



KIWA
INITIATIVE

EMPOWER
Engaging Mobilisation for
Positive Outcome in Water,
Ecosystem and Resilience



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Newsletter 001 of 2025

From: April to June 2025



Kiwa EMPOWER regionally recognised

Locally led Project receives Govt. support

In April 2025

The Kiwa EMPOWER Project has received the backing of the Fijian Government through the endorsement by the Minister for Climate Change and Environment during its Regional Launch in Suva.

Speaking at the Launch earlier this year, the Minister Hon. Mosese Bulitavu welcomed the Regional Project stating it has worked closely with Government, aligning to the various national Policies and Legislations to ensure that the chosen communities are better equipped to be climate resilient communities.

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RECENT UPDATES:

Fiji begins FPIC process

The Kiwa EMPOWER Fiji has begun their visitation to the sites to raise awareness

Sol. Islands engagement

Gvt. Stakeholder engagements starts in Solomon Islands

Partnership building

Relationship strengthened through workshop in Cakaudrove



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Fiji - Lot 4 Naiyaca Subdivision, Labasa or 52 Imthurn Road, Domain Suva.

Sol. Island - Prince Philip Highway, Honiara

Tuvalu - 1st Floor, EKT Women's Building, Senala, Funafuti.



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“In my capacity as Minister for Climate Change, I fully endorse and support this initiative, which is aligned with Fiji’s National Climate Change Policy as well as key regional and global frameworks, including the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement.”

The Regional Launch which was held in Suva, Fiji and drew close to 70 attendees from all Donor countries along with Ministers and Permanent Secretaries from the Fijian Government, other Civil society Organisations involved regionally and nationally in the Nautre based Solution to Climate Resilience sector.

The Kiwa EMPOWER Project will be implemented across Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu, directly benefiting approximately 20,000 people in 24 communities 20 in Fiji, two in Tuvalu, and two in the Solomon Islands.



Regional Launch Chief Guest, Hon. Mosese Bulitavo with Kiwa EMPOWER Project country teams and Kiwa Initiative representative.



L to R: Country Manager Doris Susau with Mr. Maurizio Cian the Head of Unit for the EU Delegation in the Pacific



L to R: LLEE Network Director Christian Nielsen with Chief Guest Hon. Mosese Bulitavo

FPIC Process begins in Fiji

In April - May 2025

The Kiwa EMPOWER Project in Fiji have started seeking consent from community leaders and traditional leaders in the twenty sites chosen as part of the Project.

The Team visited the Project sites seeking the blessing of the Vanua as well as the Government Stakeholders to ensure that the Activities undertaken made a meaningful impact.

In the Fijian culture, the vanua plays a vital role and has great importance to its people as it encompasses the land, the people as well as our culture and spiritual beliefs. The Vanua is our identity and dictates traditional roles, land boundaries and fishing rights or 'iqoliqoli'.

In this respect the Kiwa EMPOWER team in Fiji has sought the vanuas blessing specifically seeking approval from the District Chiefs namely Na Buli Naivakasiga in the Bua Province, Na Tui Namuka- in the Macuata Province, Na Tui Tunuloa & Turaga na Vunivalu Natewa in Cakaudrove.

As part of its Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) Process, the team visited the three provinces, with the support of the Fijian Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, met with four traditional heads of the 5 District and the leaders of the 20 villages and settlements to raise awareness on the work that will be undertaken and seek their blessing to begin work.

The Project's innovative approach also lies in its integration of indigenous knowledge and practices with modern scientific understanding. By recognizing and valuing traditional ecological knowledge, the project aims to develop NbS interventions that are not only effective but also culturally relevant and sustainable.

The Kiwa EMPOWER Project takes a ridge to reef approach and with the support of the local Government, are working with the twenty sites in Fiji which have been identified as communities which are most vulnerable and isolated.



Presentation of protocol to the Vunivalu or Chiefs of Natewa and Tuniloa,



Kiwa EMPOWER Team Fiji with stakeholders from Karoko Village



Project staff with Gvt stakeholders and Buca village elders



Buca village traditionally welcoming Project team



Karoko villagers listening intently to Project briefing



Naqaravutu village visitation



Visoqo village protocol



First village visitation to Cawadevo village in Macuata by the Kiwa EMPOWER Team



Naiviqiri villagers during the traditional presentation by Kiwa EMPOWER Fiji Team

Kiwa EMPOWER meets Watershed Committee

In May 2025

The Kiwa EMPOWER Fiji team initiated a stakeholder meeting, bringing together key representatives from the Cakaudrove Province, including Government Officials, and members of the Tunuloa-Natewa Peninsula Catchment Management Committee.

The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss and reinforce the shared vision for the Tunuloa-Natewa Peninsula Catchment Management Plan (CMP), which is for the Tunuloa-Natewa Peninsula to protect and sustainably use its pristine natural forests and biodiversity to improve the spiritual, economic, and physical well-being of the communities within the peninsula.

