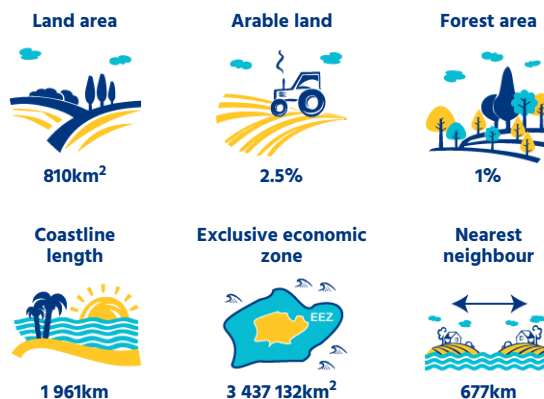




Kiribati

- > **Capital:** Tarawa (1°28' N, 173°2' E)
- > **International airport(s):** Bonriki International Airport, Tarawa; Cassidy International Airport, Kiritimati
- > **Official language(s):** English, Gilbertese
- > **Currency:** Kiribati dollar, Australian dollar (AUD)
- > **Time:** UTC+12, +13, +14
- > **Region:** Pacific



GEOGRAPHY

Kiribati (pronounced kee-ree-bas) consists of 33 coral islands with a total land area of 810 km². Only 21 of the islands are inhabited. The islands are scattered over 3.5 million km² in the Central Pacific Ocean, making it one of the most remote and geographically dispersed countries in the world.

It is composed of three island groups: the Gilbert Islands, the Line Islands and the Phoenix Islands. All of the islands are atolls or ring-shaped with central lagoons, except for the island of Banaba, which is a raised limestone island. It is the only country situated in four hemispheres of the world. It is also the furthest ahead of Greenwich meantime at UTC +14, making it the first country in the world to see in the New Year. Caroline island was the first island to ring in the Third Millennium in 2000 and, to celebrate the occasion, it was renamed Millennium Island.

Most of the atolls are low-lying, making them vulnerable to tidal surges and rising sea levels as a result of global warming. Two small uninhabited islets, Tebua Tarawa and Abanuea, which ironically means 'the beach which is long-lasting', disappeared below the sea in 1999. In 2014, to escape climate change, Kiribati acquired 20 km² of land in Fiji for the purpose of food security and as a possible refuge.

CLIMATE

Kiribati experiences a hot and humid equatorial maritime climate, moderated by the trade winds. The temperature in Kiribati is closely related to the temperatures of seas surrounding the islands. There is almost no variation in temperature, with average monthly temperatures falling between 27 and 28 °C through the year. Annual rainfalls vary greatly throughout the year and between islands. Average annual rainfall is generally below 1 200 mm in Kiribati but varies between 1 000 and 3 000 mm across the country: the northern parts of the Gilbert and Line groups receive more rain than the Phoenix group. (World Bank, 2020)

The Phoenix islands are also home to the second largest marine protected area in the world, called the Phoenix Islands Protected Area. In 2010, it was inscribed to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

ECONOMY

Kiribati is among the least developed Pacific island nations with a GDP per capita of US\$1 657 in 2019. Foreign aid and personal remittances provide important sources of funding at 10 per cent of GDP each (UNCTAD, 2021). Fish constitute the bulk of goods exports, with over 80 per cent share. According to the items attribute is mandatory, Kiribati's large exclusive economic zone in the Pacific accounts for one quarter of the global total of tuna species. The ADB estimates that revenue from fishing licenses equals two thirds of GDP in Kiribati. Together agriculture, forestry and, especially fishing, account for almost one fourth of GDP, while services constitute the largest economic sector (UNCTAD, 2021). Kiribati was the destination of 12 thousand tourist arrivals in 2019 and 9 thousand in 2018. Inbound tourism expenditure was below 2 per cent over GDP in 2018 (UNWTO, 2021). EVI of Kiribati is the highest among the SIDS and in the world (UN DESA, 2020).

