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 · IUCN

Newsletter 002 & 003 of 2025 **From: July to December 2025**



Community level NbS factfinding work begins

NbS Data collection commences in Fiji, Solomon Islands & Tuvalu

In September - December 2025

In an effort to get a better understanding of the work to be undertaken by the Kiwa EMPOWER Project in the selected three Pacific Island countries, the various country teams have undertaken comprehensive baseline surveys.

The Baseline Survey allows for an assessment of the existing capacities of local communities regarding Nature based solutions to Climate change (NbS).

The Survey will also identify any gaps or areas where additional support is needed. By understanding the local community capacities, the teams will be better tailor its capacity-building efforts to the specific needs of each community,

Continued on Page 2.....

RECENT UPDATES:

Baseline survey

Three countries begin data collection and analysying for indepth NbS approach

GEDSI focus strengthened

Consultant secured to guide GEDSI and social inclusion in Kiwa EMPOWER Project

Partnership building

Partner relationship strengthened through Kiwa EMPOWER

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enquiries.fiji@livelearn.org +679 8818 855 (Labasa) or +679 3315868 (Suva)
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.

Continued from Page 1.....

ensuring that the training and resources provided are relevant and effective.

The project will implement a comprehensive capacity-building program on NbS approaches ranging from ecosystem restoration, water management, hygiene and sanitation to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) delivered through workshops, hands-on activities, and mentoring, ensuring that participants gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The project will also prioritize the integration of indigenous knowledge into the training, recognizing the valuable insights and practices that local communities have developed over generations.

By understanding the baseline capacities, the project can tailor its capacity-building efforts to the specific needs of each community and CSO, ensuring that the training and resources provided are relevant and effective.



Fiji Project Officer, Ilaitia Erene carrying out Baseline Survey in Wailevu Village in Cakaudrove, Fiji



Senior Project Officer for Tuvalu, Selotia Tausi doing Baseline in Nanumea



Project Officer Leslie Teama carrying out Baseline Survey in Nifiloli, Solomon Islands

GEDSI Consultant praises Project for inclusive approach

September - October 2025

The community driven approach taken by the Kiwa EMPOWER Project has been commended.

This is the sentiment of Kris Prasad, the GEDSI specialist following visit to the three Project countries.

As part of the work being undertaken, a GEDSI consultant was sourced to work closely with the three country team.

Kris worked to ensure that the project's interventions are inclusive, effective, and promote an inclusive approach to the project's planning and implementation.



GEDSI consultant with the Solomon Islands Kiwa EMPOWER team.

Krisneil's Consultancy was selected from the numerous submissions. Kris Prasad is a development professional with expertise in GEDSI in the field of climate change and sustainable development. Discussing his assessment of the Project, Kris highlighted its strong footing.

He explained that the Project's implementation plan and community approach have set it on a positive trajectory. Furthermore, the integration of traditional knowledge into nature-based climate solutions positions it well for success.



Kris Prasad with the Tuvalu Kiwa EMPOWER team.

"It's been truly transformative working with the Kiwa EMPOWER team. The local teams in Fiji, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands are the real strength here; they already have that deep knowledge, experience and community trust."

"They are adapting everything to the local context. This authentic approach, ensuring everyone benefits and is accountable, means the Nature-based Solutions aren't just about fixing the environment, but about building genuine, equitable community power. It's a best-practice model we should all be proud of."

Kris worked closely with the Kiwa EMPOWER teams in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu to gather information on GEDSI in the context of NbS intervention, meeting with key stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and other relevant organizations. Findings from Kris will then be compiled and used to inform the project's planning and implementation.

A Report will be produced and the finding mainstreamed in planning and implementation of the Kiwa EMPOWER Project.

Fiji Islands update

September - December 2025

A total of twenty communities chosen as part of the Kiwa EMPOWER Project in three Provinces underwent an intensive data collection process.

The Baseline Survey took three weeks with the support of other Live and Learn Fiji Project teams.

The main objective of this activity was to gauge the existing capacities of the communities regarding Nature-based Solutions, GEDSI and inclusion within the 20 project sites in Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata Provinces.

Prior to undertaking the survey, the 12-member team ensured prior consent was given through the presentation of i sevusevu to the District Chief (Turaga Tui Tunuloa), Turaga Ni Yavusa (clan leaders) and Village Headmen. This was a critical element in the trust-building process and culturally sensitive engagement.

Following the baseline survey, data verification and analysis were undertaken. The findings provided an insight into the work which will need to be implemented over the next year.

The final stage of the process included taking the findings of the Survey back to the community to finalise the proposed activities which will be implemented in 2026.





