



## Kiwa Initiative announces four new local projects in the Pacific

*Suva, Fiji – September 28, 2023* - **The Kiwa Initiative and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) are thrilled to announce four new projects aimed at addressing the climate crises through Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Niue, Nauru, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. These new projects, representing a step towards a sustainable climate resilient future, will tackle key climate-related challenges faced by Pacific Island nations. They are recipients of the first call for proposals launched by IUCN and closed in 2022.**

The Pacific region is disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and disruptions to ecosystems and livelihoods. To address these pressing issues, the Kiwa Initiative is committing to a multi-faceted approach that combines NbS and community engagement.

The Kiwa Initiative, launched in 2020, provides grants for both local and regional-scale projects in 19 eligible countries and territories in the Pacific region, including the three French Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in addition to the ACP (for countries in the Pacific, part of African, Caribbean and Pacific region). The Kiwa initiative also provides support to project leaders in the form of capacity building and technical assistance.

*"As donors of the Kiwa Initiative, we are proud to contribute to your projects that are rooted in the engagement and mobilization of local communities. We subscribe to this approach, as we firmly believe that communities are best positioned to understand and address the challenges they are already facing regarding climate change adaptation.[...] So, to each one of you, thank you very much for your commitment. We wish you all the best for a successful implementation of your Kiwa local projects that, with no doubt, will contribute to make Nature our ally for a more resilient Pacific",* says Ms Aurélie Ahmim-Richard, Regional policy officer in New Caledonia, AFD.

Previously, fourteen (14) Kiwa local projects - nine (9) in ACP and five (5) in OCTs, led by civil society organisations, national authorities, and international NGOs, had been awarded grants. These include projects led by organisations such as the **Ministry of Waterways** - Fiji , **Samoa Conservation Society** - Samoa, **Lamacca Climate Change Association** - Vanuatu, **Community Centred Conservation** - Fiji, **National Trust of Fiji** - Fiji, **Ebiil Society** - Palau, **Tonga National Youth Congress** - Tonga, **Birdlife International** - Solomon Islands, **Blue Ventures Conservation** - Timor Leste, **ACCMP Dayu Biik** - New Caledonia, **WWF France** - New Caledonia, **Province Nord** - New Caledonia, **Vaiku'a i te manu Ua Huka** - French Polynesia, **Pu Tahī hāga no Ganāe** - French Polynesia. With the inclusion of the four new projects, a total of **18 local projects** will now be implemented under the Kiwa Initiative.

The four last grant recipients from the first Call of proposals are:

- **KGWan – Papua New Guinea**

This project aims to combat climate change impacts through reforestation in degraded areas of the montane forest in the Simbu province along the Bismark Forest corridor and ensuring sustainable forest management. The project also aims to improve livelihood socio-economic and financial resilience for 1,500 community members through producing climate smart food crops while at the same time ensuring the conservation of the threatened *Nothofagus* plant species in the forests of the Inaugl Tribe. The estimated size of the area is about 15 – 20,000 hectares. The total grant awarded to KGWan is €50,000.

- **Permatil – Timor Leste**

This project is aimed toward water restoration and environmental rehabilitation at village level in 12 locations and 2 districts. (6 in Alieu district and 6 in Liquica district). The project also aims to embed long-term climate adaptation and resilience skills in young people by linking school environment programmes with youth leadership and environmental education programmes. The overall goal of the project is to increase knowledge, skills, and attitude around water source management and conservation, environmental rehabilitation, and resilient food systems across Timorese society and all Pacific nations. The total grant awarded to Permatil is €307, 500.

- **Oma Tafua – Niue**

The project in Niue focuses on community-based disaster risk management in the Aliluki and Tufukia area through the development an Adaptation Action Plan, coastal restoration and the empowerment of youth and vulnerable groups in climate resilience. The project site was selected due to its heritage, historical and ecological significance and also due to the devastation of area by cyclone Heta in 2004. The total grant amount awarded to Oma Tafua is €234, 773.00.

- **EcoNauru – Nauru**

The key objective of the project is to accelerate the growing of coconut trees in Nauru and re-educate communities on the traditional uses and economic benefits associated with every part of the coconut tree and in-turn provide opportunities for adaptation and measures against climate change. The total grant amount awarded to EcoNauru is €51,446.

*"IUCN ORO and our regional partners SPREP and SPC are privileged and honoured to be part of this exciting partnership between Donors and NbS and Climate Change experts in the Pacific from civil society groups, NGOs, local authorities, and International NGOs to implement the Kiwa initiative across the 16 ACPs and 3 OCTs. Today, 4 more new local projects are launched and we welcome them to this partnership as jointly working together to combat the immense impact of climate change at grass roots and community level who are at the forefront of climate change facing sea-level rise, natural disasters and loss of livelihoods",* said Maria-Goreti Muavesi, Act. Regional Director of IUCN Oceania.



While the four new projects are being announced, a new Call for Proposals was launched and opened on September 20<sup>th</sup> which runs till November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Interested proponents can submit a concept note either for a Very Small, a Small, or a Medium grant, with budget ranges between EUR 25,000 to EUR 400,000, depending on the project's size. More information can be viewed via <https://bit.ly/2ndCallKiwa>

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**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. The Initiative, launched in 2020 with EUR 31 million and endowed now with more than EUR 75 million, is funded by the European Union (EU), 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 Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Oceania).

**[www.kiwainitiative.org](http://www.kiwainitiative.org)**

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