NOVEMBER 2025

Arthur MILLS, co-owner of the Mudrenicagi organic learning farm, benefiting from the Kiwa POLFN project, Fiji – N.JOB @ Kiwa Initiative - Nov 2025

2025 5th ANNIVERSARY

KIWA INITIATIVE

Nature-based solutions for climate resilience

# Kiwa Initiative
# Update of the projects

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

SPREP

IUCN

THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY :

EUROPEAN UNION

France

AFD

In partnership with Canada

Australian Aid

NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

# KIWA INITIATIVE

## Nature-based Solutions for climate resilience

View of the Naivaka village benefiting from the Kiwa EMPOWER project - N'JOB @ Kiwa Initiative - Nov 2025

### A CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND BIODIVERSITY FOCUS

Launched in March 2020, the Kiwa Initiative aims to strengthen climate resilience of the Pacific Island ecosystems, economies and communities by promoting and supporting Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

### A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP IN THE PACIFIC

The Kiwa Initiative, endowed in May 2025 with €77M, is an unprecedented cooperation between France (€39,7M), the European Union (€19,9M), Canada (€10,9M), New Zealand (€2,9M) and Australia (€3,6M). Key pacific regional organisations are also involved as implementing partners: the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-ORO). The Initiative is managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), with the support of the Kiwa Initiative Secretariat.

### AN EXTENSIVE GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Eighteen Pacific Island Countries and Territories are eligible to the Kiwa Initiative, including the 3 French overseas territories - New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis-and-Futuna - thanks to France's contribution. Through Calls for projects, the Kiwa Initiative supports regional projects (involving at least two countries and/or territories) and local projects.

### A GOVERNANCE GUIDED BY THE PACIFIC SPIRIT OF "TALANOA"

The Steering Committee brings together the five donors and three representatives of the Pacific Island countries and territories (for Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia) as voting members. All decisions are taken by consensus among the voting members through an open, participative and transparent dialogue.

## IN 2025...

### 9 TO 12 REGIONAL PROJECTS

Out of 96 regional concept notes received since 2020, through five calls for regional projects, nine regional projects are ongoing. Moreover, three new projects have been selected in 2025 following the last Call for regional projects closed in December 2024.

### 32 LOCAL PROJECTS

Out of 175 project proposals received following the 2021 Call for local projects, 17 have been launched (small to medium grants). 166 proposals have been submitted to the 2023 Call for local projects, and 15 new local projects have been selected in 2025.

### 17 PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES REACHED

The Kiwa Initiative, through its already funded projects, currently supports 17 countries and territories out of the 18 eligible (Tokelau is not reached yet).

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# Map of Kiwa Initiative's regional & local projects - November 2025

| Sub-Region | Country / Territory | Regional projects | | | | | | | Local projects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MELANESIA + TIMOR-LESTE | Fiji | POLFN | PEBACC+ | WISH+ | INSPIRE | RESTORE | EMPOWER | | cChange Pacific<br>C3 Fidji<br>MoWE<br>National Trust of Fiji |
| | New Caledonia | | PEBACC+ | | | | | RESICO | AGIR<br>CaledoClean<br>Conservatoire Botanique<br>Dayu Biik<br>Hô-üt<br>Province Nord<br>WWF France |
| | Papua New Guinea | | | WISH+ | | | | | DIKA SUNA<br>KGWan<br>KUP |
| | Solomon Islands | POLFN | PEBACC+ | WISH+ | | | EMPOWER | | BirdLife International<br>Guadalcanal |
| | Timor-Leste | | | | | RESTORE | | | Blue Ventures<br>PERMATIL<br>RELOKA |
| | Vanuatu | | PEBACC+ | | | | | RESICO | LAMACCA<br>VCan |

| Sub-Region | Country / Territory | Regional projects | | | | | Local projects |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MICRONESIA | Federated States of Micronesia | | | MiCOAST | | WOMEN's WORK | |
| | Kiribati | | | | | | MELAD |
| | Marshall Islands | | | MiCOAST | | WOMEN's WORK | |
| | Nauru | POLFN | | MiCOAST | | | |
| | Palau | | INSPIRE | MiCOAST | | WOMEN's WORK | Ebill Society<br>PCS |
| POLYNESIA | French Polynesia | | INSPIRE | | | | Moorea Biodiversité<br>Moorea Biodiv.<br>Pu Tahi Haga no Ganaa<br>THS |
| | Niue | | | | | | Vaiku'a |
| | Samoa | | INSPIRE | | RESTORE | | SCS |
| | Tonga | POLFN | | | | | TNYC |
| | Tuvalu | | | | | EMPOWER | |
| | Wallis-and-Futuna | PEBACC+ | | | | | STE |

# Icon description

## Themes

Integrated Watershed Management

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Coastal ecosystem management and Restoration

Terrestrial ecosystem management and restoration

## Co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

Food security

Socio-economic resilience

Human health

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

Disaster Risk reduction

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

# REGIONAL PROJECTS

KIWA INITIATIVE | POLFN Pacific Organic Learning Farms Network | POETCom

**Project Lead:** The Pacific Community (SPC – Fiji)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

May 2021 – June 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 4,600,000**

**Theme**

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

**Main Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Socio-economic resilience

Food security

In the Pacific, conventional farming methods like mono-crop systems (e.g. taro or kava production) are degrading soils and water resources, and harming local biodiversity. Additionally, traditional farming knowledge is being lost and deforestation continues to increase as people seek more fertile land.
The Kiwa POLFN project aims to **build an Organic Learning Farms Network** for small-scale farmers to **promote agroecological practices and restore soils and biodiversity**, for productions like root crops, coconut, vanilla, garden crops as well as seeds and seedlings for fruits and vegetables.

**Specific objectives include:**

- Establish environmentally sustainable and economically viable **Organic Learning Farms**.
- Train **First Circle Farmers** and support them in organic and agroecological practices (composting, mixed cropping, agroforestry, etc.).
- Develop **market mechanisms**, such as collective honey production and supply of Honiara's demand for organic products.
- Improve access to **knowledge and regional learning**, e.g. farmers to learn how to produce their own seeds on-farm.

POLFN farmers and team members in an agroforestry plot during a regional workshop, Momi, Fiji - N. JOB © Kiwa Initiative – Nov 2025

**Subregion:** Melanesia/Timor-Leste | Micronesia | Polynesia


**Fiji**
- 212 direct beneficiaries

**Tonga**
- 296 direct beneficiaries

**Solomon Islands**
- 223 direct beneficiaries

**Nauru**
- 41 direct beneficiaries

**Fiji**
- Locations: 2 organic learning farms (OLFs), Navuso Technical Institute* and Mudrenicagi farm, in Vitilevu and Vanualevu Islands
- Partners: Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community, Ministry of Agriculture

**Tonga**
- Locations: 2 OLFs, Ovava and Mahuleva farms, in Tongatapu and Vava'u islands
- Partner: Tonga National Youth Congress

**Solomon Islands**
- Locations: 2 OLFs, Zai Na Tina and Gwaunafiu farms, in Guadalcanal province and Malaita Island
- Partner: Kastom Gaden Association

**Nauru**
- Location: 1 OLF, Max Dowedia's farm*
- Partner: Department of Environment, Management and Agriculture

**Following the mid-term review of the project, POLFN's support to these two farms mainly consists, since March 2025, in networking and knowledge sharing.*

**Key results to date:**

- **Establishment of 5 Organic Learning Farms as demonstration hubs:** Mudrenicagi farm in Fiji was equipped with a **multipurpose hall for trainings** and a newly built chicken coop for commercial production, with an integrated compost facility to reduce external inputs.
  - Zai Na Tina farm in the Solomon Islands expanded its agroforestry and poultry systems, and integrated **composting and biogas units** to convert waste into energy.
  - Mahuleva farm in Tonga showcased compost production and **produced seedlings** (breadfruit, banana, etc) for its surrounding first circle farmers.
- **Farmer Cluster Support: 771 farmers** are supported through 29 clusters in 12 different islands.
  - **Farmer field schools** were organized in Fiji and Tonga, with 41 farmers trained, enhancing the skills and training capacity at the local level.
  - A vermicompost training in Solomons equipped 35 farmers, NGOs, students and extension officers with skills to carry out their own waste recycling and soil health management practices.
- **Training & capacity building:** In 2025, **210 farmers** participated in 13 training sessions, all of them on-farm (187 farmers were trained in 2024).
  - **Gender equity** and youth participation in organic agriculture are supported, with this incentive: "come to the training session accompanied by a woman".
- **Market Development and business planning of the Organic Learning farms & clusters:**
  - In Fiji, Mudrenicagi farm and their nearby 17 farmers build a **collective approach**, expanding the 'Wainunu Naturals', a local brand of virgin coconut oil and beeswax products sold at the Savusavu market, also targeting New Zealand and Australia export markets for vanilla products.
  - In Tonga, the first dedicated organic market space (roadside market) was constructed in Tongatapu, providing an outlet for the produce of local farmers. In Vava'u, focus is made on **value-added crop processing** like taro chips and cassava flour as well as **agro-tourism** experiences to improve livelihoods.
  - In the Solomons, an online **weekly organic basket service** is being launched in Honiara.
  - Support to farmer-led organic certification is underway through Participatory Guarantee Systems, with 4 groups established in the 3 countries, linking with in-country organic farmer associations.
- **Knowledge Products and Awareness Raising:** Agroecological practices like mulching were showcased at Mahuleva organic farm, where a side event and tour was organised in collaboration with partners from EU-funded PROTEGE project, part of the Pacific Week of Agriculture in Tonga.

"This vermicompost training (how to compost with worms), facilitated by the POLFN project, has shown how earthworms act as the 'intestines' of soil. They help return the goodness of vegetable waste from the farm, back to the plants. It's a simple yet sustainable circle."

Mr. Lionel Maeliu, farmer,
founder of Gwaunafiu organic farmers school (Malaita, Solomons islands).

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KIWA INITIATIVE | PEBACC+ Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Plus | SPREP | Project co-funded by FFEM

**Project Lead:** Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

March 2022 – Oct. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

FFEM €1,800,000

Kiwa €4,000,000

**Themes**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Socio-economic resilience

Disaster Risk reduction

Resilience of Pacific Island Countries and Territories heavily relies on preserving their ecosystems and the services they provide; these ecosystems being particularly vulnerable to climate change.
PEBACC+ project seeks to **strengthen the resilience of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, economies, and communities** to the impacts of climate change in Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Wallis-and-Futuna.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Strengthen **Ecosystem-based Adaptation** (EbA) like reforestation of degraded agricultural land, and urban greening as a climate change adaptation strategy.
- Integrate the approach in **public policies**, for example introducing natural resource conservation into national land use and development planning.
- Strengthen the **regional cooperation** among Pacific Countries and Territories on EbA by sharing experiences and lessons learned, such as how to replant mangroves to reduce coastal erosion.

PEBACC+ NbS intervention in Ouvea, New Caledonia – F. TRON © Kiwa Initiative – 2025

**Subregion:** Melanesia/Timor-Leste | Micronesia | Polynesia


**Fiji**
- 8,864 direct beneficiaries

**Solomon Islands**
- 1,805 direct beneficiaries

**Vanuatu**
- 4,015 direct beneficiaries

**New Caledonia**
- 757 direct beneficiaries

**Wallis-and-Futuna**
- 80 direct beneficiaries

**Fiji**
- Locations: Taveuni island (Wainikeli, Vuna and Cakaudrove) and Vanua Levu island (Savusavu)
- Partner: Ministry of Forestry

**Solomon Islands**
- Locations: Guadalcanal province (Honiara Botanical Garden and Barana Heritage park) and Malaita province (Eliote, Oriore, and Tapaatewa communities)
- Partner: Ministry of Forestry

**Vanuatu**
- Locations: Efate island (Tagabe) and Tanna island (16 communities in Lenakel and Port Resolution)
- Partner: Department of Forests

**New Caledonia**
- Locations: Noumea, Mont Dore and Kouaoua municipalities, and Ouvea Island
- Partners: Northern Province, Southern Province, Loyalty Islands Province authorities

**Wallis-and-Futuna**
- Locations: Wallis (Utufua, Levahau, Falaleu and Ahoa villages) and Futuna (Vaisei and Fiua villages)
- Partner: Department of Environment (Service Territorial de l'Environnement)

**Key results to date:**

- **Ecosystem Restoration and Reforestation:** **4,214 hectares of forests, mangroves, coastline and riverbanks** were restored across the five project countries and territories.
- **Agroecology and Sustainable Land Management:** **188 farmers** were trained, 17 agroecology model farms supported and 28 hectares of demo sites set up, with a focus on the agroforestry approach.
- **Community Engagement and Gender Inclusion:** In Taveuni, 4 women's groups were supported to establish poultry projects (chicks, chicken feed and houses, trainings), enhancing **women's economic empowerment**, as well as integrated waste use (the chicken manure goes back to farming and reforestation activities).
  - Some landowning units demonstrate strong ownership as they start replanting and sourcing their own seedlings for reforestation.
- **Integration of Ecosystem-based approach into policies and strategies**: Policy advocacy trainings gathered 26 Provincial office advisors and conservation officers across 14 Provinces of Fiji.
  - PEBACC+ supported the development of the **Natural Resources and Environmental Use and Management Policy** in Fiji, and the **National Policy Framework Assessment for Forestry and Coastal Resilience** in Vanuatu.
- **Strategic Planning and Ecosystem resilience analysis (ESRAM):** The study conducted in Malaita (Solomon Islands), New Caledonia and Wallis-and Futuna, highlighted **mangrove and coastal rehabilitation** as one of the common priority EbA.
  - ESRAM results are being considered for integration into the Climate Change Adaptation Operational Roadmap of both French-speaking Territories.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** **897 participants** were trained in mangrove planting/restoration, forestry, agroforestry, feral deer management and community-based water resource monitoring.
  - Following **write workshops**, concept notes for 3 Fiji sites are submitted to GEF Small grant programme (October 2025 call).
  - In August 2025, a **field visit and peer exchange** was organized in New Caledonia with Wallis-and-Futuna participants about mangrove restoration and coastal vegetation rehabilitation, strengthening stakeholders' operational capacities and showcasing successful NbS approaches.

"As a community deeply connected to our land and sea, we in Ouvéa, understand that protecting our coastlines is not only about preserving our environment but also our culture, livelihoods, and way of life. At the municipal level, we are proud to support project implementation that reflects both scientific and traditional knowledge, within a regional collaborative setting. What is happening in Ouvéa proves that local communities can lead the way in climate resilience when they are empowered and supported."

Mr. Karyl Treniwa, Ouvéa Municipality, New Caledonia

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KIWA INITIATIVE

**WISH+**
Watershed Interventions for Systems Health Plus

WCS

**Project Lead:** Wildlife Conservation Society

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – April 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

Co-funding €1,800,000

Kiwa €5,450,000

**Theme**

Integrated Watershed Management

**Main Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

Human health

In Melanesia, watersheds face many pressure factor issues like upstream erosion, deforestation and pollution, that can have consequences on downstream coral health as well as lead to more water-related human diseases. The objective of the project is to **implement Integrated Watershed Management for better human and ecosystem health**, while improving systems health management through decision-support tools, **long-term sustainable financing** and effective public policy.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Implementation of **watershed interventions** (like reforestation and establishment of protected areas) to improve systems health.
- Scaling and sustainably **financing Integrated Watershed Management** (e.g. via a Conservation Trust Fund).
- **Knowledge sharing** to seed regional replication of innovations, like the organization of a Planetary Health forum in the Pacific.


Water and Sanitation Safety Planning in Kuzi, Kolombangara, SI – WCS SI © Kiwa Initiative – Sept 2025

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Fiji**
- 4,030 direct beneficiaries

**Solomon Islands**
- 1,780 direct beneficiaries

**Papua New Guinea**
- 3,334 direct beneficiaries

**Fiji**
- Locations: Vanua Levu Island, 13 communities in Bua Province, in Dama and Kubulau districts - Ovalau Island, 13 communities in Bureta and Lovoni districts

**Solomon Islands**
- Locations: Kolombangara Island, 8 communities of Lolobo, Kolbangara-Babatana, Kolbangara-Madeatungu, and Kiuwai-Viuru landowning groups

**Papua New Guinea**
- Locations: 7 communities in the Great Central Forest of Manus Island

**At regional scale**
- Partners: University of Sydney, University of Queensland

**Key results to date:**

- **Baseline monitoring** of water quality and coral reef health was completed. Results show that community-driven forest conservation initiatives function as effective Nature-based Solutions, helping to maintain watershed health and reduce the risk of water-related diseases.
- **Actions to improve systems' health**
  - In the 3 countries, a total of 45 community-level **Water and Sanitation Safety Plans** (WSSPs) were established, identifying Nature-based Solutions (e.g., reforestation, fencing cattle outside catchment areas, protected areas) and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions (e.g., improved sanitation, installation of rainwater tanks and upgrade of dams) to be implemented.
  - **In Fiji**, 13,000 trees were planted across 45 ha of high-erosion areas and waterway buffer zones. Dam and water distribution systems were upgraded in four communities, resulting in improved access to water for 490 beneficiaries.
    Ecosystem-based Management plans are being developed to manage **18,000 ha of watersheds**.
  - **In Papua New Guinea**, 10 **conservation deeds** are being developed to protect large tracks of the Great Central Forest of Manus. Maintaining and enhancing natural systems buffers project communities against climate impacts: healthy ecosystems within protected areas help regulate hydrological cycles, improving the availability and quality of water during dry periods and reducing sedimentation and turbidity after heavy rainfall in project watersheds
  - **In Solomon Islands**, 3 **protected areas** are being established in Kolombangara Island on forests recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area, hosting some of Solomon Islands' most iconic species. Rangers were trained in protected area management, communication and field data collection.
    A community nursery is established for restoring degraded forests around water sources.
- **Scaling and sustainably financing integrated watershed management**
  - A foregone cost study has quantified the economic and social costs of poor watershed management in Fiji, and a feasibility assessment has supported the design of operational and governance systems for a proposed **Fiji Watershed Fund**.
  - In Papua New Guinea, the Biodiversity and Climate Fund is supported by the Kiwa WISH+ project to become an independent, legally established Conservation Trust fund.
- **Knowledge sharing to seed regional replication of innovations**
  - The **Oceania Planetary Health Forum** was organized in February 2025 in Fiji
  - The WISH+ approach was showcased at regional and global policy dialogues in 2025, including at the World Water Week (Sweden) and the Planetary Health Alliance Meeting (The Netherlands).

