

# What animals are native or invasive?

Kiribati has a great range of native species, on the land and in the sea. The world heritage site of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) consists of eight coral atolls and two underwater reefs, and is home to unique marine and seabird species. However, such natural ecosystems are often under threat from alien invasive species. Invasive species kill out natives, destroy habitats and displace plants and animals that are a part of our traditional lives. But how do you know which are alien and which are native?

## Native Species in Kiribati

### Turtles

Green turtle (te On);  
Hawksbill turtle (te tabakea, te borauea);  
Leatherback turtle (te kabi n waa), and others.



### Mangroves

Te Nikabubuti (white mangrove); Te Aitoa (black mangrove); Te tongo buangi (oriental mangrove); Te tongo (red mangrove)

**Birds** such as sooty terns, white terns, frigates and noddies



**Fish** such as bonyfish (at risk), milkfish, snapper, tuna, dolphins and sharks

### Trees and shrubs

such as coconut, pandanus, saltbush, laurel (te itai) (at risk), pisonia (te buka) (at risk) and breadfruit



Corals, shells, seagrass and seaweed.

## Alien Invasive Species in Kiribati



Polynesian rats and ship rats (*Rattus rattus*) are brought on the ships.

Wedelia plants (*Wedelia trilobata*)



Myna bird and feral pigeon



Crown of thorns starfish

Catfish

Tilapia fish



Bwabwai Beetle