This is in line with the Strategic Objectives of the Project, aimed at ensuring communities in Fiji, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands implement community-driven initiatives that demonstrably improve the health, functionality, and resilience of ecosystems, while also enhancing livelihoods, food, and water security, in the context of a changing climate.

This Meeting also cemented the relationship with the various Government stakeholders and project sites in Cakaudrove allowing for the Project team to identify areas where the shared visions of the CMP and the Project align.

The meeting also allowed for the Project team to identify areas of focus such as the urgent need for Nature based seawall , improve existing water catchment improvements and the need to reintroduce both native and fruit trees within the fourteen villages and settlements in the Cakaudrove project sites.

This collaboration between the CMP committee, Cakaudrove stakeholders, and the Kiwa EMPOWER Project is expected to foster integrated resource management, enhance community well-being, and build resilience to environmental and climate-related challenges across the Tunuloa-Natewa Peninsula.



Kiwa EMPOWER Fiji Team meeting with Tunuloa-Natewa Peninsula Catchment Management Committee.

Project launched in Solomon Islands

In June 2025

“This is not just another development Project. It is a moment of alignment where our shared aspirations, our commitment for community resilience and respect for traditional knowledge systems come together for a single purpose - to empower our people to thrive in the face of a changing environment. We are here to celebrate a journey - a journey of empowerment, inclusion and broad local action.”

Solomon Island Minister for Environment, Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology, Hon. Trevor Mahaga drove home these point during the national local inception of the Kiwa EMPOWER in the Solomon Islands.

Hon. Minister spoke of how the Kiwa EMPOWER project aligns with the Solomon Island Government's efforts to address the issues being raised by their remote islands especially in the remote Provinces of Malaita and Temotu.

“For too long our rural communities have carried the burden of sea level rise, loss of livelihood and income and today we say to our communities that your cries for help have been heard and you are seen. You are not alone.”

He further adds that they are supportive of the Kiwa EMPOWER Project as it aligns with the Solomon Islands Government's policies and Frameworks such as the Four pillars of Inclusive Development, Rural empower, Economic transformation and Climate Resilience and also supports the National Climate Change Framework, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Plans along with the Solomon Islands National Development Olan for 2016 - 2025

The Solomon Islands is one of the three countries chosen to implement the Regional Kiwa EMPOWER Project and will be in Sikaiana village in the Malaita Province and Nifiloli in the Temotu Province.



Group photo of invited guests as well as the chief guest and the Kiwa EMPOWER Regional Team and Solomon Islands Team

Solomon Islands Kiwa EMPOWER Team visits stakeholders

In June 2025

To mark the start of implementation of the Regional Kiwa EMPOWER Project, a three member team in the Solomon Islands has commenced consultation with Government stakeholders to raise awareness of the Project as well as discuss areas of common interest.

Solomon Islands is one of three countries implementing the Kiwa EMPOWER Project, is working closely with the villages of Sikaiana in the Malaita Province and Nifiloli in the Temotu Province. To garner support, Live and Learn Solomon Islands paid a courtesy visit to both stakeholders in the National Government as well as the Provincial Governments.

During recent consultations, the team was able to meet with the Premier of Malaita Province, the Honorable Elijah Asilaua who welcomed the decision to choose one of the remote areas in the Malaita Province.

“The project is timely and relevant as my government is currently exploring relocation plans for the Sikaiana people due to rising sea levels....”

“...We fully support the Project and am committed to provide necessary assistance and technical expertise to ensure smooth implementation.”

The same sentiments were expressed by the Office of the Premier of the Temotu Province who added that having Nifiloli as a site for the Kiwa EMPOWER was a bonus.

Further adding that while there are roughly around 20 islands in the Province, Nifiloli is a learning hub and the Project is setting a precedence and will inspire and guide neighboring communities to adopt similar approaches within their own capacity, creating a positive ripple effect across the region.

This direct engagement with Provincial stakeholders has built trust and support for the Kiwa EMPOWER Project and created a space by which open dialogue can be done to see where there are ongoing efforts and the objectives of the project can work together.



***Kiwa EMPOWER Solomon Island team
with Temotu Provincial office staff***



***Kiwa EMPOWER Solomon Island team
with the Premier of the Malaita Province.***



Kiwa EMPOWER Regional Communications and Monitoring Officers along with Live & Learn Fiji's Gender Resilience Officer attended a Kiwa Initiative GEDSI Community of Practice training

Up coming Events

July to September 2025



- ◆ National Inception in Fiji
- ◆ Training on Gender inclusive baseline and data gathering
- ◆ Base line Survey in Fiji



- ◆ National Inception in Funafuti
- ◆ Training on Gender inclusive baseline and data gathering
- ◆ Base line Survey in Tuvalu sites



- ◆ Base line Survey in Solomon Islands
- ◆ Training on Gender inclusive baseline and data gathering
- ◆ Team deployment to site



Kiwa EMPOWER Fiji , Solomon Islands and Tuvalu Teams with Live & Learn Executive Director Christian Nielsen and the country Managers from the three countries along with Baptiste Jaugeon of the Kiwa Initiative. Suva (Fiji), March 2025.