



13. Tabiteuea South



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SUMMARY OF MAIN SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS – TABITEUEA SOUTH

	Tabiteuea South					All other outer islands					South Tarawa including Betio					All Kiribati					
	2005	2010				2005	2010				2005	2010				2005	2010				
Population (Census)	1,298	1,290				50,924	51,586				40,311	50,182				92,533	103,058				
Percent of national population	1.4%	1.3%				55.0%	50.1%				43.6%	48.7%				100%	100%				
Land area, km ²	11.85	11.85				698.73	698.73				15.76	15.76				726.34	726.34				
Population density, people per km ²	110	109				73	74				2,558	3,184									
Population growth																					
Annual rate of growth of population, %																					
	2005-10					2005-10					2005-10					2005-10					
Population growth		-8					662					9,871									10,525
Annual rate of growth of population, %		-0.1%					0.3%					4.4%									2.2%
	<15 years	15-30	30-45	45-60	over 60	<15 years	15-30	30-45	45-60	over 60	<15 years	15-30	30-45	45-60	over 60	<15 years	15-30	30-45	45-60	over 60	
Population by age group	497	305	243	147	98	19,568	13,619	9,260	6,093	3,046	17,119	15,784	8,959	5,813	2,507	37,184	29,708	18,462	12,053	5,651	
Population by age group, %	39%	24%	19%	11%	8%	38%	26%	18%	12%	6%	34%	31%	18%	12%	5%	36%	29%	18%	12%	5%	
	2005					2005					2005					2005					
Number of private households	262	249				8,492	9,089				5,245	6,705				13,999	16,043				
Number of persons in private households	1,298	1,290				48,160	49,420				39,186	49,250				88,644	99,960				
Average household size	5.0	5.2				5.7	5.4				7.5	7.3				6.3	6.2				
	Labour market activity, people 15+					Labour market activity, people 15+					Labour market activity, people 15+					Labour market activity, people 15+					
	Cash work - formal	Cash work - market oriented	Voluntary or subsistence work	Unemployed	Not in labour force	Cash work - formal	Cash work - market oriented	Voluntary or subsistence work	Unemployed	Not in labour force	Cash work - formal	Cash work - market oriented	Voluntary or subsistence work	Unemployed	Not in labour force	Cash work - formal	Cash work - market oriented	Voluntary or subsistence work	Unemployed	Not in labour force	
Labour force status	261	7	0	79	355	4,585	3,659	0	4,547	11,775	8,594	2,487	0	6,826	13,545	13,440	6,153	0	11,452	25,675	
Labour force status %	37%	1%	0%	11%	51%	19%	15%	0%	19%	48%	27%	8%	0%	22%	43%	24%	11%	0%	20%	45%	
	Education attainment, people 15+					Education attainment, people 15+					Education attainment, people 15+					Education attainment, people 15+					
	No school completed	Primary leaving certificate	Form 3 certificate	Senior secondary certificate	Post secondary study or qualification	No school completed	Primary leaving certificate	Form 3 certificate	Senior secondary certificate	Post secondary study or qualification	No school completed	Primary leaving certificate	Form 3 certificate	Senior secondary certificate	Post secondary study or qualification	No school completed	Primary leaving certificate	Form 3 certificate	Senior secondary certificate	Post secondary study or qualification	
Education attainment	224	257	152	157	3	3,971	11,601	7,171	8,547	728	2,418	8,125	7,570	13,626	1,324	6613	19983	14893	22330	2055	
Education attainment %	28%	32%	19%	20%	0%	12%	36%	22%	27%	2%	7%	25%	23%	41%	4%	10%	30%	23%	34%	3%	
	2010					2010					2010					2010					
Literate in [te taetae ni] Kiribati %				88%					90%					93%						91%	

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Tabiteuea South is made of 6 villages with Tewai in the north, Taungaeaka, Buariki, Nikutoru, Katabanga and the islet of Takuu. Mainland Tabiteuea South has a causeway connecting Taungaeaka to Buariki, and Tewai to Taungaeaka. Takuu still has to be linked via a bridge being proposed. Tabiteuea South is 11.85 sq.km, 1.89 km at its widest, 0.02 km at its narrowest, and about 29.87 km in length.