Two pictures above from the Fiji Team volunteers carrying out baseline surveys in Cakaudrove Province, Fiji.





Pictures with Team Fiji during Baseline & Validation trips

GEDSI Training of Trainers in Fiji

December 2025

An intensive four day training was undertaken as part of the Kia EMPOER Project to equip staff of Live & Learn Fiji to be GEDSI trainers.

The Training, undertaken by the Gender Resilience Officer Joseva Maikitu focused on GEDSI in Nature Based Solutions or NbS.

The training allowed for the participants to better understand Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and how their work ties in together with Human rights, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion. It also provided a chance for the Team to better understand the linkage to 12 key human right principles relevant to NbS.

As a result, all participants now understand key GEDSI concepts such as Equity vs. Equality, Social Model of Disability, Intersectionality, utilise practical tools, such as the Risk & Benefit Matrix, to identify and mitigate social risks in NbS projects.

The training also showed how to lead inclusive facilitation and communication techniques for community engagement.

The session also allowed for the participants to design and deliver a segment Community Session Plan. The training will be replicated in both Tuvalu and Solomon Islands.



Participants during group work sessions

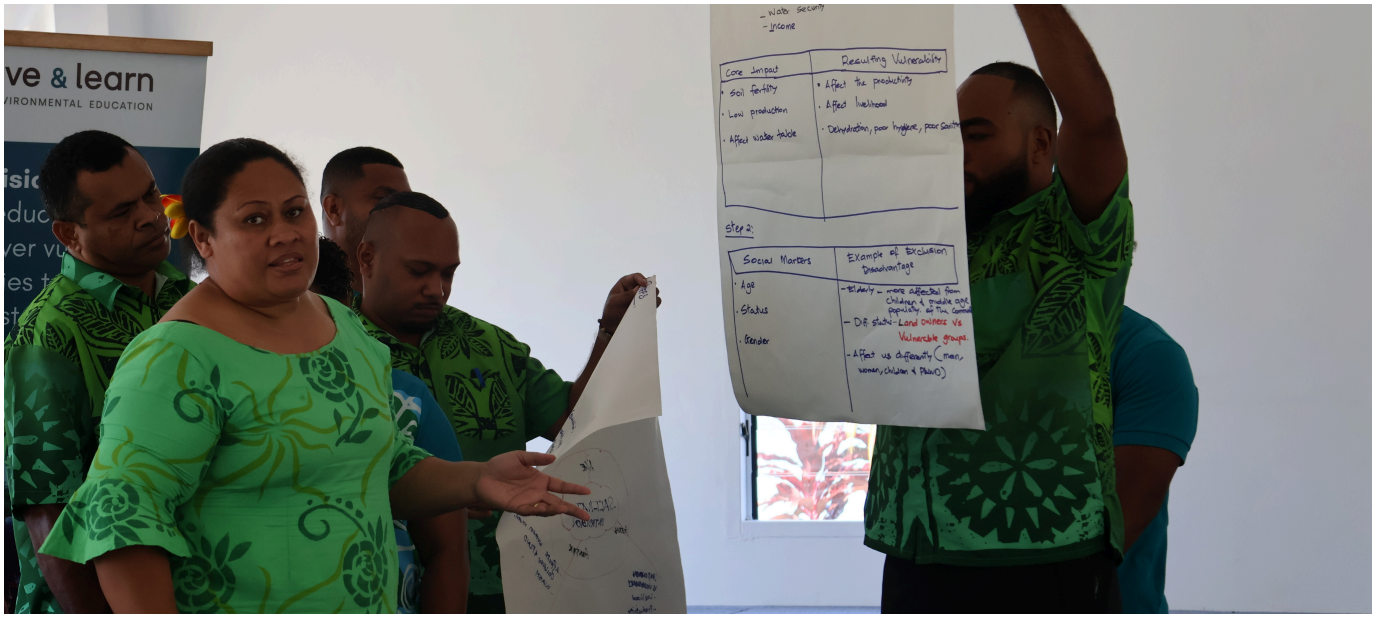


Country Manager Doris Susau during the ToT discussions



Live & Learn Fiji Team who underwent the Kiwa EMPOWER GEDSI Training of Trainers workshop.







The three pictures above show the various Groups presenting their discussion points centered on Inclusion, Barriers and roles in terms of GEDSI in NbS work with the community

Solomon Islands update

October 2025

The Kiwa EMPOWER Project Team in Solomon Islands successfully conducted a three-week Baseline Survey across its two project sites—Sikaiana Community and Nifiloli Community.