CULTURE

The name Kiribati is the Gilbertese pronunciation of Gilberts, - *Ki-ruh-bas*, - the main archipelago of the country. The letter 's' doesn't exist in the 13-letter Gilbertese alphabet and is written as 'ti'. This explains why *Kiribati* isn't pronounced the way it is spelled.

The native islanders of Kiribati are known as I-Kiribati. They are Micronesian, the largest ethnic group accounting for around 96 per cent of the country's population. The most widely practiced religion in Kiribati is Christianity. The most important institutional symbol in Kiribati is the *maneaba ni Maungatabu*, social and community hall, where people meet to discuss matters of importance, under the leadership of elected elders, *Unimwane* and Christian leaders.

The traditional dances of Kiribati, or '*te Mwaie ni Kiribati*', are unique bird-like dances, imitating the movements of the frigate bird while walking and flying.

Oreano is a traditional team sport and the national sport in Kiribati - two opposing teams throw a heavy woven ball of somewhere between 2 to 5 kg, which should be caught without being dropped or injuring the players. Other popular sports are canoe racing and football.

The national dish of Kiribati is *Palusami*. It consists of coconut cream with onions and curry powder wrapped in taro leaves. It is eaten with roast pork or chicken. Another popular dish is boiled pandanus fruit, or screw pine.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

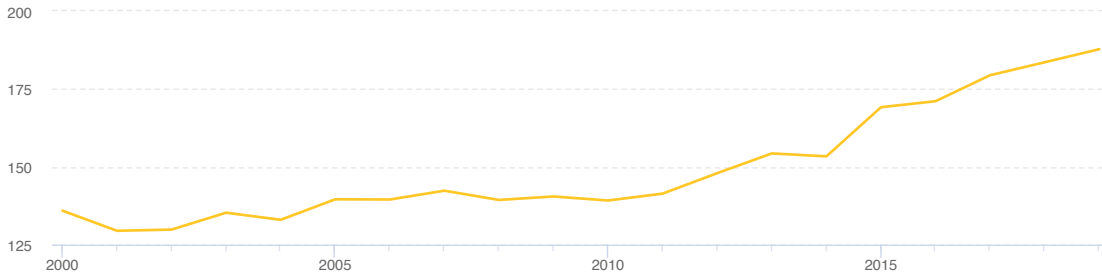
Gross domestic product

US dollars at constant prices (2015) in millions

**GDP per capita
2019**



US\$1 657



**Productive Capacity Index
2018**



27.9

**Economic and environmental vulnerability index
2019**



66

**Consumer Price Index growth
2019**



0.3%

Unemployment rate



**Total 9.3%
Female 5.6%, Male 11.9%**

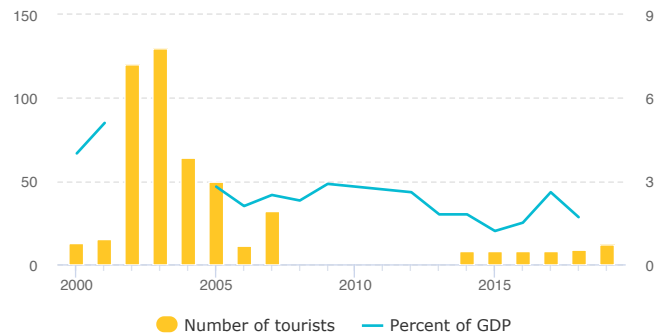
Main economic sectors, 2019
Percentage of GDP



