare contents and schedule (radio, social media) - Village or community talks - Printed material/ Banners/ Road panels	- Study for a communication strategy (service contract) - Design, acting and recording services; broadcasting fees - Local travel - Design & production costs
Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Outreach Programme - Workshops and ad hoc consultations - Materials (from ISO and other agencies; local)	Workshops and material (printing) costs Linkages with ODA agencies

Mid-Term (2021-2023)

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Quality Promotion - Celebrate World Quality Day Share information on progress of the NQP - Organize Kiribati Quality Award (goods, services) - Develop a Kiribati Quality brand and logo to promote quality in-country and abroad	- ODA support to fund keynote speakers and guests - Linkage with Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) - Event costs (sponsoring – large companies in the region) - Design cost, feasibility study (TA) - Advertising space - Use regional promotion mechanisms (trade centres, Pacific Ambassadors, PIFS offices
Developing Curriculum for Quality Management Professionals - Theoretical training modules - Qualification as practitioners (UK or Australia-based schemes)	- Coordination with Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT), USP, and Maritime Training Centre (of Kiribati) (MTC) and with external providers (Universities or CA suppliers) - Yearly costs of training and qualification
National Standards - Final edition and validation of standards - Storage, maintenance, review and diffusion	TA standardization exerts with ODA or ISO support - Meeting and announcement (gazette and/ or radio) - Printing costs, web-based storage and access (system costs)
Accreditation Focal Point - Designate persons for coordinating accreditation service matters - Build capacity to handle such issues - Formalize partnership with Accreditation Bodies (ABs) in the region	TA accreditation expert (donor funded or partner AB)
Quality of Public Goods Consult with Government Central Procurement Office to consider including specific quality requirements in public tenders	Intra-Government meetings

13 ACTION PLAN Nº 2 FOR THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Lead: Ministry of Justice; NTAC inputs with secretariat to MCIC

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES

Legal Framework
- Prepare organic laws
  ∗ on Quality for food and non-food products
  ∗ on Liability for Defective Products and to provide the basic framework for non-food goods (primary responsibility, guarantees)
- Review the Consumer Protection Regulation 2004 (current sanctions, extend scope to product safety, capacity to deal with technical issues)
	TA legal expert (3 weeks/ year over 3 years) working in collaboration with Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
	- Links with trade mainstreaming and EIF

Enforcement - Develop provisions for import regulations and market surveillance - Mandate regional/ international standards or the use of certification (e.g. Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Conformité Européene (CE) marking...) for electrical and electronic appliances - Prescribing existing OIML standards for trade-related measuring devices	- TA legal expert - MCIC and linkages with other Ministries (construction) - TA legal metrology expert - Linkages to EIF
Consumer Protection (CP) - Increase CP Unit at MCIC (2 more staff, budget) - Increase current outreach programmes (media-based) - Develop new outreach channels through modern media (e.g. social media, Really Simple Syndication (RSS) and Short Message Service (SMS)-based alerts or feedback systems)	- MCIC budget - sub contract to define/ produce sketch and plays - costs of website setup, mass SMS campaigns, hotline, etc.
Establish a Technical Regulations Focal Group (TRFG) - Develop a Technical Regulatory Framework (TRF) and its guidelines - Organize awareness activities and training programmes for regulators	- TA institutional regulatory expert (10 weeks over 4 years) - Travel & workshop costs

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
(yearly session in-country or abroad) - Request and exchange information on Non-Tariff Measures - Promote Good Regulatory Principles, and apply GRP, RIA and other operational themes (inspection, legal metrology…) - Oversee, comment and technically advise on the quality of draft technical regulations submitted by any Ministry/ department - Collect and compile information on regulatory approaches in Pacific Countries - Engage with the regulatory agencies of trade partners and in the region, establish a regulatory dialogue	- Linkages to the EIF - PIFS' WTO desk for support - TA inputs (regulatory expert) and training costs - Seek training and support opportunities under regional trade agreements - Travel and meeting costs

14 ACTION PLAN Nº 3 FOR THE LINE & PHOENIX ISLANDS

This action plan should be considered in close connection with the Integrated Development Strategy for Line and Phoenix. Due to remoteness, it may not be easy to follow-up the implementation of discrete actions; therefore, it would be better to manage each action below as a micro-project with a dedicated team to organize mobilization, support delivery and capacity building. Ministry of Line and Phoenix has the lead for implementing the action plan; while for the generic QIS activities (standardization, certification, metrology, promotion and awareness), MCIC will ensure close liaison with the Ministry of Line and Phoenix.

Lead: Ministry of Line and Phoenix

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Quality Promotion/ Infrastructure - Ensure participation in the Quality Coordination Committee and in the Technical Regulations Focal Group - Establish a contact point of the Quality Infrastructure Information Centre (with connectivity to Tarawa) - Coordinate with MCIC Tarawa on awareness and training activity	- Costs of travel - One room with public access, IT package (PC, screen, internet connection and replication of Tarawa MCIC centre server)
Metrology - Develop a small lab with capacity for industrial calibration for mass, electricity, temperature - Train 2-3 officers on calibration - Arrange legal metrology campaigns from Tarawa	- Re-fitting & insulation of a room in a Government building - Basic furnishing, instruments and standards - TA experts (see § 17 metrology)
Basic Testing Capability - Assess needs and plan capacity development - Set up a basic microbiology laboratory for waters and agri-fish-food products - Enhance testing capacities for quarantine inspection - Include Kiritimati in any arrangements for sample forwarding	- Rooms, furnishing, power, basic equipment - Inspection, collect/ trapping and characterization equipment - Training on pests/ diseases identification
Tourism - Liaise with the MICTTD, to develop thematic packages, standards and	- Funding from the EC to implement the Line and Phoenix Development

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
certification schemes relevant for Christmas - Ensure professional training or capacity building of tourist operators' staff (hotels, fishing guides, etc.)	strategy - Regional or national training services
Environment - Regulate vessels tank discharge in the inbound/ outbound zones near the lagoon pass - Equip the airport with a baggage scanner to identify biological or other at-risk parcels	- An advisory from a maritime affairs expert - Investment and training cost
Salt Production - Commission a markets survey and produce a marketing plan including quality markers & packaging - Liaise with Ministry of Health and Medical Services(MHMS) to waive iodization requirement - Define quality specifications and consider organic certification - Seek promotion and sales through trade promotion organizations, projects, or tourism channels (airlines, high-end hotels)	- TA marketing expert (ODA supported) - TA production/ quality expert
Export of Live Fish and Certification - Prepare a verification mechanism of live fish sent for export through the Marine Stewardship Council - Commission a stock assessment study of reef fish - Review/ amend the biosecurity Act as needed - Train local inspectors	(MFMRD) - Ad hoc study (expert) - The cost of a survey by a specialized institution - TA legal specialist working with OAG - Training costs
Crab Farming Project - Develop good farming practices and organize surveillance for parasites/ diseases - Improve farming (feed), drying and/ or processing system	(MELAD) - Regional TA and trainers, 2 months - Marketing studies