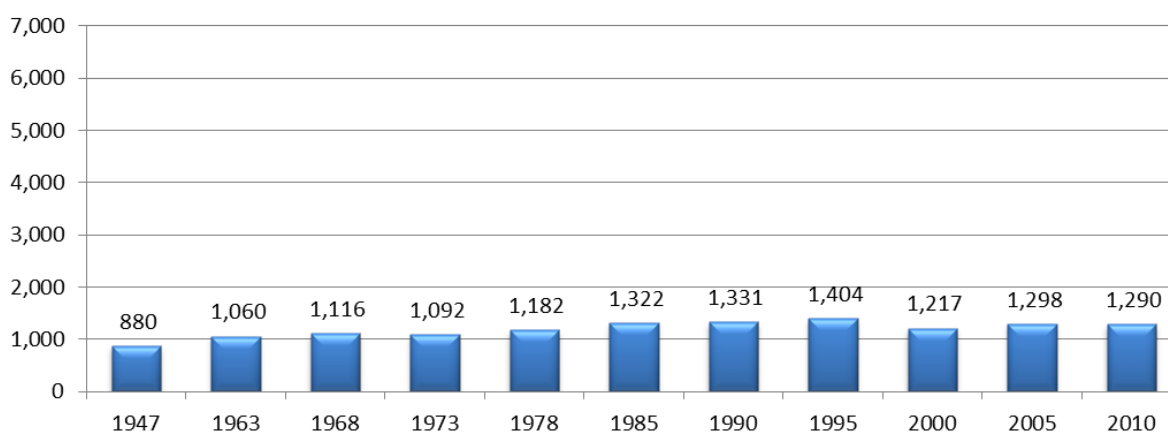
Inhabited islets of Tabiteuea South include Tewai from the far north, followed by Taungaeaka, Buariki, Nikutoru, Katabanga, and the southernmost islet of Takuu. The remaining islets are not inhabited but used as copra cutting and fishing excursions by families owning lands there.

There are 7 causeways that link the islets making up Tabiteuea South. Katabanga-Takuu causeway broke down and has also not been repaired since. There are two causeways linking Taungaeaka to the islet before the village of Buariki.

POPULATION

The population of Tabiteuea South in the 2010 census was 1,290. Compared to the 2005 population of 1,298 and the 2000 population of 1,217, the population is very stable. Indeed looking back to 1963, the population has been between 1,000 people and (just over) 1,400 people in every census.