"I would like to thank the Ministry of Forestry and WCS Fiji for taking the initiative to plant trees on our land, which was once considered bare land. Planting trees not only beautifies the environment but also helps restore soil fertility. We're especially grateful for the inclusion of diverse species, including the fruit trees we requested. It's great to see so many native seedlings being planted today."

Mr. Akuila Gaunavou, Lovoni village (Fiji),
community member directly benefiting from Kiwa WISH+ project

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# INSPIRE

INvasive SPecies management for Resilient Ecosystems

**Project Lead:** BirdLife International

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

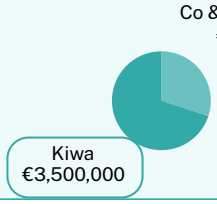
Socio-economic resilience

Human health

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2023 – June 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**



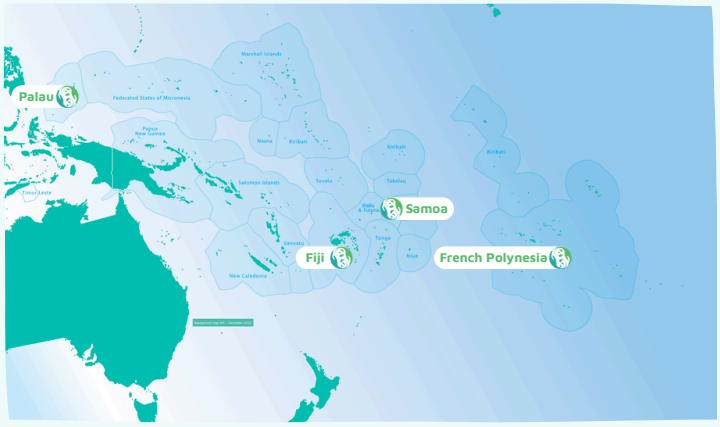

Pacific Islands with remote areas face severe threats from invasive species, which harm biodiversity, agriculture, and livelihoods, with these impacts worsened by climate change.
The Kiwa INSPIRE project aims to enhance **Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management** as a Nature-based Solution (NbS) to improve ecosystem resilience and support climate change adaptation for people and nature across five key biodiversity sites in the Pacific. The project will ultimately seek to **protect biodiversity, secure livelihoods, and foster regional learning networks** to address these intertwined challenges while promoting gender equality and social inclusion.

**Specific objectives:**

- **ACTION**: Implement effective IAS management through biosecurity and control of these species at projects sites, with the engagement of local stakeholders.
- **LEARNING**: Enhanced awareness, knowledge and application of effective IAS management at local, national and regional levels through regional peer-learning networks.
- **INFLUENCING**: Widespread adoption and implementation of effective IAS management by governments, communities, agencies and donors as an essential component of NbS approaches for climate change resilience.

Members of Samoa Conservation Society collecting data to finalize the baseline survey for Invasive Alien Species management of the Malololelei Conservation Area Reserve, Samoa
Lotomaulalo LEVI © Kiwa Initiative – 2024

**Subregion:** Melanesia/Timor-Leste | Micronesia | Polynesia




**Fiji**
- 952 direct beneficiaries

**French Polynesia**
- 247 direct beneficiaries

**Palau**
- 11,160 direct beneficiaries

**Samoa**
- 5,870 beneficiaries

**Fiji**
- Location: The Navukailagi catchment on Gau island (~1000 ha.)
- Partner: NatureFiji-MareqetiViti

**French Polynesia**
- Locations: The Omoa catchment in Fatu Hiva, cascading to five other Marquesas Islands
- Partner: Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie - Manu

**Palau**
- Locations: The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (~100 200 ha.) and the Kayangel atoll (~140 ha.)
- Partner: Palau Conservation Society

**Samoa**
- Locations: The Gasegase catchment (~485 ha.) on Upolu island, in five communities: Afiamalu, Malololelei, Papaseea, Moamoa and Alafua
- Partner: Samoa Conservation Society

**Key results to date:**

- **Fiji**
  - The Gau Eco-Camp brought together 46 students from five villages for hands-on learning about invasive species, endangered birds, and climate resilience. The women in Gau began developing the first communal drying shed for Voivoi (pandanus), enhancing income stability.
- **French Polynesia**
  - **Over 20,000 miconia plants were removed across 400 ha on Fatu Hiva**, dramatically reducing invasive weed pressure. The first ʻŌmāʻō Keʻekeʻe Festival was held in Omoa Village on Fatu Hiva, engaging children and adults in two days of cultural and educational activities about invasive species and biodiversity — the island's first community-wide awareness event on conservation.
- **Palau**
  - An **Inter-Island Biosecurity Cohort was established**, trained across 16 capability areas (including species ID and biosecurity), creating Palau's first community biosecurity network.
- **Samoa**
  - The Mammal Suppression Operational Plan was developed for the 640 ha Malololelei Conservation Area, providing the first comprehensive framework for controlling feral cats and rats and guiding future restoration work.

***

- **Pacific Ecosystem Resilience Learning (PERL) Network**
  - Established the foundation for the PERL Network to support community-led IAS management through **regional collaboration**, mentoring, and cross-sector knowledge exchange.
- **Other regional environmental coordination**
  - Strengthened regional alignment on IAS management by contributing to key Pacific mechanisms such as SPREP PRISMSS (Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service), the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), and the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT).
- **Policy influence**
  - Advanced a strategic Roadmap to integrate IAS management into NbS policies at local, national, and regional level.

"I believe that species are indicators of not just an ecosystem's or human health, but also of a society and of governance structures in a community. **Conservation requires dialogue, it requires patience, it requires listening to each other.** I think that true conservation is about ensuring that not only can the parents of a child or the elders of a community put food on the table, but also that the system that they live in can continue to support them to do that. **If the species is thriving, the communities too will thrive."**

Ms. Nunia THOMAS-MOKO, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti Director

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# MiCOAST

Micronesian Community-based Fisheries Management as a Nature-based Solution for Coastal Resilience

**Project Lead:** OneReef Worldwide Stewardship

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 4,900,000**

**Theme**

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Co-benefits**

- Food security
- Socio-economic resilience
- Biodiversity conservation
- Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

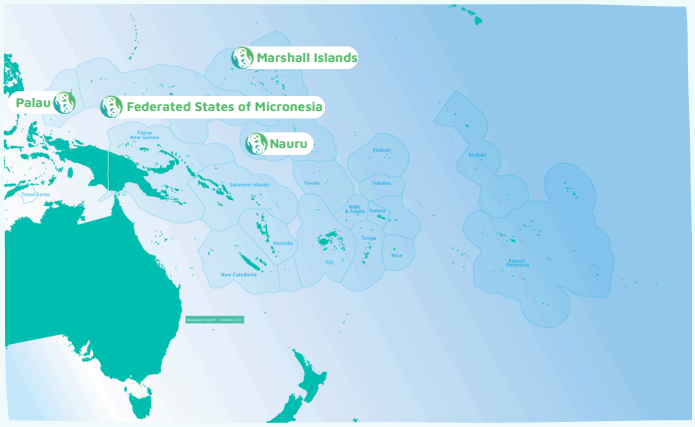
The sustainable management of coastal fisheries is crucial for the resilience of marine resources and the communities that depend on them in the face of climate change. Effective **Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM)** is a critical component of this, as recognized by the adoption and extension of the **Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling Up CBFM: 2021-2030**. In Micronesia, the Kiwa MiCOAST project aims to strengthen and scale the implementation of CBFM and related activities by involving local people in deciding how best to care for their natural environment. This will enhance climate adaptation and resilience, improve food security, and maintain ecosystem services and biodiversity across the Micronesia region.

**Specific Objectives:**

- **Strengthening CBFM actions:** Improve the implementation of community-based fisheries management at specific locations, such as revising management plans, establishing protected areas, improving information and awareness.
- **Enhancing regional understanding and capacity to assess CBFM results:** Build knowledge and skills among people involved in project activities, like training workshops and sharing lessons learned.
- **Promotion and scaling-up of CBFM approaches:** Increase the use and adoption of effective CBFM methods more broadly, such as presenting project results at regional meetings and developing guidance documents.

Community-based giant clam restocking activity as part of the Kiwa MiCOAST "Roots to Reefs" learning event in Palau
L. BRANLANT © Kiwa Initiative - Nov 2025

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ■ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia




**Republic of the Marshall Islands**
- 1,162 direct beneficiaries

**Republic of Nauru**
- 3,139 direct beneficiaries

**Federated States of Micronesia**
- 5,476 direct beneficiaries

**Republic of Palau**
- 663 direct beneficiaries

**Republic of the Marshall Islands**
- Locations: Mili Atoll, Maloelap Atoll, Ujae Atoll, Lae Atoll
- Partner: Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)

**Federated States of Micronesia**
- Locations: Pohnpei State (Kitti,U Municipality, and Madolenihmw), Yap State (Weloy, Gilmaan, and Kanifay Municipalities, and Ngulu Atoll), Kosrae State (Lelu Malem, Utwa, and Tafunsak Municipalities)
- Partners: Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO), OneReef Micronesia, Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP)

**Republic of Nauru**
- Locations: All districts (whole-of-island)
- Partner: Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA)

**Republic of Palau**
- Locations: Hatohobei (Hatohobei Island and Helen Reef), Melekeok and Ngiwal states

**Regional scale**
- Rare and cChange

**Key results to date:**

### Strengthening community-based fisheries management (CBFM) and nature-based solutions (NbS)

- **Marshall islands:** Revised **Ujae and Mili Atoll Resource Management Plans** (Reimaanlok Framework). Developed adaptive fisheries management review tools.
- **Nauru:** Verified **10 district fisheries-management areas via consultations**. Advanced the National Coastal Fisheries Plan and finalized the National CBFM Communication Strategy.
- **Kosrae:** Helped the Kosrae Locally Managed Area Network submit **5 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for official recognition.** Expanded **herbivorous-fish reef monitoring** and conducted **youth outreach for over 400 students.**
- **Pohnpei:** Initiated municipal fisheries management plan reviews for Kitti and U. Advanced household **rabbitfish aquaculture (over 5,000 fish harvested by 11 trained farmers)**. Supported the **"Grow Low" campaign** for soil conservation. Mobilized Savings Clubs for financial literacy.
- **Yap:** Initiated planning for a **state-wide Communication and Information Strategy** to scale CBFM. Planned **ecological and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) mapping** with Dugor Village.
- **Palau: Documented TEK and women's leadership in fisheries.** Completed **upgrades at the Helen Reef Ranger Station**. Delivered **youth mangrove education and climate-awareness programs.**

### Cross-cutting and capacity building

- **GEDSI Mainstreaming:** 4 partners implementing **GEDSI Action Plans.**
- **Capacity Building:** Trained 50+ practitioners and staff in **adaptive management, GEDSI, and behaviour-change approaches**. Conducted **Behaviour Adoption Training-of-Trainers.**
- **Process & Learning:** Rolled out standardized Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

### Promotion and scaling-up

- Co-sponsored the SPC-FAO Fifth **Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD5)** with 90 delegates from 16 Pacific countries.
- Presented CBFM/NbS results at the **Pacific Islands Oceans Conference.**
- Advanced planning for the **"Roots to Reefs and Beyond"** regional learning event in Palau (November 2025) for 60 practitioners.

"During our behaviour adoption training sessions, we huddled together and exchanged feedback–and we realized why our information campaigns were not working. We were trying to change people's behaviors, but what we were giving was just information. We weren't considering the other factors that influence behavior. It really clicked for me what we now need to focus on."

Trenton Skilling, KCSO. Reflecting on lessons from RARE Behavior Adoption Training of Trainers, Pohnpei (April 2025).

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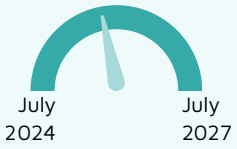
KIWA INITIATIVE

**RESTORE**
Restoring Ecosystems for Sustainable, Transformative and Resilient Communities

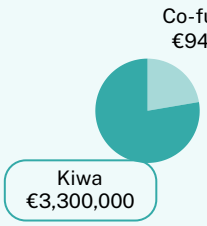
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

**Project Lead:** Conservation International (CI)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**




**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**




**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main Co-benefits**

Food security

Socio-economic resilience

Biodiversity conservation

Disaster Risk reduction

The Pacific Islands are home to over 25,000 islands and unique biodiversity, including more than 10,000 endemic species. The Kiwa RESTORE project focuses on Fiji, Samoa, and Timor-Leste, three countries facing major climate-related challenges such as **coastal erosion, flooding, and reef degradation.** RESTORE promotes **community-based ecosystem restoration** through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), working with local communities to restore **mangroves and coral reefs, stabilize shorelines, and support sustainable livelihoods,** ultimately strengthening resilience to climate change.

**Specific objectives:**

- **Strengthen coastal protection through ecosystem restoration,** by restoring mangroves and coral reefs.
- **Improve sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, with a focus on gender equality,** by supporting indigenous people and women in nature-based livelihoods such as nurseries, aquaculture, and eco-tourism, and improving access to markets and value chains.
- **Enhance regional learning and knowledge exchange on NbS,** by developing information toolkits for communities, hosting regional exchanges, and collaborating with regional organizations to scale best practices across the Pacific.

Members of a community planting mangrove with the Kiwa RESTORE project, Fiji
N.JOB © Kiwa Initiative – Nov 2025

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia


**Fiji**
- 1,073 direct beneficiaries

**Samoa**
- 11,961 direct beneficiaries

**Timor-Leste**
- 390 direct beneficiaries

**Fiji**
- Locations: Rewa Province, Ra Province, Lau Province
- Partner: CI Fiji

**Samoa**
- Locations: Aana Alofi-4, Aiga-le-Tai, Falelatai, and Samatau Districts
- Partner: CI Samoa

**Timor-Leste**
- Locations: Bobonaro and Liquica Districts
- Partners: CI Timor-Leste, Alola Foundation, Konservasaun Flora & Fauna (KFF)

**Key results to date:**

### Ecosystem restoration and livelihoods

**Fiji:**
- **10 hectares of mangroves restored** in Navitilevu Bay (co-financed by DFAT's Fiji Blue Carbon Project).
- **6000 mangrove planter bags potted** in the in-situ nursery (Ra Province).
- **Coral restoration sites identified and 1800 reef stars delivered** (Lau Province).
- **Secured €515,000 contract** (Jobs for Nature Programme, co-financed by DFAT) **to expand community nursery operations.**
- **Beekeeping initiatives expanded** across five communities with new market linkages.
- **Blue Carbon pilot (Navitilevu Bay) nearing final design** for Plan Vivo certification.

**Timor-Leste:**
- **116 hectares of degraded mangrove assessed**; 6.18 Ha targeted for restoration.
- **135 community members** engaged in pre-restoration consultations.
- Socio-economic assessment and livelihood mapping engaged **482 community members in surveys**.
- Four community-based processing groups established, engaging **96 members in livelihood activities**.

**Samoa:**
- Mangrove restoration planning underway.
- **Fifteen communities engaged** through pre-restoration consultations.
- Feasibility assessments for coral restoration ongoing.

### Gender Equity

- **Women** represented **50–65% of all project participants** across all three countries.

### Promote regional learning and knowledge sharing on NbS

- Developing **community-based toolkits on reef and mangrove restoration** for adaptation and distribution to over 150 communities across the three countries.
- A **regional mangrove restoration exchange** (Ra Province, Fiji, November 2024) gathered participants from five countries and partners.
- In Timor-Leste, **climate adaptation radio spots** were produced and broadcast in local languages (co-financed under a MFAT-funded Manaaki project).

"By joining with CI-TL through the Kiwa RESTORE project, we are continuing to plant and restore mangrove. This helps to protect the community living along the coast from strong winds and high tides."

João dos Santos, a member of the Coastal Restoration Group from Batugade Village, Timor-Leste.

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# EMPOWER

Engaging Mobilisation for Positive Outcome in Water, Ecosystem and Resilience

**Project Lead:** Live & Learn Fiji

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Nov. 2024 – Sept. 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 3,050,000**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main Co-benefits**

- Food security
- Socio-economic resilience
- Water resource availability and quality
- Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

Pacific rural areas that rely heavily on farming and fishing are especially vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. In some regions, resources are being overused, threatening the food and water supplies that people in remote communities rely on.

**The Kiwa EMPOWER project helps 24 communities in Fiji, Tuvalu, and the Solomon Islands** adapt to climate change by **restoring natural ecosystems, improving access to food and clean water, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.** The project works closely with local leaders and community members, combining traditional knowledge with inclusive, participatory planning to ensure that everyone - especially women, youth, and people with disabilities - is involved in shaping solutions that meet their needs.

**Specific Objectives:**

- **Nature-Based Solutions Actions:** work with communities to manage forests, coastlines, and water sources, restore mangroves, and promote climate-resilient agriculture such as agroforestry and organic gardening to improve food and water security.
- **Empower Pacific Islands Communities:** train communities to manage natural resources, including sustainable farming techniques. Involve women, youth, and people with disabilities in leading local initiatives.
- **Strengthen Communication and Regional Collaboration:** facilitate learning between countries through exchanges, site visits, and storytelling to spread practical, locally led climate solutions.


During a Kiwa EMPOWER meeting with communities in the Naivaka village, Fiji – N.JOB © Kiwa Initiative - Nov 2025

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia


**Fiji**
- 3,817 direct beneficiaries

**Solomon Islands (remote Islands)**
- 465 direct beneficiaries

**Tuvalu**
- 1,095 direct beneficiaries

**Fiji**
- Locations: Cakaudrove Province (14 villages), Macuata Province (3 villages), Bua Province (3 villages)

**Solomon Islands**
- Locations: Sikaiana Village (Malaita Province), Nifiloli Village (Temotu Province)
- Partner: Live & Learn Solomon Islands

**Tuvalu**
- Locations: Nanumea Island , Niutao Island
- Partner: Live & Learn Tuvalu

**Key results to date:**

- **Implement Nature-Based Solutions**

The EMPOWER project focused on **foundational work for future NbS interventions**. **Baseline surveys** and **integrated management planning** began in all **24 target communities**. **The Fiji baseline survey has been completed**, with work currently progressing in the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

- **Empower Pacific Island Communities**

Significant progress was made in building capacity. Project staff in the **Solomon Islands and Tuvalu received training** on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), restoration, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). This prepared the team to plan and implement community-driven activities efficiently.