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
- Seek organic production and certification - Train operators on good practices for farming, hygiene, and process - Seek better marketing channels (niches)	- Regional TA for organic system set-up
Coconut Production Project - consider a plan to replace the existing stock by improved varieties - develop organic production leading to certification - train operators on good practices for collect, hygiene, and process	(MELAD & Kiribati Coconut Development Limited (KCDL)) - Cost of young plants production (or import: Malaysia/ Philippines) - Regional TA and trainers - Linkages: SPC Coconut project; Asia Pacific Coconut Community, - seek SPC, ACP Secretariat support or financing under GEF

15 ACTION PLAN Nº 4 FOR TESTING LABORATORIES

Lead: Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture and Ministry of Health, Ministry of Line & Phoenix

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Improve Outsourced Testing - Discuss with foreign labs on agreed schedule, and organized pooled shipping at fixed dates - Negotiate shipping cost with airlines	- Linkage with EIF on trade facilitation - Need for Government arbitration or subsidization
Roadmap for Testing Capability Development - Assess finely the needs for testing and Human Resource Development (HRD) on a mid-term - Define what tests are needed for microbiology, proximate analysis, food hygiene, metal/ heavy metals, biology (pests and diseases, toxins), and identification of contaminants - Prepare investment, including rapid reaction kits for contaminants	- TA laboratory expert, 2*4 weeks
Develop a Centralized Analytical Laboratory (agri-food-fish) - Prepare MoU between operators (role sharing) - Identify and upgrade or build adequate facilities - Procure necessary equipment - Develop sample extraction and clean-up locally, for the tests outsourced	- Feasibility study (30 person-days) Upgrading or building costs (ODA support) - Equipment costs - Training on sample extraction procedures (lab specialist, 3weeks)
Enhance Testing Competence - Develop Quality Management System in the lab(s) - Transfer knowledge and experience for lab technicians and chemists - Organize/ support QC/ QA in the laboratory	- TA by subject matter specialists (~ 8 weeks over 3 yrs) - Secondment training in regional labs (5 persons* 2 times* 3 weeks) - Costs of Proficiency Testing (PT) and reference materials
Oil Import Testing - Strengthen the state oil company capability to analyse oil imports	- Equipment - TA and training 2* 2 weeks

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
<u>Metrification</u> - Once metrology Law is passed, prepare a plan to adopt metric system units over all the country	- Visual aids and material to ease conversions during the transition period - Costs of communication (printed guides, radio messages, plays…)

18 ACTION PLAN Nº 7 FOR FISHERIES

Lead: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (in coordination with Line & Phoenix Ministry)

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
<u>Membership in International Bodies</u> - Take membership of CITES or OIE agreements - Prepare membership to MSC as an observer	- Travel costs and membership fees - Support from Development Partners or regional bodies
<u>Administrative Capacity Building</u> - Needs assessment at MFMRD for enhancing capacities of managers and officers on quality and official controls - Organize CB session in line with Fisheries Strategic plan	- Fisheries TA experts and trainers (5 person-months over 5 years) - Support from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and the EC
<u>Develop Capacities of the Competent Authority</u> - Secure recognition by the EU Food Veterinary Office - Enhance skills for inspection of fisheries products, vessels, and processing plants - Broaden the CA's scope and functions to local fisheries products - and to sanitary aspects (Animal health) or catch certification (chain of custody, sustainable catch…) - Develop the CA's testing capacity, within the centralized analytical laboratory	- TA inputs from fisheries specialists (3 person-months over 3 years) - Linkages with CA Fiji - Linkages with regional programs, with STDF, and with ODA partners (e.g. EC) - The cost of calibration, proficiency testing, QMS set up - Investment in instruments as needed
<u>Local Traditional Fishing</u>	(Links with projects under the Fisheries Development strategy)

17 ACTION PLAN Nº 6 FOR METROLOGY

Lead: Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Cooperatives

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
<u>Connect with Metrology Organizations</u> - Membership with Asia Pacific Metrology Programme and Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum - Develop contacts or partnerships with National Metrology Institutes of the main trade partner countries - Gather and synthesize information to set up national priorities	- Travel and membership fees
<u>Develop the Metrology Mandate of MCIC</u> - Additional technical staff and training - Create the law on metrology (part of QI law: units, roles….) - Expand/ detail the mandate for legal metrology (type approval, initial and subsequent verifications-calibration) - Set up a metrology information centre (documentation/ IT access)	- Up to 4 additional metrology technicians, attachment training in the region - TA inputs metrology specialists and legal expert (1.5 months)
<u>Calibration Laboratories</u> - Set up proper facilities in Tarawa and Kiritimati for calibration (insulated rooms, stable power) for mass, temperature, and electrical measurement - Equip with secondary measurement standards and instruments - Ensure traceability to the International System of Units (SI)	- Costs of building or containerized units) - Costs of equipment - TA specialist (6 weeks/yr over 4 yrs) for capacity building - Linkage/ support with NZ Aid (previous support); and with specialist agencies (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB))
<u>Outreach</u> - Promote calibration, raise awareness of public and industry - Organize calibration campaigns in collaboration with KCCI	- Costs of printed material and broadcasting fees - Local travel costs

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Metrification - Once metrology Law is passed, prepare a plan to adopt metric system units over all the country	- Visual aids and material to ease conversions during the transition period - Costs of communication (printed guides, radio messages, plays…)

18 ACTION PLAN N° 7 FOR FISHERIES

Lead: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development (in coordination with Line & Phoenix Ministry)

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Membership in International Bodies - Take membership of CITES or OIE agreements - Prepare membership to MSC as an observer	- Travel costs and membership fees - Support from Development Partners or regional bodies
Administrative Capacity Building - Needs assessment at MFMRD for enhancing capacities of managers and officers on quality and official controls - Organize CB session in line with Fisheries Strategic plan	- Fisheries TA experts and trainers (5 person-months over 5 years) - Support from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and the EC
Develop Capacities of the Competent Authority - Secure recognition by the EU Food Veterinary Office - Enhance skills for inspection of fisheries products, vessels, and processing plants - Broaden the CA's scope and functions to local fisheries products - and to sanitary aspects (Animal health) or catch certification (chain of custody, sustainable catch…) - Develop the CA's testing capacity, within the centralized analytical laboratory	- TA inputs from fisheries specialists (3 person-months over 3 years) - Linkages with CA Fiji - Linkages with regional programs, with STDF, and with ODA partners (e.g. EC) - The cost of calibration, proficiency testing, QMS set up - Investment in instruments as needed
Local Traditional Fishing	(Links with projects under the Fisheries Development strategy)