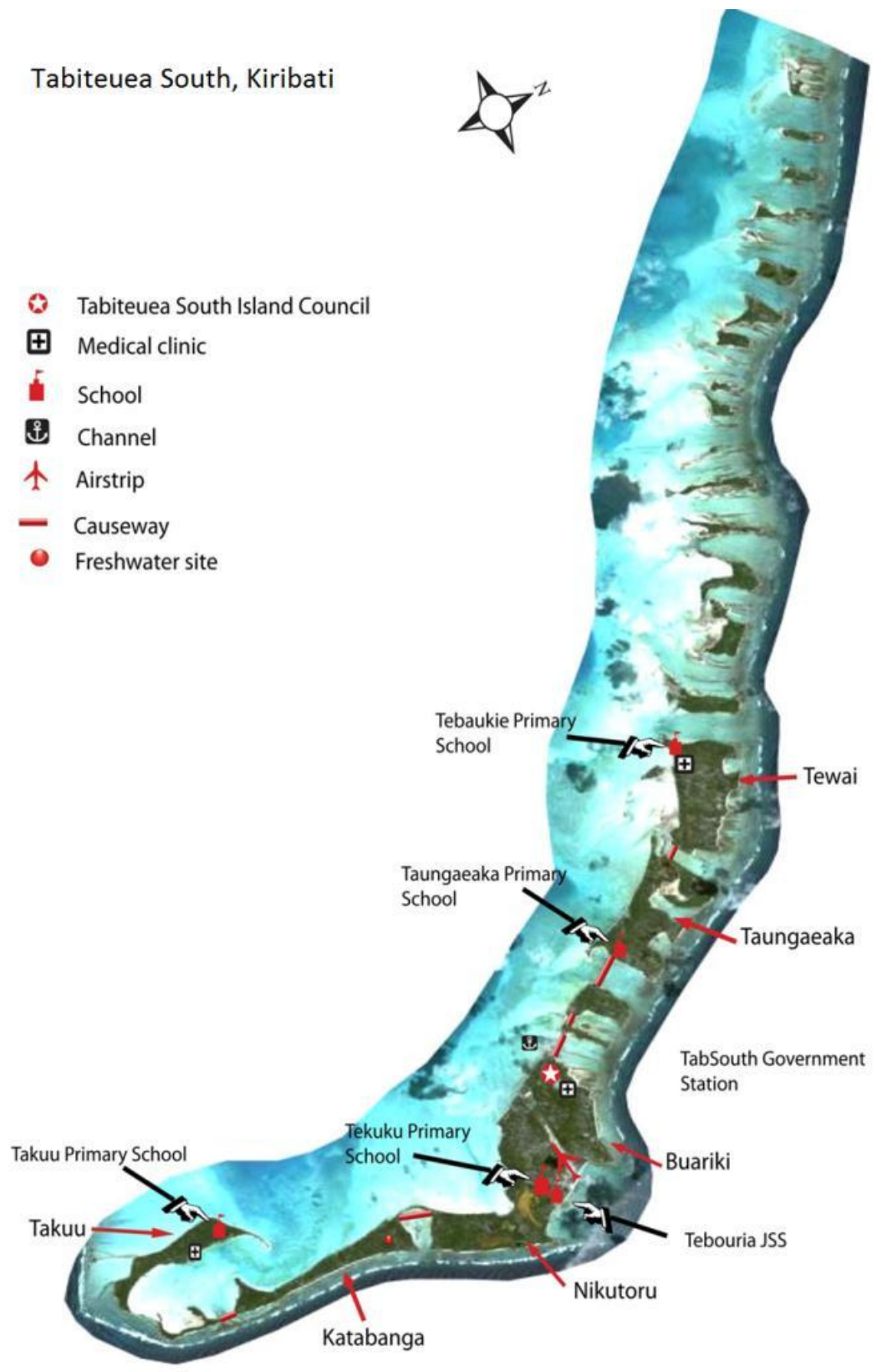
Figure 13.1: Tabiteuea South population 1947-2010



Source: 2010 Census

Tabiteuea South has a combined land area of 11.85 square kilometers and a population (in 2010) of 1,290, giving a population density of 109 people per square kilometer. Compared with other islands in Kiribati, Tabiteuea South is the 15th most densely populated island.

