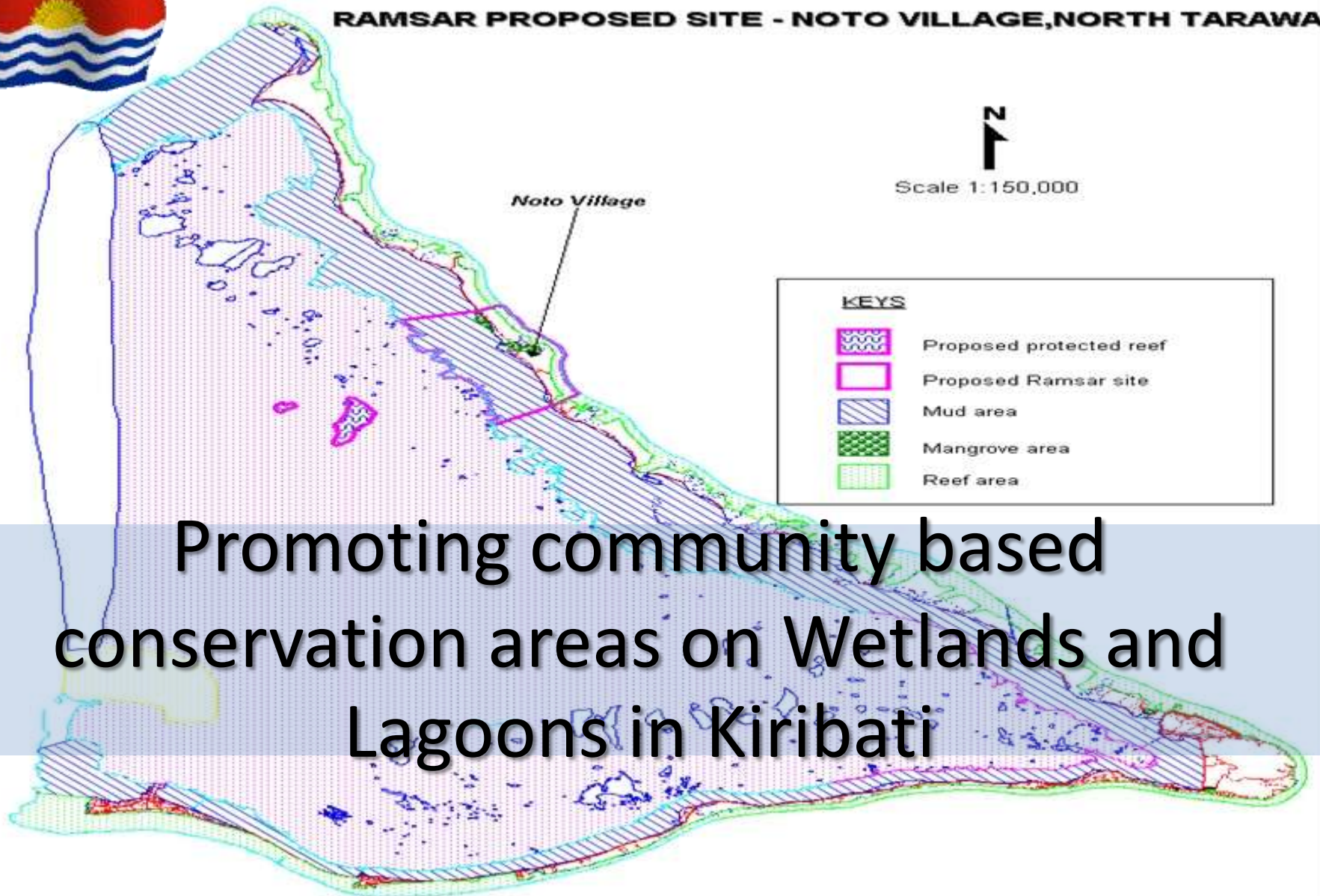




RAMSAR PROPOSED SITE - NOTO VILLAGE, NORTH TARAWA



Promoting community based
conservation areas on Wetlands and
Lagoons in Kiribati

Total area for Ramsar proposed site = 2678.59 acres

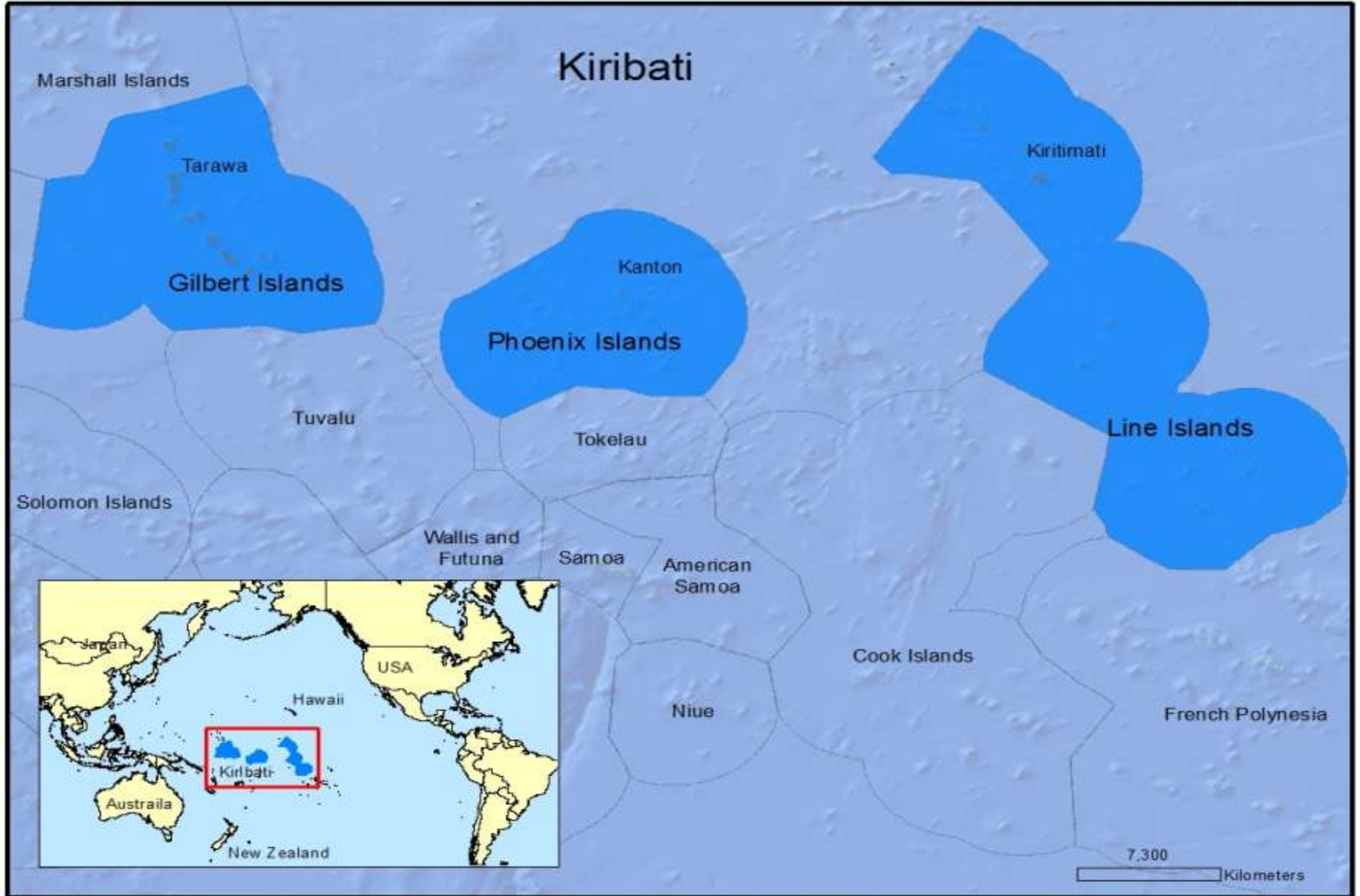


Presentation Outline

- Background
- New designated Ramsar site
- Threats and Challenges
- Approaches and Responses
- Lessons learnt
- Achievements



Background



- Kiribati is Party to Biodiversity related Conventions:
 - CBD; Ramsar Convention; WHC
- Three island groups namely: Gilbert, Line and Phoenix
- Atoll nation with scattered islands spreading throughout the ocean
- Phoenix Group is designated as Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA)
 - Government initiative in collaboration with NEA & CI
- Atolls are merely 3 - 4 meters above sea level rise
- South Tarawa is the capital and heavily populated island
- North Tarawa is where Ramsar Site for Kiribati located.