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
- Commission a stock assessment study in Kiritimati (reef fish) and other areas, to support CITES membership - Prepare standards for quality and food safety of local products, in consultation with communities, for locally processed fisheries products - Train CA inspectors and local agents to inspection and quality control, including to the use of rapid tests where possible - Equip some collection centres with solar-powered dryers or flake ice production units; renew existing panels - Prepare basic awareness and training of trainers material for Good Hygienic Practices, and Good Manufacturing Practices	- Ad hoc survey with support from Donors and/ or institutes, e.g. USP, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) - TA inputs from fisheries specialists (3 months over 3 years) - Linkages with CA Fiji - Linkages with regional programs (FAO - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAPA)) and with ODA partners (e.g. EU, Norway, Japan) - Investment costs - TA and training inputs from fisheries experts (8 months over 4 years) - Editing and printing or videotaping awareness/ training media
Waste Management - Study for the transformation of solid by-products from fish processing or local fishing, into, e.g. feed or fertilizers	
Mariculture and Aquaculture - Develop a regulatory framework for mariculture (Good Aquaculture Practices, zoning)	- TA aquaculture specialist (3*3 weeks over 2 years) - Support from FAO and ODA agencies
Certification - Provide information and training to operator for monitoring and certification on catch's chain of custody, and on other international requirements for export markets - Build MFMRD capability to implement various illegal unregulated and unreported agreements	- Subject matter specialists/ trainers 6 weeks over 2 years

19 ACTION PLAN Nº 8 FOR FOOD & DRUG SAFETY

Lead: Ministry of Health and Medical services, in coordination with MELAD and MFMRD

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Legal & Policy Framework - Review the Food Safety Act 2006, and Food Regulations and Standards (2014) – see legal analysis in Annexes - Establish a policy for better coordination of border controls, to reduce processing time - Develop a coordinated biosecurity/ food safety approach into the single window system under development – clarify the responsibility in the handling of non-compliant food, to give MHMS the custody of any non-compliant food shipment in view of the actual destruction - Conduct a regulatory dialogue with food safety agencies of trade partners, leading to recognition of their export certificates	- Linkages with the Fiji Competent Authority (possible MOU) - TA legal and regulatory expert 4 weeks - Regional travel costs
Administrative Capacity Building - Carry out a needs assessment to enhance the knowledge and skills of managers and officers on modern approaches to food safety - Mobilize training on a rolling base	- TA inputs of official controls expert (6 months over 5 years) - Study visits and exchange of practice in the region
Coordination - Shift towards a modern integrated strategy for food safety/ environmental health, including coordination between Ministries (MELAD, Customs) and the Local Councils (e.g. licensing) - Support the National CODEX Sub-Committee to embrace a more operational role in the coordination of SPS activities, by developing its role towards a cross-sector platform for food safety	- TA inputs of an official controls expert (2 months over 3 years) - Linkages with STDF and FAO (CODEX or other projects)

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Standards - Review for relevance the mandatory quality parameters mentioned for key food groups included in so-called standards attached as schedules to the Food Regulation (see legislation analysis in Annexes) - Adopt CODEX HACCP as recommended practice for food processors and handlers - Consider setting up national standards for drinking water	- TA specialist on Food safety/ SPS (2 weeks) - TA support as needed ~ 3 weeks
Official Food Control Approaches - Conduct a thorough assessment of risks levels, in light of epidemiology data and consummation patterns - Define a classification of food products in groups based on the risk for consumers - Balance the focus of controls between imports and market surveillance, and inspection/ monitoring of food-processing establishments (processors and catering) - Organize the official controls based on modern risk-based approaches and prepare relevant control plans - Clarify or update food safety import regulations and harmonize these with those of the trading partner	- The Fiji CA (MOH) has proposed TA to develop risk-based approaches, to assist collaboration with customs, or to train inspectors on official controls - Linking with ODA Partners to secure TA support, training, and access to proficiency testing and reference material providers
Testing and Inspection Capacity - Calibrate temperature and balances used in laboratories and during inspection of establishments - Strengthen and expand testing capabilities of the MHMS-MELAD laboratory (national analytical laboratory) - Develop equipment and methods for testing quality and safety parameters of raw and processed food products	- See action plan No 6 - See action plan No 4 - Linking with ODA Partners (UNIDO, PTB, ITC) to secure TA support, training, and access to proficiency testing and reference material providers

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Outreach Food Business Operators - Organize awareness raising workshops with food business operators on shared responsibility for food safety - Awareness raising and training of trainers on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and HACCP - Promote conformance with labelling standards	- Local travel and meeting costs - The cost of designing and printing support materials (paper or video)
Improve Quality of Medicines - Introducing requirements for quality standards and conformity assessment in the public procurement tenders - Develop a basic random quality control of medicines at delivery points	- TA inputs from drug Quality Control (QC) specialist (2 months) - Linkage with World Health Organisation (WHO) programmes/ US Pharmacopeia - Local travel and cost of testing

20 ACTION PLAN Nº 9 FOR AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Lead: Ministry of Environment, Land, and Agriculture Development; Ministry of Line & Phoenix

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Legislative/ Institutional Framework - Review, if needed, of the Biosecurity Framework (Biosecurity Act 2011) - Prepare full membership of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) - Engage in regulatory dialogue with exporter countries, leading to recognition of their SPS certificates	- TA legal expert (through SPC) - Membership fees and regional travel costs - Linkage to regional trade agreements through SPC and/ or PIF Secretariat - Links to EIF tier 2 projects
Administrative Capacity Building and Enforcement - Raise awareness and develop the use of risk-based approaches - Assess the needs of the Environment Conservation Department, and provide methodological training to implement the KIEP - Strengthen biosecurity department to check and fight invasive species - Expand facilities and capacities for pest identification	- TA and CB: plant and animal health experts (2 person-months/ yr over 3 years); linkages to EIF tier 2 project - Increased staffing - The cost of additional equipment
Environment - Develop, regulate or promote the use of energy efficient and energy smart standards and systems - Continue implementation of the recycling measures and assess need to regulate items not covered (plastic bags, packaging…) - Introduce an import regulation for used cars (pre-shipment inspection, and/ or age limit, 'wreckage' tax) - Continue the elimination of car wrecks - Consider regulating the emission and elimination of wastes from animals and from visiting vessels as per KIEP	- Linkage with climate change mitigation programmes and foundations - TA expert for a scoping survey and draft measures (2 months) - Inputs from a regulatory specialist (3 weeks) - Support from ODA partners - Linkages with large car manufacturer groups, e.g. Toyota, Nissan, as part of their corporate responsibility projects - TA for scoping survey, and assessment of options
Standards	

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
- Adopt a national quality standard for virgin coconut oil, based on regional ones - Adopt and promote standards for integrated pest management (IPPC) - Develop production standards for fruits and other products (grading, Good Agriculture Practices, organic)	- Support from SPC or other projects' specialists - The cost of translation in I-Kiribati, and printing costs - Subject matter specialists (2 months each theme) - Support from development partners, regional programs, FAO
Testing - Extend testing capability for coconut and other imported agri-products e.g. feed inputs, based on rapid reaction kits or on lab instruments - Consolidate testing tools and methods in the central analytical laboratory for environmental monitoring, such as metal and heavy metal detection	- The cost of rapid reaction kits for e.g. mycotoxins - The cost of methods and supplies to match export testing requirement - See action plan Nº 4
Certification - Prepare national certification schemes for organic and sustainable production - Support certification e.g. training and preparation services - Assess the possibility for a 'blanket SPS certification' of local handicrafts, based either on the process or on nature of materials - Establish or expand pest or disease-free areas and get recognition for such status	- TA inputs from subject matter specialist 6 weeks/yr over 2 years - Linkages to projects specific to the horticultural/ agricultural sector