Figure 13.2: Map of Tabiteuea South

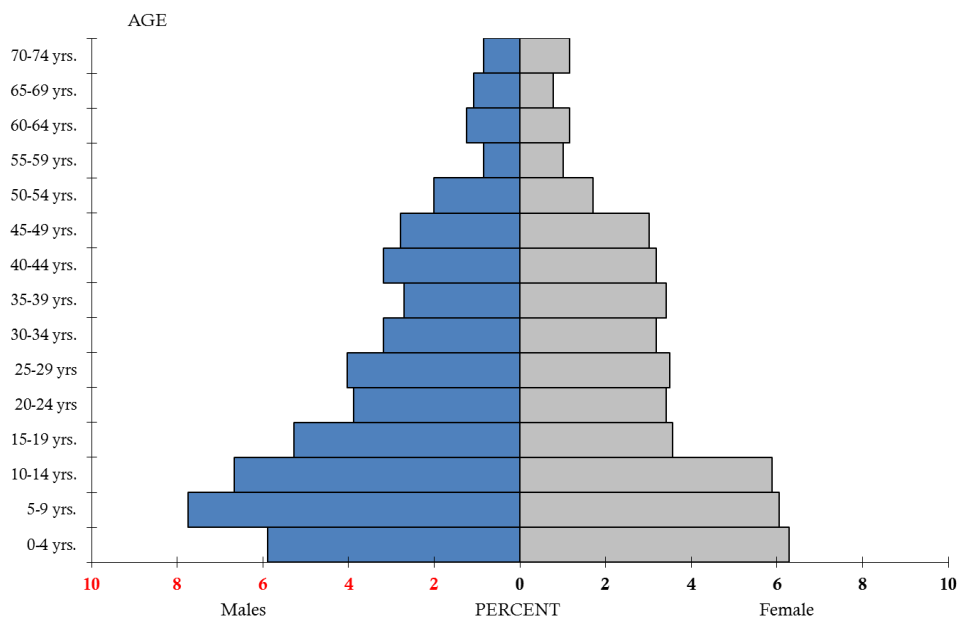


The largest village in Tabiteuea, with a population of 399 people in 2010, is Buariki. Buariki is also the location of the Island Council, the main clinic and the Junior Secondary School, and is close to the island's airport. The village of Tewai, on the northernmost islet in Tabiteuea South (also called Tewai), is nearly as large with 338 people.

Tabiteuea South	Village	Population
	Tewai	338
	Taungaeaka	133
	Buariki	399
	Nikutoru	195
	Katabanga	78
	Taku	147
Tabiteuea South total population		1290

The ages structure of the population in Tabiteuea South is different from other islands of Kiribati. In most islands of Kiribati the biggest age cohort is very young children aged 0-4 years but in Tabiteuea at the time of the 2010 census there were more children aged 5-9 years than 0-4. Another unusual feature is that there are more young boys than young girls, especially in the 5-9 year age group. In the adult age ranges, from 15 to 49, the number of people in each age group is very similar which is in keeping with Tabiteuea South's stable population.

There is no secondary school on Tabiteuea South, so young people aged 15 to 19 have to leave the island if they are to continue their schooling past Junior Secondary level (Year 10).



LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES

LAND RESOURCES

All lands on Tabiteuea South are owned by families through customary means, usually inheritance although there are some other situations in which title to land is transferred, such as gifts and for nursing an aged or dying elder. . Rightful owners plant their allocated plots with coconut trees, pandanus, and other fruit trees. *Bwabwai* (swamp taro) pits are also dug, often in areas remote from the villages where fresh groundwater is abundant. At village compounds fruit trees are also planted within or alongside compound boundaries. Of the 11.85 sq. km. land area of Tab South 1.92 square kilometers is used as village settlements.

In common with other Southern islands, the poor soil and inconsistent rainfall means that many crops do not thrive. Relatively few households cultivate banana, pawpaw, cabbage or sweet potato, but tougher local alternatives such as *te bero* are more likely to be cultivated. *Te bero*, a type of local fig, takes a lot of preparation to be edible so its cultivation is a sign that the island does not have a lot of land-based food resources.

WATER RESOURCES

Being a dry island, water becomes an issue during drought times when the freshwater lens sitting atop the seawater in wells are depleted without rains restoring the lens. The village of Takuu suffers brackishness and with the nearest freshwater site being approximately 8km away on the separate islet of Katabanga, the have to suffer drinking their only means of water, brackish as it is. The only shortcut to fetching water from Katabanga by those on Takuu would be by using canoes or boats to cross 3 km of lagoon to get to the freshwater site at Katabanga. The community of Tewai also suffers greatly from water but not because there is not enough freshwater but because the community prefer living on the adjacent islet of Buatua than on mainland Tewai. However, the distance to freshwater by those on Buatua is not as far when compared to the Takuu community.

MARINE RESOURCES

In contrast to the limited land and water resources, Tabiteuea South shares with Tabiteuea North a large lagoon and wide ocean reef, giving access to abundant marine resources which provide the main means of food and livelihood for the community.

Size of Reef/Lagoon Size

Islands	Reef (sq/km)	Reef base (sq/km)	Lagoon (sq/km)	Land (sq/km)
Tabiteuea	39	49	532	25.78

The most popular fishing location is the lagoon, with 78% of households fishing in the lagoon and 82% of households collecting food from the lagoon flats during low tide. The lagoon flat is the exposed area of the lagoon during low tide that can stretch for miles and is a favorite fishing location for shellfish and sea worms. The other reason that most people popularly

frequent the lagoon flat for fishing is because the methods of fishing and equipment required and used are simple and cheap. By contrast, only 20% of households fish in the deep ocean, which requires a canoe or boat. In 2010 there were only 14 boats and 43 canoes, between the 249 households on Tabiteuea South.

