PRESS RELEASE

The Kiwa Initiative welcomes new NZD 5 million Contribution from New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade during its 11th Kiwa Steering Committee Meeting

Representatives from France/AFD, the European Union, New Zealand and Australia, alongside the Kiwa Initiative Secretariat team, gathered in Noumea for the 11th Steering Committee Meeting. © Kiwa Initiative, Dec. 2025.

New Caledonia, Noumea, 9 December 2025 **- The Kiwa Initiative convened its 11th Steering Committee Meeting yesterday in Noumea, bringing together its five donors and implementing partners - the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-ORO). Chaired in 2025 by the Agence française de développement (AFD), this biannual gathering is an important moment for strategic dialogue and collective decision-making to strengthen climate resilience across Pacific Island countries and territories.**

During the meeting, the Kiwa Initiative officially welcomed a **new contribution of NZD 5 million** from **New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)**. **Ms Mary Thurston, Consul-General, New Zealand Consulate-General Noumea, stated:** *"I am proud to announce that New Zealand will, this month, contribute an additional five million New Zealand dollars to the Kiwa Initiative. This brings New Zealand's lifetime contribution to Kiwa to 10 million New Zealand dollars, and reflects our deep commitment to supporting locally led, Nature-based Solutions that strengthen climate resilience across our region."*

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

THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY :
European Union
France / AFD
Canada
Australian Aid
New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade

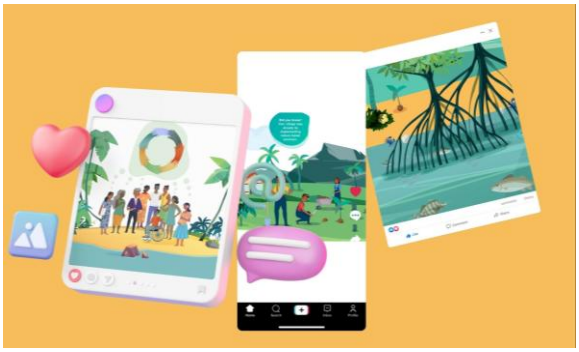
H.E. Ms. Véronique Roger-Lacan, Regional Ambassador for France in the Pacific, added: *" I would like to congratulate all the teams that have been working hard to contribute to transforming the Kiwa Initiative from concept to reality, to the utmost benefit of the people in the Pacific. You all have been together with us, now for 5 years, in this programme, and I hope that we can both consolidate and expand in the next coming years."*

During the signing ceremony in Noumea - M.BANTEGNY © Kiwa Initiative – Dec 2025. (From left to right) Ms. Safia IBRAHIM - Regional director, AFD Pacific regional office, Ms. Mary Thurston - General Consul, New Zealand Consulate-General in New Caledonia, Ms Delphine Silverio - Deputy Director of AFD's Three Oceans Department in Paris, Mr. François SOW - Diplomatic Advisor to the French High Commissioner in New Caledonia / Deputy Permanent Representative to SPC and SPREP.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Ms. Safia Ibrahim, Regional director, AFD Pacific regional office, alongside with **Ms. Delphine Silverio, Deputy Director of AFD's Three Oceans Department based in Paris**, who was in Noumea for this occasion: *" With a budget now approaching 80 million euros managed by AFD, we are pleased to see the Kiwa Initiative's continued expansion and to welcome New Zealand's renewed support."*

Kiwa Initiative - Key Figures (2020–2025)

- **41 projects** funded across **17 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs).**
- **79,5 million Euros** mobilised since 2020.
- **More than 127,000 direct beneficiaries** targeted at the end of the Kiwa Initiative.
- **15,910 hectares** already benefit from biodiversity conservation/restoration actions.
- **136 public institutions** and **almost 200 civil society organisations** in PICTs benefit from capacity building since 2020.



Five Years of the Kiwa Initiative

A Regional Communication Campaign Now Live

A communication campaign highlighting Nature-based Solutions across the Pacific is currently underway, at the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Kiwa Initiative. For more information, visit the Kiwa Initiative website, the YouTube channel and follow updates on social media!

About the Kiwa Initiative - The Kiwa Initiative - Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience aims to build the resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities, and economies to climate change through NbS by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity. It is based on simplified access to funding for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation actions for local and national governments, civil society, and regional organizations in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The Initiative is funded by the European Union, Agence française de développement (AFD), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). It has established partnerships with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN - ORO). For more information: The Kiwa Initiative - Climate Resilience in the Pacific Islands thanks to Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

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