KIWA INITIATIVE

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

live & learn ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
Pacific Community / Communauté du Pacifique
SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
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Newsletter 003 **From: January to June 2026**



Kiwa EMPOWER revives Indgenous Knowledge through training

In June 2026

Indigenous knowledge is a vital component of the Kiwa EMPOWER project, providing the cultural context and historical wisdom needed for effective Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate change adaptation.

To support this objective, Indigenous Knowledge Training was conducted across 20 communities in Fiji's Northern Division within the provinces of Cakaudrove, Bua, and Macuata. The activity was implemented through the Kiwa EMPOWER Project in partnership with SauVaka Cultural Consultancy, specialists in Indigenous Knowledge and cultural revitalization.

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RECENT UPDATES

Indigenous Knowledge Training starts

Fiji team begins Indigenous Knowledge training in 20 communities

Teams finalise Plans

Country teams firm up on implementation plans, Annual work plans as well as MEL requirements.

Nanumea Nursery takes shape

Prepartory works begin in Nanumea, Tuvalu ahead of implementation

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Sol. Island - Prince Philip Highway, Honiara
Tuvalu - 1st Floor, EKT Women's Building, Senala, Funafuti.

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Centred on the theme "Indigenous Leadership – Memory, Vanua & Climate," the training aimed to deepen community understanding of Indigenous Knowledge and its role in climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.

Participants explored the meaning of Indigenous Knowledge, the importance of documenting traditional practices, and the relationship between memory, lived experience, and recorded knowledge.

The sessions helped communities reconnect with their cultural identity, reflect on their roles and responsibilities within the vanua, and appreciate the value of working together through solesolevaki to support sustainable village development.

Through storytelling, group discussions, and community mapping exercises, participants documented traditional food systems, seasonal calendars, local biodiversity, and environmental observations that have guided their communities for generations.

The training also encouraged participants to revisit practices once common among their ancestors that have gradually faded over time. Communities explored how Indigenous Knowledge can complement scientific insights to strengthen NbS for climate adaptation.

Many participants expressed heartfelt appreciation to SauVaka Cultural Consultancy for helping them rediscover their cultural heritage, strengthen their connection to the vanua, and embrace their shared responsibility to preserve Indigenous Knowledge for future generations.

By recording traditional environmental indicators, seasonal patterns, and local resource management strategies such as sustainable farming and fishing practices participants identified concrete adaptation measures. Ultimately, all 20 communities gained a deeper understanding of how blending Indigenous wisdom with modern climate data builds stronger, more resilient responses to climate change.



Navetau Village beachfront




L to R: An aerial view of Buca Village and participants of Kanakana Village




L to R: Enroute to Naivaka village and traditional welcoming protocol being observed in Naiviqiri village, Bua Province




L to R: Aerial view of Kanakana village and women participants of Kanakana village undergoing Indigenous Knowledge Training

Strengthening the Foundations: Country teams finalise Work plans

May - June 2026

Momentum has picked up across the three target countries under the Kiwa EMPOWER Project following a regional team mission to review community implementation plans, align annual workplans with project objectives, and update draft Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) frameworks.

By the end of the mission, all three countries possessed draft MEL frameworks, updated workplans, simplified indicator tracking sheets and reporting templates, and agreed-upon timelines for the work ahead.

In Fiji, the regional and country teams worked side by side to refine annual workplans and community implementation plans, checking each against project objectives, timelines, and expected outcomes.

A dedicated MEL training session provided a deep dive into indicator development, data collection, reporting requirements, and how to generate solid evidence of results. The team also addressed activity reporting and communication standards, examining how the Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Mainstreaming Plan will guide inclusive delivery on the ground.

In Tuvalu, the full team participated in strengthening the annual and community implementation plans. The MEL training guided participants through programme logic, indicator tracking, and data tools.

Additionally, activity report templates were reviewed and simplified, making them easier for project officers to complete independently. The team also addressed communication and visibility standards and discussed how to integrate GEDSI considerations into planning from the outset laying a solid foundation for documenting progress, key lessons, and community impact moving forward.

In the Solomon Islands, efforts focused on overall project readiness. The team refined annual workplans and community implementation plans while strengthening their approach to activity reporting and communication standards.

Furthermore, the team initiated the development of a GEDSI Mainstreaming Plan, paying particular attention to embedding gender, disability, social inclusion, and indigenous knowledge into project delivery from the ground up.





