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KIWA INITIATIVE

Advancing NbS with Youth and Vulnerable Groups in Niue

Project coordinator : Oma Tafua

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

August 2023 – March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 224,961

Theme

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

- 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 ongoing planting 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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