21 ACTION PLAN N° 10 FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE

Lead: Ministry of Information Communication, Transport, Tourism, and Development, links with Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Line & Phoenix

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Standards - Identify tourists' expectations (themes and quality levels), including ecotourism – fishing- nature- culture - Define Kiribati-specific material, contents and designs, under the form of standards or code of practices (certain elements can be registered as intellectual property) - Develop standards for quality of accommodation and for the qualification of professional staff	- Operational surveys based on the recommendation of the NTDS - Inputs of subject matter specialists, or tourism quality professionals (8 person-months over 3 years) - Inputs of tourism professional and vocational education specialists - Linkages with Technical And Further Education (TAFE)
Labels and Certification Systems - Develop a recognition system for tourism-related standards - Develop or integrate professional certification schemes for sites (reserves, natural sites, hotels, resorts), either locally or through a regional proxy - Prepare and implement an umbrella quality promotion scheme for Kiribati handicraft (traditional culture and/ or fir production)	- Linkage to some regional or international label/ branding system - Assessment and advice from tourism experts (once the market survey is done) - TA inputs from handicraft/ marketing experts (3*1 month)
Traditional Crafts - Promote craftsmen (handicrafts and manual trades) with a recognition system for those artisans who are successfully following set standards and codes - Set up person certification scheme, e.g. for cooks, stewards, guides, front/ back-office managers, etc., based on either Australia's framework or local criteria	- TA from certification specialist 3 months - Linkages with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and international NGOs and foundations (Aid to Artisans…) - IT system, cost of printing certificate

ACTIONS	RESOURCES - LINKAGES
Education to Quality (MLHRD) - Build up robust quality and food safety curriculums for adult learners - Develop sector-specific curriculum (fish product/ process safety, hospitality, eco-tourism management)	- TA experts for upgrading curriculum and aligning to professional qualification practice (each package 2 months) - Linkages with Australia-based specialist service providers to develop integrated or collaborative systems (with related ODA support)
Persons' Qualification Certification Schemes (MLHRD) - Developing personnel qualification and certification services for specific professional skills, such as nursing (extend what is done in the maritime sector by MTC or for employment skills by KIT)	- TA industry specialists for defining body of knowledge and skills levels - Linkages and possible partnership with personal certifiers based in Australia or in region - Linkages with TAFE and Asia Pacific Technical College (APTC), with Australian and New Zealand funding support

ANNEXES

23 ANNEX A - DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this National Quality Policy unless the context determines otherwise.

I. **Accreditation** is a third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body, conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.

II. **Calibration** is the set of operations that establish, under specified conditions, the relationship between values of quantities indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure or a reference material and the corresponding values realized by standards.

III. **Certification** is the procedure by which a third party provides written attestation that a product, process, system or person fulfils specified requirements.

IV. **Conformity Assessment** means the demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled.

V. **Inspection** means the examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements or, based on professional judgement, with general requirements.

VI. **Measurement Standard** means a material measure, measuring instrument, reference material or measuring system intended to define, realize, conserve or reproduce a unit, or one or more values of a quantity, to serve as a reference.

VII. **Metrology** is the science of measurement and its application; it includes all theoretical and practical aspects of measurements, whatever the measurement uncertainty, and field of application. Legal metrology is the application of legal requirements to measurements and measuring instruments.

VIII. **National Measurement Standard** means a measurement standard recognized by a national authority to serve in a state or economy as the basis for assigning quantity values to other measurement standards for the kind of quantity concerned.

IX. **National Quality Infrastructure System** (QIS): A QIS is a dynamic equilibrium of activities by, and interaction among, public institutions, operators and users, which enable a country to achieve quality objectives and requirements. These objectives cover both national quality and safety objectives, as well as requirements imposed in international trade. The QIS needs to be dynamic and evolve as necessary to meet the changing needs of Kiribati. The QIS should also operate as a system, meaning that the different institutions and components should work in a coherent and synergistic manner.

X. **Effective QIS:** An effective QIS results from the satisfactory fulfilment of all the following 7 functions aimed at defining quality requirements, and providing acceptable evidence, recognized at the international level, that products, services, processes, systems, persons or bodies conform to such quality requirements:

1. Setting and implementing a national quality policy
2. Setting and implementing a technical regulatory framework
3. Accreditation
4. Standardization
5. Metrology
6. Conformity assessment
7. Quality promotion and use.

XI. **The Public,** in the context of the private and public sectors, includes independent statutory bodies**.**

XII. **Quality Management** means the coordinated activities to direct and control an organization regarding quality.

XIII. **Quality** means the degree to which a set of inherent characteristics or distinguishing feature fulfils requirements that are stated, generally implied or obligatory**.**

XIV. **Standard** means a document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides for common and repeated use rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context, with which compliance is not mandatory.

XV. **Technical Regulation** means a document that lays down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. It may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

XVI. **Testing** means the determination of the nature and/ or one or more characteristics of any material, product (including a service) or process, according to a procedure.

24 ANNEX A – POLICY MONITORING & EVALUATION TABLE

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING			VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
Overall Objectives						
1. Contribution to KDP	Number of NQP projects cited in KDP evaluation				NQP Review	*(Derived action plan Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tables)*
2. QIS set up and alignment	Aggregate marks for plans 1-7				Action Plans M&E	"
3. National promotion strategy	Levels of awareness and understanding of quality				Survey over phone/ email among public and SME	
4. Quality and safety levels of products and services in Kiribati	Level of satisfaction of users				Survey among I-Kiribati, visitors, and SMEs	
5. Institutional capacity building	Number of person-days training Number of persons trained/ qualified				Ministries' operating reports and other Donors reports	
6. Private and public sector collaboration	Level of satisfaction of stakeholders				Survey among officials and Private Sector persons involved in NQP activities	
Implementation of NQP (11.1)						
Seeking external funding	Amount secured for QIS-related activities				MCIC-QCC notes, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI) Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) notes, Donors reports	
Strengthening Human Resources	Number of person-days training				MCIC records, attendance sheets	