ENVIRONMENT

Coastal erosion is fast becoming the major environmental issue for the islands of Kiribati including Tabiteuea South. Many locations on Tabiteuea South have been seriously eroded, resulting in the relocation of infrastructure (road, buildings, etc.) or the recurrent high expenditure of maintaining seawalls for protection.

Flooding during high tides has been experienced in the village of Tewai, at Buatua and at Taungaeaka. These floods result in saltwater pollution of the freshwater lens which in turn leads to dying fruit trees and *bwabwai* and brackish well water. Taungaeaka also suffers from erosion starting from where the causeway ends at the village area to nearly halfway through the village. Takuu at the southern end of the island suffers from extreme erosion where rows of trees have fallen with a few left standing on the beach.

Brackish wells are also a common occurrence during long periods of drought. The islet of Takuu is suffering mild erosion all around and their freshwater is becoming brackish, Takuu residents are now fetching water from Katabanga or mixing their existing well water with the rain while Katabanga is using their only freshwater well located at Tawaea. Fruit trees have been greatly affected by the heat and lack of water to the extent that there are very few coconuts and the toddy cutters have to give up most of their toddy trees as the spathes are either too small to get anything out of or the toddy itself is not forthcoming.

A full list of locations experiencing climate change and sea level rise impacts, including their GPS co-ordinates, and further details of problem areas and sites of significance are given in the Tabiteuea South Island Profile 2008 available on www.climate.gov.ki.

EDUCATION

There 5 schools altogether on Tabiteuea South of which 4 are primary schools strategically located to accommodate one or two villages at a time. There is one also one junior secondary school, Tebouria JSS. All schools are managed by the Government and thus there are Government funds for maintenance work required for the schools from time to time or year to year.

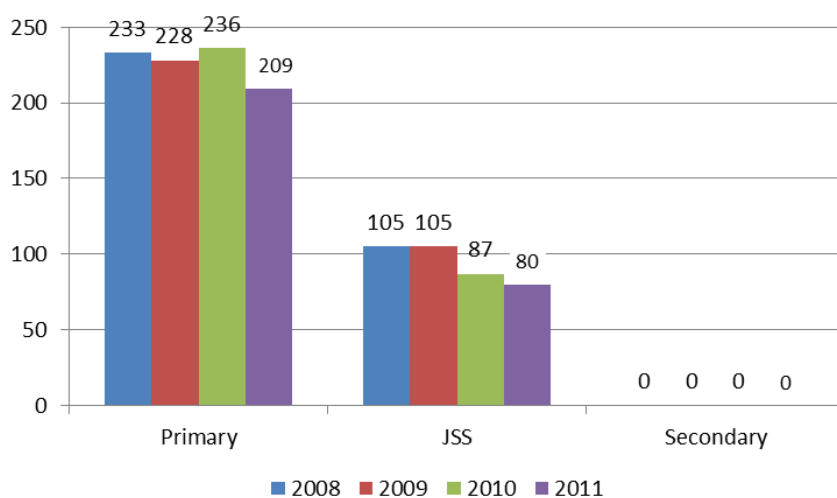
South Tabiteuea	No. of Pupils			No. of Teachers		
	2011		Total	2011		Total
	F	M		F	M	
Taku Primary School	13	17	30	2	1	3
Kaumomokia - Taungaeaka Primary School	4	6	10	2	0	2
Tebaukie Primary School	33	31	64	3	0	3
Tekuku Primary School	47	58	105	4	1	5
Total	97	112	209	11	2	13

Source: Education Statistics Digest 2011

A total of 275 children were attending the four primary schools on the island, 112 boys (54%) and 97 girls (46%). This is in keeping with the population information which shows more boys than girls on the island. The biggest school, with just over half the total primary school enrollments, was Tekuku Primary School.

A further 80 students on the island were attending Tebouria JSS. Over the past four years the number of enrolled students on Tabiteuea South has declined slightly. Although education at Government schools is free of charge there are many reasons why families might find it difficult to send children to school, including transport problems and trouble affording school uniforms, books and other costs.

