JANUARY 2025
ARU KOMO LOCAL PROJECT

ACCOMPLISHED

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KIWA INITIATIVE — 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

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

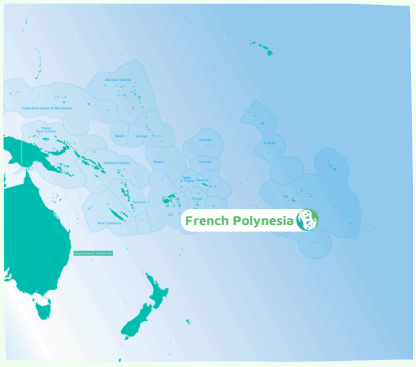
Anaa Island's unique freshwater resources face growing threats from climate change, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, and human activities such as intensive copra cultivation and forest degradation. These challenges call for urgent action to **protect both the island's ecosystem and the sustainability 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.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

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