

THE KIWA INITIATIVE AT THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Noumea, September 3rd, 2021 – The Kiwa Initiative, which funds Nature-based Solutions for climate change adaptation in the Pacific, will be present at the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France on September 3–11, 2021, the world’s largest biodiversity decision-making forum. The Initiative will be presented during a high-level Session on September 6th at 4 PM in the Pacific-Hawaii Pavilion.

The European Union, France, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand joined forces for the first time to create the Kiwa Initiative, which **supports the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience in the Pacific.**

Pacific Island Countries and Territories boast unique biodiversity upon which local communities base their livelihood and well-being. However, the region is particularly affected by climate change. The ambition of the Kiwa Initiative is to meet the challenge of climate change adaptation through the protection and conservation of biodiversity by providing financial and technical support to local and regional projects. Scientists estimate that at least 30% of solutions to the effects of climate change rely on nature. However, at the international scale, **only 2% of climate finance is favorable to biodiversity.**

The Initiative now has more than 40 million euros* to fund climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation. It offers simplified access to financing and technical assistance through a partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). **Nineteen countries and territories including the French overseas territories are currently eligible.**

Presentation of the Kiwa Initiative during the World Conservation Congress in Marseille

Theme: Nature-based Solutions and climate resilience

Monday, September 6 2021, 4:00-6:00 PM

Oceania-Hawaii Pavilion – Room H3

Speakers: Mason Smith, IUCN Regional Director, Oceania; Ana Tiraa, IUCN Vice-President, Regional Councilor for Oceania; Ken Kassem, IUCN Oceania; Aurélien




Guingand, AFD representative; Denisa Salkova, European Union representative; Joshua Wycliffe, Permanent Secretary for the Fiji Ministry of Waterways and the Environment; Paino Vanai, Head of the Environment Department of Wallis and Futuna.

To learn more: www.kiwainitiative.org

*Indicative amount including EU top-up of €4M, to be formalized with an addendum to the Contribution Agreement between AFD and the EU.

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:  @InitiativeKiwa  @KiwaInitiative  Kiwa Initiative

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