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Biodiversity preservation, food security and community involvement through feral pig management in Wallis-and-Futuna

Project coordinator : Wallis and Futuna Territorial Environment Service (STE)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

August 2025 – March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 200,000

Theme

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

- Food security
- Human health
- Water resource availability and quality

Wallis and Futuna face serious threats from feral pigs, attributed to inadequate fencing and irregular watering and feeding at small family-run traditional farms. These pigs damage native forests, endanger endemic species, destroy culturally and economically important food crops, and spread diseases such as leptospirosis. This project proposes a coordinated, community-supported approach that combines improved monitoring, local capacity-building, and strengthened partnerships between environmental and agricultural services. By sustainably controlling wild pig populations and involving customary authorities, the project aims to restore ecosystems, enhance agricultural productivity, and build long-term resilience to climate and ecological challenges.

Specific Objectives:

- Strengthen knowledge of the abundance, distribution, behavior, and impacts of wild pig populations in Wallis and Futuna — to provide a solid scientific basis for informed decision-making and targeted management actions.
- Build local capacity for monitoring and managing wild pig populations — by training local stakeholders and equipping them with the tools and skills needed for effective long-term control.
- Implement participatory, sustainable, and effective management of wild pigs at priority sites — through community involvement and culturally appropriate, resource-adapted strategies to reduce their impact on biodiversity and agriculture.

Feral pigs captured by camera trap at Uvéa
Romain Alliod / Stanislaw Pagacz © Kiwa Initiative 2025

Subregion: ☐ Melanesia/Timor Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia

Wallis and Futuna

The project is being carried out in Uvéa.

Beneficiaries:

- The number of direct beneficiaries is estimated to be 350 Wallisians and Futunians. 3,437 individuals will also indirectly benefit from the project, representing 30% of the population.

Key results to date:

Development of the protocol for estimating feral pig populations

- A first mission to conduct a feasibility study took place in the territory of Wallis and Futuna in October 2025. The objective was to determine the most suitable method for obtaining an estimate of feral pig populations, including their abundance, distribution, behaviour and impacts. This mission made it possible to test the methodology of counting by thermal imaging drone and by camera trap.
- The latter method proved more suitable to the context of the island of Uvéa. Futuna will not be sampled or treated due to constraints of time, budget, logistics and secondary priority, both socially and environmentally.
- A sampling protocol to estimate feral pig populations, their abundance, distribution, behaviour and impacts has therefore been developed. This protocol will be implemented shortly; the results will enable the development of a participatory management and monitoring protocol.

Communication

- Communication and awareness raising are key elements of the project. The chiefdom has been kept informed through information meetings since the start of the project.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

« This project is a response to a request from the chiefdoms of the districts of Hihifo, Hahake and Mua, due to the damage caused by feral pigs to food crops. The customary authorities support this initiative and wish to see the impacts reduced. »

Sosefo MALAU, Multidisciplinary Environmental Intervention Technician
at the Territorial Environment Service of Wallis and Futuna

Ass. STE © Kiwa Initiative - 2026

Website: www.wallis-et-futuna.gouv.fr/Services-de-l-Etat-et- du-Territoire/Les-autres-services-de-l-Etat-et-du- Territoire/Service-de-l-Environnement
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