

## PRESS RELEASE

# Addressing the climate crisis in the Pacific through the Kiwa Initiative

**Suva, Fiji 22 June 2021 (IUCN)** The Kiwa Initiative local projects component, which is aimed at boosting climate resilience in the Pacific, was launched in Suva, Fiji earlier today. Hosted by IUCN Oceania, the launch was attended by various partners from across the region including local and regional NGOs, civil societies, national and local authorities from the Pacific island countries and the three French territories.

The Kiwa Initiative, a multi-donor programme, aims at strengthening the resilience of Pacific countries and territories' ecosystems, economies and communities by setting up a one-stop-shop for funding projects that promote Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate change adaptation and biodiversity preservation. This objective is achieved by providing technical and financial support.

*“The Initiative is one of the few regional programme that foster the design and implementation of common solutions for island countries and the French territories in the Pacific to address climate change adaptation while preserving biodiversity for the well-being of communities”* said Ms Caroline Edant, Regional Project Manager on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Initiative of 35 million euros\* is the first international cooperation programme to bring together the European Union (EU), France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The official launch comes after a three-day awareness workshop that was held on 15, 16 and 17 June specifically targeted at potential grant recipients of the Kiwa Initiative local projects component. The workshop provided participants with information regarding the grants portfolio and processes, including its eligibility criteria.

*“The three-day awareness workshop is designed to not only to raise the awareness of participants on the overall objectives of the Kiwa Initiative but also to provide clarification to potential grantees. The Kiwa Initiative local project component of EUR 6M is implemented*

by the IUCN Oceania Regional Office. It is important that the grant portfolio, eligibility criteria, timelines and process are presented to ensure grantees capacity in accessing funding which will support their ongoing work for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation in their local environment. The Kiwa Initiative team stands ready to provide technical assistance, build grantee capacity and assist with the overall grant process. My team and I look forward to closely working with grantees in the coming months”, said Mason Smith, Regional Director of IUCN Oceania.

### **The call for local projects:**

- Eligible entities: local or national authorities, public institutions, civil society organisations, community organisations and local and International NGOs from the 19 eligible Pacific Island Countries and Territories (Timor Leste, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, Fiji, Kiribati, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands and French Polynesia).
- Applicant must base their projects on NbS for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation.
- The grants portfolio includes very small, small, and medium grants (EUR 25,000 to EUR 400,000).
- Closing of the call:
  - Very small grants – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - Small grants – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - Medium grants – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Relevant documents will be made available via the IUCN Kiwa Initiative webpage:  
<https://www.iucn.org/regions/oceania/our-work/deploying-nature-based-solutions/kiwa-initiative>

*\*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.*

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## About the Kiwa Initiative:

The Kiwa Initiative – Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience aims at strengthening the climate change resilience of Pacific Islands ecosystems, communities and economies through NbS, 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 organisations of Pacific Island Countries and Territories including the three French overseas territories. The Initiative is funded by the European Union, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the 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 Oceania regional office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

More information on [www.kiwainitiative.org](http://www.kiwainitiative.org);  @InitiativeKiwa  @KiwaInitiative  Kiwa Initiative

## About IUCN:

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of more than 18,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. [www.iucn.org/regions/oceania/our-work/deploying-nature-based-solutions/kiwa-initiative](http://www.iucn.org/regions/oceania/our-work/deploying-nature-based-solutions/kiwa-initiative)

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