The survey exercise was undertaken from 27th to 30th October 2025 in Sikaiana, followed by two weeks of fieldwork in Nifiloli. The Baseline Survey provided the project team with a crucial opportunity to understand the diverse livelihood components such as socio-economic conditions, WASH , Climate-Smart Agriculture, Food and Water Security a well as Disaster Resiliency.

Findings from both communities reveal a consistent and escalating pattern of climate-related vulnerabilities. Households reported increasing impacts from sea-level rise, coastal erosion and inundation, prolonged dry periods, and storm events.

These stressors pose significant threats to food and water security and undermine traditional livelihood systems.

Community food sources are predominantly dependent on marine ecosystems, coconuts, swamp taro (in Sikaiana), bananas and breadfruit in Nifiloli, and imported rice from Honiara. Climate variability has negatively affected local crop production and fish availability, while irregular shipping services further exacerbate food insecurity, increasing reliance on limited and less diverse food sources.

Despite these significant challenges, both Sikaiana and Nifiloli communities demonstrated strong resilience and a high level of willingness to engage with the project. Community members expressed appreciation for external support and optimism about the potential benefits of the planned interventions.

The project team conducted on-site observations which enhanced the team's understanding of the physical, social, and environmental context of the communities and validated findings from the baseline survey.





Baseline Survey and Awareness being conducted in Nifiloli & Sikaiana in the Solomon Islands.



Community Leaders of Nifiloli with the Kiwa EMPOWER Solomon Islands team following the Baseline Survey



Kiwa EMPOWER Baseline Survey team in Nifiloli



Senior Project Officer Jaydol Jacobs carrying out Baseline Survey



The Kiwa EMPOWER Team in Solomon Islands. From to right: Jaydol Jacobs, Kennedy Tuilona and Leslie Teama

Tuvalu Update

October - December 2025

The Tuvalu Kiwa EMPOWER team carried out a three week Baseline Survey in four communities to better understand their comprehension of NbS and Inclusion.

During the Baseline Survey, the focus was on assessing the local communities' capacities regarding inclusion, GEDSI, and nature-based solutions under the Kiwa EMPOWER Project.

This assessment took place at 2 island sites and also provided an opportunity to identify the communities' primary needs for fostering long-term engagement with the Kiwa EMPOWER initiative.

The project team obtained prior approval by meeting up with the Kaupule members. The Kaupule is the elected executive body of the local island council, functioning as the local government, managing island services, infrastructure, and resources. It is the practical arm for implementing decisions for their island community, under the Falekaupule Act.

Following the meeting, the team had a separate meeting with the Falekaupule or the traditional Assembly of Elders.

The team was met with a warm welcome as they met to raise awareness of the Project and seeking their endorsement.

This is an important step in the Free Prior Informe Consent (FPIC) process. This approach was essential for building trust and demonstrating cultural sensitivity.

Following this, team members were organized into pairs to conduct baseline surveys across 2 islands with each has two settlements.

The initial sessions provided briefings on the Live & Learn Tuvalu (Niutao & Nanumea) initiative and the Kiwa EMPOWER project. It also detailed , Project objectives and activities while raising awareness about Nature-based Solutions and the purpose of the Baseline Survey.





Senior Project Officer (SPO) Selotia Tausi carrying out Baseline Survey in Nanumea



Kiwa EMPOWER team in Tuvalu with the GEDSI consultant Kris Prasad





Kiwa EMPOWER team in Tuvalu enroute to Project sites for Baseline Survey

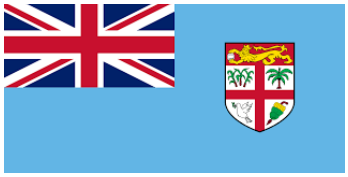


Kiwa EMPOWER team in Tuvalu travelling to their Baseline Survey site

Up coming Events

January to June 2026

Fiji



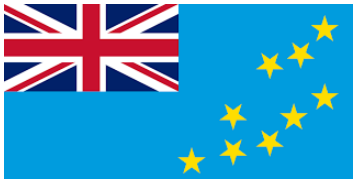
- Stakeholder Validation of Baseline Findings
- Finalisation of implementation plans
- Implementation to begin in Fiji in the 20 Project sites

Solomon Islands



- GEDSI Training of Trainers
- Stakeholder validation of baseline findings
- Finalise Implementation plan and begin implementation.

Tuvalu



- GEDSI Training of Trainers
- Stakeholder validation of Baseline Finding
- Finalise Implementation plan and begin implementation.



Baseline Survey Findings Validation process in Cakaudrove, Fiji



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