

PRESS RELEASE

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The Kiwa Initiative: €35 Million¹ to adapt to climate change and for biodiversity in the Pacific

The [Kiwa Initiative](#), the first international cooperation between the European Union, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand on climate change adaptation and biodiversity, launches a call for ideas for regional projects of €1,5 to 5 Million that aim to strengthen climate change resilience of Pacific island communities, ecosystems and economies through Nature-based Solutions. The call for ideas is open until September, 15th 2021.

LAUNCH OF A REGIONAL CALL FOR IDEAS

19 eligible countries and territories in the Pacific

The Initiative proposes, through a call for ideas, to help 19 Pacific Island Countries and Territories to integrate Nature-based Solution (NbS) in their climate change adaptation policies and their implementation either in the form of financial and/or technical support. This technical assistance will be provided by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Community (SPC), implementing partners of the Initiative as well as the Secretariat of the Initiative based in Noumea.

The regional call for ideas launched mid-April 2021 deals specifically with the areas of **ocean governance and the resilience of coastal communities**.

The call for ideas

- Eligible entities: local, national authorities and public institutions from one of the 19 eligible countries and territories, regional organizations and international NGOs.
- The projects must be based on NbS and involve at least two eligible countries or territories.

¹ This total amount is subject to the approval of the addendum to the Contribution agreement between AFD and the European Union for the EU top-up of €4M.

- The amount of grants for regional projects ranges from 1.5 to 5 million euros.
- Projects will be evaluated and selected by voting members of the Initiative's Steering Committee made up of donors and representatives of the three sub-regions of the Pacific.
- Once selected, the projects will be reviewed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) which manages and implement the Initiative.

Eligible Countries and Territories : Timor-Leste, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Salomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, Fiji, Kiribati, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

Closing of the call: September 15th, 2021

The documents (terms of reference, template of the concept note) can be downloaded here: www.kiwainitiative.org

Address the climate change adaptation challenge in the Pacific

Climate change adaptation is a key issue in the Pacific region, where sea level rise and increase of air and ocean temperature combine with climate disasters, threaten the well-being of communities but also their ecosystems and economies. The Kiwa Initiative aims to meet this challenge through NbS by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity.

The Initiative was born in the prolongation of the Paris Agreement and under the leadership of the President of the French Republic. Result of a Franco-European dynamic, the Kiwa Initiative was launched in 2020 and brings together for the first time the French overseas territories and the Pacific Island countries and territories in order to implement common solutions at the regional level.

Nature-based Solutions as a pillar of action

NbS, a concept standardized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), use the nature's resources like mangrove or reefs to address climate change adaptation. They aim to safeguard the well-being of communities by preserving ecosystem biodiversity and providing major co-benefits such as health, sustainable economic development, bridging the gender gap and food security.

Key event in May 2021:

May 28th 2021² 10:00 am: Official signing ceremony in Noumea of the financing agreement between AFD and SPC for the first Kiwa regional project (Pacific Organic Learning Farm Network)

About the Kiwa Initiative - The Kiwa Initiative – Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience aims at strengthening the climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through NbS, that is to say by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity. It is based on an easier access to funding for climate change adaptation and NbS for local, national authorities, civil society and regional organizations in both Pacific Island countries and territories. The Initiative is funded by the European Union, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). The Kiwa Initiative has established partnerships with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the regional office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. More information on www.kiwainitiative.org

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² New Caledonia dates and times (UTC+11).