- Services
- Industry
- Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing

Tourist arrivals

Thousands of tourists, percentage of GDP



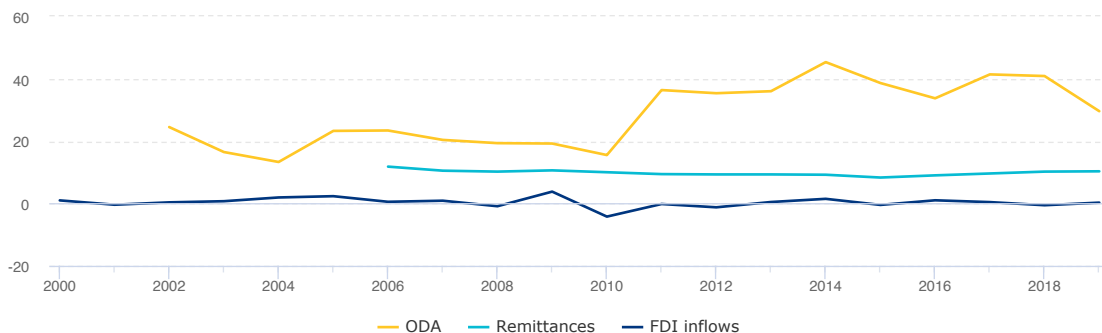
External financial resources
Percentage of GDP

**Public debt as %
of GDP**

2018



64.3%



MARITIME TRANSPORT

Fleet size

Number of ships

Ship type	2011	2019
Total fleet	1 407	1 407
Oil tankers	264	266
Bulk carriers	311	333
General cargo	161	77
Container ships	52	49
Other types of ships	619	682

Port performance

Ranked by 2019 data within SIDS group

Indicators	2019	SIDS Ranking
Number of port calls	41	35
Median time in port (days)	2	4
Average age of vessels	6	35
Average size (GT) of vessels	14 257	20

Container port throughput

2019



52 100 TEU

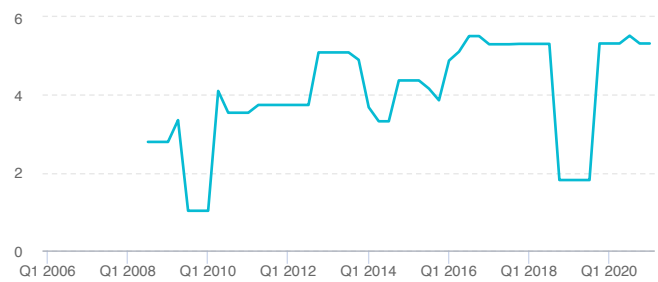
Bilateral connectivity index, 2019

Top 5 partners

No data available

Liner shipping connectivity index

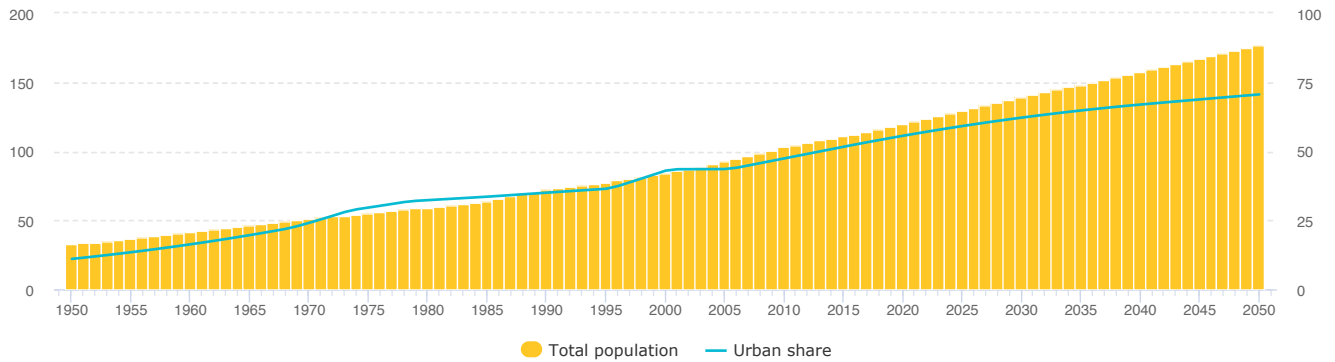
Maximum China Q1 2006=100



POPULATION

Total population

Thousands of people, share of urban population



Population development indicators

Indicators	Period	Value
Poverty headcount (% of population)	2006	12.9
Human development index	2018	0.6
Human assets index	2020	83
Adult literacy rate (15+ years, both sexes %)
Gender inequality index	2010	0.7