Nooto as 1st proposed Ramsar site for Kiribati & brief information



1st Consultation with ETC where decision on proposed Ramsar Site for Kiribati is made in 2007

Nooto as 1st proposed Ramsar site for Kiribati & brief information

Total number mangrove seedlings planted at Noto Village – 20th October 2007:

| Location | Plot N ^o | Total number of seeds planted: |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| South - Noto Village | 1 South | 630 |
| South of Noto village | 2 South | 630 |
| South of Noto Village | 3 South | 702 |
| South of Noto Village | 4 South | 702 |
| North of Noto Village | 1 North | 1107 |
| North of Noto Village | 2 North | 630 |
| Total number of planted seeds | | 4401 |





Nooto as 1st proposed Ramsar site for Kiribati & brief information

Turtle tagging carried out with monitoring by local counterpart from Nooto.

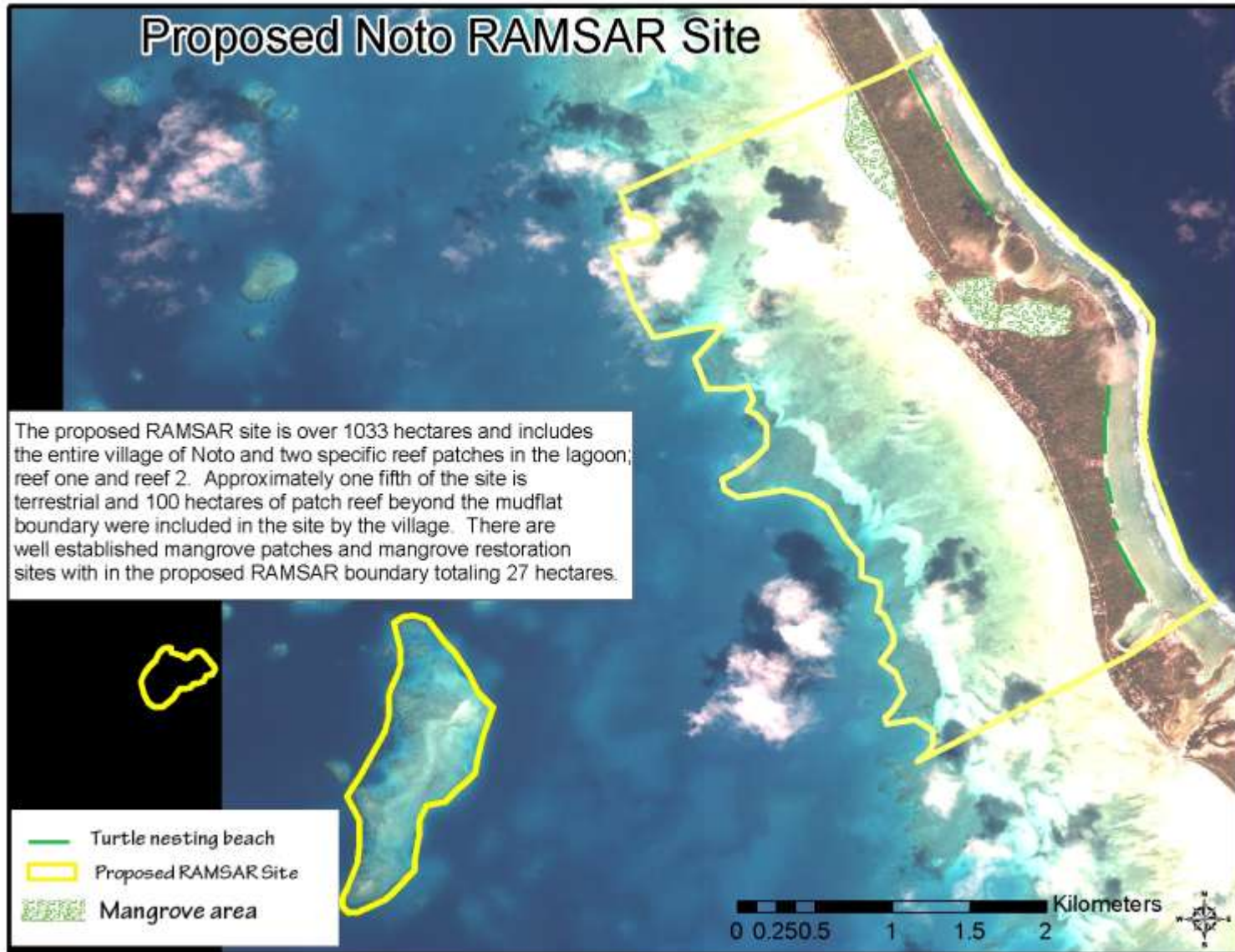
| YEAR | No# Turtle |
|--------|------------|
| 2007 - | 5 |
| 2008 - | 6 |
| 2009 - | 5 |
| 2010 - | 7 |
| 2011 - | 8 |
| 2012 - | 2 |



ECD staffs rescuing a tagged Green turtle (1.3m) captured in Nooto



Nooto as 1st proposed Ramsar site for Kiribati & brief information



Updates on the Ramsar Project

Threats and challenges encountered during the project implementation

- Algae bloom, lagoon littering and boat channel
- Limited monitoring by Community members
- Ad hoc number of mangrove planting activities done by the villagers

Approaches and responses used to solve the threats and challenges countered.

