

**Basel Convention
Country Fact Sheet**

Kiribati

Status of Ratifications:

Party to the Basel Convention:	07.09.2000 (a)
Amendment to the Basel Convention:	-
Basel protocol on Liability and Compensation:	-

(Accession (a); Acceptance (A); Approval (AA); Formal confirmation (c); Ratification; Succession (d))

Competent Authority	Focal Point
Customs Controller Kiribati Customs Service Ministry of Finance and Economic Development P.O. Box 503 Betio Tarawa Kiribati Telephone:(686) 265 31 ext 112 Telefax: (686) 265 32 E-Mail: customs@tskl.net.ki	Secretary Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development P.O. Box 234 Bikenibeu, Tarawa Kiribati Telephone:(686) 282 11 Telefax: (686) 283 34 E-Mail: tebwe@melad.gov.ki

**National
Definition**

National definition of waste under the Environment Act 1999 (amended in 2007) used for the purpose of transboundary movements of waste exists in Kiribati.

- (a) whether liquid, solid, gaseous or radioactive, whether toxic or not, which is discharged into the environment; or
- (b) which is the by product of any process activity or development with no apparent value or beneficial function; or
- (c) human excrement or faeces; or
- (d) animal excrement or remains; or
- (e) which is prescribed by regulation to be waste;

National definition of hazardous waste used for the purpose of transboundary movements of waste exists in Kiribati.

Draft definition

“Hazardous waste including which contains explosives, gases, flammable solids, flammable liquids, corrosive substances, toxic substances, oxidizing agents, organic peroxides, asbestos or substances which emit flammable gases.” A further definition is provided for

clinical wastes: “clinical waste including human tissue body fluids, blood, faecal material, materials and equipment which is visibly blood stained with body fluids or faecal matter, materials and equipment which has been used to penetrate the skin, laboratory specimens or culture and any other waste resulting from medical, nursing, dental, pharmaceutical or any other related clinical activity.

”[Further consideration is currently being given to this definition]

Kiribati regulates/controls additional wastes as hazardous that are not included in Art. 1 (1)a of the Basel Convention and would be controlled for the purpose of transboundary movements pursuant to Art. 1 (1)b.

Radioactive wastes are regulated through the Waigani Convention which prevents forum members from importing wastes for disposal.

The Waigani Convention does not address the transit of radioactive wastes, rather it seeks that Forum members give active consideration to the implementation of the IAEA Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of radioactive Wastes.

There is at this time no national legislation in place to address this issue however further consideration is being given to the need to address such issues.

In Kiribati there are no wastes other than those pursuant to Art. 1 (1)a and/or Art. 1 (1)b of the Basel Convention that require special consideration when subjected to transboundary movement.

The Waigani Convention does not address the transit of radioactive wastes, rather it seeks that forum members give active consideration to the implementation of the IAEA Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Wastes.

Restrictions on Transboundary Movement

Amendment to the Basel Convention

Kiribati is in a preparatory process of implementing the amendment to the Basel Convention (Decision III/1).

May not be applicable to Kiribati as there is no hazardous waste disposal facilities available in the country, nor is Kiribati a member of country as listed in Annex VII.

Restrictions on export for final disposal

Kiribati is in a preparatory process to restrict the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes for final disposal.

Restrictions on export for recovery

Kiribati is in a preparatory process to restrict the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes for recovery.

Restrictions on import for final disposal

Kiribati is in a preparatory process to restrict import of hazardous wastes and other wastes for final disposal.

The Environment Act 1999 (as amended in 2007) which the Environment and Conservation Division works with does not directly address importation of hazardous waste, however, under its provisions, license may be required to establish a facility for the disposal of any such waste and its unlikely that such a license would be granted.

Restrictions on import for recovery

Kiribati is in a preparatory process to restrict the import of hazardous wastes and other wastes for recovery.

Restrictions are currently based around the needs to obtain permits/licenses to operate facilities under the provisions of the Environment Act 1999 (as amended in 2007). A legislative review currently underway may lead to more robust importation legislation being put in place.

Restrictions on transit

Kiribati is in a preparatory process to restrict the transit of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

Everything in preparation needs cabinet priority and financial assistance.

**Reduction
and/or
Elimination of
Hazardous
Waste
Generation**

National strategies/policies

The Environment and Conservation Division has developed a National Waste Management Strategy (Draft) that covers sound disposal management of medical waste and e-waste. There is also the Health Care Waste Management Committee now being established to develop a health care waste disposal management plan. Wet cell batteries and waste oils are shipped to Australia through Te Kaoki Maange Recycling Facility and Kiribati Oil Company (KOIL). Kiribati also participates in the regional e-waste project coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP).