Figure 13.3: Tabiteuea South Enrollments 2008-2011



HEALTH

There are 3 clinics on the island and one of these is the Health Centre, complete with a dispensary and wards. Generally, each outer island has one main Health Centre looked after by a Medical Assistant (senior and trained than Nursing Officers). Clinics are normally constructed from a combination of local and permanent materials.

Table 13.1: Health Facilities, Tabiteuea South

No.	Clinic location	General information
1	Buariki	Supervised by a Medical Assistant and caters for Buariki and adjacent villages
2	Tewai	Nursing Officer in charge and caters for Tewai and neighboring villages
3	Takuu	Nursing officer in charge and caters for Takuu and adjacent villages

Each village has its own Village Welfare Group, which is helping the medical staff on the island in the promotion of health activities.

The most common illnesses for which the people of Tabiteuea are likely to visit a clinic are fever, respiratory infections and diarrhea. Rates of most diseases are low compared with other islands, but the skin disease tinea vesicolor (*te tango*) is common on Tabiteuea South.

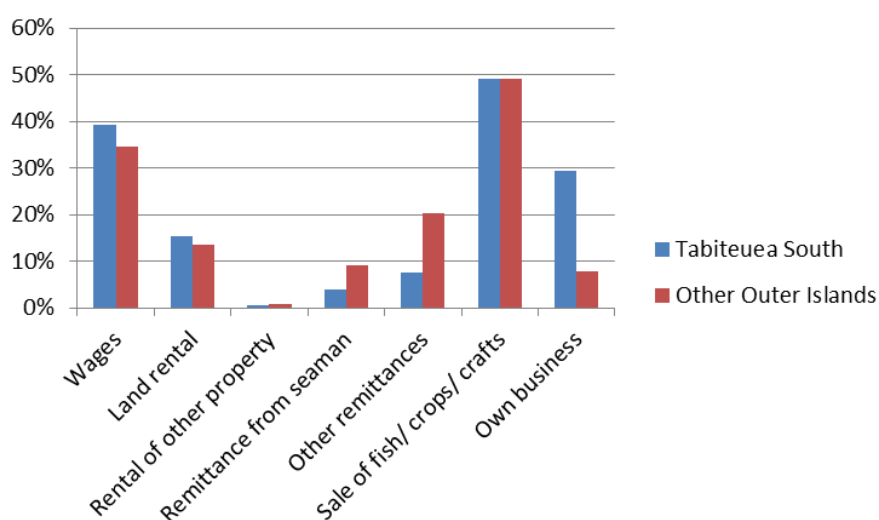
The proportion of people on Tabiteuea South who smoke is among the highest in Kiribati; 57% of all adults smoke. The proportion who drink kava (yangona) “regularly” or “sometimes” is also high at 30%. 23% of adults drink alcohol “regularly” or “sometimes”.

ISLAND ECONOMY

Like all islands of the Southern Gilberts, Tabiteuea South is still very much a subsistence economy, based on fishing and seafood collection, subsistence agriculture, and making buildings and household items from locally available materials, mainly coconut and pandanus.

Only 39% of households on Tabiteuea South receive any money from wages or salaries, 4% receive remittances from seamen and 8% receive remittances, mainly from family working in South Tarawa or elsewhere. Around half (48%) of households earn money from the sale of fish, crops and/or crafts. In the case of Tabiteuea South, copra production accounts for most of this income although some households also earn cash from sale of fish, including sea cucumber which is exported to China.

Figure 13.4: Sources of Household Income, Tabiteuea South



Source: 2010 Census. Figures do not total to 100% as some households have more than one source of cash income.

Copra production remains the most important commercial activity on Tabiteuea South that has provided a reliable and sustainable source of income for many of the islanders. In all years, income from copra alone is sufficient that Tabiteuea South households sit above the universal poverty line established as a Millennium Development Goal, having an income of more than \$1 per day.

Table 13.2: Tabiteuea South Copra revenue 2003-2011

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Copra price \$/kg	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.70*
Income from copra	\$281,687	\$355,458	\$170,000	\$270,000	\$267,000	\$288,410	\$180,000	\$142,450	\$438,185
Income/HH	\$1,130	\$1,391	\$649	\$1,041	\$1,040	\$1,135	\$715	\$572	\$1,778
Income/Day	\$3.10	\$3.81	\$1.78	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$3.11	\$1.96	\$1.57	\$4.87

Source: Copra Disbursements to Island Councils, from MCIC.