- Scheduled consultation and awareness raising with community and Island council
- Engagement of mangrove experts to conduct study for more sites suitable for mangrove planting at Ramsar site

What are the project achievements after using or incorporating approaches and responses stated in 2?

- Community knowledge and support improved resulting in increase of island coastal resilience toward Climate Change
- Restoration and recovery of marine biodiversity for livelihood and conservation purposes
- Capacity building for local counterparts and extension of mangrove coverage at Ramsar site



Threats and Challenges

- Limited community support during the implementation of the project due to limited funding
- Marine and Land system – people owned most of these properties and it hard to control destructive activities. E.g. mangrove cutting
- Lack of support from Council level when it comes to the implementation of the project because of funding is not sufficient.
- Lack of awareness at community level or understanding on the importance of Ramsar Convention.



Approach and Responses:

- Awareness raising is a top priority through community awareness program, school and competitions. Not just on Nooto or North Tarawa but Tarawa and Nation wide
- Involving everyone in decision making beside ETC and Nooto community.
- Encouraging ETC and Nooto community to give support and be part of the project through volunteering work. E.g. turtle monitoring, mangrove replanting, and patrol their 2 protected off-shore reefs to discourage the practiced of destructive fishing methods .e.g. splashing.



Achievements or Updates

Everyone involved in decision making and awareness activities



Strong commitment and support from the community given to the project

Community involved voluntary in mangrove monitoring with 2007 survived seedlings



ECD staff removing algae attached to mangrove seedlings in Nooto



Achievements or Updates:

Over 10,000 Red Mangrove seedlings already planted by Nooto Community since 2007 up to date