The project recruited a GEDSI consultant to conduct a **gender analysis and child protection risk assessment in the three countries**. This survey is in progress and will inform project planning. Thirty-nine project staff and support staff (25 male, 13 female, 1 other) were oriented on GEDSI to mainstream it in the baseline assessment, with two of those oriented being persons with disabilities.

- **Strengthen Communication and Regional Collaboration**

Successful national launch and inception workshops in the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Fiji officially launched the project. These events brought together diverse stakeholders and boosted the visibility and understanding of NbS.

The regional project manager participated in the IUCN BIOPAMA Intra-Pacific learning exchange on protected and conserved areas, strengthening knowledge and regional collaboration on NbS.

The project will continue to emphasize regional coordination and knowledge sharing, with the **regional knowledge and learning portal expected to be fully functional by the end of 2025**. This will ensure lessons are shared and scaled across the region.

"The two sites chosen through this Project are one of the remotest islands in Tuvalu and I thank you for working closely with the Tuvalu Government and our communities in need, I am pleased to say that this Project has my backing. This Project aligns closely with the Government's vision of ensuring sustainable livelihoods, community well-being and sustainable development of Tuvalu and its people through the protection of cultural heritage and values."

Honourable Sa'aga Talu Teafa,
Tuvalu Minister of Natural Resources Development

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# RESICO

Resilience of communities through enhanced crop biodiversity

**Project Lead:** IAC, Institut Agronomique néo-Calédonien

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

May 2025 – Aug. 2028

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

Co-funding €831,680

Kiwa €3,300,000

**Theme**

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

**Main Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

Human health

In Vanuatu and Loyalty islands, traditional agroforestry systems are under pressure, due to rapid socio-cultural shifts, climate change, and a narrow genetic base of root and tuber plants.

The project aims to encourage biodiversity conservation and increase the communities' resilience by **maintaining, promoting and developing these agroforestry systems**, within better managed rural areas.

**Specific Objectives:**

- **Assessment of local knowledge** related to climate risks, food practices, and the role of women in food security.
- **Biosecurity** means improvement (construction of quarantine greenhouses).
- **Agroforestry and biodiversity** enhancement through introduction of new varieties (roots and tubers, bananas, citrus, mango trees, etc.).
- **Participatory mapping** of natural areas and resources.
- **Diseases and pests** management.

Kiwa RESICO partners and beneficiaries gathering in New Caledonia © Kiwa Initiative – Septembre 2025

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Vanuatu**
- 900 direct beneficiaries

**New Caledonia**
- 300 direct beneficiaries

**Vanuatu (9 islands)**

- Locations: Vanua Lava, Santo, Malo, Mallicolo, Pentecost, Ambrym, Epi, Efaté and Tanna
- Partners: Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD); Department of Forests; Biosecurity Department; Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Technical Centre (VARTC); Vanuatu Cultural Center (VKS); Farm Support Association (FSA); CIRAD; IRD/UNC; France Volontaires

**New Caledonia (3 Loyalty Islands)**

- Locations: Lifou, Maré and Ouvéa
- Partners: Province des Îles Loyauté ; Centre d'Appui au Développement Rural Loyaltien (CADRL); CIRAD; IRD/UNC; France Volontaires

**Main activities planned:**

- **Collecting traditional knowledge, assessing gender and food links**
  - Study and documentation of **traditional knowledge** on climate change and cropping systems.
  - Analysis of current dietary practices & local food share, and promotion of local foods (creation, elaboration of recipes and tutorials); debates on their **health and nutritional effects.**
  - Analysis of the **role of women** in organizing agricultural work and decision-making; Social and Women's Inclusion Plan to promote a participatory approach in all project activities.

- **Strengthening quarantine, biosecurity and infrastructures to accommodate (new) agroforestry plant material**
  - Construction of **two quarantine greenhouses** at DARD and VARTC, and training of biosecurity services.
  - Progagation and demonstration plots for agroforestry and fallow land management.
  - Exchange visits between producers and cooperation/training on biosecurity and quarantine.

- **Enhancing agroforestry and biodiversity**
  - Propagation of roots, tubers, banana plants, fruit and nut trees, along with technical support/training.
  - **Distribution of plant material to farmers** trained and supported in agroforestry.

- **Participatory mapping for the management of natural areas and resources**
  - **Participatory mapping** and collection of various data (population, soils, leases, topography, forests, plantations) via GPS, to produce maps for communities and decision-makers.

- **Managing diseases and pests**
  - Evaluation and mapping of the pressures/damage caused by pests and diseases on food crops;
  - Dissemination of **pest control methods,** in line with traditional knowledge.

**Revitalizing agroforestry through the introduction of varietal diversity**

In the region, key food crops - such as bananas, roots and island cabbage - due to their low genetic diversity, have a limited ability to adapt to changing conditions, making the introduction of new, diverse, and resilient plant varieties an urgent priority. The project will introduce improved tuber plant varieties, selected for their adaptive potential, like disease or cyclone resistance. Similarly, tree species (avocado, mango, citrus, etc.) and banana plants will be imported, selecting those best adapted to the socio-cultural context, local conditions, and potential climate changes.

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KIWA INITIATIVE

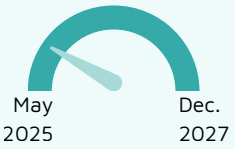
# WOMEN'S WORK

For biodiversity and climate resilience in Micronesia

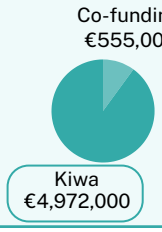
MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST

**Project Lead:** Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**




**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**




**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Food security

Socio-economic resilience

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

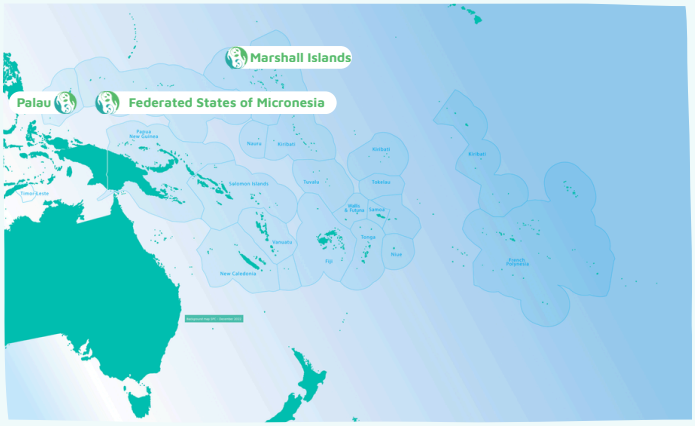
In Micronesia, the "Women's Work" project is helping communities become more resilient to climate change. It empowers women to take the lead in **restoring important natural areas along the coast**, like taro fields, forests, mangrove swamps, and coral reefs, across 28 locations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

**Specific objectives:**

- **Reduce climate vulnerabilities for 20 rural communities on 12 islands** by restoring 40,000 hectares of food-producing habitats, including taro patches, mangroves, reefs, and forests.
- **Build the capacity of 500 women to apply nature-based approaches in food systems and develop women leaders influencing climate action**, by providing training, forming women's groups, and supporting leadership in restoration and inclusive local governance.
- **Amplify women's voices in decision-making processes, and improve their access to sustainable livelihoods,** through adaptation plans, the Women's Climate Network, and support for income-generating activities such as agriculture and nursery management.

A mum and her daughter from a women's group involved in the Kiwa WOMEN'S WORK project restoring taro fields in Ngetbong village, Ngardmau state, Palau – M.CHARLES © Kiwa Initiative - Nov 2025

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ■ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia




**Federated States of Micronesia**
- 2,018 direct beneficiaries

**Marshall Islands**
- 76 direct beneficiaries

**Palau**
- 153 direct beneficiaries

**Federated States of Micronesia**
- Locations: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae
- Partners: Chuuk Women's Council, Chuuk Conservation Society, Kosrae Safety & Conservation Organization, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, KOWHA, Yap Community Action Program, Yap Christian High School

**Marshall Islands**
- Locations: Aur, Namu, Wotho
- Partner: Marshall Islands Conservation Society

**Palau**
- Locations: Aimeliik, Ngardmau, Ngatpang, Ngeremlengui
- Partners: Governments of these States

**At regional scale**
- Partner: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

**Key results to date:**
Inception workshops were successfully completed in all four FSM States (Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae), RMI and in Palau between September and October 2025.

**Main activities planned:**

### Reduce climate vulnerabilities in 20 communities
- Conduct inception workshops and participatory consultations with each community.
- Develop and implement **20 community-specific NbS Action Plans**.
- **Restore and expand 40,000 hectares of shallow coastal ecosystems** including taro patches, mangroves, agroforests, and nearshore reefs.
- Set up **community-based monitoring systems** for restored ecosystems.

### Build the capacity of 500 women and foster leadership
- Establish and train **20 women's groups** on climate change adaptation, nature-based solutions, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Organize targeted **technical workshops on NbS** (e.g., mangrove planting techniques, sustainable taro cultivation).
- Identify and mentor **20 emerging women leaders** through leadership development programs.
- Facilitate participation of women leaders in local, national, and regional climate and food security forums.

### Institutionalize women's knowledge and improve access to livelihoods
- Facilitate the **Women's Climate Network** to promote knowledge sharing and support peer learning.
- Collect and document **traditional ecological knowledge** and women's experiences in climate resilience.
- Develop communication materials (e.g., videos, storybooks) highlighting women's contributions to ecosystem restoration and food security.
- Facilitate small grants for women-led sustainable livelihood initiatives aligned with NbS.

**Empowering women and bridging gender gaps in climate leadership**
This project is centered on food security sectors. WOMEN's WORK specifically targets historically marginalized groups and promotes traditional ecological knowledge transfer across generations.

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# LOCAL PROJECTS

KIWA INITIATIVE

**Upscaling community-based NbS using innovative national information strategy and behavioural change approaches in Fiji**

cChange

**Project coordinator :** cChange Pacific

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 — March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 159,163**

Fiji's coastal ecosystems are increasingly at risk from climate change and unsustainable resource use. While Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) is a proven strategy to sustainably manage marine resources, it has historically been too expensive and complex to scale across the country.

Building on regional learnings, this project aims to overcome that barrier by empowering coastal communities in Fiji through low-cost information and outreach approaches, so that they can self-facilitate inclusive local dialogues for sustained coastal resource management. Combined with the national rollout of "4FJ" Talanoa Toolkits and the training of local facilitators, the project will empower communities to independently plan, manage, and protect their marine resources, contributing to stronger climate resilience, improved food security, and healthier ecosystems.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Distribute Talanoa Toolkits (dialogue tools supporting CBFM) to over 50% of Fiji's coastal communities.
- Support six pilot communities to implement the 4FJ Fisheries Management model (a CBFM approach), including establishing marine protected areas and sustainable fishing rules.
- Build lasting government and local partner capacity to deliver a national information strategy long-term.

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

Socio-economic resilience

Led by the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, partners launch the 4FJ Talanoa Toolkit aboard the Uto Ni Yalo, which will help deliver the facilitation tools nationwide - R. LOVO © Kiwa Initiative

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Fiji**

2 pilot sites, with 3 villages each:

- Lau: Sawana, Susui, Urone.
- Macuata: Nabubu, Lakeba, Visoqo.

**Beneficiaries:**

- The project will directly engage 6 communities in Lau and Macuata provinces, with a total population of 726 (Lomaloma District: 336 people; Namuka District: 390 people).
- Through a light-touch CBFM approach, the project aims to share lessons and raise awareness amongst 50% of Fiji's ~425 coastal communities, amounting to a total of about 132,640 people.

**Main activities planned**

The project builds upon the "4FJ Fish Smart" campaign to strengthen community-based fisheries management, through:

- **National information strategy & outreach**

Establish and support a government-led National NbS Information Distribution Network; produce and distribute NbS Talanoa Toolkits (booklets, videos, posters); conduct media outreach (news, radio, social media); engage the private sector (fishers, sellers); and monitor and evaluate reach and impact.

- **Pilot Do-It-Yourself CBFM model for communities to pursue management without an external partner, focusing on local species of concern**

Secure commitments from 6 communities; train community champions from all user groups to facilitate discussions and collect fish catch data of species of concern; analyse data and provide recommendations; support communities in adopting rules (e.g., MPAs, fishing rules); get Ministry of Fisheries support to ensure rules are in fishing licenses; assess effectiveness.

- **Build the capacity of government officers to lead the 4FJ low-cost national campaign long-term**

Ensure officers from the Ministry of Fisheries and iTaukei Affairs can use support national media and social media; distribute Talanoa Toolkits and create community dialogues; support community species of concern management; and build private sector engagement programs that build trust, compliance and partnership up and down the market chain.

Support ministries in mainstreaming the approach into their existing programs and advocating for dedicated budget allocations.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

Protecting coastal fisheries is essential for the well-being, food security, and cultural identity of Pacific Island communities. This project takes a strategic and innovative Nature-based Solutions (NbS) approach by focusing on enabling communities to take ownership of their marine resources. Rather than funding site-specific interventions, the project builds the systems—tools, information, and capacity—that allow communities to take action themselves.

The approach is grounded in the Pacific Framework for Scaling Up Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM, 2021–2025), and supports communities in adopting sustainable fishing practices, restoring habitats, and establishing locally managed marine areas. By promoting locally-led, inclusive dialogues, the project delivers sustainable outcomes that can help communities safeguard biodiversity, reduce overfishing, and adapt to climate change. It also strengthens government systems and elevates traditional ecological knowledge to support community-led action across the country, while offering a regional model that is inclusive, affordable, and scalable.

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KIWA INITIATIVE

Restoring mangroves for livelihoods in Fiji

**Project coordinator :** Community Centred Conservation (C3 Fiji)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – Mar. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 200,000**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

- Biodiversity conservation
- Socio-economic resilience
- Food security
- Disaster Risk reduction

This project **strengthen coastal resilience in Macuata province** by implementing **community-based mangrove restoration and supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities.**

**Specific objectives**:

- Three target sites in Northern Vanua Levu each host at least one functional, sustainable and legally-recognized **mangrove-dominated Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs).**
- **Restoration of mangrove forest** and associated livelihoods within LMMAs at 3 target sites.
- At least 1,600 community members in Macuata aware of the importance of mangrove forests and LMMAs as Nature-based Solution.

IUCN Kiwa team visiting C3 Fiji project site in Raviravi village
C3 Fiji © Kiwa Initiative - July 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Fiji**

The project is located in 3 target sites in northern Vanua Levu, Fiji, namely Naividamu, Raviravi, and Quaranivai.

**Beneficiaries:**
Over 500 direct beneficiaries in the three target sites

**Key results to date:**

- **A Locally Managed Marine Areas:** a major milestone was achieved with the establishment of a **298-hectare LMMA**, supported with established committees with an emphasis on gender inclusion. This area will help safeguard coastal ecosystems while empowering local communities to manage and protect their resources.
- **Mangrove restoration efforts:** over **10,860 mangroves have been planted** across Raviravi and Naividamu. Additionally, **2 nurseries have been established** with more than **34,000 propagules** ready for future planting, surpassing initial targets and setting the foundation for long-term restoration. Survivability rates have been monitored monthly, and failing plantules are regularly replaced.
- **Community engagement and youth involvement:** the project has actively partnered with Reef Rangers in schools, reaching 131 students through **training in mangrove ecology and climate change awareness.** Collaboration with the Ministry of Youth has extended mangrove conservation knowledge to young people, building a new generation of environmental stewards.
- **Training of conservation ambassadors:** to strengthen community leadership, 15 conservation ambassadors across 3 communities have received training in mangrove ecology and conservation. These ambassadors play a key role in raising awareness and monitoring mangrove health, fostering sustained community involvement.
- **Celebration of environmental days:** community events were held for World Wetlands Day and World Oceans Day, emphasizing environmental awareness and community unity through educational activities.

**Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives:** consultations on potential sustainable livelihoods support were conducted in Qaranivai, Naividamu, and Raviravi, and communities decided on obtaining a community solar fridge to support local fishers selling their catch, and 1 biogas installation to reduce the community's dependency on Mangrove firewood.

**Awareness and Outreach:** a quarterly newsletter, active social media presence, and a dedicated video on mangrove restoration have been used to raise awareness. In addition, 300 T-shirts with conservation messages were distributed, further promoting the project's mission. 15 youth were made aware of the economic value of mangrove ecosystems.

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# Enhancing coastal protection / Nature-based seawalls in Fiji

**Project coordinator :** Ministry of Waterways and Environment (MoWE)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

March 2023 – Dec. 2025

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 326,077**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Socio-economic resilience

Disaster Risk reduction

Coastal communities in Fiji are increasingly exposed to erosion, tidal flooding, and saltwater intrusion driven by sea level rise and climate variability.
The Ministry of Waterways is implementing an integrated **nature-based seawall** project across six vulnerable sites to reduce these risks while restoring local ecosystems and improving livelihoods.
The project goal is to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities, coastal inundation, and erosion through the provision of nature-based seawalls.

**Specific objectives:**

- Strengthen communities and institutions through **awareness and improved knowledge of coastal management.**
- **Reduce the vulnerability of coastal livelihoods and infrastructure to erosion and climate impacts.**
- Establish nature-based seawalls to support **long-term adaptation** and biodiversity restoration.

Planting of vetiver slips, Fiji - MoWE © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Fiji**

6 sites, namely Nakawaqa Village, Vasi Village, Ligaulevu village in Mali Island, along with Somosomo village in Taveuni, Navola village and Navolau in Viti Levu

**Beneficiaries:**
1,455 individuals from 6 villages (including 675 women and 780 men).

**Key results to date:**

The Ministry revised the project scope to improve deliverability. Consultations were completed in Navolau No.1, Somosomo and Navola Village. Awareness efforts continued in Mali Island.

