THE KIRIBATI MARITIME BOUNDARIES PROJECT
OUTLINE

- Where is Kiribati?
- Background
- Method
- What remains to be done
- Outcome
- Conclusion
- Questions
UNCLOS and Maritime Boundaries

• One of the major features of the UNCLOS is the definition of a number of jurisdictional zones.

• These zones refer to an area of ocean in which the coastal state has specific rights relating to the seabed, the subsoil, airspace and the water column.

Kiribati got involved around 2007

Kiribati makes much of its earnings from Fisheries Licenses

Has one of the largest marine reserves in the world
METHOD

1. LEGAL
- Updated our Marine Zones Act the current definition of the sea baselines and maritime zones

2. TECHNICAL
- Derive baselines
- Compute technical solutions for shared boundaries

3. ADMINISTRATIVE
Historical data

Gilbert Islands
- Makin
- Butaritari
- Abaiang
- Marakei
- Tarawa
- Maiana
- Kuria
- Aranuka
- Nonouti
- Tabiteuea
- Beru
- Nikunau
- Onotoa
- Tamana
- Arorae

Early 1900's survey by Royal Aus. and NZ Navy (Astro datum & Chart datum)

1940's - 1960's US Army Aerial photography (Local Mercator Grid)

1998 Photo Control Survey establishes WGS84 datum for Tarawa

1977's Aus. doppler Surveys and DOS Surveys (WGS72, WGS84 datum)

Tide Gauge
METHOD

- Acquired new satellite imagery
- We needed to be convinced that the imagery was of good positional accuracy
- Conducted GNSS Surveys for 7 islands
  - Established new survey marks
  - Occupied existing benchmarks
  - Collected Image reference points
RESULTS

- Processing of the GNSS survey data was done mostly by SPC
- 5m residuals
- Fit the purpose of the project
OUTCOME

- Derived our territorial sea baselines
- Computed our outer limits
- Able to move forward with our shared boundaries negotiations and treaty signings
Milestone: Signing of the 7 Bilateral Maritime Boundaries, 2012 Forum Meeting

Signing of the Kiribati and USA Maritime treaty, Forum Meeting, 2013
OUTCOME

- Reaping the benefits
- By knowing our jurisdiction we have had successful prosecutions of vessels fishing illegally
- Effectively managing our marine space
WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

- Our island's are still on legacy datum
- We still need to update our nautical charts and maps
- Information surrounding the islands datum are disjointed - why hasn't there been any efforts to consolidate all of this information?
- We still need to improve improve our current capacity
WAYS FORWARD

Seek regional and international assistance

Develop National Action Plans and Strategies

Training and capacity building
CONCLUSION

- The Model that was used for the Regional Maritime Boundaries Project, is something I believe we can learn from with regards to our efforts to address the following:
  
  a. Modernising of our country's geodetic datum
  
  b. Capacity building
  
  c. Raising awareness

- Requires commitment of funds, resources, time and expertise
REFERENCES

- Pictures: Courtesy of Andrick Lal
- http://star.gsd.spc.int/meeting_docs/presentations/Session2b-4_Outer%20limits%20of%20maritime%20ozone_ArtackE.pdf
QUESTIONS

Kam bati n raba’ (Thank you all)