Plot 1 North of Nooto with 1107 seedlings planted with T form

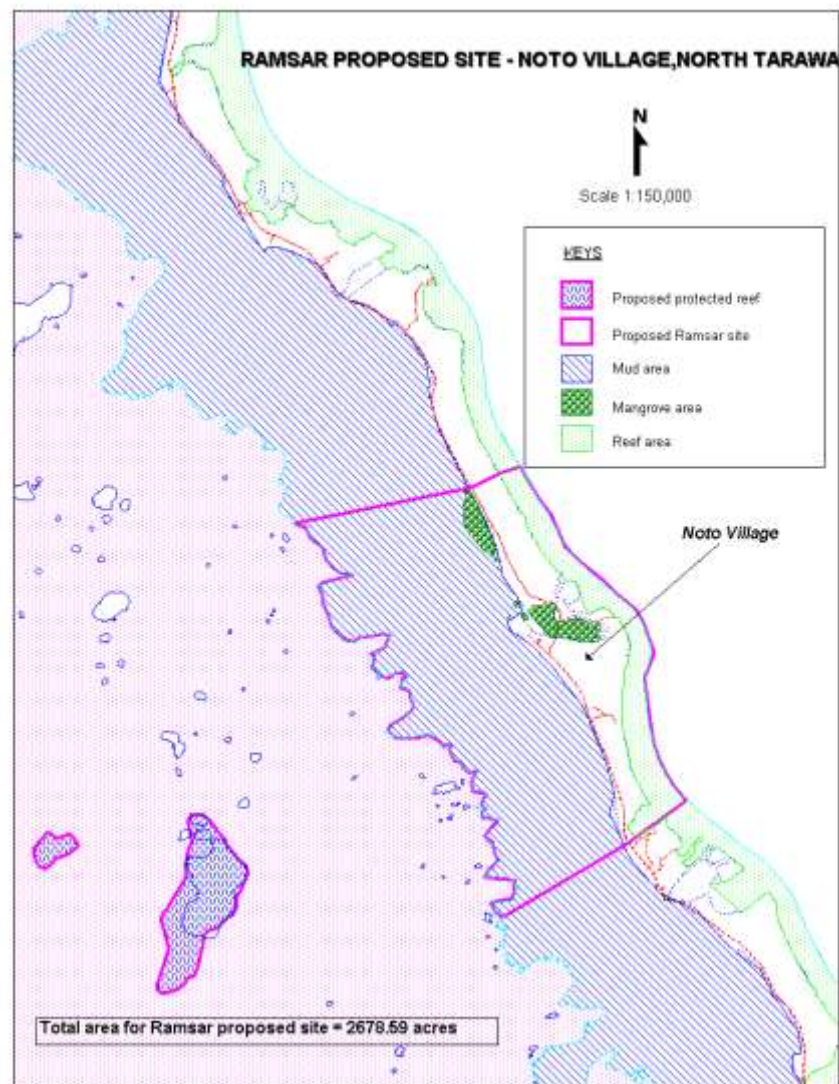
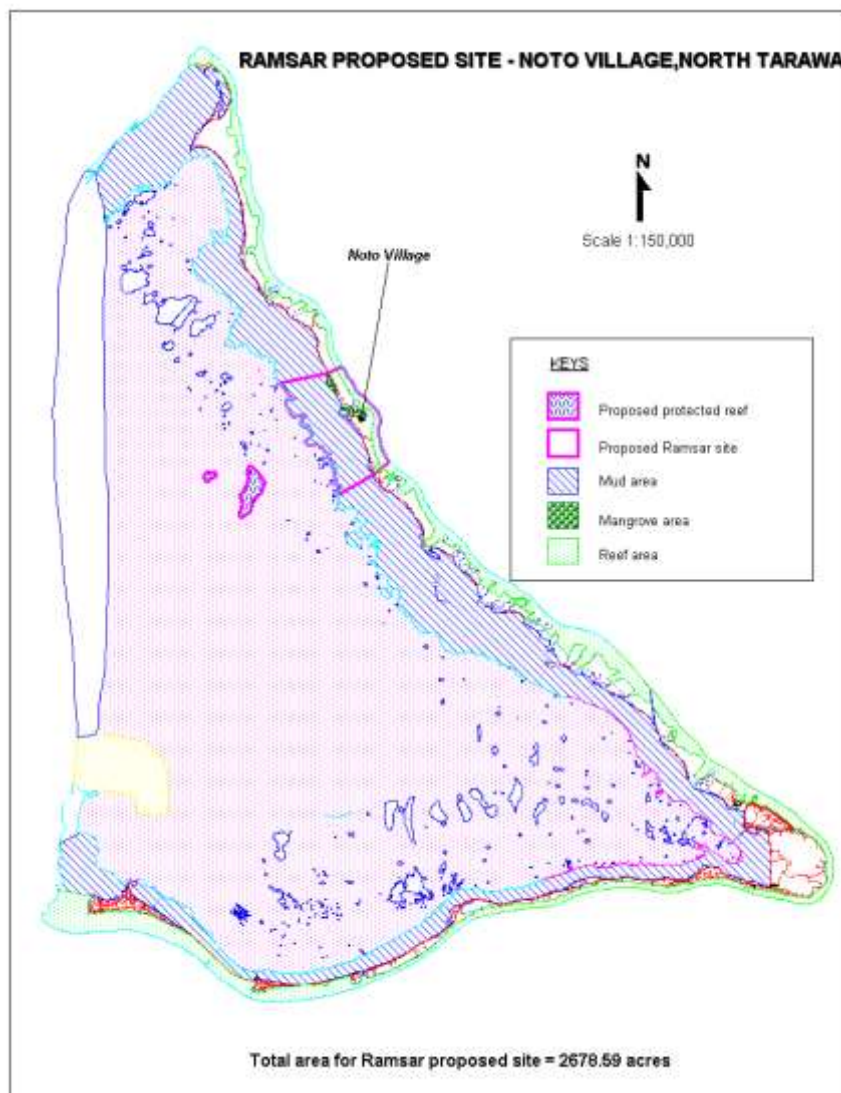
After many consultations, the community became more supportive and willing to assist with the implementation of this project.



Over 1000 seedlings recently replanted by this family



Achievement: 1st RAMSAR site of Kiribati





Achievement

Kiribati was acceded to Ramsar Convention on 30th April 2013.

“Nooto-North Tarawa”
had designated for the List of Wetlands of International importance.





Conclusion:

- Partners, projects and team to make this happened:
 - RAMSAR Small Grant Fund (SGF)
 - SPREP
 - Government of Kiribati through ECD-MELAD
 - Eutan Tarawa Council & Nooto Community
 - International Societies for Mangrove Ecosystem (ISME)
 - Program of Work on Protected Area (PoWPA) project
 - Kiribati Adaptation Program (KAP) Office