**NbS seawall construction**

- Construction finalised at Navolau 1 Village (100% completed, with backfilling and plantation of vetiver done), and Somosomo Village (90% completed, nearing completion). Consultation in Navola Village has been completed and construction is about to commence.

**Ecosystem restoration and planting**

- Mangrove and vetiver seedlings will be acquired and planted once construction is finalized. Vesi Village completed vetiver planting and mangrove planting.

**Capacity building and training**

- The Ministry initiated local engagement and technical oversight through regular site visits. Community teams were mobilized for planting and shoreline maintenance (backfilling and recovery of lost boulders).

Key next steps include completing consultation for Mali, Ligaulevu and Nakawaqa, complete planting at four sites, complete construction of Somosomo seawall and commence construction work on the sea wall at Navola. The Ministry also plans to produce climate risk and wave action reports for each site.

"It's a wonderful thing (the Nature-based Seawall at Navolau Village 1) to witness and it's something that we- who are here to witness this- will talk about for a while. It'll protect the village and especially our marine resources/ ecosystem."

Ms. Alena Berauwa, beneficiary of the project in Navolau village, Fiji

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KIWA INITIATIVE

**Building coastal resilience - Dune ecosystem**

National Trust of Fiji Islands – our heritage in trust

**Project coordinator :** National Trust of Fiji

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 284,560**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Disaster Risk reduction

Food security

The fertile Sigatoka River Estuary and nearby communities are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as storms, flooding, erosion, and unsustainable coastal resource use, which contribute to agricultural decline, food insecurity, and environmental degradation.
The project addresses these challenges through Nature-based Solutions and **community-led climate adaptation efforts,** including the National Park's "Heritage in Young Hands" (HIYH) Program **which aims to sustainably manage, conserve, and restore the Sigatoka Sand Dunes ecosystem.**

**Specific Objectives:**

- Strengthen the unique dune forest ecology of the Sigatoka Sand Dune ecosystem by **establishing 3 forest restoration demonstration areas, achieving 80% community engagement in agroforestry and reducing the spread of 5 key identified invasive species**
- Reduce degradation of the Sigatoka Sand Dunes ecosystem by **establishing 4 natural fire buffer zones**.
- Reduce climate change impacts through climate adaptation action in agroforestry, agrinusery, waste management, composting, ethnobotany and public awareness through the **Healthy Parks, Healthy Peoples Campaign.**

Volunteers at Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park for International day of forests, Fiji - Sigatoka Sand Dunes © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Fiji**

This project is located in Nadroga-Navosa Province, specifically within the Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park and the communities along its eastern boundary, including the Kulukulu settlement.

**Beneficiaries:**
The Kulukulu settlement has a population of 1,847, with women comprising 52%, children 28%, and youth 15%. The project's indirect impact will extend to the Nasigatoka Tikina, which includes 6 villages with a combined population of 14,338, as well as to Sigatoka town, which has a population of 10,509.

**Key results to date:**

- **Strengthening the unique dune forest ecology of the Sigatoka Sand Dune Ecosystem**
  - Establishment of two tree nurseries inside the park, that will serve the reforestation efforts.
  - Implementing targeted forest restoration interventions **(about ~1,000 trees planted by 9 community groups),** agroforestry practices, and invasive species management.
  - An invasive species management plan is under development, and the Park has begun treating invasive African Tulip trees (Spathodea campanulata) in April 2025.
  - Vegetation distribution maps of plant communities in the National Park have been completed to identify potential areas for reforestation demonstrations.

- **Reducing ecosystem degradation from fires**
  - Reestablishment of the park's **three natural fire breaks** and a **new fire buffer zone** to enhance the protection of dune ecosystems.
  - **A Fire workshop was conducted in March 2025, gathering 20 members of the community** to gather feedback and develop a collaborative Fire Management Policy to mitigate fire-induced ecosystem degradation. The project also enhanced natural fire barriers and buffer zones.

- **Reducing climate change impacts through adaptation actions**
  - Promoting climate adaptation through agroforestry, ethnobotany, and public awareness initiatives, particularly through the National Park's "Heritage in Young Hands" (HIYH) Program, with **fifteen sessions organized to raise awareness amongst 400 youths.**
  - An agroforestry baseline has been established, incorporating soil, crop, and spatial data to prioritize locations for forest restoration and agroforestry interventions in support of the Healthy Parks, Healthy People Campaign.
  - The **agronursery has been completed**, and planting sessions are organized every three months, gathering communities, universities, and international visitors.

"My journey with Nature-based solutions began in 2022 as the Kiwa project volunteer at Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park. I helped maintain firebreaks, replant native species, remove invasives, and worked with other youths through the 'Heritage in Young Hands' program. That experience inspired me. Today, I'm proud to serve as a park ranger, protecting Fiji's unique natural heritage and helping build climate resilience in my community."

Mr. Iliesa Waqanivalu, Kiwa field ranger, Fiji

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# Agroforestry for climate change resilience and food self-sufficiency in Lifou, Mare and Thio, New Caledonia

**Project coordinator :** Agroforestiers engagés pour des initiatives de résilience (AGIR NC)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 99,981**

**Theme**

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

Climate change poses major threats to New Caledonia's food security, particularly through more frequent extreme weather events (such as droughts, floods, and cyclones) that undermine agricultural production. These challenges are further compounded by a difficult political context following the "2024 riots," which have deepened social inequalities. This project aims to strengthen the food autonomy and climate resilience of New Caledonian territories through the development of syntropic agroforestry (high-density) systems. It will serve as a pilot model at the family or tribe level, with the vision of being scaled up and supported by local institutions to create long-term impact.

**Specific objectives:**

- Enhance the climate resilience and biodiversity through 5 agricultural demonstration plots by providing both technical and material support for the implementation of agroforestry systems;
- Empower local project leaders by strengthening their technical skills in agroforestry and reinforcing the network of agroforestry focal points at local and regional levels;
- Improve and disseminate technical knowledge on agroforestry practices to both the farming community and the wider public.

Example of syntropic farming – M. DEAS © Kiwa Initiative

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**New Caledonia**

The project's pilot sites are located in Thio, Southern Province; Lifou and Maré in the Loyalty Island Province of New Caledonia.

**Beneficiaries:**
The project's target group are the five farmers and their families who run the demo plots along with their tribes.

- In Thio, Saint Philippo 1 tribe is composed of 250 people, (45% of women, average age 27).
- In Lifou, Tingeting tribe represent 270 people (50% female, average age 35), Hmeleck tribe 350 people (51% of women, average age 33).
- In Maré, Pénélo tribe has a population of 300 (42% female, average age of 32).

**Main activities planned**

- **Increase the biodiversity and resilience to climate change of 5 agricultural plots totaling 1 hectare**
  - Establish a tree nursery with a capacity of producing 2000 seedlings;
  - Planting of tree consortium (strategic grouping of plants working together to maximize the use of sunlight) on the 5 parcels;
  - Trimming of trees to produce local mulch and better manage sunlight for the crops below.
  - Monitoring of indigenous biodiversity: endemic flora and increase of local fauna: birds, reptiles, ants.
- **Empower project leaders and strengthen their technical skills in agroforestry**
  - Deliver training in agroforestry system design to local leaders and their communities;
  - Develop nursery management skills to produce the forest seedlings needed for the project.
  - Provide expert technical support to ensure effective management of the agroforestry system.
- **Improve and disseminate technical knowledge of agroforestry**
  - Collection of economic-technical data and consolidation of the existing database.
  - Produce a video to better communicate the goal of the project and share accomplishments, challenges, and testimonies with stakeholders.
  - Organization of public participatory plantations and communication to the general public

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**
Syntropic agroforestry is a Nature-based Solution that addresses societal challenges:

- Restoring soils and ecosystems degraded by agricultural or mining activities, by transforming them into productive semi-natural forest environments resilient to extreme climatic events;
- Combat erosion, loss of arable land and degradation of water resources, thereby reducing the vulnerability of populations to food shortages.
- Offset the associated loss of biodiversity.
- Mitigate the effects of climate change by storing carbon in the soil.

The project will also contribute to the country's food security and autonomy through organic regenerative agriculture without imported fertilizers.

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# REFUGE
## Restoring ecosystems for flora, traditional uses, and water management in New Caledonia

**Project coordinator :** CaledoClean

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 100,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

The Vallée de la Coulée is a critical area where forests provide essential ecological services. However, due to the impacts of climate change—such as reduced rainfall—and fires, erosion has increased and the soil's infiltration capacity has decreased, affecting both the availability and quality of water, even reaching the lagoon where sedimentation is smothering the reef.

The project aims to promote a Nature-based Solution that falls into the category of "restoration of degraded ecosystems", and will ultimately contribute to the restoration of vegetation cover essential for soil maintenance and enrichment of the mining scrubland degraded by fire.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Create a patch of "relay" forest to facilitate the reconnection of natural environments and reduce soil erosion
- Raise awareness and involving local communities in preserving forests and the services they provide
- Build local capacity on ecological restoration to involve local actors and multiply high-quality restoration projects

CALEDOCLEAN © Kiwa Initiative

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**New Caledonia**

Vallée de la Coulée, commune of Mont Dore, Southern Province

**Beneficiaries:**
The preservation and restoration of the Coulée valley benefits a wide cross-section of New Caledonia's population, but 300 people will directly benefit from the project:

- Firstly, the association's team of 5 to 8 people has set up professional workcamps, enabling them to acquire skills in environmental preservation fields, and in particular young people to whom the association offers one of their first professional opportunities.
- Secondly, to young people undergoing social and professional reintegration, or even penal reparation, offering them manual activities with a concrete objective.
- Finally, the benefits of this project will reach the inhabitants of the commune of Mont Dore (27,600 inhabitants, 43.5% of whom are under 30 and 49.6% women, divided into 8,500 households), whose main water supply comes from the water catchments located on the Coulée and its tributaries.

**Main activities planned**

- **Create a patch of "relay" forest**
  - Plantation of 8,000 endemic trees to build corridors between residual forests
  - Plantation maintenance and monitoring of biodiversity, including avifauna
- **Raise awareness and involve local communities in preserving forests and the services they provide**
  - Raising awareness through social networks during the planting period
  - Sending targeted invitations to local media
  - Create videos to showcase the actions and participants at the end of the planting.
- **Build local capacity on ecological restoration**
  - Participate in coordination meetings with valley managers and stakeholders to define annual planting sites in synergy with other actions.
  - Disseminate knowledge on the ecological gain and dynamics of the "Japanese step" restoration method

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**
In addition to the direct benefit for biodiversity provided by the planting of trees of species that are uniquely indigenous, or even endemic, to this highly degraded area, this solution meets the challenge of restoring the ecosystem services provided by forests, and in particular that associated with the regulation of water flows and their consequences in terms of:

- Improving infiltration and thus supporting low-water flows,
- Reducing runoff and thus :
- Reducing erosion and its direct effects on the mechanical degradation of water catchment structures (filling of reservoirs, destabilization of banks).
- Reducing the transport of fine sediments into watercourses, degrading river quality with consequences for drinking water, freshwater biodiversity, but also as far as river mouths and effects on marine resources on which part of local communities depends, and the health of coral reefs.

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**BLOSSOM**
**Biodiversity and Landscape restoration for Oceanic islands using Sustainable Strategies and innOvative Methodologies in New Caledonia**

**Project coordinator :** Conservatoire Botanique de Nouvelle-Calédonie

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 400,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Socio-economic resilience

The project sites are experiencing significant ecological degradation due to increased climate variability, notably prolonged droughts, intensified cyclonic events, rising sea levels, and coastal erosion. These climate risks threaten the region's biodiversity and directly impact community livelihoods reliant on local natural resources.
The overall expected result of the project is to significantly enhance terrestrial ecosystem resilience and biodiversity conservation in New Caledonia.

- Perform advanced spatial analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to strategically identify and prioritize restoration areas, effectively guiding ecological restoration interventions and optimizing their impact within targeted provinces.
- Successfully restore and enhance ecological resilience by multiplying and planting adapted sandalwood varieties and a range of endemic and native species with ecosystem and economic co-benefits, covering at least 10 hectares.
- Directly engage and empower at least 500 local community members through targeted training programs, Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) approaches, public awareness campaigns, and participatory restoration activities.

Team of the Kiwa BLOSSOM project in Loyalty islands province – N. RINCK © Kiwa Initiative

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**New Caledonia**

North Province: Koumac communities
Loyalty Island Province: Maré and Lifou Islands

**Beneficiaries:**

- **Local Youth** (~50–60 individuals) will benefit from theoretical and practical trainings on ecological restoration, plant nursery techniques, and leadership development. Many participants will be under 30, aiming to enhance their employability and environmental awareness.
- **Community Nursery Staff and Farmers** (~30–40 individuals): technicians, horticultural specialists, and small-scale farmers will receive capacity building and direct support in seed collection, plant propagation, and field planting.
- **Customary Authorities, Women's Associations, and Local Leaders** (~20–30 individuals): they will participate in planning and decision-making processes, ensuring restoration aligns with traditional governance and gender-inclusive frameworks.
- **Institutional Partners and NGOs** (~20 individuals): provincial officers, municipal staff, education centers (CFPPA, EPIFE), and local NGOs (Endemia, Gardien des Îles) will collaborate on training, ecological monitoring, and outreach.
  - **Estimated total population of targeted municipalities**: ~19,000
  - **Total number of direct beneficiaries:** ~120–150

**Main activities planned**

- **Spatial analysis and prioritization**
  - Research, test, and adapt innovative and sustainable restoration techniques suited to the specific challenges of the oceanic island contexts.
  - Establish and implement a monitoring and evaluation protocol to track the progress and success of restoration actions.
- **Ecological restoration and biodiversity**
  - Operationalize a nursery system capable of multiplying and producing a minimum of 5,000 plants suitable for restoration purposes.
  - Restore by planting adapted sandalwood varieties and diverse endemic/native species with both ecosystem and economic benefits. This restoration effort will cover a minimum of 5 hectares in the Loyalty Islands Province (Maré and Lifou) and 5 hectares in the Northern Province (Koumac).
- **Training, GEDSI, awareness, and communication**
  - Develop and deliver targeted training workshops for local communities, associations, and technical staff.
  - Design and disseminate educational and awareness-raising materials (on biodiversity conservation and restoration) for various audiences.
  - Organize and facilitate participatory events, including community planting days, awareness sessions, and stakeholder consultation meetings in both provinces.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

The project implements a Nature-based Solution centered on ecological restoration through the cultivation and planting of indigenous and climate-resilient plant species. The project is designed to provide several key societal benefits to the target population in the long term. By enhancing ecosystem resilience and promoting biodiversity conservation, the project supports the sustainability of local livelihoods that depend on natural resources. This is particularly important for indigenous Kanak communities who rely on ecosystem services for subsistence agriculture, traditional medicine, and cultural identity. The project's focus on capacity building through training and education programs will empower local community members with new skills and knowledge in ecological restoration and sustainable land management. This will improve economic opportunities and promote environmental awareness, especially among youth.

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**ACCOMPLISHED**

# HÙN MÔÔ'M KAHOK

Human behaviour in New Caledonia

**Project coordinator :** Dayu Biik, Association for the Conservation and Management of Mount Panié - ACCMP

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2024

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 85,924**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefit**

Disaster Risk reduction

In Hienghène, Northern Province of New Caledonia, forest ecosystems are under serious **threat from wildfires and the spread of invasive Caribbean pine trees**. This project supports the restoration of biodiversity in the Mont Panié forest ecosystems and preserves their vital ecosystem services to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition, the project strengthens the capacity of three tribes, to consolidate **customary fire management practices,** and raise awareness about the impacts of wildfires and invasive Caribbean pines on forest ecosystems.

**Specific objectives:**

- **Restore forest ecosystems** (savanna and forests on volcano-sedimentary substrate) in the municipality of Hienghène, North Province of New Caledonia.
- **Strengthen customary fire management rules** with local communities (three tribes).
- **Communicate with and raise awareness among the general public and school audiences** about the impact of fires and exotic invasive Caribbean pine.
- Build the capacity and skills of local communities in restoring forest ecosystems and in producing communication materials.

COPIL venue of the Hun môô'm Kahok project, Dayu Biik
C. DESMOTS © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**New Caledonia**

The 3 tribes of Wharé, Ouenpouès and Wândjik (Hienghène municipality)

**Beneficiaries:**
Over 400 direct beneficiaries in the three target sites.

**Key results:**

- **Forest ecosystem restoration**

Restoration activities were carried out over 10.3 hectares, with **3.5 hectares cleared of invasive Caribbean pine trees, 9 000 seedlings planted,** and 200 meters of firebreaks established to protect savannah and forest areas on volcano-sedimentary substrates.

- **Community engagement and nursery establishment**

**Three community tree nurseries were set up** at Wharé, Ouenpouès and Wândjik, fostering local involvement in ongoing restoration efforts.

- **Customary fire management rules**

Customary fire management practices were strengthened through four meetings with local authorities and tribal communities, resulting in new regulations: "**It is forbidden to set fire from the mountain to the seashore.** Anyone identified as causing a fire must have their clan take responsibility for restoring the damaged area and organize replanting efforts." These rules will be displayed on signboards near the restoration sites.

- **Awareness and education**

An awareness session was held at the Wharé private Catholic school, engaging the public and students on the impacts of fire and invasive Caribbean pine on forest ecosystems. Students created **four educational panels** on these topics.

- **Capacity building**

Local skills were enhanced through training, with ten **young people trained in tree felling** and safety protocols, six in nursery management, and another six in video production. Educational materials were also produced to support these activities.

**During the second half of 2023, an accidental fire affected the reforested area of Wândjik. The responsible clan honored their commitment by replanting the affected areas.**

"The project has had a very positive impact on our tribes. It has enabled us to contribute to the restoration of the forests, and our youth have committed themselves to it with determination. Women have also participated actively. This project has mobilized our entire community to strengthen, at our level, resilience to the impacts of climate change."

