

PRESS INFORMATION

Noumea, September 23rd, 2021

The Kiwa Initiative: launch of a new call for regional projects to foster climate resilience and biodiversity in the Pacific.

The Kiwa Initiative, which supports climate change adaptation projects in the Pacific using Nature-based Solutions*, is launching a new call for ideas for regional projects, following the last call for ideas that closed in September 15th 2021. Grants ranging from 1.5 to 5 million euros are open to regional projects designed to strengthen the resilience of the communities, ecosystems and economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The call for ideas will end on April 4th, 2022.

An initiative supporting collective solutions to tackle climate disruption

During the 5th France-Oceania Summit in July 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron announced an increase in the Kiwa Initiative's budget from 35 million to nearly **41 million euros**¹. This new funding has made this new call for ideas possible.

As a result, the Initiative will be able to help the **19 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including the 3 French overseas territories**, integrate and implement Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in their climate adaptation policies. This support takes the form of both funding for project implementation and technical assistance for the design of regional project proposals. The technical support is provided by the Initiative's partners, the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as well as the Initiative's Secretariat based in Noumea.

The Pacific region is particularly exposed to the impacts of climate change. The combination of rising sea levels and temperatures, as well as extreme weather events, threaten the well-being of communities, ecosystems, and their economies. According to the latest IPCC report, by 2100, temperatures in the region will rise by 2 to 4 degrees, affecting its 6 of the world's 36 biodiversity hot spots.

The Kiwa Initiative aims to address these challenges by promoting the use of NbS to protect, restore, and sustainably manage biodiversity.

For the first time, the European Union, France, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have joined forces to tackle climate and biodiversity challenges in the Pacific while also facing health and economic crises.

¹ Indicative amount including the European Union top-up of €4 M, to be formalized with an addendum between AFD and the EU.

A first regional project launched in May 2021: a network of organic learning farms

This 4.6-million-euro project carried out by SPC aims to meet the climate resilience and capacity-building needs of smallholder farmers in Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, and the Solomon Islands. It is developing a network of organic farms that will become learning centers to teach the benefits of NbS and share the best organic farming, agroecology, and agroforestry methods and techniques. This project will include cooperation and expertise sharing between New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and Wallis and Futuna as part of the PROTEGE project, financed by the regional budget of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and implemented by SPC.

The 2022 call for ideas in a nutshell:

- Open to organizations from the eligible Countries or Territories: local or national authorities, public institutions, regional organizations (Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, CROP) and international NGOs.
- Climate adaptation projects must use NbS and involve at least two eligible Countries or Territories.
- Projects must have a maximum duration of 3 years of implementation
- Funding: from 1.5 to 5 million euros.

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

Call for ideas closing date: April 4th 2022

The application documents (terms of reference, concept note models) can be downloaded from the Initiative website: www.kiwainitiative.org

**A concept standardized by the [IUCN](http://www.iucn.org), NbS are actions that use resources provided by nature such as mangroves or coral reefs for climate change adaptation. They aim to safeguard the well-being of communities by protecting biodiversity and ecosystems and providing major co-benefits such as health, economic development, improved gender equality, and food security.*

About the Kiwa Initiative – The Kiwa Initiative – Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience aims to strengthen the climate resilience of ecosystems, communities, and economies in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories by using NbS to protect, restore, and sustainably manage biodiversity. It offers local or national authorities, civil society, and regional organizations in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories simplified access to funding for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation. The Initiative is funded by the European Union, 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). It has established partnerships with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania regional office. For more information: www.kiwainitiative.org

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