L to R: Kiwa EMPOWER team in the Solomon Islands along with the Live & Learn Tuvalu Team

Communities undergo climate smart Agriculture awareness

May - June 2026

The Live & Learn Environmental Education Kiwa EMPOWER Project Team based in Fiji successfully completed the first Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Training across 20 communities within the 3 provinces of Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata Province.

The training program consisted of theoretical learning sessions focused on strengthening sustainable agricultural practices and improving community resilience to climate change.

The training was delivered in collaboration with the Land Resource Planning and Development Division (LRPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways to provide communities with theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and insights to strengthen climate-smart agricultural practices. They also looked at improving food security, and promoting sustainable environmental management within their respective communities.

The training allowed for the communities to identify resilient and repellent crops suitable for their environments, learn environmentally sustainable farming methods as well as learn how to establish and manage sustainable nurseries, apply composting and biochar techniques, and practice seed saving and seed raising methods.

These activities promote environmentally sustainable farming while reducing dependence on external agricultural inputs.

The training also focussed on the preservation and promotion of locally existing crop varieties and traditional agricultural knowledge. Communities were able to identify at least three resilient crops for future scaling up under the project, contributing to the protection and sustainable use of local plant resources.





Participants from Muana Village in Cakaudrove, Fiji during the Climate Smart Agriculture training undertaken in their village





L to R: Muana village participants and an aerial view of Salia Village





L to R: Salia villagers during discussions with participants from Vusaratu undertaking pre training tests





L to R: Aerial view of Ravuka village and participants of Visoqo village undergoing Indigenous Knowledge Training

Nanumea Island preparations underway for Kiwa EMPOWER

May - June 2026

Life on the northernmost atoll of Tuvalu is determined by the sun—the heat from the morning sun wakes everyone up, whilst the setting sun in the evening beckons the evening and sets the tune for evening. Thus is the life in Nanumea as climate change takes its toll on the island.

Nanumea is highly vulnerable to sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, droughts, and coastal erosion. Because the island relies heavily on rainwater, these threats are further compounded by its extreme remoteness. In response, the Kiwa EMPOWER Project is working closely with the local Kaupule (island council) and community members to strengthen local resilience and adaptive capacity through nature-based solutions (NbS).

Leading the work on Nanumea is Kaipati Vevea, who is one of the Kiwa EMPOWER Project Officers based in the remote community.

Speaking of the work he has undertaken , Kaipati reveals his focus has been on youth empowerment and the betterment of his island community.

“I joined Kiwa EMPOWER as I saw the project focused on building up the community. For Nanumea, we are so far, and it is very important that our communities put their hands together to take ownership. As we waited for our next phase, I started work last year with the community in collecting 300 coconuts, banana shoots, and cuttings for dragon fruit as well as carried out marcotting for our lime and breadfruit seedlings, and all this was to be replanted at our new sites around the island as part of the project work. This was important for us, as the youth were the ones who took leadership in this activity.”

Nanumea is one of the 24 communities chosen under the regional Kiwa EMPOWER Project in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

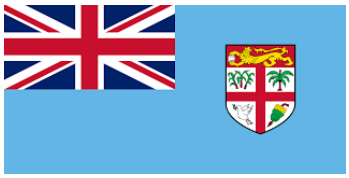




Project Officer in Nanumea, Kaipati Vevea carrying out routine checks on the nursery and its seedlings

Up coming Events

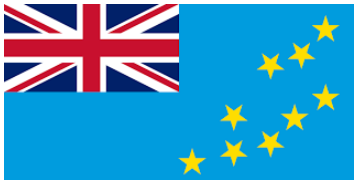
July to December 2026



- 2nd phase of Climate Smart Agriculture Training
- Nursery set up and training in 20 selected communities
- Survey with Department of Forestry for Forest Restoration



- Finalisation of procurement of Project needs
- Training of Trainers (ToT) Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
- Team deployment to sites in Sikaiana and Nifiloli



- Proocurement of all items needed for implementation
- Climate Smart Agriculture, Financial Literacy, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Nanumea and Niutao
- Team deployment to site in Nanumea and Niutao



Kiwa EMPOWER Solomon Islands team with the Regional Team as they finalise implementation plans for the two sites in Nifiloli and Sikaiana.