Fransceca FISDIEPAS, Private Catholic School of Wharé, Hienghène

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# RESMANC
## Mangrove restoration in New Caledonia

**Project coordinator :** Hô-üt Association

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – Octobre 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 30,570**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

- Biodiversity conservation
- Food security
- Disaster Risk reduction

Coastal ecosystems (mangroves, coastal forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs, etc.) are essential to the survival and resilience of local communities and biodiversity. It is therefore essential to take action to preserve and restore New Caledonia's mangroves.
The long-term goal of the project is to help vulnerable populations in New Caledonia adapt to the effects of climate change by preserving and restoring mangroves.

**Specific objectives of the project:**

- Restore mangrove ecosystem services for local communities, through waste collection and mangrove planting activities in Touho
- Increase the capacity and involvement of six municipalities on mangrove restoration through trainings
- Raise public awareness on mangrove preservation through school visits and dissemination of communication tools

Monitoring mangrove planting with Hô-üt Association members in Touho, New Caledonia © Kiwa Initiative - June 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**New Caledonia**

The project will take place in New Caledonia, in the Northern Province in the municipalities of Touho, Ponérihouen, Houaïlou, Kouaoua, Canala and Kaala-Gomen, and in the Southern Province in the municipality of Thio.

**Beneficiaries:**

- 50 participants in mangrove planting, including a dozen volunteers from the Hô-üt association, and around forty residents living near the planting sites (3 planting sites, 10 to 15 residents per site). The planting activities will be open to all, men, women and people of all ages.
- At least 36 people trained, with 6 sessions (one per municipality) and at least 6 participants per session. The sessions will be inclusive, open to men, women and people of all ages.
- Awareness raising activities: around 440 target people, including 400 schoolchildren (20 visits planned, with an average of 20 students per visit), and 40 teachers (2 teachers per visit).
- Communications reach: several thousand people

**Main activities planned**

- **Preserving the Touho mangrove**
  - Mangrove planting (mangrove propagule collection, transfer and planting)
  - Monitoring and maintenance of planted area
  - 3 waste collection campaigns in the mangroves of Touho

- **Stakeholders' capacity building on mangrove restoration**
  - Training stakeholders from 6 municipalities

- **Raising public awareness on mangrove preservation**
  - 20 school visits to the Koé tribe
  - Production of Touho mangrove educational booklet
  - Production of a short video on the need to preserve mangroves to combat the effects of climate change, and on the implementation of the project.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

A number of scientific studies prove that coastal erosion, biodiversity loss and food insecurity for are some of the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations on the sites where the project will be implemented. Through restoration of mangrove ecosystems, the project will contribute to disaster risk reduction, food security and biodiversity preservation that are critical to sustainable development of local communities in New Caledonia.

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# SARA
SAfeguarding, Restoration and Adaptation of seabird colonies and associated ecosystem services

**Project coordinator :** Northern Province (Province Nord)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

April 2023 – March 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 160,797**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefit**

Biodiversity conservation

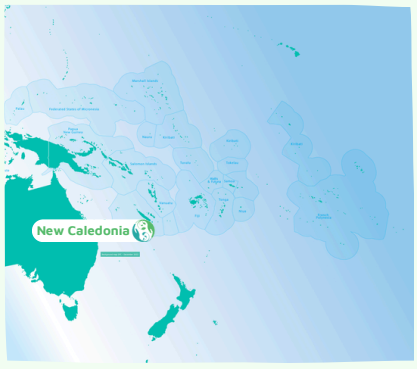
Seabirds play a vital role in maintaining healthy island ecosystems, yet their populations are threatened by invasive species, human activities, habitat loss, and climate change.
This project aims to **collectively protect and restore seabird colonies**, specifically terns (black-naped, roseate, fairy, crested etc.) and their associated ecosystem services in New Caledonia, contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

**Specific objectives:**

- **Protect seabird habitats** on low coral islands to support biodiversity and resilience.
- **Build local capacity** to apply Nature-based Solutions for island and seabird conservation.
- Raise awareness among the public and lagoon users and **promote responsible practices.**
- Coordinate, monitor and share project outcomes locally and regionally.


Mr. Malik Oedin, SARA project manager, at the "Foire de Koumac et du Nord", P.Nord © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia




**New Caledonia**

This project will work to restore seabird nesting habitats on 17 Important Bird Area islets, covering a total of 74 hectares within a marine area of 1,240 km².
The project focuses on the islands and islets within the Bénaré, Surprise, Huon, and Fabre zone in New Caledonia's Northern Province.

**Beneficiaries:**
The project aims to engage 500 lagoon users, 500 children, and over 100 marine professionals.

**Key results to date:**

- **Cumulative difficulties** have hampered the smooth implementation of the project. Field presence was significantly affected by the unavailability of partners/service providers (notably due to the social unrest in 2024), implementation challenges, technical problems with the boats, and particularly poor weather conditions.

- **Monitoring measures are still in place:** the islets of Yan'Dagouet and Magone have been equipped with masts and red flags to indicate restricted access for the protection of seabirds. Access was limited from May 28 to July 12 on Magone islet. Yan'Dagouet remained closed at all times, as it is part of the seabird attraction system operating in parallel with Deverd islet, which remains open to visitors. Protective netting has been installed on the Deverd, Nana and Pouh islets to delineate nesting zones and prevent human disturbance. This setup is permanently in place on Deverd.

- **The seabird colony attraction systems did not prove effective in 2025.** Cameras were installed on both Yan'Dagouet and Deverd islets to monitor bird populations. Both islets were equipped with attraction devices (plaster decoys and mirrors). According to both camera footage and field observations, these devices did not lead to significant seabird attendance.

- **The islets remain rat-free thanks to maintained biosecurity measures** and the confirmed success of the rat eradication campaign on Deverd islet. Biosecurity is ensured through the monitoring of approximately 90 bait boxes installed across 13 islets. A standardized monitoring protocol is currently being developed. A mobile application to support field agents from the Northern Province is also in development.

- **2025 has been a particularly bad year for the Sterna nereis:** according to observations, the number of breeding individuals was exceptionally low (the lowest recorded in the past seven years), and no fledglings were observed, raising concerns of a total reproductive failure. The particularly wet and poor weather conditions may have contributed to this outcome.

- **The Northern Province must now work towards the closure of the project**, scheduled for early 2026, without having been able to achieve all of the initially planned objectives.

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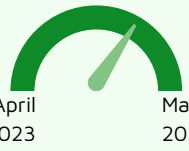
KIWA INITIATIVE

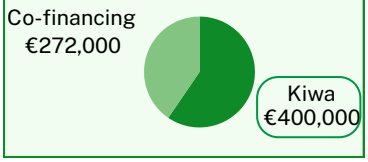
**PERENNE**
Protection Et REstauratioN des ripisylves de la NEra en Nouvelle-Calédonie
WWF

**Project coordinator** : WWF-France in New Caledonia, co-animated with CAP-NC (Chamber of agriculture and fisheries of New Caledonia)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**




**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**




**Theme**

Integrated Watershed Management

**Co-benefit**

Disaster Risk reduction

Erosion of agricultural lands within the Nera River watershed contributes to land-based pollution, which impacts the downstream coral reefs and associated ecosystems of the Bourail Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This project aims to **strengthen riverbank protection** and extensively **restore riparian zones** along the Nera River.

**Specific objectives**:

- Builds the necessary knowledge for effective riparian restoration.
- Implements and monitors restoration efforts at demonstration sites.
- And promotes these actions to engage local stakeholders and the broader New Caledonian community.

Young students moving nursery plants intended for planting along the riparian forest of the Nera River in Bourail
H.GÉRAUX © Kiwa Initiative – November 2025

**Subregion**: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**New Caledonia**

Nera watershed in Bourail municipality, Southern province, New Caledonia

**Beneficiaries:**
1,500 direct beneficiaries -including 78 farming families located near the Nera river- and 700 youth participating annually in eco-citizenship activities. An additional 1,800 youth are mobilized (partially or fully) as part of their educational programs.

**Key results to date:**

**LEARN:** Two published reports represent the first works addressing riparian vegetation in New Caledonia:

- "Deliverable 1 – Typology of riparian zones, diagnostic method and key species" and,
- "Deliverable 2 – Simplified diagnostic and monitoring methodology - Identification of riparian protection/restoration techniques."

These reports were shared with relevant stakeholders and are now considered reference tools for preserving riparian zones along New Caledonia's west coast.

**RESTORE:** Nine farming operations within the Néra watershed are hosting riparian protection and restoration projects, resulting in 6,200 plants from 30 different species being planted to restore 2 km of riverbanks. These 6,200 plants were selected from a pool of over 16,000 produced by two partner nursery associations, which have strengthened their expertise and production infrastructure through the project. These pilot projects reflect a diversity of contexts and treatments, including: locations across the watershed (upstream/downstream), plant species combinations, agricultural or livestock settings (requiring fencing), and restoration methods (installation of bamboo or gaiac fascines, reshaping of banks using gabions and/or geotextile mats, direct planting, removal of debris, etc.).

**SHARE:** Outreach efforts have focused heavily on youth engagement, involving two schools throughout the entire project: the public and private middle schools of Bourail. Their contributions included creating educational tools, participating in public events (Science Fair, Bourail Fair), and producing riparian plants through their respective educational nurseries. Additionally, many restoration projects were organized as "learning work sites" to engage New Caledonian youth in action: young military personnel from the RSMA, final-year students from the Pouembout Agricultural High School, future farmers in apprenticeships with the Chamber of Agriculture and Fisheries, children and teens from child welfare institutions, and others. Ongoing communication with the public about the PERENNE project has included Facebook posts, and a summary video is currently in production to immerse local and regional audiences in the project's reality—and inspire them to take action. Finally, secured funding will support this multi-stakeholder dynamic for three more years, enabling broader outreach and the inclusion of new contributors in New Caledonia's community working to preserve riparian ecosystems.

"What I liked most about the PERENNE project was discovering what a riparian forest is, and especially producing seedlings and replanting them. I love gardening at home, I've already planted things at my school, and now I'm planting trees along the edge of my river!"

Océane PERRONNET, 9th grade vocational prep, Collège Sacré Cœur de Bourail.

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KIWA INITIATIVE

**Preservation of native plant habitats in Papua New Guinea**

**Project coordinator :** Dika Suna Nature Conservation

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – November 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 50,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

The remaining 230 hectares of community forest of the Email village of Papua New Guinea are critical habitat for several native plant species, which are threatened by extreme weather, shifting precipitation patterns, rising temperatures, and human activities such as subsistence farming and small-scale logging.

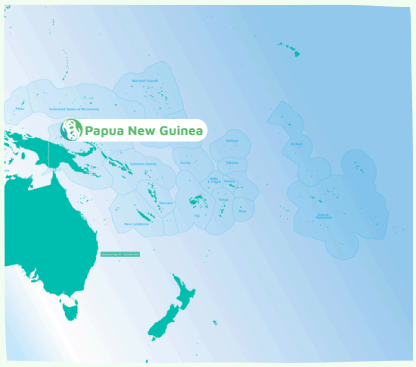
Dika Suna Nature Conservation works with local communities to conserve forests and restore degraded land, supporting culturally and economically significant indigenous plants while promoting sustainable land use and preserving traditional ecological knowledge.

**Specific objectives :**

- To preserve 130 hectares of native plant habitat and establish a conservation area.
- To reforest 100 hectares of land with native plants within the preserved habitat
- To implement major community awareness on climate change resilience & adaptation with gender inclusive
- To establish an accurate understanding of Emai's threatened habitat and biodiversity to be incorporated into the five-year development plan of the Simbu Provincial Environment & Climate Change Office.

Local actions empowering community resilience, Emai Village, Simbu Province
P. KAUPA © Kiwa Initiative – March 2025

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia




**Papua New Guinea**

The project is implemented in a remote area of the Emai village, Dinga tribe of the Suai Local Level Government (LLG) in Sinasina Yongomugl District, in the Simbu Province of Bismarck Range Corridor in Papua New Guinea.

- **Direct beneficiaries:**

Communities of the Emai villages and the adjacent communities of Suai LLG, totaling 6,500 individuals.

- **Indirect beneficiaries:**

Total number of beneficiaries, including indirect beneficiaries, amounts to 10,400 individuals.

**Main activities planned**

- **Establish a conservation area**
  - All local communities (including landowners) are involved and participate in the vegetation mapping of 130 hectares for the preservation, protection, and conservation of native plants.
- **Reforest the preserved habitat**
  - A nursery hub for native plants is constructed, where thousand of native seedlings are propagated and later transplanted throughout the 100-hectare reforestation zone.
  - Landowners interested in joining the program must first consult with the organization, which assesses the suitability of their land for tree planting. Once approved, the organization carries out the tree planting activities.
- **Conduct gender-inclusive climate change awareness programs**
  - Awareness campaigns are conducted, focusing on climate resilience and adaptation with a strong emphasis on gender inclusion, specifically targeting forestry officers and climate change officers of the province.
- **Integrate biodiversity and conservation strategies**
  - Vulnerable habitat surveys are conducted, and conservation strategies are drafted and incorporated into the Simbu Provincial Environment & Climate Change development plan.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

The project offers long-term societal benefits by addressing environmental degradation and biodiversity loss through the conservation of native plant habitats, which supports ecosystem resilience. It enhances water security by improving water quality and availability, especially during dry seasons. Restoration efforts also contribute to better air quality and public health, while supporting traditional medicine. Additionally, by boosting soil fertility and supporting pollinators, the project strengthens food security through increased crop yields and diverse food sources.

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**Email:** dsnconservation@gmail.com

Improving Livelihoods through Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Climate Systems

**Project coordinator :** KGWan Eco-Habitat Inc.

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

July 2023 — Mar. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

WCS-PNG €5,000

Fund €50,000

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

The Bismarck Forest corridor in the montane ecosystem of Simbu Province plays a critical role in supporting local livelihoods, particularly as climate change intensifies droughts and raises temperatures. Intact forests in this region help mitigate these effects by enhancing rainfall and cooling surrounding areas.

The project enhances socio-economic resilience of local communities **through reforestation and sustainable forest management.** It also supports the conservation of the endangered Nothofagus plant species and promotes climate-smart crops, benefiting 1,500 community members.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Enhanced sustainable natural resource management of 20,000 hectares of montane forest.
- Improved livelihoods of more than 2,000 target community members through climate smart food production and marketing.

KGWan Goroka awareness and training resilience IUCN-ORO © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Papua New Guinea**

The project is implemented in Simbu Province, along the Bismarck Forest corridor, specifically within the forests of the Inaugl Tribe, which cover an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 hectares.

**Beneficiaries**
The project targets 2,163 individuals, including 46% women (991), across 528 households in 13 villages.

**Key results to date:**

- **Ensuring sustainable forest management practices are being implemented across 20,000 hectares of montane forest within the Inaugl Tribe.**
  - **More than 5000** people benefited from awareness raising programs, in particular on the 26 natural resources management rules under the Inaugl Conservation Deed that was signed by five Clans to protect over 20,000 hectares of montane forest. **Another 2,000 people indirectly benefited** from the implementation of these measures.
  - Over 2,000 seedlings were distributed to the community.

- **Enhancing the livelihoods of more than 2,000 community members** through the production of climate smart food crops.
  - 1000 Casuarina seedlings were replanted as part of climate smart farming (responding to the very high demand for Casuarina seedlings from the community).
  - 60 people, representing families received training on financial literacy, food and nutrition.

- **Improving the conservation of the threatened Nothofagus species (Grandis, fagaraea) in montane forest of the Inaugl Tribe.**
  - Hardware materials have been mobilized to **expand the community's central nursery,** which was able to **produce 2,000 Eucalyptus seedlings** that were planted to support reforestation efforts on community woodlots.
  - **Approximately 5000 seedlings** of important native tree species (Nothofagus, Podocarp, Fagaraea, Water gum) have been raised in the central nursery to enrich natural forest areas. Out of which around **3000 seedlings were planted** by communities in watershed areas.

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# Reforestation and restoration of natural plants habitat in Papua New Guinea

**Project coordinator** : KUP Reforestation

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 40,000**

The site of the project is known for its grassland and a few remaining forests that are affected by Climate change, bushfires, and human activities, which have significantly reduced the region's forest cover, ultimately impacting water sources, soil quality, and biodiversity.
Led by KUP Reforestation, **the project focuses on conserving the remaining 2,000 hectares of forest and restoring 150 hectares of degraded land**. It aims to mitigate these effects by preserving remaining forests, reforesting degraded areas, and addressing human-induced threats such as small-scale logging, land clearing for agriculture, and excessive harvesting of trees for building materials.

**Specific objectives** :

- To establish a central nursery hub that can **produce and supply 80,000 tree seedlings** of diverse native species (gum trees, coffee, casuarina...).
- To **restore 150 hectares of degraded habitat** by planting 80,000 native trees and shrubs.
- To conserve and preserve 2,000 hectares of remaining community forest biodiversity and ecosystem, and enhance the remaining forest in Kup Local Level Government (LLG).
- To conduct a hands-on nursery training workshop for 20 community members to enhance their Knowledge and skills in plant propagation and nursery management for one week training.

**Theme**

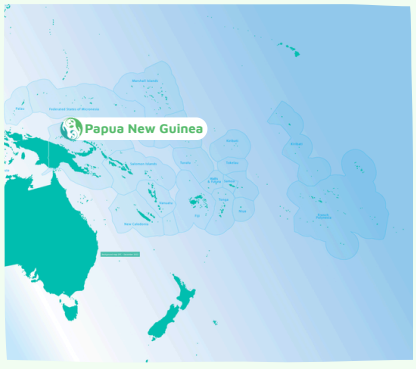
Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

- Biodiversity conservation
- Human health
- Food security
- Water resource availability and quality


Kup Reforestation Community group members, Gurumugl Village, Kup LLG, Kerowagi District, Simbu Province, PNG - J. BIRI KAI © Kiwa Initiative – 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia




**Papua New Guinea**

The project is implemented in the Kup Local-level Government of Papua New Guinea, located in the Kerowagi District, Bismarck Range Corridor in the Simbu Province of the Highlands Region.

- **Direct beneficiaries**

The project reaches 6,000 beneficiaries and focuses on enhancing ecosystem services within the Kup LLG community, while focusing on the inclusion of women and youth.

