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KIWA INITIATIVE

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 – June 2026

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 49,960

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.

Theme

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

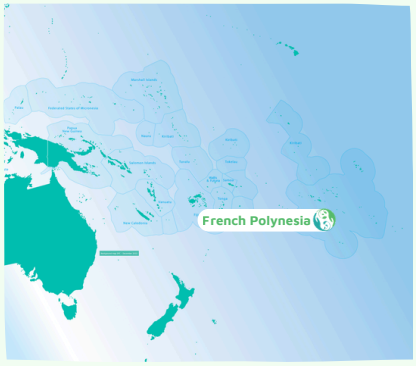
Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

Biodiversity conservation

Water resource availability and quality

Volunteers, civic service participants, and partners of Moorea Biodiversity @ Kiwa Initiative 2026

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 activities carried out:

Over the course of one year, **more than 18 hectares of natural forest were cleared of Miconia** by highly committed volunteer teams, despite the difficult terrain of Moorea's natural forests with their steep relief.

The impacts of climate change on Polynesia's micro-climates were particularly well understood by an increasingly large audience, both at exhibition fairs and through the training sessions offered by the Kiwa project. This was especially relevant given that climate disruptions were very significant in 2025-2026.

The **educational booklet** and **YouTube videos** were very well received by teaching staff as well as by the general public, eager for easily accessible knowledge. These resources allowed for a step-by-step progression through complex concepts. By focusing on Nature-Based Solutions, they help frame conservation actions positively — local solutions to a global problem in which everyone can become an actor.

The training sessions linked to the project directly benefited 360 people (target: 280). Four levels of knowledge were conveyed:

- N0 – The pillars of climate and the impact of warming on the micro-climate of the caldera.
- N1 – Biodiversity issues and the challenges of climate change.
- N2 – The challenges of climate change and rainfall patterns in the micro-climate of the 'Opunohu caldera.
- N2C – The challenges of climate change and rainfall patterns in the micro-climate of the 'Opunohu caldera; the complexity of these issues and how to convey them: diversifying formats for better understanding.

The booklet explains basic climatology knowledge and conveys practices that help avoid worsening the impacts of global warming. It was distributed in school libraries, leisure centers, and health centers, reaching a wide audience present in their waiting rooms. The PDF version of the booklet is available for free download on the association's Drive.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

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