Life expectancy at birth

2019



68 years

Population density

2019



145 persons per km²

Dependency ratio

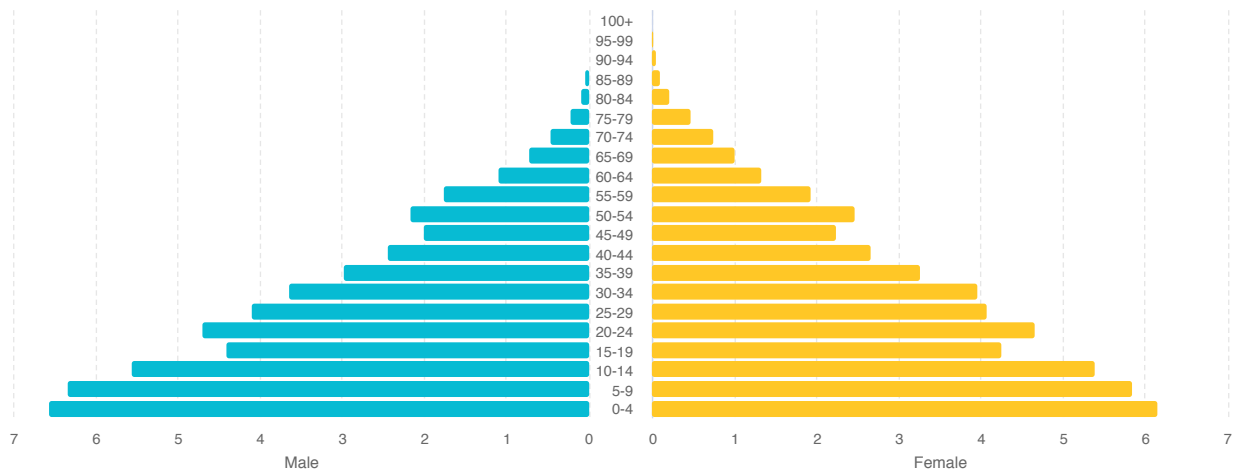
2019



Child: 59.7
Old-age: 6.8

Age structure by gender, 2019

Percentage of total population



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Merchandise and services trade

US dollars in millions

Indicators	2005	2010	2015	2019	2019 (% of GDP)
Merchandise exports	4	4	10	12	6.2
Merchandise imports	74	73	117	132	67.7
Services exports	11	12	16	0	0
Services imports	44	52	82	0	0

**Trade openness
Goods and services**

2018



50% of GDP

Export concentration index

2019



0.83

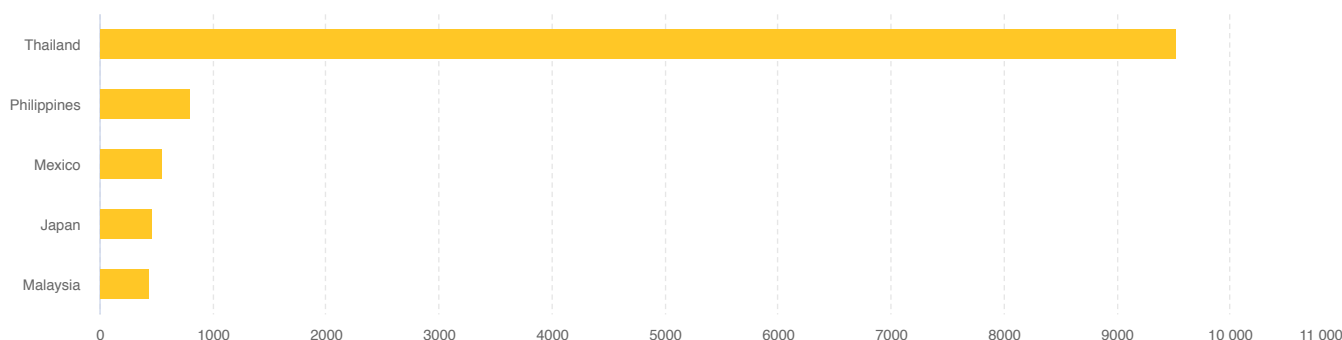
**Food import dependency
Average 2015-2019**