- **Indirect beneficiaries**

10,000 individuals compose the total population neighboring border communities in Jiwaka Province and South Anglimp District.

**Main activities planned**

The project involves a range of integrated activities aimed at restoring and conserving forest ecosystems in the Kup LLG area.

- **Degraded ecosystem restoration**
  - 80,000 tree seedlings are being transplanted across 150 hectares to restore degraded land and boost biodiversity.
  - Vegetation and habitat mapping is carried out across 2,000 hectares to guide planning of the conservation area.
  - A formal conservation area is established to protect the remaining forest ecosystems, through a collaborative process that brings together all stakeholders, including landowners, and the local province officers.
- **Establish a nursery of native tree species**
  - A centralized nursery facility is constructed to produce up to 80,000 of diverse native tree seedlings, supporting both reforestation and community-led initiatives.
  - Additionally, a hands-on nursery training workshop is conducted for 20 selected individuals, equipping them with essential skills in plant propagation and nursery management to sustain ongoing and future efforts.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

The project offers a range of long-term societal benefits for the target population. It improves human health through cleaner air and access to medicinal plants, and enhances water security by regulating water cycles and maintaining river flow during dry seasons. The project also supports food security by increasing soil fertility, supporting pollinators, and providing edible and traditional medicinal resources. It boosts livelihoods through sustainable income opportunities such as agroforestry while promoting cultural and spiritual values tied to traditional knowledge and sacred landscapes.

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# Improving livelihoods and food security / Invasive species management in Solomon Islands

**Project coordinator :** BirdLife International

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – Mar. 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 350,244**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Socio-economic resilience

Food security

The **East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS)** faces threats from invasive species, habitat degradation, and limited livelihood opportunities, exacerbated by logging, mining and climate change, leading to the need for improved management, biosecurity, and sustainable economic initiatives to prevent unsustainable resource exploitation.
The project aims to **strengthen the capacity of the ERWHS communities to manage invasive alien species (IAS)**, enhance biosecurity, diversify livelihoods, and protect the site's biodiversity through sustainable management and monitoring practices.

**Specific objectives :**

- Increased understanding of climate change impacts at the ERWHS and **developing local frameworks & governance** to strengthen local conditions for community resilience.
- Effective IAS management, **through control & biosecurity,** as a Nature-based Solution (NbS) approach for restoring ecosystem & strengthening climate resilience at the ERWHS.
- **Diversification of livelihoods** to reduce dependency on natural based livelihoods affected by climate change, and **increased project development capacity, financial management & grant development** to improve access to funding for climate change adaptation.
- Increased awareness, knowledge & application of effective IAS management at local, national & regional level recognized as an essential component of NbS approaches for climate change resilience.

Women of Hutuna Village
M.Ravuso © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Solomon Islands**

The project is implemented in East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS), Rennell Island

**Beneficiaries:**
The project will benefit 900 indigenous Renellese, who are landowners of the East Rennell World Heritage Site of which about 60% are men and 40 % are women, and reside in 4 villages. This indigenous group of people subsist on food cultivation, fishing and cash income opportunities limited to crop sales and small-scale handicraft production.

**Key results to date:**

- **Strengthened community resilience to climate change**
  - Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) completed, with findings on climate-related vulnerabilities & impacts identified and shared with MECDM & Renbel Provincial Government. Community-driven solutions & recommendations, integrating traditional knowledge on weathers patterns & climate events will provide opportunities for interventions by Govt. In the meantime, partnerships have been established with Kastom Garden Association.
- **Increased community capacity to manage invasive species**
  - Since project commenced until Feb 2025, 4 Local Rangers trained 300+ community members including 120 women, in bait replenishment & recording, with monitoring data received on key biodiversity indicators & crops. Community members followed established protocols demonstrating strong technical capacity & community engagement. Post-baiting monitoring shows reduced rodent activity within treatment areas, an increase in the average number of birds detected for all 6 endemic indicator bird species, and documented breeding of the Rennell Shrikebill via trail cameras.
- **Improved financial & economic conditions at the ERWHS**
  - Establishment of 4 Women's Savings Club in each of the 4 villages is a momentous step in advancing the independence and wellbeing of women in East Rennell. Registration with the MWYCFA & adoption of equitable sharing benefits through their Constitution will enable access to technical and financial support for livelihood development. Capacity built within communities has strengthened governance structures resulting in the development of a Strategic Plan which will ensure communities are engaged in administering PES Scheme in partnership with Live & Learn and GEF6 EREPA Project.
- **Increased awareness & understanding of IAS management**
  - 1000 posters and brochures on invasive species printed and distributed to Ward Development Reps. Lessons from the ERWHS project site, the engagement of the Rangers and communities have been shared at the SPREP PRISMMS Meetings, and most recently with BirdLife Partners from French Polynesia, Samoa, Palau and Fiji, through the INSPIRE PERL Network.

"This project really helps us, (…) we try to reduce the impact of rats that indeed spoil our crops, our fruits. (…) As I look back, we see a lot of improvement in our crops. (…) So far our gardens have really improved, our crops at the first place it was damaged by the rodents, now families and a lot of people, they commend us for reducing this".

Mr. George TAUIKA, Local Project Coordinator

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# Nature-based community fisheries management for climate resilience and biodiversity restoration in Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands

**Project coordinator :** Guadalcanal Provincial Government – Fisheries Division

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – January 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 37,600**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

The Marauiapa community depends on agriculture and fisheries for livelihoods, but faces severe marine degradation from overharvesting and climate change. This project uses Nature-based Solutions (NbS)—including reef and mangrove restoration and local fisheries management — to strengthen resilience. It supports the Solomon Islands CBRM (Community-Based Coastal and Marine Resources) Management Strategy 2021–2025 and lays the groundwork for future provincial scale-up.

**Specific objectives :**

- **Strengthen community knowledge and awareness** of climate change impacts on coastal ecosystems.
- **Build local capacity** to lead coral reef and mangrove restoration initiatives.
- Develop and implement **community-based rehabilitation** and management plans for **coral and mangrove ecosystems.**
- Explore the integration of NbS to enhance climate resilience and **scale up fisheries resource management in Guadalcanal.**

A woman of Marauiapa community return home in the evening after gleaning for seafood on the outer reef edges, Marau Sound Solomon Islands – M. Tefetia © Kiwa Initiative – October 2025.

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Solomon Islands**

Marauiapa Island (Beagle Island), Marau Sound, Guadalcanal Province.

**Direct beneficiaries:**
320 people from the Marauiapa community, including women, youth, and people with disabilities.

**Main activities planned**

- **Community engagement & planning**

Raise awareness through educational campaigns and stakeholder consultations. Develop community-based resource management plans and formalize longstanding community consent agreements that the project aims to scale up and expand.

- **Capacity building & training**

Deliver workshops on climate change impacts, Nature-based Solutions (NbS), coral farming, mangrove planting, and sustainable resource management.

- **Ecosystem restoration**

Collect local mangrove seedlings and coral broodstock. Establish and maintain ~10 coral nurseries. Replant mangroves (target: 2 ha) and corals (target: 4 ha) in selected sites.

- **Monitoring & evaluation**

Conduct baseline assessments and regularly monitor coral and mangrove survival rates. Carry out socio-economic surveys and report outcomes to stakeholders.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**
This project promotes Nature-based Solutions (NbS) through the restoration of coral reefs and mangroves, which are vital for coastal protection, fisheries, and climate adaptation. Uniquely, it is led by the Guadalcanal Provincial Government, demonstrating strong local government ownership and alignment with the national Community-Based Coastal and Marine Resources Management (CBRM) Strategy 2021–2025. By combining ecosystem restoration with inclusive governance, the project empowers communities—especially women, youth, and people with disabilities—to lead in marine conservation while strengthening resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

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# Using customary law for fisheries and marine ecosystem restoration in Timor-Leste

**Project coordinator :** Blue Ventures Conservation

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – Mar 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 260,172**

In Hera, Timor-Leste, coastal ecosystems face growing pressure from overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change. Blue Ventures supports local communities to implement a **Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) using customary 'Tara Bandu' law. This protects coral reefs, seagrass, and mangroves, while advancing sustainable fisheries, community-led governance, and marine conservation.**
The goal is to restore biodiversity, improve marine ecosystem services, and strengthen community resilience through inclusive, nature-based marine governance.

**Specific objectives:**

- Two communities **establish and monitor an LMMA** including coral reef and seagrass habitats, and implement ecologically **sustainable fishing measures** (such as no take zones, temporary closures, gear restrictions or bans, or other management measures) as decided by the communities.
- **Mangrove habitat in Hera is protected and monitored by KFF** and the local community, including formally establishing a conservation agreement, conducting afforestation activities, and improving infrastructure at the Mangrove Study Centre (in Hera)

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Disaster Risk reduction

Food security

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

World Day of the Mangroves - Hera site, Timor-Leste
Blue Ventures © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Timor-Leste**

Hera (Dili Municipality) and Ilimano: Lian-Lidu, Behau and Marmer (Manatuto Municipality), Timor-Leste

**Beneficiaries:**
Over 500 individuals engaged in fisheries monitoring and over 480 in mangrove planting and coastal clean-ups.

**Key results to date:**

Two LMMAs were officially launched in Ilimano (1.24 km², June 2024) and another in Hera (15.2 km², December 2024), with community consensus and traditional Tara Bandu ceremonies.

- **Community fisheries monitoring and training**

Established two **Women Community Fisheries Monitoring Group** with 31 trained members. Women's group actively collect and analyse catch data and received refresher training in February 2025. Further conducted an LMMA Community Learning Exchange with 106 individuals, including 52 women.

- **Mangrove restoration and education**

Ten afforestation events held; **31,300 mangrove seedlings planted**, exceeding the initial target.
Ten educational panels installed at the Mangrove Study Centre. Beach clean-ups in Hera removed 1,159 kg of waste.

- **Institutional capacity building**

Partner KFF finalised a 10-year strategic management plan and connected the Mangrove Study Centre to mains electricity. Gender and inclusion training held for 100 participants from multiple project sites.

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KIWA INITIATIVE

Scaling up climate adaptation strategies, including water resource restoration, environmental rehabilitation, and sustainable food systems

**Project coordinator :** Permacultura Timor Lorosa'e (Permatil)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2023 – Dec. 2025

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 177,015**

**Theme**

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Co-benefits**

Water resource availability and quality

Food security

In Timor Leste, sustainable water management and food production are crucial for communities to adapt to climate change on the long term.
The overall goal of the project is to increase knowledge, skills, and attitude around **water source management and conservation**, environmental rehabilitation, and **resilient food systems.**

**Specific objectives:**

- **Promote permaculture** and food sovereignty by securing water and soil resources.
- Equip **young people** with educational resources that build long-term climate adaptation and resilience skills.

Terrace construction in Timor-Leste
Permatil © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Timor-Leste**

2 municipalities in Timor Leste:

- In Baucau: Sagadate, Atelari, Libabua, Nunira, Samalari, and Saelari villages
- In Aileu: Asumau, Hautoho, Fadabloko, Faturasa, Tulataque, and Maumeta villages

**Beneficiaries:**
Over 1000 inhabitants of the 12 villages, including teachers, parents and students (school program) benefit from project activities.

**Key results to date:**

- **A baseline survey was conducted** in the 12 villages:
  - Twelve springs and catchment areas were identified, to capture water during the dry season, as well as vegetation, which can be supportive of water conservation or invasive around the spring areas;
  - Farming and raising livestock were identified as livelihood activities that are highly dependent on year round water in streams.

- Four community-based organizers were recruited through the project, respecting gender balance in the two municipalities (one man and one woman each).

- **Conservation of water sources** was conducted in all sites, through catchment management like digging retention ponds, terraces, or digging small streams using local resources.

- **Capacity building** was conducted throughout the lifetime of the project, benefiting to a total number of **635 participants,** of which 32% were women. The trainings were focusing on climate change impacts and mitigation, water and soil conservation, school garden design & implementation, and market garden & installation.

- Additionally, a national **'PermaYouth in Action'** 5-day camp event focusing on climate adaptation, environment, water restoration, and permaculture, was organized in October 2024 at Ermera municipality. This major event gathered **683 participants** (35% of women) from Timor-Leste, including 100 youth from Ailieu and Baucau.

- On top of the related trainings, **12 school gardens were installed** and resilient food system models set up in 12 households. 126 additional households have been provided with 2,760 fruit tree seedlings, and 175 conservation trees were planted in each of the 12 villages to reforest their catchment area.

- Key milestones of the project were broadcast through social media and national TV, and 3 **educational videos on permaculture** topics will be finalized in the next months.

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# Natural Dyes as a Pathway to Boost Biodiversity and Women's Economic Empowerment in Timor-Leste

**Project coordinator :** RELOKA, Foundation Re-Inventing Local Production

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 49,670**

The population of Timor-Leste is heavily dependent on agriculture, with 70% of families relying on some form of farming activity for their livelihoods. The country is vulnerable to natural hazards such as droughts, floods, landslides and soil erosion.

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities including women, by developing sustainable natural dye resources through permaculture, diversified trees and crops, and water source restoration.

**Specific objectives :**

- Promote the development of climate-resilient private gardens, empowering community members to improve food security and adapt their practices to environmental challenges.
- Restore degraded gardens to generate immediate and long-term livelihood opportunities, and showcase practical models that inspire replication across the community.
- Improve access to water for participating families, enhancing their ability to maintain productive gardens and secure essential resources for daily life and resilience.
- Support women's empowerment by strengthening their confidence and capacity to grow natural dye businesses, fostering economic independence, and transmitting traditional knowledge.

**Theme**

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Socio-economic resilience

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

Water resource availability and quality

Ikat weavers in Timor-Leste washing their natural dyed yarns during RELOKA training on natural dyes, Ilatlaun
H. Bouwman © Kiwa Initiative - Oct 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Timor-Leste**

RELOKA's main office is based in the capital city, Dili, and the project will be implemented across 3 sites: a demosite in the Hera village of Dili municipality, in Taiboko village of Oecusse municipality, and Humboe village of the Ermera municipality.

- **Direct beneficiaries**

100 community members, including 30 women and 10 youth.

- **Indirect beneficiaries**

Around 2,640 community members, of whom 53% are male and 47% female.

**Main activities planned**

- **Pilot garden development**
  - Communities will design and implement four pilot gardens, focusing on water, soil, fencing, and planting, with guidance from a permaculture specialist.
- **Community trainings in Taiboko and Humboe village**
  - In each of the 2 project sites, a minimum of 50 people receive training on climate change, regenerative farming, and seed practices, led by experts and the project team.
  - Furthermore, women's groups (composed of 15 women per community) in Humboe and Taiboko will receive training in Symplocos and Indigo cultivation and processing, with ongoing project support.
- **Water supply restoration**
  - Dependent on community needs, 4 gardens - 2 in each village, representing 40 people in total- are selected to benefit from water supply restoration measures.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

- **Water supply restoration**

Restoring natural water sources benefits at least 40 nearby households by reducing walking distances, supporting garden irrigation, and improving crop yields.

- **Natural dye business for women**

Introducing natural dyes offers women a new income stream, promoting financial independence and indirectly reducing household stress and domestic violence.

- **Resilient farming and nutrition**

Improved farming methods and resilient crops enhance food security and nutrition, leading to better health for both children and adults.

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KIWA INITIATIVE

**Empowering community resilience through reforestation and coral reef restoration in Vanuatu**

**Project coordinator :** LAMACCA (Lamap, Asuk, Maskylene, Avock Climate Change Association)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – Mar. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 85,569**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefit**

Food security

The project addresses environmental problems and threats caused by climate change, deforestation and overexploitation activities by a growing population.

The general objective is to **restore, protect and conserve South Malekula ecosystem services** in a 5,000 hectare area, and to sustainably manage resources for future generations, by developing eco-tourism attraction.

**Specific objectives:**

- Raise awareness and knowledge of 30 communities to restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems.
- Restore and conserve land and marine resources.
- Establish four to five new conservation sites.


The team installed Hokai Community Conservation signboard
P. ONIS © Kiwa Initiative - 2023

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Vanuatu**

South of Malekula island, Vanuatu

**Beneficiaries :**
Over 5,000 people of 30 communities in South Malekula

**Key results to date:**

- **Education and raising awareness trainings were provided about the preservation of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services, with focus on fisheries, agriculture and climate change:**
  - **450+ key community leaders attended the 18 capacity building trainings** hold on these topics.
  - An estimated 20% of local communities populations are more resilient to climate change with their agriculture practices and fisheries management, following capacity trainings.
  - 65 people from community conservation and environment committees attended a capacity building training in September 2023, to sustainably use marine and natural resources and better manage disputes about conservation areas.

- **Over 3,000 trees were planted and ten coral reef restoration activities were conducted.**

- **Seven new conservation sites were established** in South Malekula, and signs now mark the boundaries of the marine protected areas (some of them include forest or land protected areas) in: Lamap Nanamor, Pelong (Maskylen), Avock Community, Hokai Community, Achamb (Robinas), Varun Community and Areuve Community.

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# Revitalizing forests and seascapes: an agroforestry and fishing community network for ecosystem restoration and land conservation in Vanuatu

**Project coordinator :** Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 200,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

Across four islands in Vanuatu, deforestation, frequent tropical cyclones, soil erosion, and declining marine biodiversity are impacting local livelihoods and climate resilience. The Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN) is coordinating a multi-site, community-led project to restore terrestrial and coastal ecosystems through Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

The project will strengthen local food systems, rehabilitate mangroves and forests, and support the establishment of protected areas, while building governance and leadership among youth, women, and customary groups. It supports long-term resilience by integrating environmental restoration with sustainable livelihoods and inclusive governance.

**Specific objectives:**

- Reforest 400 hectares of degraded forestlands with native tree species, and develop agroforestry on 500 hectares of farmland.
- Restore 200 hectares of coral reefs and create 3 marine protected areas (MPAs).
- Build capacity and create cooperatives for 500 women and youth.

