

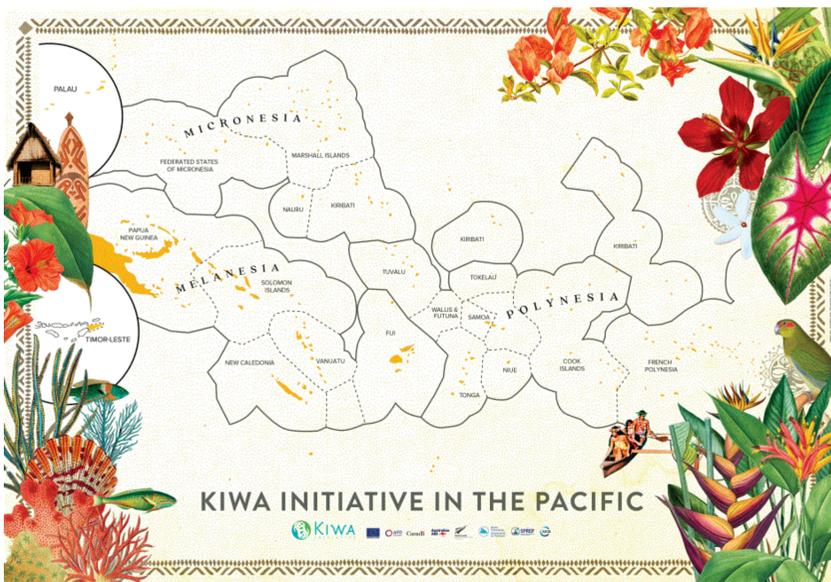
# Kiwa Initiative supports Pacific Islands communities in addressing climate change adaptation through Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Climate change is recognised as a leading threat to Pacific communities, ecosystems, and species.

Rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, ocean warming and ocean acidification threaten marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Non-climate related factors such as pollution, inappropriate coastal development and over-fishing impact negatively on island ecosystems resulting in ecosystem degradation, and loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity.<sup>1</sup>

These factors negatively impact communities well-being, livelihoods and cultural cohesion, in a region where 80% of the population rely on natural resources for subsistence.



Awareness of the validity and relevance of NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approaches to address these risks, as well as their potential co-benefits, is increasing in the region, but accelerated implementation is needed to close the adaptation gap.<sup>2</sup>

The Kiwa Initiative main objective: Supporting 19 PICTs implementing their climate change strategies to reinforce the resilience of ecosystems, economies, and communities to climate change through NbS.

Kiwa Initiative offers unique opportunities for project funding and development assistance ...

## 1) Calls for local projects

- Very small to medium sized grants, from EUR 25k up to EUR 400k
- Managed by IUCN Oceania Regional Office
- Capacity-building for proponents and grantees
- 1st call for local projects in 2021

## 2) Calls for large regional projects

- Large grants between EUR 1.5M and EUR 5M
- 3 Calls for regional projects since 2020

These calls integrate best practices and IUCN Standards

- Community-driven projects responding to priority needs and reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts
- Gender-sensitive, socially inclusive and rights-based approaches
- Scaling up from existing projects & cost-effective solutions
- Contributions to the SDGs
- The integration of local and traditional knowledge

## 3) Kiwa Technical Assistance

- Tailored assistance to Kiwa regional project partners, through each phase of the project life-cycle
- Capacity-building programme for PICTs governments and NGOs on NbS for CC adaptation project development and mainstreaming into policy.
- Provided by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Kiwa Secretariat

➔ A great diversity of NbS project ideas identified and supported addressing key challenges

- 🌴 Food gardens and agroecology for food security and health
- 🌿 Improved management, protection and restoration and protection of coral reefs, locally-managed marine areas (LMMAs)
- 🐟 Community-based resource management
- 🌳 Coastal protection through native tree and mangroves planting
- 🌳 Watershed and riparian systems management and restoration for water security, human health and to limit erosion

... delivered through an innovative partnership

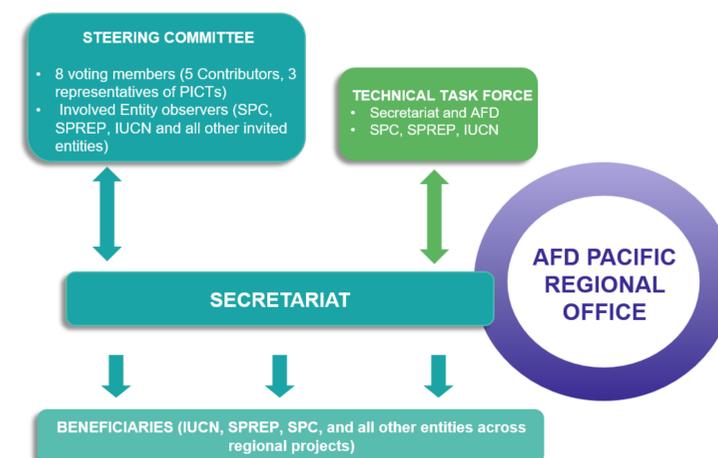


Figure 1 Kiwa collegial governance system

A coalition of donors

- Started in 2020
- European Union, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand,
- About 41 Million EUR endowment managed by AFD (Agence Française de Développement).

Building a Kiwa Community

- Gathering public institutions, regional IGOs and NGOs
- Strengthening cooperation between ACP countries and the French OCTs
- Sharing information on challenges, results and lessons-learned to build a community of practice

3 Large projects selected so far

- The Kiwa Pacific Organic Learning Farms Network (POLFN) project to create organic farms in Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, setting up a network of learning centres on agroecology and agroforestry and organic production methods. Coordinated by SPC.
- Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC+) project to support EbA planning and implementation in rural and urban areas in Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands (SI), Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna, going beyond the project lifecycle. Coordinated by SPREP.
- Supporting integrated watershed management at key sites in Fiji (Vatu-i-Ra Seascape), Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (transboundary Bismarck-Solomon Seascape, a priority seascape within the Coral Triangle Initiative), while developing financial vehicles to enable scaled delivery of co-benefits for humans and ecosystems. Coordinated by The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). To be signed soon.

## References

- 1) Pacific ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change: strengthening and protecting natural ecosystem services to enhance resilience to climate change. Apia, Samoa: SPREP, 2020.
  - 2) Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers. IPCC, 2022. C1.2 & C2.5. Authors: Kraft M.<sup>1</sup>, Bantegny M.<sup>2</sup>, Branlant L.<sup>3</sup>, Charles M.<sup>2</sup>, Edant C.<sup>4</sup>, Goarant A-C.<sup>3</sup>, Rocle N.<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup> SPREP,<sup>2</sup> Kiwa Secretariat,<sup>3</sup> Pacific Community,<sup>4</sup> Agence Française de Développement)
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