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING				VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
	Number of persons trained						
Establishing QCC	Number of meetings of the QCC					MCIC minutes	
Assessing needs of the QIS	Relevant analyses produced					MCIC notes and reports	
Technical and Regulatory Framework (11.2)							
TR Focal Group	TR focal group is set up					Decision and meeting minutes	
Review/ drafting of legal texts needed for NQP implementation	Number of texts approved or revised					Official Publications, OAG	
Promotion and use of GRP, regulatory guidelines	Number of GRP-related activities, e.g. training, workshop seminar, regulatory dialogue, roundtables, etc. Number of guides published					MCIC and OAG notes and reports, TA reports, etc.	
Review and advice on current or proposed TR	Number of memos from the TRFG submitted to OAG					Official documents from OAG and/or TRFG notes	
Enhance national capacities for import control and market surveillance	Number of mandatory dispositions adopted Person-days of training					Official publications Projects TA reports	
Boost consumer protection	MCIC additional officers CP Regulation reviewed (sanctions) Consumer association created and supported Number of CP cases raised and solved					Legal texts, MCIC activity report Kiribati Counselling Association (KCA) statutes and meeting minutes	
Accreditation (11.3)							
Designation of focal person	Internal Notification/ instruction						
Identify NAB partners	Contacts with one or more NAB						

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING				VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
Assess conformity assessment bodies' needs	Needs assessment done Accreditation roadmaps produced					MCIC activity reports TA reports	
Capacity building for CABs	Number of person-days training					Attendance sheets	
Standardization (11.4)							
Strengthen standardization unit into a resource centre	Structure and activity of the resource centre					MCIC reports Equipment budget	
Facilitate the preparation/ adoption of national standards	Number of standards made or standardization activities carried out					MCIC activity reports	
Seek adhesion to PASC and ISO as observer member	Membership status					Correspondence and PASC/ ISO websites	
Conduct awareness seminars	Number of events Level of calibration requests					MCIC activity report	
Metrology (11.5)							
Staffing for metrology function	Decision/ instruction					MCIC internal documents, organogram	
Set up of Legal Metrology arrangements	Entries in the Law on Quality Infrastructure, or ad hoc decision (directive)					Regulations, official publications	
Establish calibration laboratory in Tarawa	Laboratory built and equipped					Feasibility study or lab layout, Commissioning report, visits	
Establish calibration sub-laboratory in Christmas Island	Laboratory built and equipped					Feasibility study or lab layout, Commissioning report, site visits, etc.	

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING			VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
Membership in OIML, APMP, APLMF, and a National Metrology Institute (NMI) in region	Membership status				Correspondence and organization websites	
Maintain laboratory calibration capability	Status of traceability, Island Learning Centre (ILC) and accreditation activities				MCIC activity report Correspondence with APMP	
Organization of awareness campaigns	Number of events Material published Number/ value of services sold				MCIC activity report	
Conformity Assessment (11.6)						
Optimization of the realization of tests abroad	Average cost of tests is reduced				Competent authority and fisheries operator's information	
Establishing a centralized analytical laboratory (including investment and capacity building plan)	Status of this laboratory Capacity development roadmap				Administrative decisions to pool activities, etc. Feasibility study or TA reports, lab layout, commissioning report, site visits, etc.	
Enhancing competence of existing laboratories	Accreditation roadmap TA and training provided				MCIC activity report TA reports	
Developing a certification resource centre	Status of this centre				Decision to set up MCIC or KCCI reports	
Supporting the preparation of certification and the development of certification schemes	Number of user groups or operators supported Number of certificates gained				Centre's activity report, operators' correspondence	
Quality Promotion and Use (11.7)						

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING			VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
Awareness raising campaigns in the public and for businesses	Number of campaigns or events					
Quality Mark for products matching certain standards	The Mark is registered, and an adequate body is designated to handle it					
Annual Quality Awards and World Quality Day	Events held every year				MCIC reports	
Inclusion of specific quality requirements in public tenders	Changes in Government procurement rules				Legal publications, Announcements from Ministries	
Quality in Fisheries Sector (11.8)						
Developing the competent authority scope and capacities	Number of person-days training Scope of testing increased Accreditation roadmap adopted				CA activity report Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) assessments	
Membership to CITES and OIE agreements	Status of membership				Correspondence with Government of Kiribati (GOK)/ MFMRD, organization website	
Develop a regulatory framework for aquaculture	Regulatory document produced				Official texts of MFMRD	
Increase the quality and value of the small-scale local fisheries products	Number of initiatives or projects related to local costal fishing sub-sector Number of fishermen assisted Volume of local catch				MFMRD policy evaluation reports Project documents, TA reports	
Capacity building, at each stage of the supply chain, to satisfy markets requirements	Number of person-days training Number of persons trained Number of certificates secured				MFMRD reports Projects TA report Regional fisheries websites	

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING			VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
Quality for Environment, and for Agriculture products (11.9)						
Develop use of risk-based approaches	Risk assessment activity carried out Number of origin countries' certificates accepted as equivalent				TA report MELAD decision, regulatory texts	
Prepare membership to OIE and IPPC	Status of membership				Correspondence with GOK/ MFMRD, organization website	
Develop capacities to fight invasive species	Number of positions added Number of person-days training Number of quarantine staff trained				MELAD activity report Project TA report	
Establish or expand areas as pest or disease-free	Areas having secured this status				MELAD activity report IPPC/ OIE statements	
Prepare standards for agricultural/ handicraft products	Number of standards published				MELAD/ MCCI records	
Develop a framework for waste management	Waste issues assessed Regulatory roundtable held Regulatory texts published				MELAD activity report Official publications	
Regulate importation of used cars	Regulatory roundtable held Regulatory texts published				MELAD activity report Official publications	
Quality of Food and Drug Products (11.10)						
Shift towards modern integrated strategy for food safety	Food Law and regulation reviewed with relevant entries				Legal text, OAG decision	
Revise the official controls approach; including guidelines for border controls and disposition of unsafe food	Risk-assessment sessions held Food product characterisation done Number of origin countries' certificates accepted as equivalent				MHMS and TRFG memos/ reports TA reports	

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING			VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
	Guidelines published for food import control				Internal procedures of Customs, MHMS, KPA	
Enhance role & activities of National Codex sub-committee	Joint operation programmes agreed and implemented between MFMRD, MELAD, MHMS				National Codex Committee workplans	
Develop capacities for testing and inspection	Number of test available increased Number of person-day training Number of officers trained				MHMS activity report TA project reports	
Improve quality in the procurement of medicines	Regulatory disposition for public tender modified QC plan adopted and implemented				MHMS activity report	
Quality in the Tourism Sector (11.11)						
Ensure consistent and regular promotion	Material produced Number of visits on website Tourists' frequentation				Ministry's activity report and Tourism website	
Improve tourism offer	Thematic packages produced Number of standards/ Conference of Parties (COP) produced Number of certificates or labelling schemes adopted					
Quality for Education and Human Resources (11.12)						
Complete the adoption of the national qualification and assessment framework (basic education)	National curriculum is completed Teacher methodological packages are defined and implemented Outcome levels are harmonized Number of teachers trained or qualified to the above system				MOE activity reports	

