



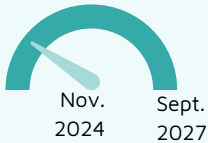
EMPOWER

Engaging Mobilisation for Positive Outcome in Water, Ecosystem and Resilience



Project Lead: Live and Learn Fiji

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD



AMOUNT OF FUNDING

 € 3,050,000

Theme

 Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main Co-benefits

 Food security

 Socio-economic resilience

 Water resource availability and quality

 Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion

Pacific rural areas that rely heavily on farming and fishing are especially vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. In some regions, resources are being overused, threatening the food and water supplies that people in remote communities rely on.

The Kiwa EMPOWER project helps 24 communities in Fiji, Tuvalu, and the Solomon Islands adapt to climate change by **restoring natural ecosystems, improving access to food and clean water, and supporting sustainable livelihoods**. The project works closely with local leaders and community members, combining traditional knowledge with inclusive, participatory planning to ensure that everyone - especially women, youth, and people with disabilities - is involved in shaping solutions that meet their needs.

Specific Objectives:

- Nature-Based Solutions Actions:** work with communities to protect forests, coastlines, and water sources, restore mangroves, and promote climate-resilient agriculture such as agroforestry and organic gardening to improve food and water security.
- Empower Pacific Islands Communities:** train communities to manage natural resources, including sustainable farming techniques. Involve women, youth, and people with disabilities in leading local initiatives.
- Strengthen Communication and Regional Collaboration:** facilitate learning between countries through exchanges, site visits, and storytelling to spread practical, locally led climate solutions.



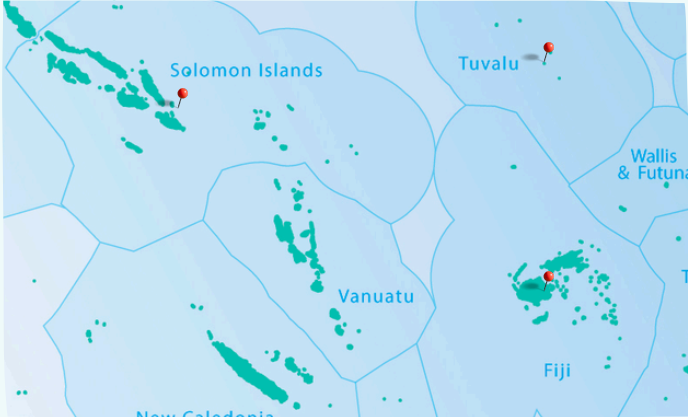
Learn Fiji staff along with stakeholders planting Vetiver grass at Kavula Village, Bua Province, Fiji - Live&Learn Fiji © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

Subregion :

Melanesia/Timor-Leste

Micronesia

Polynesia



Fiji

- 4,500 direct beneficiaries

Solomon Islands (remote Islands)

- 465 direct beneficiaries

Tuvalu

- 1,095 direct beneficiaries







Locations & Partners :

Fiji

- Locations: Cakaudrove Province (14 villages), Macuata Province (3 villages), Bua Province (3 villages)

Solomon Islands

- Locations: Sikaiana Village, Temotu Province, Nifiloli Village, Malaita Province
- Partner: Live and Learn Solomon Islands

Tuvalu

- Locations: Nanumea Island , Niutao Island
- Partner: Live and Learn Tuvalu

Key results to date:

- **Implement Nature-Based Solutions**

During its first year, EMPOWER laid the groundwork for future NbS interventions, starting **baseline surveys and integrated management plans** in all 24 targeted communities. These will serve as the foundation for co-designed NbS initiatives such as **mangrove restoration, watershed rehabilitation, and climate-smart agriculture**.

- **Empower Pacific Island Communities**

Significant progress was made in building inclusive foundations. A **Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) approach** was embedded from the start, with three regional staff trained in GEDSI and child protection by SPREP. **Stakeholder engagement plans** were also finalized in each country, ensuring meaningful participation from women, youth, traditional leaders, and people with disabilities.

- **Strengthen Communication and Regional Collaboration**

A major achievement was the successful **regional project launch** in March 2025 in Suva, Fiji, which brought together over 75 representatives from governments, NGOs, development agencies, and communities. This high-level event boosted visibility, collaboration, and momentum across the Pacific. In the next phase, EMPOWER will place greater emphasis on **regional coordination and knowledge sharing** to strengthen its role as a true Pacific-wide initiative. This includes creating platforms for exchange and ensuring that lessons from each country are shared and scaled across the region.

"I am very hopeful that a lot of the answers we are seeking lies in indigenous knowledge and our local communities. The Kiwa EMPOWER project will work closely with our communities to ensure that we revive our knowledge which is slowly disappearing. We are custodians of our lands and ecosystems and we need to listen and work with our communities."



Mr. Christian Nielsen,
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