

# Review of Nature-Based Solutions in the Pacific Region: Focus and Opportunities

This 2022 review of Nature-based Solutions in the Pacific region was commissioned by Climate Resilient by Nature, an Australian Government initiative developed in partnership with WWF Australia. The project identified the gaps, successes and lessons from current NbS projects. The results are summarised below and will inform CRxN.

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## Current Status

28

Multi-Country NbS Projects identified as underway or recently completed



Natural resource management and agriculture sectors have the highest number of NbS projects

96

NbS projects were identified as underway or recently completed

## Focus & Successes



Traditional knowledge and community partnerships are key to NbS project success



IUCN global definition of NbS most widely applied



NbS projects are most commonly undertaken in mangrove/inshore habitats

## Challenges



Project activities need to be tailored to the specific characteristics of the Pacific nation, sector and site



Remoteness appears to be a key driver of geographical gaps

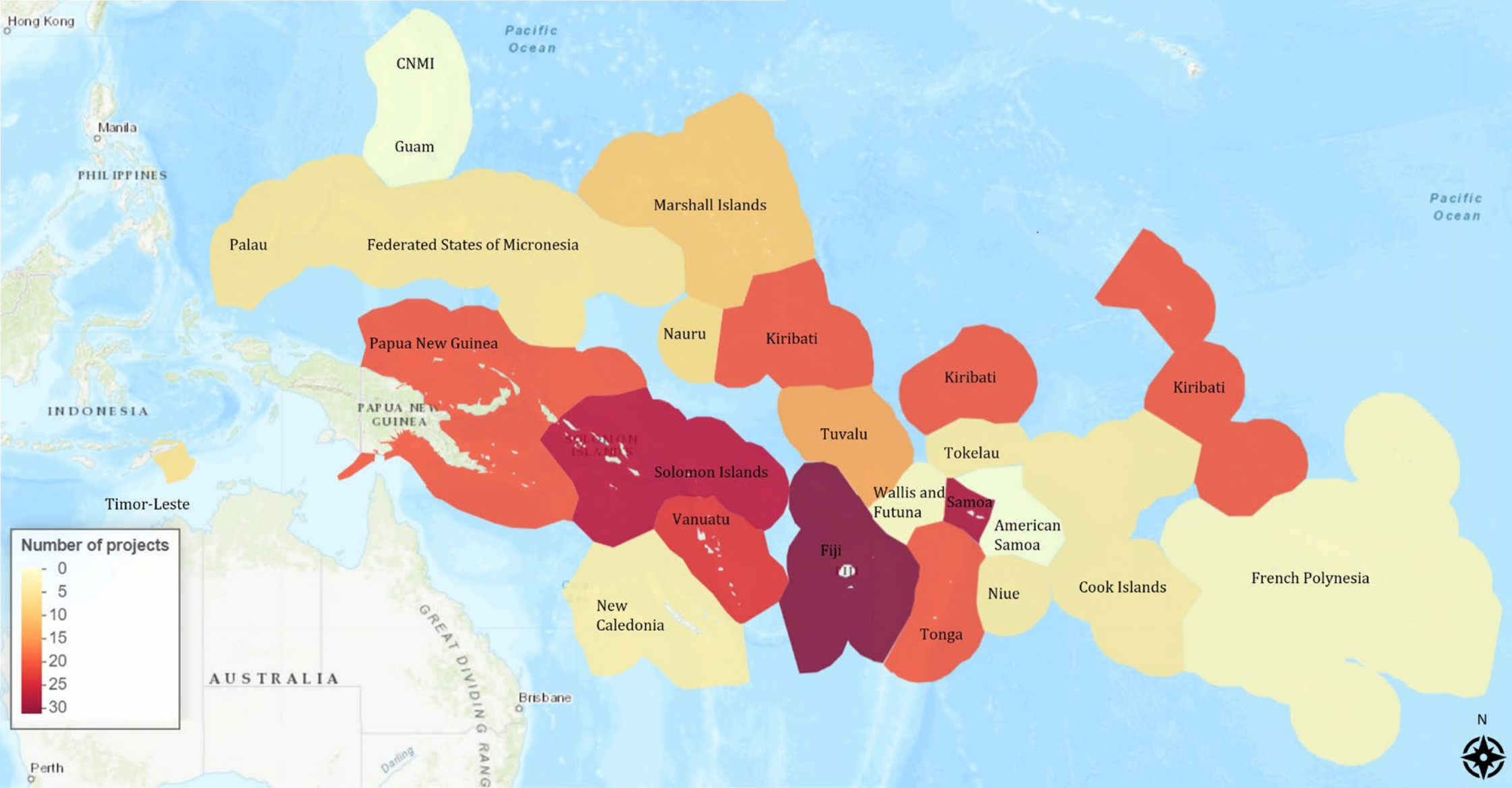


Short funding timeframes identified as a key barrier to success

Supported by the Australian Government and WWF-Australia through the Climate Resilient by Nature initiative

