THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY: European Union, France AFD, Canada, Australian Aid, New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

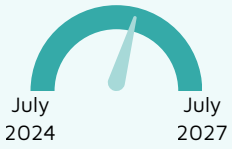
KIWA INITIATIVE — RESTORE

Restoring Ecosystems for Sustainable, Transformative and Resilient Communities

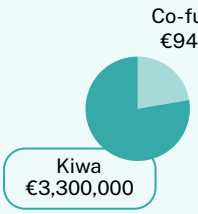
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Project Lead: Conservation International (CI)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD



AMOUNT OF FUNDING



Theme

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

- 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.

Youths of Nanukuloa Village in Ra engage in mangrove planting exercise in the mangrove in-situ nursery, Navitilevu Bay, Fiji - N.JOB © Kiwa Initiative – Dec 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 coastal protection

- **In Fiji**, about **10 ha** of mangroves have been actively restored in Navitilevu Bay, improving shoreline stability and biodiversity. With more than **80,000 nursery seedlings** now growing across 5 priority sites in Ra Province, the project is building toward a **100 ha** country target, with large-scale planting expected from mid-2026. A total of about **23 ha** has been mapped (**20 ha** active planting, **3.5 ha** supported natural regrowth), with communities leading site selection to ensure long-term ownership. In Lau Province, **1,800 reef stars** have been deployed, enabling communities to rebuild degraded coral ecosystems. A Blue Carbon pilot is nearing final certification design, which could unlock carbon credit revenues to sustain coastal management well beyond the project's end.
- In **Timor-Leste**, a baseline assessment of **120 ha** of degraded mangroves has established the foundation for targeted action across **4 coastal villages** in Liquica and Bobonaro municipalities: about **6 ha** are confirmed as active restoration sites, with **4 nurseries** producing around **20,000 seedlings**. Critically, **4** community management plans, **8 zoning areas** and **1 municipal Marine** Protected Area Committee are now in place, embedding restoration within a durable local governance framework.
- In **Samoa**, **15 village fisheries management** plans across districts have been reviewed and endorsed, translating community priorities into binding rules on fish reserves, mangrove conservation and climate adaptation. **Four fish reserve** areas covering more than **60 ha** are now demarcated, creating the conditions for reef recovery and long-term fisheries sustainability.

Sustainable livelihoods linked to ecosystem restoration

- In **Timor-Leste**, nearly **90 community members**, predominantly women, are already producing **6 value-added commodities** through community processing groups (including seaweed jelly, fish-based products, banana chips and spiced salt), demonstrating that conservation and income generation can reinforce each other. In Fiji, beekeeping has been expanded across **5 communities**, alongside ongoing value chain assessments across Ra and Rewa Provinces. In Samoa, similar assessments are underway; both dimensions will scale substantially in Y3.

Regional learning and knowledge exchange on NbS

- Community-based restoration toolkits are in development for more than **150 communities**. Two regional knowledge-sharing sessions and an exchange in Ra Province (Nov 2024) gathering participants from **5 countries** are laying the groundwork for NbS to spread beyond the project's direct footprint across the Pacific.

"I feel proud of this project because it teaches me how to take care of these (coastline) places"
Kelera Naisowaqa, a member of the women's group (Soqosoqo Vakamarama Ra), Barotu Village, Fiji.

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