Legislation, regulations and guidelines

The Environment Act 1999 (as amended in 2007) lays framework for environment protection in Kiribati. No provisions for management of hazardous wastes. The current legislative review is likely to address some of the requirements with respect to hazardous wastes.

Economic instruments/ initiatives

There is now a container deposit system which includes a deposit on imported lead/acid batteries and so encourages the return of these batteries for exportation and recycling.

Measures taken by industries/waste generators

Industry in Kiribati is limited and work on improving practices is ongoing. However, no formal processes are as yet in place.

Currently local and relevant stakeholders steering committees look after waste issues usually coordinated by the relevant ministry in many cases for waste control MELAD is the coordinating ministry for example:

1. Hospital wastes issues are now attended to by the Health Care Waste Committee coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services;
2. Waste oil committee looks after waste oil issues coordinated by MELAD;
3. Acid lead batteries are being dealt with by Te Kaoki Maange Recycling Facility run by the One Stop Shop private sector; and
4. In addition some hazardous wastes have been removed by the POPs PICs team (South Tarawa and the Kanton mission).

Others

The National Marine Contingency Plan (NATPLAN) is now being revised with guidance from SPREP and will be submitted to seek Cabinet's approval soon. The plan deals mainly with oil spills in the marine environment.

Some of the regional/international projects related to hazardous waste management which Kiribati also participate in include SAICM, e-waste, disposal management of products contained with mercur and POPs (NIP)

Transboundary Movement Reduction Measures

National strategies/policies

There are no specific regulations in place to control transboundary movement of hazardous wastes other than trying to restrict the importation of hazardous waste, but Kiribati is working on some national strategies/policies through the POPs project as one of the aims in preparation, in the national POPs "Implementation plan".

Legislation, regulations and guidelines

In preparation.

Economic instruments/ initiatives

The local Kaoki Maange Recycling Facility would only be of potential economic value so long as the amount of specific hazardous waste such as the wet cell batteries collected is enough for cost effective export to the recycling agent for Kiribati.

Measures taken by industries/waste generators

Waste oil is now being transported back by Kiribati Oil Company (KOil) to recycling facilities in Australia. This transportation is not regular due to the lack of funding for exportation to its agent.

Disposal/

Disposal facilities

Kiribati Environment Act (1999) and Environment Regulations (2001)

Recovery Facilities

require all waste disposal sites to have an Environment License. License conditions will specify the type of wastes and sound methods on how to dispose off such wastes at the landfill. The probable facility used for disposal which would be illegal are the Council landfills (D1) but these are not treated. However the current situation is that hazardous materials are prohibited to be disposed off at landfills operated by both BTC and TUC Councils.

Information could be obtained from:

The Ministry of Environment Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD).

Recovery/recycling/re-use facilities

- Te Kaoki Maange Recycling Facility, c/o: One Stop Shop, P O Box 420, Phone: 26168, Fax: 25401 Betio Tarawa; Collection and recycling facility – lead acid and other wet-cell batteries for export.; R4,R13
- Kiribati Oil Company Limited, P O Box 488, Betio Tarawa, Phone: 26052, Fax: 26572; Collect waste oil and other waste lubricant oils for export ; R13

The recycling collection facility has started collection of wet cell batteries in Kiribati and also exported them to Australia. With waste oil, KOIL is collecting them for free from waste oil generators (private car owners, auto repair shops) and ship them to Australia for refining and recycling processes.

Further information could be obtained from:

Ministry of Commerce Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC), Kiribati Customs and from the above named facilities.

Bilateral, Multilateral or Regional Agreements

- Regional; Pacific Island Countries, Australia and New Zealand; 21.10.2001 to present; Waste that are poisonous, explosive, toxic, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic, infectious and radioactive (eg lead-acid batteries)

Technical Assistance and Training Available

- Environment and Conservation Division
- Kiribati Customs
- Kiribati Port Authority
- Marine Division
- Kiribati Police Department

Data on the Generation and Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other wastes in 2006 (as reported)		Quantities (in metric tons)
Generation	Amount of hazardous wastes generated under Art. 1(1)a (Annex I: Y1-Y45) of BC	82
	Amount of hazardous wastes generated under Art. 1(1)b of BC	0
	<i>Total amount of hazardous wastes generated</i>	82
	Amount of other wastes generated (Annex II: Y46-Y47)	0
Export	Amount of hazardous wastes exported	82
	Amount of other wastes exported	0
Import	Amount of hazardous wastes imported	0
	Amount of other wastes imported	0