POLICY STATEMENTS	INDICATOR	RATING				VERIFICATION	FUNDS SPENT
Include the traditional skills in the national curriculum	Training modules created (referring to traditional skills COPs)						56
Align further local curriculums on the Pacific/ international qualification frameworks	Number of curriculum modules recognized in the region					Prospectus and publication of the higher education establishments Activity reports of the Ministry of Labour	
Build-up or enhance curriculums for quality management and food safety management	Curriculum are developed and match international levels (knowledge and skills)						
Develop personnel qualification and certification services	Number of schemes prepared Number of students certified competent						

25 ANNEX C – INDICATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPORT

ORGANIZATION	INTERVENTION AREA	CONTACT
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	State-Owned Enterprise (SOE), Infrastructure (Kiritimati), energy networks Country Plan: https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/204421/cobp-kir-2017-2019.pdf	Pacific Sub-regional Office (SPSO) 91 Gordon Street Suva, Fiji, Tel +679 3318101 Fax +679 3318074 Contact form https://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?source=SPSO
ACP Secretariat General	Wide range of support projects (list with MCIC)	http://www.acp.int/node info@acp.int
ADAPT Asia Pacific	Facility where developing countries can receive support to develop their capacities to define and propose climate change adaptation projects List of Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded funds	http://adaptasiapacific.org/ http://adaptasiapacific.org/funds-compendium
APCC Asian and Pacific Coconut Community Secretariat	Mostly a forum to exchange information on technologies, markets; a few support projects	http://www.apccsec.org/apccsec/media.php?page=home Jl. Kramat Raya No. 172 Kenari, Senen, Jakarta, Indonesia 10430 Ph: +62 21 3100556 Fax +62 21 3101007 apcc@indo.net.id
AUSAID Country programme Direct Aid Programme (DAP) support small-scale sustainable development projects and activities that involve local communities	Poverty: vocational skills and sustainable income generation	Australia High Commission, Tarawa http://kiribati.embassy.gov.au/ ahc.tarawa@dfat.gov.au
CSIRO Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Scientific research programmes on health, environment, etc.	CSIRO Education and Outreach Ph: 1300 136 376 HP: +61 2 9490 5588 (Alt) education@csiro.au

ORGANIZATION	INTERVENTION AREA	CONTACT
EIF	Trade mainstreaming	www.eif.org Focal point at MCIC: Roreti Eritai
ESR - Institute of Environmental Science & Research	TA support: Various environmental/ health related projects	https://www.esr.cri.nz/assets/ABOUT-ESR-CONTENT/Text-and-PDFs/ESR-in-the-Pacific-March-2016.pdf
EU – EU's European Commission NIP National Indicative Programme 2014-2020 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/national-indicative-programme-kiribati-2014-2020_en Regional Implementation Plan (RIP) regional program	Food and water security, infrastructure, climate change mitigation, renewable energy and water and sanitation Regional support to Fisheries Partnership Agreement	*Regional Office* Level 6, Tappoo City Complex, Suva, Fiji Phone: +679 331 36 33 Fax: +679 330 03 70 Delegation-Fiji@eeas.europa.eu
Germany. Embassy in Wellington Small Scale Project	Ad hoc project, on-going access	http://www.wellington.diplo.de/contentblob/2515122/Daten/2023875/Download_SmallScaleProjects_Application_en.pdf
ISO	TA and training to set-up standardization function	www.iso.org
NAMA Nationally Adequate Mitigation Actions	Climate change mitigation (infrastructure, solar energy)	http://www.nama-facility.org/call-for-projects.html
New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID)	Renewable energy, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), fisheries, agriculture, tourism, labour mobility, education	https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/New-Zealand-Aid-Programme-Strategic-Plan-2015-19.pdf
PHAMA – Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access (AusAID, funded until end 2017)	Support to Primary production and quarantine compliance for agri-food product exported to Australia and in the world	http://phama.com.au/ Regional Office at the SPC's Land Research Division Team leader: Guy Redding, Phone: (+679) 337 9357; HP: (+679) 995 7590 g.redding@phama.com.au
PIFS Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Range of financing lines http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/funding-assistance/	Phone: 679 331 2600 info@forumsec.org

ORGANIZATION	INTERVENTION AREA	CONTACT
PIPSO Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization	Private Sector support	Level 1, Korobasaga House, 31 Gorrie Street Suva City, Fiji; Phone: (+679)7736301
PRIF- Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (multi-agencies)	Water, Transport, ITC, energy	For Government Bodies http://www.theprif.org/
PTB	Metrology	www.ptb.de
SPC/ German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Coping with Climate Change in The Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR)	Climate change mitigation	SPC Land Research Division
STDF Standard and Trade Development Facility	TA and training (limited investment) to enhance SPS-related capacities (fish, agri-food, quarantine)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/
TRADECOM2 (ACP Secretariat)	Support competitiveness capacity of Private Sector and trade facilitation institutions Strengthen institutions managing cross-border trade, including customs	http://tradecom-acpeu.org/
UNDP Pacific Centre	- Millennium Development Goals - Support to climate change efforts implementation of climate plans 'Nationally Determined Contributions' (NDCs)	Phone: +679 330 0399 Fax: +679 330 1976 registry.pacificcentre@undp.org
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Via SPC)	Quality infrastructure systems, metrology, laboratories, etc.	www.unido.org Mr Wang ZHEN, Chief, Regional Division Asia and Pacific; Bangkok Thailand Phone: +66 22808691; fax: +66 22808695 W.ZHEN@unido.org
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Climate change, human right	Richard L. Edwards, Regional Coordinator USAID Pacific Islands Regional Office, Fiji infopacificislands@usaid.gov Melissa Kennison, Desk Officer mkennison@usaid.gov

26 ANNEX D – INDICATIVE COST IMPLICATIONS

26.1 Summary

ACTION PLAN	INVESTMENT COSTS	STAFF (new)	RECURRENT COSTS
ALL ACTION PLANS	**AU$5,341,500**	**15 officers 6 managers**	**AU$263,100/ year**
A.P. N° 1 - Standards & Promotion – MCIC			
	228,000	2 officers	23,600
A.P. N° 2 - Technical Regulation Framework – Ministry of Justice (MOJ) & MCIC			
	127,000	2 officers	9,500
A.P. N° 3 - Line and Phoenix			
	640,000	3 officers 1 manager	15,000
A.P. N° 4 - Testing Laboratories			
	320,000		27,500
A.P. N° 5 – Certification			
	166,000		5,000
A.P. N° 6 - Metrology – MCIC			
	402,000	4 officers	32,000
A.P. No 7 – Fisheries (MFMRD)			
	1,850,000	4 managers	50,500
A.P. N° 8 – Food and Drug Safety			
	255,000		37,000
A.P. N° 9 – Agriculture and Environment			
	482,500	4 officers 1 manager	36,000
A.P. N° 10 – Tourism and Culture			
	585,000		14,000
A.P. N° 11 – Education and Human Development			
	286,000		13,000

