KIWA INITIATIVE

WOMEN'S WORK

For biodiversity and climate resilience in Micronesia

MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST

PRESS RELEASE

Palau Hosts Inception Workshop for Kiwa Initiative's Women's Work Regional Project

Koror, Palau – September 16–17, 2025: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) are proud to announce the Inception Workshop for the Kiwa Initiative-supported project, "Women's Work: Restoring Biodiverse Shallow Coastal Habitats and Connecting Their Keepers to Adapt Food Systems and Reach Food Security in Micronesia." The workshop takes place today and tomorrow at the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) Conference Room, bringing together leaders and stakeholders from Dmakeiukl, as representatives of the Kiwa Initiative donors.

Credit: Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)

Empowering Women, Building Resilient Communities
The Kiwa Women's Work regional project, led by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) for three years in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau, is supported by the Kiwa Initiative with funding of €4.97 million. The project focuses on restoring biodiverse shallow coastal habitats, such as mangroves, seagrass meadows, and coral reef flats, that are vital for providing food, coastal protection, and livelihoods to Micronesian communities. Central to the project is the recognition of women's traditional roles as knowledge holders and food producers, placing them at the forefront of decision-making to strengthen both environmental stewardship and community resilience. This two-day workshop will convene Dmakeiukl leaders, Palau National Government representatives, women's groups, technical partners, and other key stakeholders. By combining Nature-based Solutions with women's leadership, this Kiwa project aims to increase local food security, protect biodiversity, and enhance resilience to climate change.

Inclusive Participation
Dmakeiukl State governments, are invited to send their Treasurer/Accountant, PAN Coordinator, and up to four representatives from their Women's Group. This inclusive approach ensures that voices from across communities are heard and that women's groups play a central role in project planning and delivery.

Workshop Highlights
- Introduction of the Women's Work project framework and objectives.
- Collaborative sessions to clarify roles, responsibilities, and expected outcomes.
- Focus on nature-based solutions for food security and biodiversity restoration.
- Strengthening partnerships and coordination for transparent, inclusive implementation.

A Shared Vision for the Future
The workshop is co-facilitated by local staff from TNC and MCT, emphasizing the importance of community-driven solutions and women's leadership. Participants will work together to advance a shared vision for resilient communities and healthy coastal ecosystems in Palau and the wider Micronesian region.

For more information: WOMEN'S WORK: Empowering women to restore coastal ecosystems and strengthen food security in Micronesia - Kiwa Initiative

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About the Kiwa Initiative - The Kiwa Initiative - Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience aims to build the resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities, and economies to climate change through NbS by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity. It is based on simplified access to funding for climate change adaptation and biodiversity

conservation actions for local and national governments, civil society, and regional organizations in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The Initiative is funded by the European Union, Agence française de développement (AFD), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand's 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 Oceania Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN - ORO).

For more information: The Kiwa Initiative - Climate Resilience in the Pacific Islands thanks to Nature-based Solutions (NbS)