*Copra price increased to \$0.80 per kg in November 2011

ENERGY

Firewood is still the main fuel, mainly in the form of coconut husk, dry coconut leaves and common wood for the people. The new products in the islands, however, use fuel that is imported from overseas.

KOIL imports fuel from overseas and distribute it to all the islands in Kiribati. The total number of fuel drums sent by KOIL to Tabiteuea South in 2011 was 72,000 litres of unleaded petrol (bentiin), 9,600 litres of diesel and 7,200 litres of kerosene.

TRANSPORTATION

The popular household means of land transport on the island are bicycles and motorcycles as these vehicles are cheaper when compared to car or trucks and most suitable in accessing other parts of the island that cars/trucks would otherwise not be able to get to. Over half (57%) of all households have at least one bicycle, and almost a third (30%) have a motorbike. At the time of the 2010 census there were only two private cars, but there are trucks available for hire from the Council and private households. The main road that runs along the length of the island is wide enough for the bigger vehicles and the network of paths that run from it into the bush are too narrow for them.

Air Kiribati operates one flight a week linking Tabiteuea South with Tarawa, on a Tuesday. However the airfare of \$135 one way is not very affordable for many. Fares by boat are cheaper but there is no schedule for shipping services, which are affected by weather and by the timing of cargo shipments.

Table 13.3: Environment and Climate Change issues identified by Tabiteuea South representatives at the National Summit, May 2011

ISSUES	PROBABLE CAUSE/S	IMPACT on SOCIETY	REMEDIAL ACTION	SUSTAINABILITY (EFFECTIVENESS)
Coastal Erosion	-high tides	-rows of trees at the beach disappearing and fallen	-community had consulted the island council to deal with the problem	-not effective
	-sea surges	-brackish water at impacted areas	-elevation of flood prone sites carried out using bagged coastal sand and gravel (containers woven coconut fronds)	-cost effective but containers wear out very soon
	-storms	-14 impacted areas, especially at Takuu village	-Tewai villagers prefer to live at Buatua islet with freshwater sites	
	-aggregate mining	-Takuu villagers had to fetch water from another village Katabanga which is 16km in distance -since the place to fetch the water is far villagers of Takuu have to drink their brackish water -Tewai and Taungaeaka suffer floods during high tides but worse with strong winds -dying trees at Buariki (capital village), Nikutoru and Katabanga	-construction of sea walls -increase planting at coastal areas -water systems to be in place -mangrove planting to prevent coastal erosion	-sustainable provided land owners of Buatua accept them

ISSUES	PROBABLE CAUSE/S	IMPACT on SOCIETY	REMEDIAL ACTION	SUSTAINABILITY (EFFECTIVENESS)
		-reduction in landmasses	-Opt for income generating opportunities i.e sea reources	Costly and may have side effects
Agricultural Activity	<p>-superficial commitment to AA</p> <p>-shortage of feed for pigs/piglets due to delay in receiving orders from abroad</p> <p>-limited funding</p> <p>-mismanagement of livestock</p> <p>-pigs slaughtered before they are bred</p>	<p>-no balance diet</p> <p>-no supply of land protein</p>	<p>-increase awareness and importance of livestock and agricultural activity through Agricultural Division and Taiwan Technical Mission</p> <p>-provide funding</p> <p>- use of local plants, marine seaweed mixed with breadfruit to supplement imported feed</p>	<p>-it can be sustained</p> <p>-Can be done, cheap and sustainable, needs creativity</p>
Water	<p>-droughts</p> <p>-high temperatures</p>	<p>-kills vegetation</p> <p>-fruit trees affected in size</p> <p>-production decrease</p> <p>-income decrease</p>	<p>-built in concrete cisterns</p> <p>-increase water catchments</p> <p>-water tanks overhead tanks and solar pumps with piping systems</p> <p>-refer to KIRIBATI WATER AND SANITATION PLAN</p>	<p>-sustainable in the long run but costly</p> <p>-sustainable in the long term</p>