26.2 Detailed Tables

ACTION PLAN	INVESTMENT[5] COSTS	STAFF (New)	RECURRENT COSTS
AP Nº 1 - Standards & Promotion – MCIC			
Quality Coordº. Com.			1,600 (Meetings)
QIS Centre	15,000 (Eqpt) 20,000 (TA)	2 Officers	4,000 (Utilities) 6,500 (Memberships)
Accreditation	4,000 (Travel)		2,500
Standardization	90,000 (TA) 2,000 (Meetings)		2,000 (Meetings) 1,500 (Media Printing)
Conformity Assessment	65,000 (TA)		
Consumer Association	25,000 (TA)		
Awareness	7,000 (Study)		3,500 (Media)
SME Outreach			2,000 (Media)
AP Nº 2 - Technical Regulation Framework - MOJ & MCIC			
Review/ Drafting of Laws	50,000 (TA)		
Enforcement	20,000 (TA)		
Consumer Protection	7,500 (IT Systems)	2 Officers	3,000 (Media)
TR Focal Group	50,000 (TA)		1,500 (Meetings) 5,000 (Training)
AP Nº 3 - Line and Phoenix			
Quality Coordination	3,000 (IT Eqpt)		1,500 (Communication)
Metrology Unit	40,000 (Eqpt, Lab)	1 Officer	2,000 (Spares/ Repair)
Testing Lab	25,000 (Eqpt, Lab)		1,000 (Supplies)
Environment/ Quarantine	100,000 (Scanner, Lab) 25,000 (TA, Training)	2 Officers	2,000 (Maintenance)
Tourism	75,000 (TA-Training)		1,500 (Media)
Live Fish Exports	120,000 (Stock Study) 10,000 (Training)		2,000 (Training) 1,000 (Media)
Salt Production	60,000 (Marketing) 25,000 (TA)	1 Manager (Contractual)	2,000 (Communication)
Crab Farming Project	32,000 (TA Training) 75,000 (Eqpt)		2,000 (Spares)
Coconut Project	125,000 (Replanting) 35,000 (TA, Training)		
AP Nº 4 - Testing Laboratories			
Centralized Analytical Laboratory	30,000 (TA Study) 175,000 (Equipment)		25,000 (Operations)
Enhance Competence	55,000 (Ta) 25,000 (Training)		2,500 (QMS)

---

[5] All costs in Australian Dollars; recurrent costs on yearly base.

ACTION PLAN	INVESTMENT[5] COSTS	STAFF (New)	RECURRENT COSTS
	10,000 (Supplies)		
Oil Testing Laboratory	25,000 (TA-Training)		
A.P. Nº 5 - Certification			
National Certification Hub	75,000 (TA & CB) 15,000 (Training Abroad)		2,000 (Media) 3,000 (Training)
Certification Schemes Projects for 3 Schemes	11,000 (Study Mauri Mark) 5,000 (Study Visit) 60,000 (TA, Training)		
A.P. Nº 6 - Metrology - MCIC			
Memberships APMP			8,000 (Fees) 8,000 (Workshop/ Region)
Metrology Mandate of MCIC	20,000 (Training/ Region) 37,000(TA)	4 Officers	4,000 (Training)
Calibration Centres	150,000 (Building) 75,000 (Equipment) 120,000 (TA training)		5,000 (Maintenance) 3000 (QMS) 1,500 (Supplies)
Outreach, Metrification			2,500 (Media)
A.P. No 7 – Fisheries (MFMRD)			
Membership CITES OIE			4,000 (Meeting/ Region)
Institutional Capacity Building	120,000 (TA, Training)		
Competent Authority EU FVO Recognition	70,000 (TA, Training) 10,000 (Lab Methods)		1,500 (Lab QMS) 1,000 (Lab Supplies)
Local Traditional Fishing - Standards/Hygiene - Processing Projects	75,000 (TA) 1,250,000 (Equipment)		15,000 (Outreach) 7,000 (Media)
Waste Management	25,000 (Applied Research)	4 Managers (Contractual)	
Aquaculture/ Mariculture - Standards/ Hygiene - Development Projects	20,000 (TA) 250,000 (Equipment)		7,000 (Outreach) 5,000 (Media)
Certification	30,000 (TA, Training)		
A.P. Nº 8 – Food and Drug Safety			
Review Food Law+ TR	20,000 (TA)		
Administrative Capacity	120,000 (TA, Training)		9,000 (Workshops/Region)

ACTION PLAN	INVESTMENT[5] COSTS	STAFF (New)	RECURRENT COSTS
Coordination & Update Of FS Strategy	40,000 (TA, Training)		3,000 (Meetings)
Standards Review	25,000 (TA)		
Official Controls	Included Above		5,000 (CB In-Country)
Testing and Inspection	See A.P. N° 4 & 6		
Outreach Food Businesses			5,000 (Travel, Meetings) 3,000 (Media)
Quality of Medicines	50,000 (TA)		12,000 (Analyses)

A.P. N° 9 – Agriculture and Environment			
Legislative Framework - Memberships - Regulatory Dialogue	6,000 (TA)		5,000 9,000 (Meeting/Region)
Administrative Capacity	120,000 (TA, Training) 75,000 (Equipment)	4 Additional Officers	
Environment - Energy, Recycling - Waste From Animals, Vessels	125,000 (TA, Studies)		3,000 (Media) 7,500 (Checks)
Standards for Coconut, IPPC, GAP, Organic	80,000 (Specialists) 9,000 (Translation Printing	1 Manager (Contractual)	2,500 (Media)
Certification	60,000 (TA and Training)		6,500 (Travel, Checks)
Testing	7,500 (Tools)		2,500 (Supplies)
A.P. N° 10 – Tourism and Culture			
Standards - Marketing Survey - Packages & Market Tests - Stds-Cop	250,000 (Survey Contract) 160,000 (Specialist) 50,000 (TA)		4,000 (Update, Print)
Labels and Certification	80,000 (TA)		5,000 (Audits)
Traditional Crafts	40,000 (Specialists) 5,000 (IT System)		3,000 (Meetings) 2,000 (Prints)
A.P. N° 11 – Education and Human Development			
Standards/Primary Education	tbd		
Standards/ Higher Education	10,000 (Travel, Meetings)		

ACTION PLAN	INVESTMENT[5] COSTS	STAFF (New)	RECURRENT COSTS
Traditional Skills	80,000 (Specialists) 12,000 (Printing)		3,000 (Print, Media)
Education to Quality	80,000 (Specialists) 12,000 (Printing)		
Qualification Schemes	80,000 (Specialists) 12,000 (Printing)		5,000 (Accreditation) 3,000 (Promotion)

27 ANNEX E - DESCRIPTION OF THE QIS FUNCTIONS

27.1 Setting and Implementing the National Quality Policy (NQP)

The NQP is the basic Government instrument to modernize or consolidate the Quality Infrastructure Systems (QIS). It lays down how the various functions of the QIS listed in section 3 are fulfilled at country level in order to have an effective QIS to serve national, as well as international needs. When the NQP is not established by law, Government should establish a national coordination group[6] to oversee the implementation of the NQP, to monitor its effectiveness and take corrective actions when needed. The first step after approval of the NQP is to implement the action plans, including bringing awareness to the need for its thorough execution. The focus of implementation is principally among Government officials who should bring more efficiency to the way the public QIS institutions work to eliminate overlapping and incompatible functions.