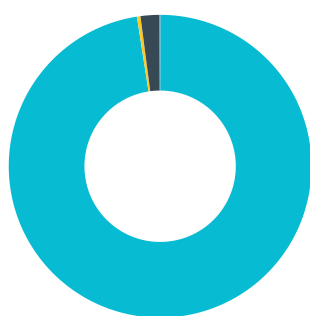
18.40

Top 5 partners in merchandise trade, 2019

Exports in millions US dollars

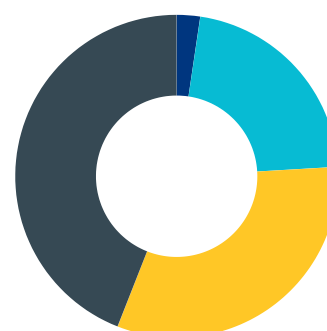


Merchandise exports by product group, 2019



- Agricultural raw materials
- All food items
- Fuels
- Manufactured goods
- Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

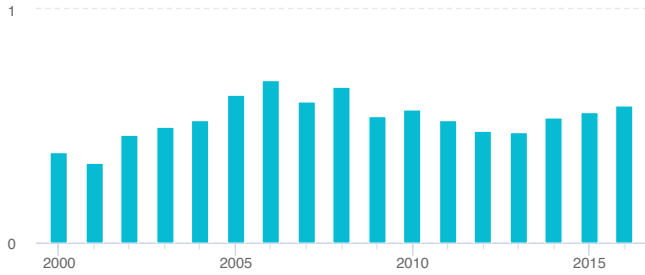
Services exports by category, 2019



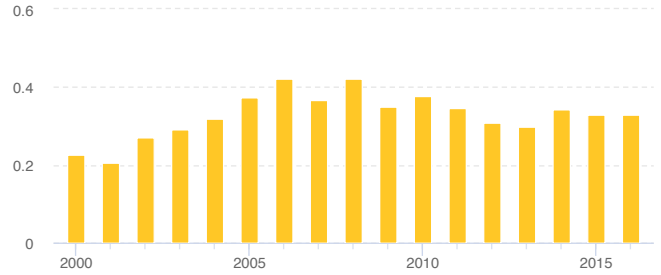
- Financial, insurance, business, intellectual property
- Transport
- Travel
- Other

ENVIRONMENT

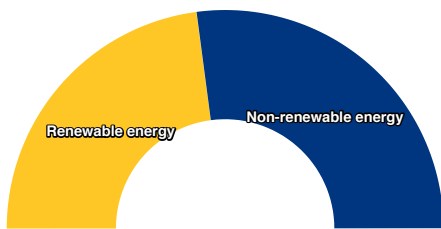
CO₂ emissions per capita
Kg per capita



CO₂ emissions per GDP
Kg per 2010 US\$ of GDP



Renewable energy share in total energy consumption, 2017
Percentage of total energy consumption



Material footprint per capita
2016



Terrestrial protected area
2018



Marine protected area
2018



Disasters indicators

Data not available

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Trade in ICT goods
2016



Exports: 0.1%
Imports: 5.6%

Trade in ICT services
2014



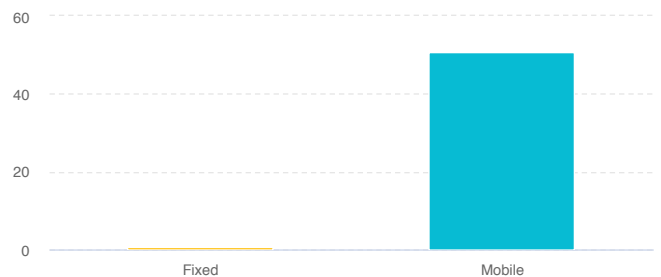
Exports: 2.9%
Imports: 0.0%

Share of internet users
2017



15%

Fixed broadband vs Mobile broadband subscriptions
Number of subscriptions per 100 people



Sources

Source of data: UNCTAD (2021) except indicators listed below.

