

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_2/41 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 14 June 2023  
**CIRCULAR:** 23/48  
**SUBJECT:** **Feedback on Draft Capacity Needs Assessment for Implementing Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Pacific Islands.**

Dear National Focal Points

I am pleased to inform you of the development by the Kiwa Initiative of a Regional Capacity Needs Assessment for Implementing Nature-based Solutions in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories.

The Kiwa Initiative ([www.kiwainitiative.org](http://www.kiwainitiative.org)) aims at strengthening the climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity. It is based on an easier access to funding for climate change adaptation and NbS for local, national authorities, civil society and regional organizations of Pacific Island countries and Territories including the three French overseas territories. In providing regional technical assistance to the implementation of the Kiwa Initiative, SPC and SPREP are developing a joint capacity-building programme aiming at:

1. Better developing, implementing, and monitoring rights-based, gender-sensitive and socially inclusive NbS projects for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation.
2. Mainstreaming these NbS approaches in climate change adaptation and other relevant sectoral policies and strategic frameworks.

To support SPC and SPREP in the development of this capacity development programme a team of consultants was engaged by SPC to conduct a regional capacity building needs assessment. The objective of the consultancy was to identify capacity development priorities for local and national public authorities and institutions, representatives from civil society and communities, and non-governmental organizations from the 19 Kiwa eligible ACP countries and French OCTs.<sup>1</sup>

Consultations were undertaken in a highly participatory manner with detailed consultations at regional, national, and sub-national levels, via in-country workshops in Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Palau, and Fiji, online surveys, and interviews.

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<sup>1</sup> Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

To ensure this Needs Assessment captures your specific country context, your kind support and cooperation is sought to provide feedback on the information in the draft Needs Assessment Report. A copy of the full report is attached for your information and comments, if any.

Additionally, a draft copy of the executive summary is attached for your perusal and comments. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on the executive summary by **Friday 30 June 2023**.

The findings from this assessment, your feedback, and the outcomes from the Kiwa Steering Committee Meeting, which includes Kiwa donors and PICT sub-regional representatives, will provide the evidence-base and information on Member priorities to support the development of Kiwa capacity development programme.

We are also open to discuss any specific country need for capacity development support to implement and mainstream Nature-based Solutions that are not identified in the report.

For further information on the process and drafting of the Capacity Needs Assessment for Implementing Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation and the Kiwa Initiative, please contact Mrs. Mathilde Kraft, Kiwa Project Development Coordinator ([mathildek@sprep.org](mailto:mathildek@sprep.org)).

Your assistance will be invaluable.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing  
**Acting Director General**

*ECS/MK/ma*