Phoenix Islands Protected Area — Reverse Fishing Licence Trust Fund

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Kiribati

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Kiribati closed 408,250 km² of ocean to fishing in 2015, financed by a PIPA Trust endowment meant to offset lost licence revenue. The fund raised only ~US$7M against a $13.5M target, and in 2021 Kiribati reopened PIPA after citing tens of millions in foregone revenue.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-22

Government of Kiribati / PIPA Conservation Trust / Conservation International / New England Aquarium — accessed 2026-07-22

OCTO / MPA News — The Reverse Fishing Licence Mechanism — accessed 2026-07-22

SeafoodSource — Kiribati reopens PIPA to fishing (2021) — accessed 2026-07-22

PINA — Government of Kiribati lifts closure of PIPA — accessed 2026-07-22

Big Ocean — PIPA site profile — accessed 2026-07-22

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