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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

# KIWA INITIATIVE

## Preservation of native plant habitats in Papua New Guinea

**Project coordinator :** Dika Suna Nature Conservation

### IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

August 2025 – March 2027

### 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.

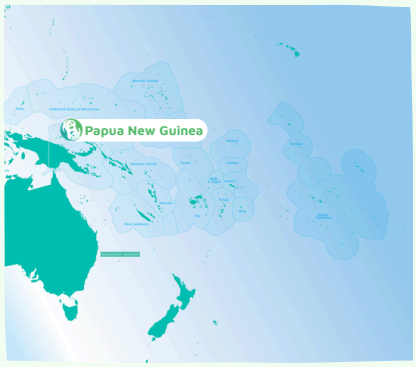
Dika Suna Nature Conservation works with local communities to conserve forests and restore degraded land, supporting culturally and economically significant indigenous plants while promoting sustainable land use and preserving traditional ecological knowledge.

**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.

**Key results till date:**

### Community information sessions through notice boards

- Communities from three (3) locations (Koge village, Smau village and Dika Suna base project area) have been part of awareness initiatives addressing climate change impacts and resilient practices through visual community notice boards. The initiative led to 58 individuals reporting understanding of climate change resilience and committing to implementing nature-based solutions on their degraded land to increase volume of water flows, restore soil fertility and restore natural ecosystems. 468 participants were able to attend sessions over a 3-day awareness campaign. Awareness on restoration activities has led to an increase in community stewardship as individual landowners are interested in restoration of their lands, and clans have volunteered to support the project. 400 posters and pamphlets were distributed to raise awareness.

### Establishment of nursery sheds

- 43, 621 tree seedlings were successfully produced. Mature seedlings have been successfully planted into degraded areas.

### Establishing a natural habitat preservation area

- A wide range of project stakeholders (youth, women, landowners, village leaders, magistrate, and land mediators' from four ward areas) were able to collaborate and identify 100 ha of degraded areas for reforestation, restoration and establish a preserved area. 18,598 trees have been planted onto 17 hectares of degraded land so far.

**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.

**DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION**

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