27.2 Setting and Implementing a Technical Regulatory Framework

Because of their mandatory nature, technical regulations have the potential to become Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) that prevent or hinder the flow of goods and services between nations. Standards are voluntary but technical regulations are mandatory. The main barrier in the area concerning QIS is the inappropriate use of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures. To avoid this, the use of Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) can improve the quality of technical regulations. One major problem, which is of great concern to developing countries, is for regulatory agencies to decide how to reference standards in their technical regulations in a coherent manner. Since technical regulations may be introduced by different ministries (e.g. Ministry of Transport for seat belts, Ministry of Health on labelling of foods, Ministry of Environment on cars, etc.), there is a need at the country level to have a technical regulatory framework that each regulator can refer to. A country may introduce a law to set up the regulatory framework, or alternatively, designate an independent administrative entity at a high level in the Government to exercise advice and oversight over the preparation of technical regulations. Such an entity may also implement and oversee the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), a tool which helps policymakers compare different policy options to improve the quality of regulation, including the option not to regulate.

27.3 Accreditation

Accreditation is a third-party attestation formally recognizing the technical competence of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB), i.e. laboratories, inspections and certification bodies, to carry out conformity assessment activities. Certificates issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies are recognized as being reliable and trustworthy, both at national, as well as international levels. Accreditation services are provided by a National Accreditation Body (NAB), which is at the apex of the QIS, as it is through its work that all national CABs are recognized as competent. In some cases, e.g. Southern Africa, Central America, the accreditation body is regional, with accreditation focal points in each country of the region. The Assessment Body itself must be recognized as complying with

---

[6] The Committee may comprise Ministries/ agencies responsible for the QIS institutions; main trade and industry associations/ chambers of commerce and industry; regulatory bodies; consumer associations; users of calibration, testing, certification or inspection services; etc.

the standard ISO/IEC 17011 so that the accreditation certificate is accepted worldwide. This recognition is achieved after the NAB successfully passes a peer-review process and becomes signatory to one of the mutual recognition arrangements (the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Community, or the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and/ or the multilateral recognition arrangement of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

27.4 Standardisation

The standardisation activity consists of the processes of formulating, issuing and implementing standards. Standards are developed and approved by a recognized body, which is known as the national standards Body (NSB), normally established by law. The latter may become a member of international standards organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and actively participate in the development of international standards, which it can then adopt as national standards. ISO promotes the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and application of Standards. Essentially, standards are produced by a process of consensus building between stakeholders (consumers, regulators, industry, etc.), academia and research organisations, and technical experts, who collectively have the necessary knowledge to determine the market relevance, the coherence and effectiveness of the standard under consideration and its suitability as a technical solution. This work takes place in an open and transparent manner in a committee environment with rules and procedures to achieve consensus. There is no single model how the NSB should be constituted - it depends on what other QI institutions and services exist already, and what roles are conferred by the policy-maker. As a matter of policy, the NSB needs to decide whether, in addition to standardization activities, it will cover other activities like conformity assessment (testing certification or inspection), metrology, accreditation, etc., noting that the NSB cannot carry out both conformity assessment and accreditation.

27.5 Metrology

Metrology is the science of measurement and it has become a natural and vital part of our everyday life, e.g. food is bought by weight, water or electricity are metered, instruments analysing blood samples must be precise, etc. Measurement is the assignment of a number to a characteristic of an object or event, which can be compared with other objects or events.

Metrology is divided into three subfields. The scientific or fundamental metrology concerns the establishment of measurement units, the realization of measurement standards and the transfer of traceability from these standards to users in society. The applied or industrial metrology concerns the application of measurement science to manufacturing and other processes and their use in society. The legal metrology concerns regulatory requirements of measurements and measuring instruments for the protection of health, public safety, the environment, protection of consumers and fairness in trade.

Metrology is critical for the operation of the QIS. Balances and other instruments in laboratories need to be calibrated to provide reliable measurements; otherwise, test reports would not be trustworthy. Firms cannot satisfactorily implement process controls to manufacture a product to specified standards if instruments measuring, for example, pressure and temperature, are not properly calibrated. Confidence in national measurement is assured by a National Metrology Institute (NMI) when it becomes a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the International Committee

of Weights and Measures (CIPM MRA). The CIPM MRA provides the institutional and technical framework for NMIs to recognize each other's measurement standards and calibration certificates.

Legal metrology falls within the regulatory sector and most countries have passed laws to ensure proper measurement in the areas covered. This entails two areas of responsibility: (a) defining the legal units (weights and measures) and the levels of accuracy in measurements, and (b) enforcement, which includes type approval, initial, and subsequent verification. Legal metrology activities, such as mandatory verification and fines can attract important revenues so that it is often housed with the other metrology fields with the aim of using revenues thus generated to support scientific and industrial metrology.

27.6 Conformity Assessment

Conformity assessment is the demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled – these requirements may be included in a standard or a technical regulation. Conformity assessment is carried out by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), i.e. laboratories, inspection and certification bodies. The field of conformity assessment includes activities, such as testing, inspection and certification. The conformity assessment result (e.g. a test report or inspection certificate) provides acceptable evidence that specified quality requirements are fulfilled. CA results are, therefore, the main outcomes of the QIS. Conformity assessment activities may be a first-party type (i.e. performed by the supplier of a product), second-party type (i.e. performed by the user of the product) or third-party type (i.e. performed by a body that is independent of the supplier and user). The third-party type is the most common form of conformity assessment activity. A NSB operating a product certification marking scheme, for example, is implementing a third-party activity. Conformity assessment procedures must provide evidence of competence of the CAB through accreditation, so that conformity assessment results from one country may be accepted by another country. All accredited CABs in the world operate on the same level of proficiency, thus facilitating mutual recognition of CA results among them. Thus, laboratories should comply with ISO/IEC 17025, management system certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17021, product certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17065, bodies certifying persons to ISO/IEC 17024, inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020.

27.7 Quality Promotion and Use

What are the drivers that bring producers, service companies, etc. to apply standards and feel the need to demonstrate conformity? It could be a mix of the following: increased awareness about the benefits of applying standards in operations, strong demands for conforming products by well-organized and strong consumer associations, procurement conditions in Government purchase contracts, requirements of overseas buyers, need to demonstrate a leadership position and improve corporate image, etc.

All the above factors pushing towards better use should be complemented by available support services, in the form of a pool of national consultants, to help enterprises apply standards and even prepare for certification. The NQP should address this issue of building capacity at the local level as it can become a major constraint in the QIS. It is useless to build CAB capability and build/ reinforce institutions under the various other functions of the QIS if their client base is unable to progress because of lack of expertise. This aspect may well seem to be outside the ambit of Government

intervention, but it should be addressed by the NQP, which should explore ways to mobilise donor funding for this purpose.