Children at the Yekukok village nursery taking seedlings to transfer to planting areas © Kiwa Initiative - July 2024

**Subregion:** ■ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Vanuatu**

Tanna Island - Iounanen village
Pentecost Island - Walli village
Malekula Island - Dravail village
Mota Lava Island - Nerenigman village

**Beneficiaries:**

- Direct: 635 households (~4,500 individuals), including youth, women, and customary leaders.
- Indirect: broader populations of four target islands will benefit from restored ecosystems and enhanced livelihoods.
- Inclusion: remote and vulnerable communities with strong leadership roles for women and young people.

**Main activities planned**

- **Plant nursery development and ecosystem restoration**
  - 7 community nurseries will be established on 4 islands, supporting large-scale reforestation of 400 hectares of degraded forestlands.
  - 200 hectares of coral reefs restored using coral propagation and transplantation.
- **Sustainable land use and food systems**
  - Agroforestry techniques will be promoted on 500 hectares of farmland, alongside organic gardening, composting, and climate-smart practices, to improve food security for 635 subsistence farming households.
- **Community governance and Locally Managed Marine Areas**
  - 3 MPAs will be established through consultations, combining traditional knowledge with modern planning tools. 2,000 fishers will be trained in sustainable and alternative livelihoods.
- **Capacity building and regional exchange**
  - Island focal points will receive leadership training and participate in national and regional exchanges to strengthen governance and peer learning.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

The project uses a holistic, ridge-to-reef NbS approach that links forest restoration, sustainable agriculture, and coastal protection. By placing communities at the centre of planning and implementation, it improves local governance, food security, climate resilience, and biodiversity while empowering traditional leadership and youth networks. The multi-site model offers a valuable approach for scaling NbS in diverse island settings.

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# STAR
## Seagrass Training, Awareness and Restoration program in Kiribati

**Project coordinator :** Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – Mars 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 212,330**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Kiribati's densely populated Tarawa atoll is facing intense environmental pressures from climate change, urbanisation, and habitat degradation. Seagrass ecosystems - critical for shoreline protection, biodiversity, and local communities - have declined significantly. To address this, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, through the Environment & Conservation Division (MELAD-ECD), is implementing the Seagrass Training, Awareness and Restoration (STAR) project. It aims to **establish a strong foundation for national capacity in seagrass restoration by combining hands-on training, innovative school-based awareness programs, and pilot ecosystem rehabilitation on demonstration sites.**

**Specific objectives:**

- **Build capacity** of MELAD staff and communities in seagrass restoration and monitoring.
- **Restore three hectares** of degraded seagrass meadows through interventions on the pilot sites.
- **Raise environmental awareness** among school children and local communities.
- Establish **community-supported co-management plans** to protect restored sites.

Translocation of seagrass in Ambo © Kiwa Initiative - May 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor Leste ■ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Kiribati**

South Tarawa Atoll and Abaiang Atoll

**Beneficiaries:**

- 200 individuals including 20 MELAD staff, 30 community representatives, 150 school children and teachers.
- Indirect: Up to 10,000 residents of Tarawa and Abaiang benefitting from improved ecosystems, erosion control, and fisheries resilience.

**Main activities planned**

- **Build capacity and deliver restoration training**

Train about 20 MELAD staff and local representatives in best-practice seagrass restoration and monitoring, with support from international experts. Provide participants with certification, field manuals, and leadership roles in implementing pilot restoration plots.

- **Engage schools and raise awareness**

Run an art-based education program involving 150 students across three primary schools. Facilitate biodiversity-themed workshops, mural painting, and public exhibitions to strengthen environmental stewardship and community pride.

- **Restore seagrass and monitor progress**

Rehabilitate three pilot sites using seagrass sod transplantation, based on site-specific threat assessments. Monitor restoration progress at 0, 6, 12, and 20 months.

- **Develop co-management plans and secure sites**

Design Integrated Environment and Natural Resources Co-Management Plans (IENRMPs) for each site through participatory processes. Draft and validate local by-laws to ensure long-term site protection.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

The project explores the potential of seagrass restoration as a NbS to support coastal resilience, biodiversity, and food security. While seagrass meadows are recognized for their ability to stabilize coastlines, store carbon, and provide critical fish habitats, their restoration remains an emerging field with limited tested applications in Pacific Island contexts. This project contributes to regional learning by piloting restoration techniques, monitoring ecological and social outcomes, and integrating community education and co-management.

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# Restoring sea cucumbers wild stock and improving women fisheries in Palau

**Project coordinator :** Ebiil Society, Inc

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2022 – Mar. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

€ 100,000

**In Palau, the sea cucumbers and giant clams hold significant cultural and economic value,** especially for women in rural fishing communities, who make up 75% of the informal market. For many, the sale of sea cucumbers and giant clams is a primary income source, sustaining livelihoods and supporting local economies. This project aims to restore sea cucumber and giant clam populations, with a special focus on **empowering women in fisheries.** By enhancing resource sustainability, the project seeks to **bolster economic opportunities** for women and **foster long-term environmental stewardship** within fishing communities.

**Specific objectives:**

- **Improve hatchery spawning and nursing** of high-value sea cucumber and ciant clam species.
- **Increase the participation of fisherwomen** in restocking activities.
- Boost sea cucumber and giant clam populations in **traditional fishing grounds.**
- Promote knowledge and sustainable fishing practices.

**Theme**

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Food security

Socio-economic resilience

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion


Women fishers'exchange. - Ebiil Society


**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ■ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Palau**

Ngarchelong, Ngardmau, Aimeliik, and Melekeok states in Palau

**Beneficiaries:**
Over 1,000 people in the four target sites.

**Key results to date:**

- **Enhance hatchery techniques for spawning and nursing high-value species such as sea cucumbers and giant clams** with ecological, economic, and cultural significance. Initial observations in the restored area have detected spawning activity in Brown Spotted Sandfish and Curry Fish, indicating promising hatchery outcomes.

- **Engage more fisherwomen in restocking sea cucumbers and giant clams in traditional fishing grounds.** A learning exchange involved 17 women fishers, providing a platform to discuss shared challenges, explore opportunities, and practice traditional fishing. Additionally, a reseeding event brought together 49 participants, including 22 women from three states, strengthening community involvement.

- **Increase the populations of sea cucumbers and giant clams.** As of Year 1, community women fishers have reseeded 8,000 sea cucumber seedlings and 300 giant clams. Monitoring in March 2023 showed a notable increase in adult sandfish populations (Holothuria scabra, classified as Endangered by the IUCN Red List), signaling effective restoration efforts.

- **Enhance knowledgeand sustainable practicesin sea cucumber and giant clam fishing.** The "Ebiil Seagrass Ecology Outdoor Classroom" was established to educate on seagrass ecosystems, biodiversity, and the role of womenin fisheries. By August 2023, a total of 231 students received education on seagrass ecology, habitat diversity, endangered species, and women's contributions to fisheries, fostering a culture of conservation among future generations.

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# Resilient Babeldaob: integrating watershed management and NbS for community resilience in Palau

**Project coordinator :** Palau Conservation Society

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 400,000**

The escalating impacts of climate change in Palau—marked by intensified rainfall, erosion, and sedimentation—threaten freshwater and coastal ecosystems, highlighting the urgent need for stronger governance, climate adaptation strategies, and community-driven Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to safeguard the environment and build resilience of local communities.

The project aims to enhance climate resilience and environmental sustainability of Babeldaob island, through a comprehensive strategy that combines legal frameworks, state-led adaptation initiatives, and community-driven NbS to address climate-related challenges.

**Specific objectives :**

- Strengthened legal and policy framework for NbS;
- Increased institutional and financial capacity for NbS;
- Demonstrated community-led implementation of NbS pilot projects;
- Knowledge management, visibility, and learning systems strengthened.

**Theme**

Integrated Watershed Management

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

- Food security
- Socio-economic resilience
- Biodiversity conservation
- Water resource availability and quality

Lake Ngardok, Babeldaod Island, a project site
© Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ■ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia


**Palau**

The project is implemented across all 10 states of Babeldaob Island, Republic of Palau, with a focus on priority watershed corridors representing about 2,500–3,000 hectares.

- **Direct beneficiaries**

At least 1,000 individuals will directly benefit from participation in trainings and coaching on planning, policy, and knowledge sharing; and additionally in the implementation of pilot activities ;

- **Indirect beneficiaries**

5698 people live on the island of Babeldaob, comprised of 2,896 females and 664 youth (aged 15- 24)

**Main activities planned**

- **Strengthened legal and policy framework for NbS**

The project conducts a gap analysis of existing policies and legal frameworks through national and state-level consultations, resulting in a validated NbS policy report. It then develops two targeted policy recommendation packages and supporting advocacy materials, which are shared with institutions to promote policy alignment with NbS principles.

- **Increased institutional and financial capacity for NbS**

An NbS implementation guide is co-developed and delivered through training sessions for national and state staff. Planning and budgeting templates are updated to integrate NbS tools, and selected staff receive coaching to develop funding proposals, improving institutional readiness and access to finance.

- **Demonstrated community-led implementation of NbS pilot projects**

Community consultations and Traditional Ecological Knowledge inform the co-development of site-specific NbS pilot plans at ten sites. These pilots are implemented with technical support and monitored by community members, with cross-site learning exchanges promoting shared experience and adaptive practices.

- **Knowledge management, visibility, and learning systems strengthened**

A centralized knowledge management system is created and adopted by partner institutions to capture tools, lessons, and data. Focal points are trained to maintain the system, ensuring accessibility and long-term institutional learning.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

The project generates long-term societal benefits, including improved food and water security through better soil health and water flow stabilization. It supports livelihoods and gender equity by preserving fisheries vital to women and cultural practices, while promoting sustainable agricultural practices that can be scaled nationally. Additionally, integrating Nature-based Solutions into state planning strengthens governance and ensures that sustainable practices are institutionalized for future development. Overall, the project creates a model where ecosystem restoration, social equity, and cultural identity are mutually reinforced over time.

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**PAÀ HONU**
**Action program for the improvement of natural and unique open habitats on the island of Moorea, in French Polynesia**

**Project coordinator :** Moorea Biodiversité

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – July 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 49,960**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

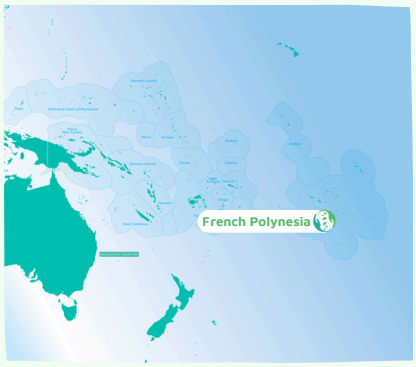
In Moorea, the presence of the invasive alien species 'Miconia calvescens' in the forests has disastrous consequences for biodiversity and the ecological condition of the forests. Young plants experience significantly slowed growth. The loss of biodiversity, both on the ground and in the understory, leads to increased runoff, resulting in a deterioration of aquifer quality.
The long-term goal of the project is to reach 10%, or 460 hectares in the Opunohu valley, of naturally rich biodiverse forests that are controlled and monitored, allowing nature to regain its resilience against Miconia.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Fight against the Miconia Invasive Alien Species as a priority in a hard-to-access, high-altitude area.
- Transmission of knowledge and know-how.

Control of Miconia calvescens trees in the natural forests of 'Opunohu, Moorea, French Polynesia © Kiwa Initiative

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia




**French Polynesia**

Moorea is an island in French Polynesia, located about 17 kilometers (11 miles) northwest of Tahiti. It is part of the Society Islands.
Moorea Biodiversity operates in the caldera of 'Opunohu, on public land.

**Beneficiaries:**
280 individuals will directly benefit from the project activities, while the population of Moorea (amounting 17,800 residents, including 5,600 young people), will indirectly reap benefits.

**Main objectives of the project:**

- **Combat plant Invasive Alien Species, in a high-altitude area that is difficult to access, through:**
  - A survey of the biodiversity status on site (17ha), with data collection on topography, spread of the species invasion rate by terrain type, and assessment of biodiversity status.
  - Clear demarcation of the target area, and trail clearing to create pathways, and clearing deadwood to ensure volunteer safety.
  - The training of 50 volunteers in best practices in IAS management.
  - The removal and cutting of Miconia calvescens and Spathodea campanulata (Tulip tree) when necessary on the project site.

- **Transmission of knowledge and skills**
  - Organization of 28 training sessions on local climate impacts on biodiversity.
  - Raising awareness among the general public, through the production of 15 videos, and the printing of booklets titled "Moorea Facing the Challenges of Climate Change": 50 printed copies available in libraries, and an electronic version (PDF) available free of charge upon request.
  - Sharing information about the project with the general public through press articles in local newspapers, local TV shows and radio broadcasts.

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**ACCOMPLISHED**

# ARU KOMO

Preservation of the water resource on the Anaa Atoll

Association Pu tahi haga no Ganaa

**Project coordinator :** Pu Tahi Haga no Ganaa

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Jan. 2023 – Jan. 2025

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 85,924**

**Theme**

Integrated Watershed Management

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

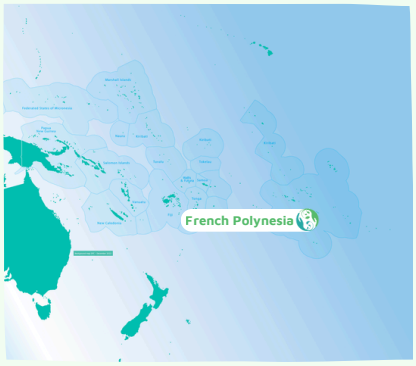
Anaa Island's unique freshwater resources face growing threats from climate change, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, and human activities such as intensive copra cultivation and forest degradation. These challenges call for urgent action to **protect both the island's ecosystem and the sustainability of local communities.**
This project established water resource management protocols on Anaa Island, with a focus on assessing freshwater quality, salinity, and hydrology in underground reservoirs and natural wetlands.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Develop a **water use protocol** for the population, relying on ecosystems to protect this resource over the long term.
- **Restore the degraded natural forest** in the Tukuhora priority conservation area (remove invasive plants from the area, plant native Tuamotu species), with technical support from a botanical expert.
- **Raise public awareness** about the importance of managing underground freshwater and the protective role of natural forests, to foster recognition of their importance—including their cultural value.

Group photo during a school trip
Pu Tahi Haga no Ganaa © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia




**French Polynesia**

The project was implemented on Anaa, an uplifted atoll in the northwest of the Tuamotu Archipelago. Its primary focus is the Priority Conservation Area of Tukuhora, along with five additional sites distributed across the atoll.

**Beneficiaries:**
The population of Anaa Atoll, consisting of approximately 500 residents, benefitted from this project.

- Village of Tukuhora: Around 500 residents gained from water resource management and quality preservation recommendations, supported by forest restoration activities.
- Pu Tahi Haga No Ganaa Association: The association, which has about 25 members and roughly 50 supporters from Anaa Atoll (approximately 80% women and 40% youth), benefitted from on-site training in forest restoration techniques (species identification, nursery work, planting, mapping, and invasive species management) and water resource monitoring (rain gauge readings and sensor tracking).

**Key results:**

**Sustainable Water Resource Management**

- An assessment of the groundwater table and a description of the atoll's hydrodynamic system were carried out in order to inform a groundwater management protocol. This document proposes concrete solutions for sustainable water management to benefit local residents.

**Restoration of the Degraded Natural Forest of Tukuhora**

- Approximately 3,000 m² of the Priority Conservation Zone were restored to protect the water resources of the village of Tukuhora, which are threatened by fires, village expansion, human activities, and invasive plants on culturally important sites. The association conducted operations to control invasive alien species (IAS) such as acacia (Leucaena leucocephala), carried out pollution cleanup, and produced 2,773 seedlings of indigenous species in the nursery.

**Pilot Project: Maite Cultivation Pit**

- A 16 m² traditional cultivation pit was developed to encourage residents to rediscover and adopt ancestral agricultural techniques. This pilot model aims to inspire and support residents in growing taro and to strengthen the atoll's food security.

**Reintroduction of the Cyclomorpha flava Snail on the Site**

- A total of 7,000 Cyclomorpha flava snails were reintroduced on Anaa, translocated from Vahitahi, to support the conservation of the forest ecosystem on heo (fossilized coral formations) and to revive the local craft of traditional crown-making, which has been threatened since the species disappeared in the 1990s. Their management is overseen by a monitoring committee, experts, and local communities. The potential economic value of this species, should sustainable management prove successful, will help raise awareness of the importance of preserving this natural forest.

**Awareness and Community Engagement**

- Two information panels now highlight the cultural value of two heo (uplifted coral formations on which natural forest develops), traditionally used as shelters during cyclones.

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# Taro 'ite
## Restoration of a historic taro field and characterization of its ecosystem services on Moorea Island, in French Polynesia

**Project coordinator :** Tahitian Historical Society (THS)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 76,323**

**Theme**

Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Food security

Water resource availability and quality

The project is part of a dual approach aimed at both increasing and spreading knowledge about the ecosystem services provided by irrigated taro (Colocasia esculenta) fields and encouraging farmers and residents of priority neighborhoods to establish or rehabilitate irrigated taro fields near rivers and lagoons, with the goal of improving water quality.

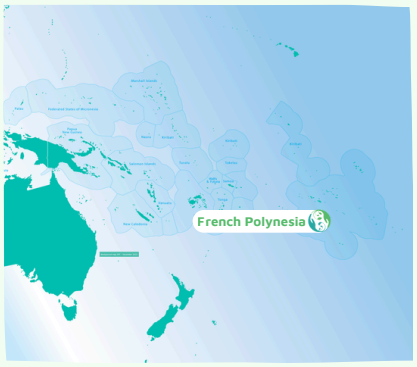
**Specific objectives :**

This project addresses three key challenges faced by French Polynesia in the context of global climate change.

- Contributing to food autonomy for low-income families.
- Improving the quality of lagoon waters by reducing terrestrial runoff.
- Fostering social cohesion and supporting community-driven initiatives.


Members of the association after a workshop © Kiwa Initiative – 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia




**French Polynesia**

Moorea is an island in French Polynesia, located about 17 kilometers (11 miles) northwest of Tahiti. It is part of the Society Islands. The project takes place on the Kellum agricultural estate, managed by the association. This agricultural estate covers an area of 52 hectares, of which 11 hectares are used for organic farming and 41 hectares are dedicated to natural and secondary forest.

- **Direct beneficiaries**

450 people, representing 150 low-income families from priority neighborhoods directly involved in the project.