# Distribution of NbS projects in the Pacific

The results show that Melanesia receives the highest number of projects, and presumably funding. Micronesia had a significantly lower number of projects. The geographic gaps were considered against island type (based on Nunn et al. 2016 island classifications) but no significant correlation was found. The number of projects for each Pacific island country or territory does not appear to reflect the population of these nations or their current GDP, nor does it appear to reflect their vulnerability to climate change (based on analysis using the ND-Gain score).



# NbS Regional Coordination in the Pacific

## Key Organisations



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



### IUCN Global NbS Definition

“Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”

### IUCN Global NbS Standards

[www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions/resources/iucn-global-standard-nbs](http://www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions/resources/iucn-global-standard-nbs)



## Key Projects

### KIWA Initiative

The Kiwa initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of PICT ecosystems, economies, and communities by setting up a dedicated one-stop-shop for funding projects that promote NbS. IUCN, SPC and SPREP all play a role in the implementation of KIWA Projects.

<https://kiwainitiative.org/en/>

### PPIN Project

Promoting Pacific Island Nature-based Solutions (PPIN) project is funded through MFAT for 4 years. It aims to support tools specific to the Pacific that will support the development and implementation of NbS.

## Climate Resilient by Nature (CRxN)

The Australian Government is proud to partner with WWF on Climate Resilient by Nature, a new initiative advancing nature-based solutions to climate change. CRxN supports communities to work with nature to tackle climate change. Working to fill gaps in the current work being undertaken in the Pacific, CRxN supports:

- Funding of NbS projects
- Development of a NbS knowledge hub

CRxN is working with Australian international development NGOs to implement NbS projects in the Indo Pacific region. The initiative is developing a community of practice focused on the contribution of carbon market activities, blue foods, and the role of traditional knowledge and locally managed areas to successful NbS that deliver results for communities.

To learn more go to:

[www.climateresilientbynature.com](http://www.climateresilientbynature.com)



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# Key Considerations for NbS Projects in the Pacific

IUCN NbS standards represent a useful global framework for designing and implementing NbS. While these standards are useful as a master framework for conceptualizing NbS, the use of NbS cannot be generalized. Approaches must be tailored to the specific characteristics of the location where they will be implemented (i.e. culture, geography, resource use, capacity and government policy and priorities).

Consider the IUCN global NbS definition and standards and the following factors when designing and implementing NbS projects in the Pacific.



## Traditional Knowledge

- Incorporate into baseline information collection
- Recognise and value different types of knowledge
- Respect communities and build trust
- Capture and share local traditional knowledge related to NbS (i.e. folk stories)
- Strongly embed traditional knowledge and governance structures from design phase through to implementation



## Vulnerability to Climate Change

- Incorporate climate scenarios specific to project location in design and aim to increase resilience to current and future climate impacts



## Community Partnerships

- Co-design projects with communities
- Design for the local social and cultural context
- Design initiatives into existing community and governance structures
- Empower community implementation and management
- Be inclusive of under-represented groups
- Support youth- and women-led initiatives
- Design for longer-term timescales



## Project Scaling

- Build on successes BUT adapt to new contexts (through community participation)
- Do not use a one-size-fits-all approach
- Work with funders for increased flexibility



## Government Frameworks vs Local situations

- Ensure appropriateness of government policies and structures
- In-country consultation should be conducted with local and national stakeholders to ensure design aligns with the local context



## Support Local Livelihoods

- Incorporate social outcomes in addition to ecological outcomes (i.e. culturally appropriate livelihood outcomes)



## Countries as Large Ocean States

- Consider the unique geographic, resource and logistical challenges of the Pacific, including:
  - Logistical and transportation challenges
  - Marine resources central to livelihoods
  - Limited terrestrial and hydrological resources

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*This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.*



Australian Government