- Adult literacy rate: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021)
- Arable land: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.ZS>
- CO₂ emissions per capita: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>
- CO₂ emissions per GDP: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- Distance to nearest neighbour: [NO_PRINTED_FORM] (Package “cshapes,” 2016) <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/index.html>
- Economic losses due to disasters: United Nations (2021) https://www.sdg.org/datasets/e3adb2406c2e452b81c3654e276fc5ca_0
- Exclusive economic zone: Sea Around Us (2016) <http://www.seararoundus.org/>
- Fixed broadband/mobile subscriptions: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Forest area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.FRST.ZS>
- Gender inequality index: UNDP (2020). Gender inequality index (GII), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>
- Human assets index: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021) <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>
- Human development index: UNDP (2021) <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>
- Life expectancy at birth: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- Marine protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.MRN.PTMR.ZS>
- Material footprint: UNEP (2021) https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1
- Number of people affected by disasters: United Nations (2021) https://www.sdg.org/datasets/1beb260e9ca14674b391b815e4874990_0
- ODA: OECD (2021) <https://stats.oecd.org>
- Percentage of population in low elevated coastal zones: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.EL5M.ZS>
- Poverty headcount ratio: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.DDAY>
- Renewable energy share in total energy consumption: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.KD.GD>
- Share of internet users: ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- Terrestrial protected area: World Bank (2021) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ER.LND.PTLD.ZS>
- Tourism: UNWTO (2020) Compendium of Tourism Statistics dataset [Electronic], UNWTO, Madrid, data updated on 21/09/2020.
- Unemployment rate, total/female/male: ILO (2020) https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer2/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=SDG_0852_SEX_AGE_RT_A
- World risk index: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020): <https://weltrisikobericht.de/download/1386/>

References

- Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2020). Available at <https://weltrisikobericht.de/> (accessed 20 January 2021).
- ILO (2020). Unemployment rate. Available at https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_UR_EN.pdf (accessed 15 June 2020).
- ITU (2019). World telecommunication/ICT indicators database. Available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx> (accessed 28 May 2020).
- OECD (2021). OECD Statistical Database. Available at <https://stats.oecd.org/> (accessed 6 June 2020).
- Package “cshapes” (2016). Available at <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/cshapes/cshapes.pdf> (accessed 1 November 2020).
- Sea Around Us (2016). Tools & Data. Available at <http://www.seararoundus.org/data/#/eez/> (accessed 8 November 2020).
- UN DESA (2020). Economic and environmental vulnerability indicators. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/evi-indicators-ldc.html> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- UNCTAD (2021). UNCTADStat. Available at <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Index.html> (accessed 11 January 2021).
- UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index (GII). Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii> (accessed 17 January 2021).
- UNDP (2021). HDI database. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi> (accessed 9 February 2021).
- UNEP (2021). 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. Available at https://environmentlive.unep.org/indicator/index/12_2_1 (accessed 13 January 2021).
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2021). Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/> (accessed 15 March 2021).
- United Nations (2021). Global SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> (accessed 2 April 2021).
- UNWTO (2020). *Compendium of Tourism Statistics, Data 2014-2018, 2020 Edition*. UNWTO. Madrid.
- UNWTO (2021). UNWTO database. Available at <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-statistics-data> (accessed 10 February 2021).
- World Bank (2020). Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Data based on observations for 1991-2016. Available at <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org> (accessed 13 November 2020).
- World Bank (2021). World Development Indicators. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators> (accessed 8 November 2020).