- **Indirect beneficiaries**

7,500 farmers of the area.

**Main activities planned**

- **To support food autonomy among low-income families, the project will implement the following activities**
  - On-site demonstration workshops on a 1-hectare pilot plot, including taro field visits and presentations on the design, agronomic techniques, and ecological benefits.
  - Development and expansion of taro cultivation across 5 hectares, involving site design, manual clearing, construction of water circulation channels, mound building, selection and planting of taro varieties, field maintenance, harvesting, and replanting.
  - Creation and distribution of a cultivation guide for local farmers, to be shared at the end of the project.
  - Organization of product transformation and sales workshops to support income generation from taro-related products.

- **In addition, the project seeks to improve lagoon water quality by reducing land-based runoff through the following actions**
  - Installation of sediment traps, with regular analysis and monitoring to assess the taro site's capacity to capture runoff after heavy rainfall.
  - Botanical inventory and monitoring of invasive species present on the site.

- **Finally, the project aims to strengthen social cohesion through**
  - Community workshops held on-site to promote the sharing of knowledge and practices around irrigated taro farming.
  - These workshops will also help identify additional potential sites for replicating irrigated taro fields in other communities.

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# PROTECT UA HUKA

Development of the Ua Huka biodiversity protection program in French Polynesia

**Project coordinator :** Local organization "Vaiku'a i te manu o Ua Huka"

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Jan. 2023 – Jan 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 100,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

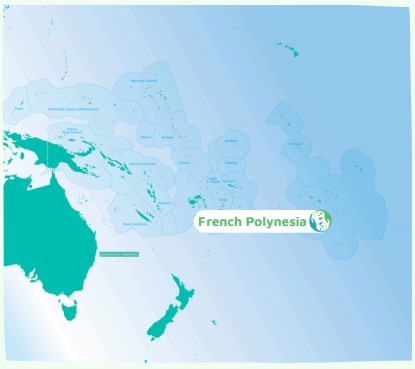
Ua Huka Island is home to critically endangered endemic bird species and several threatened plants, but its unique ecosystems and residents' livelihoods face significant threats from climate change, increased drought affecting copra production, the risk of black rat introduction, and the impacts of invasive herbivores and plants.
The project aims to protect the island's exceptional biodiversity and maintain a healthy ecosystem through biosecurity measures to prevent black rat introduction and by restoring native forests

**Specific objectives :**

- Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species on the island by **acquiring and deploying a trained biosecurity dog** for cargo inspections, and implementation of a reinforced biosecurity protocol.
- Support natural forest regeneration of 4 ha. by **replanting native species and developing nurseries** for the production of young plants.
- Raise awareness among local populations –from schoolchildren to local authorities– of the **importance of biosecurity,** the preservation of biodiversity and the management of invasive species.

With the crew of Te ata o hiva – the inter-island fleet of the southern islands, during the training and installation of rat control stations on the vessel.
C. Brown – Ua Huka © Kiwa Initiative – 2025

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia




**French Polynesia**

The project is implemented on Ua Huka, an island in the Marquesas Archipelago of French Polynesia.

- **Direct beneficiaries**:
  - The Beneficiaries of the Teve'a Estate will gain from the economic impact of the planned botanical and avian conservatory, in addition to receiving technical assistance and access to an upcoming water supply system.
  - Eight local employees (four women aged 23–42 and four men aged 23–55) benefit from training provided by field experts.

- **Indirect Beneficiaries**:
  - Island residents benefit from the island remaining free of major pests that threaten its flora and fauna, the preservation of natural forests, groundwater protection, and biodiversity conservation - all essential to the island's authenticity.
  - National authorities benefit from the association's commitment to actions that align with the jurisdiction and conservation goals of the territory.

**Key results to date**:

**Preventing the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS)**

- Inspections have been stepped up, with 26 additional cargo ships checked.
- Since the start of the project, a total of 104 ships have been inspected.
- Around twenty rat bait stations have been replaced, including 10 new ones installed on the recently opened dock in the Hane valley. Since August 2025, this second dock has been under systematic monitoring.
- In total, 248 bait stations have been refilled.
- Twelve additional stations have been installed on the CODIM inter-island shuttles, with six per vessel.

**Raising public awareness**

The association has organized several meetings.

- One with the Organizing Committee of the Marquesas Islands Festival (COMOTHE) in January 2025.
- A coordination meeting with CODIM was held in August 2025.
- A meeting with the Minister of Environment and Agriculture of French Polynesia took place in September 2025.
- A working meeting with the Biosecurity Directorate of French Polynesia (DBS) was held in November 2025 to prepare for the inspections planned before and during the Marquesas Festival. DBS will be present at that time to reinforce the deployed teams.

"Our goal is to protect our island from the black rat, as it is one of the few islands in Polynesia still free of this rodent. With our rat-detection dogs, the installation of rodenticide stations, and especially the collaboration of local decision-makers, our work is strengthened. And all of this has been made possible thanks to the PROTECT UA HUKA project funded by Kiwa. Thank you Kiwa."

Sabrina TEATIU – Dog handler.

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KIWA INITIATIVE

**Advancing NbS with Youth and Vulnerable Groups in Niue**

OMA TAFUA

**Project coordinator** : Oma Tafua

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

Aug. 2023 – March 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 224,961**

**Theme**

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefits**

- Biodiversity conservation
- Socio-economic resilience
- Food security
- Disaster Risk reduction

The project in Niue focuses on community-based disaster risk management, coastal restoration, and the empowerment of youth and vulnerable groups to build climate resilience. The project site was chosen for its heritage, historical, and ecological significance, as well as its vulnerability, highlighted by the devastation caused by Cyclone Heta in 2004.

**Specific Objectives** :

- **Develop an Adaptation Action Plan** for Aliluki and Tufukia Area encompassing community based disaster risk management.
- Coastal Restoration of Habitat, Forestry, Biodiversity in the Aliluki and Tufukia areas, both areas most devasted by the category 5 cyclone Heta 2004 now severely under threat by invasives.
- **Urban nursery ecosystem of native trees** (managed by the respective community groups for community benefit) (restoration of area with native trees and biochar).
- Annual forum to empower Youth and Vulnerable Group voices in Climate Resilience (to fall in during climate week and/or disaster risk reduction day).

Oma Tafua team and volunteers showcasing documents on Cyclone Heta in an exhibition booth - Oma Tafua © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia


**Niue**

Aliluki and Tufukia areas

**Beneficiaries:**
Youth and vulnerable groups in Niue

**Key results to date:**

**Adaptation action plan (AAP) for Aliluki and Tufukia areas**
A first draft of the AAP, which includes community-based disaster risk management, has been submitted. As part of the AAP and Seedlings Calendar, a "Cultural Journey" tour led by local women was conducted to identify native tree species with guidance from expert elders. These native trees will be planted along the coastline to enhance coastal protection.

**Coastal restoration of habitat, forestry, and biodiversity (Aliluki and Tufukia)**
- Tree planting: 314 trees/plants have been planted.
- Seedling collection: 182 seedlings of coastal-resilient plants (mango and telie) have been collected. Of these, 20 have fully sprouted, and 50 are currently sprouting.
- **Invasive Species removal: 43,026 invasive plants and trees have been removed since the project began.**
- Signage: Biodiversity-focused signposts have been erected at the operations site.

**Urban nursery ecosystem**
**Biochar was produced from 14,602 removed invasive/pest trees,** supporting sustainable soil improvement.
Three stakeholder meetings were held, fostering collaboration between the government, community groups, and key stakeholders, including vulnerable groups,women, men, and youth.

**Youth and Vulnerable Group Empowerment**
An annual forum is planned to amplify the voices of youth and vulnerable groups in climate resilience, potentially aligning with Climate Week or Disaster Risk Reduction Day.

**Next Steps:**

- Finalize the Adaptation action plan for Aliluki and Tufukia.
- Continue implementing the Coastal Restoration Plan, with ongoingplanting and invasive species removal.
- Develop the urban nursery ecosystem further and integrate it into community education initiatives.
- Organize the annual forum for youth and vulnerable groups to engage in climate resilience discussions.

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# Improving the management and restoration of O Le Pupu-Pue National Park in Samoa

**Project coordinator :** Samoa Conservation Society (SCS)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

July 2022 – Mar 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 278,803**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefit**

Biodiversity conservation

**The O Le Pupu-Pue National Park (OLPP-NP)** provides essential ecosystem services to nearby communities but faces severe challenges due to cyclone damage, climate change impacts, and invasive weeds. The government of Samoa lacks adequate resources to manage and restore the park, making external financial and labor support crucial.

This project aims to enhance the **long-term management and restoration** of OLPP-NP through ecological restoration activities.

**Specific Objectives :**

- Restore rainforests and promote nature based solutions in Protected Areas and Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) across Samoa
- Build capacity for sustainable conservation by building a Community Conservation Support Network (CCSN).

IUCN Kiwa team visiting Samoa Conservation Society's project site in O le Pupu-Pue National Park © Kiwa Initiative - May 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia


**Samoa**

The project is implemented in O Le Pupu-Pue National Park on Upolu, Samoa, which spans 50 km² and was the first national park established in the South Pacific (est. 1978). The park provides essential ecosystem services to surrounding communities and is home to several globally threatened species, including Samoa's national bird, the endemic Tooth-billed Pigeon or Manumea (Didunculus strigirostris), classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

**Beneficiaries:**
The project will benefit approximately 4,800 people in eight project sites in Samoa. This includes around 1,000 households and around 1500 (31%) "youth" (15-35 years old).

**Key results to date:**

- **Restoration and conservation activities**
  - The project has successfully **replanted 13,750 trees and restored 4 hectares of forest area.**
  - SCS has collected 11,300 native Samoan seedlings for the Kiwa project and surrounding communities, compared to zero native seedlings at the project's inception.
  - Three photopoints – a method to monitor native tree growth and IAS spread- have been established, with the first monitoring round completed in March 2023, and now regularly updated every 6 months.
  - The Threatened Species and Forest Monitoring Protocol has been finalized and will be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment to guide future research efforts within the National Park. **The protocol is now used by all subsequent projects, in the OLPP to measure tree growth and guide reforestation actions.**

- **Training and increased community participation in park management**
  - A total of **30 members from the three nearby villages** (10 people per site, including 2 to 3 women at each) contributed to the project by leading site maintenance and supporting nursery activities. They were also equipped and received training in:
    - First Aid response from the Samoa Fire and Emergency Authority;
    - Identification of native and invasive species, nursery and project management, carbon offsets and reforestation.

"This opportunity truly is a blessing, and we thank for it. The project has also been instrumental in enhancing our knowledge including skills in restoration, identifying birds and seven Samoan native trees through specialized training sessions."

Mr. Tusiga TUPUOLA, Community member

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KIWA INITIATIVE

Empowering youth in biodiversity management and conservation in Tonga

**Project coordinator :** Tonga National Youth Congress

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

July 2022 – Mar. 2026

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 99,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Co-benefit**

Biodiversity conservation

In Tonga, climate change is intensifying existing issues like poor management, poaching, and habitat loss, while stronger weather events and limited resources hamper both ecosystem resilience and local conservation efforts.
This project supports the conservation of **Tonga's unique ecosystems by promoting effective resource management practices.** Local communities utilize Nature-based Solutions as adaptive responses to the specific climate change impacts and threats faced in each area.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Implement a minimum of **ten preventative measures of poaching** in each area that by the end of the project, poaching at each project site has decreased by at least 20%.
- Implement a minimum of **three effective resource conservation management strategy** per project site.
- Implement and management **five species specific conservation activities** at each project area targeting the most vulnerable species identified by the baseline survey.

The Kiwa Initiative Programme team with the TNYC grantees
IUCN-ORO © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia


**Tonga**

There are 4 project sites, representing each of the 4 island groups of Tonga : Tongatapu (mainland) ‘Eua, Ha’apai, and Vava’u.

- Sopu Reef, Tongatapu (21°06'29.60'S 175°14'34.30' W ; 476 Ha)
- Lokupo Park Rainforest, Eua island (21°23'46.06"S 174°54'22.73"W ; 623 Ha)
- Ano Hehea Lotofoa, Ha'apai island (19°44'45.75'S 174°18'19.21'W ; 41.32 Ha)
- Moungalafa, Vava’u island (18°39'45.63'S 174°03'04.35'W ; 776 Ha)

**Beneficiaries:**
The total number of beneficiaries for this project is estimated at 25,090 people. Of this population, approximately 51.5% are women and 48.5% are men. It is also estimated that youth make up 31.8% of the total population across all project areas. The total number of households across all project sites is estimated at 4,570.

**Key results to date:**

- **Establishment of protected areas & baseline surveys**
  - Worked with parks & reserves authority to secure protection status for identified sites.
  - Conducted biodiversity assessments to identify vulnerable species and track ecosystem health.
- **Community-led resource management**
  - Formed local youth conservation committees linked to village councils to oversee project activities.
  - Developed species classification logs and trained youth park rangers for long-term monitoring.
- **Anti-poaching & sustainable livelihood strategies**
  - **Implemented 10 preventative measures to combat illegal hunting.**
  - Created community-led policing programs to enforce conservation regulations.
- **Habitat restoration & reforestation**
  - Planted primary forest species to enhance biodiversity resilience.
  - Removed invasive species, boosting ecosystem recovery.
- **Marine & wetland restoration efforts**
  - Developed sea cucumber conservation traps and **benthic species restoration programs with the local youth.** Species vary per project site and focused on species identified by the local communities as endangered in their ecosystem.
  - Created floating plant islands in areas impacted by eutrophication.
- **Capacity Building & education**
  - Designed educational materials (pamphlets, posters) for local engagement.
  - **Conducted monthly conservation forums** to share knowledge and improve practices.

"What we have learnt and achieved from the TNYC Project sites is, this has been an opportunity for youth in the communities to be involved with the biodiversity conservation, and understand the importance of conservation. These projects are inspiring youth and communities to prioritize activities such as planting native trees and monitoring bird and wildlife populations. These efforts are the only solution towards mitigating environmental damage."

Ms. Taina MATOTO, Community member

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# Biodiversity preservation, food security and community involvement through feral pig management in Wallis-and-Futuna

**Project coordinator :** Wallis-et-Futuna Territorial Environment Service (STE)

**IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

August 2025 – March 2027

**AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

**€ 200,000**

**Theme**

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation**

Food security

Human health

Water resource availability and quality

Wallis and Futuna face serious threats from feral pigs, attributed to inadequate fencing and irregular watering and feeding at small family-run traditional farms. These pigs damage native forests, endanger endemic species, destroy culturally and economically important food crops, and spread diseases such as leptospirosis. This project proposes a coordinated, community-supported approach that combines improved monitoring, local capacity-building, and strengthened partnerships between environmental and agricultural services. By sustainably controlling wild pig populations and involving customary authorities, the project aims to restore ecosystems, enhance agricultural productivity, and build long-term resilience to climate and ecological challenges.

**Specific Objectives:**

- Strengthen knowledge of the abundance, distribution, behavior, and impacts of wild pig populations in Wallis and Futuna — to provide a solid scientific basis for informed decision-making and targeted management actions.
- Build local capacity for monitoring and managing wild pig populations — by training local stakeholders and equipping them with the tools and skills needed for effective long-term control.
- Implement participatory, sustainable, and effective management of wild pigs at priority sites — through community involvement and culturally appropriate, resource-adapted strategies to reduce their impact on biodiversity and agriculture.

COCHON SAUVAGE EN FORÊT LITTORALE DE NUKUATEA


**Subregion:** ☐ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia


**Wallis-and-Futuna**

In ʻUvea: Hihifo, Hahake and Mua
and in Futuna: Vainifao and Mont Puke

**Beneficiaries:**

- The number of direct beneficiaries is estimated to be 350 Wallisians and Futunians. 3,437 individuals will also indirectly benefit from the project, representing 30% of the population.

**Main activities planned**

- **Protocol Development and Assessment**

The project is designed to develop protocols for estimating feral pig populations and their impact, specifically their abundance, distribution, behavior, and impacts in Wallis and Futuna, as well as a participatory management and monitoring protocol.

- **Feral Pig Management and Capacity Building**

The project focuses on controlling feral pig populations on the main islands of Wallis and Futuna through trapping. The goal is to remove an estimated 450 animals. The project involves monitoring subsistence crops on pilot sites in partnership with the Directorate of Agricultural Services (DSA). The project involves training for 10 technical service staff and 20 representatives from local associations and villages, with a focus on including women and youth. This includes technical training for the operational team and production of an illustrated guide translated into Wallisian and Futunan.

- **Communication and Community Engagement**

Communication and awareness-raising are key components of the project, with plans for village meetings, videos, leaflets, and press releases to engage the public and promote sustainable practices. Materials developed by the DSA on improving pig farming will be disseminated to households in concerned villages. Awareness meetings will be organized in the seven concerned villages to discuss issues, recommended methods, and guidelines. The project will also establish formal agreements with villages to ensure Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the local population.

**Nature-based Solutions implemented and how they benefit to communities**

Controlling wild pig populations is a prerequisite for any terrestrial ecosystem restoration activity in Wallis and Futuna. Their foraging habits cause severe soil erosion and destroy native vegetation, preventing the regeneration of forests and damaging agricultural land. Improving farming practices, while limiting the impact of escaped animals and the development of feral populations, will allow for sustained efforts to maintain essential ecosystem services that support food and water security, health, and livelihoods. This project will directly protects local food crops like taro and yams, safeguards freshwater supplies from contamination, and reduces the risk of zoonotic diseases for the population.

**Website:** www.wallis-et-futuna.gouv.fr/Services-de-l-Etat-et- du-Territoire/Les-autres-services-de-l-Etat-et-du- Territoire/Service-de-l-Environnement
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KIWA INITIATIVE

Nature-based solutions for climate resilience

The Kiwa Initiative - Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience aims to build the resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities, and economies to climate change through NbS by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity.

It is based on simplified access to funding for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation actions for local and national governments, civil society, and regional organizations in Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

The Initiative is funded by the European Union, Agence française de développement (AFD), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). It has established partnerships with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN - ORO).

For more information: http://www.kiwainitiative.org/