

# International Climate Initiative

## Annex 2 - Project description

*This document serves as a basis for promoting the respective IKI project. The text segments are used for official purposes and are aimed at the target group “political partners/Governments”. Only the text segment of number 8 serves the IKI-Website. Please use diplomatic language and avoid using foreign words. Abbreviations should be written out once using the following format: full title (abbreviation)*

### Restoring Pacific Islands for Nature and People

#### 1 General project information

*In the case of regional and global projects, the corresponding funding amounts must be stated for each partner country.*

<b>Partner country/countries</b>	1. Palau 2. Tonga 3. Samoa 4. Wallis & Futuna	
<b>Project duration</b>	From 2024.02.15 to 2025.12.31 (preparation phase)	
	From 2026.01.01 to 2032.12.31 (implementation phase)	
<b>IKI funding</b>	Up to 19,032,875.79 euros	
<b>IKI funding for partner country 1</b>	PALAU	Up to 3,208,898.41 euros
<b>IKI funding for partner country 2</b>	SAMOA	Up to 7,660,117.28 euros
<b>IKI funding for partner country 3</b>	TONGA	Up to 7,660,117.28 euros
<b>IKI funding for partner country 4</b>	WALLIS & FUTUNA	Up to 4,292,870.72 euros
<b>Online presence</b>	<a href="http://www.islandconservation.org">www.islandconservation.org</a>	
<b>Instagram account</b>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/islandconservation/">https://www.instagram.com/islandconservation/</a>	
<b>YouTube channel</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@IslandConservation">https://www.youtube.com/@IslandConservation</a>	
<b>Other social media accounts</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/preventingextinctions">https://www.facebook.com/preventingextinctions</a>	
	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/island-conservation/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/island-conservation/</a>	

#### 2 Consortium

<b>Project management Lead implementing organisation/Consortium lead</b>	<b>Name of organisation</b>	Island Conservation
	<b>Surname</b>	Griffiths
	<b>First name</b>	Richard
	<b>Organisational unit/department</b>	Conservation Department
	<b>Position</b>	Head of Operations - South & West Pacific
	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:richard.griffiths@islandconservation.org">richard.griffiths@islandconservation.org</a>

<b>Contact person/s Implementing/Consortium partner 1</b>	Phone	+64 22 474 4269
	Name of organisation	Palau Conservation Society (PCS)
	Surname	Ketebengang
	First name	Heather
	Organisational unit/department	Operations
	Position	Program Manager
	Email	hketebengang@palauconservation.org
	Phone	+680 488 3993
<b>Contact person/s Implementing/Consortium partner 2</b>	Partner countries where implementing partners carry out activities	Palau
	Name of organisation	BirdLife Pacific
	Surname	Cranwell
	First name	Steve
	Organisational unit/department	Island Restoration Programme
	Position	Head of Island Restoration
	Email	Steve.Cranwell@birdlife.org
	Phone	+679 331 3492
<b>Contact person/s Implementing/Consortium partner 3</b>	Partner countries where implementing partners carry out activities	Samoa (with network support across all project sites)
	Name of organisation	Vava'u Environmental Protection Association (VEPA)
	Surname	Stone
	First name	Karen
	Organisational unit/department	Executive
	Position	Executive Director
	Email	conservation@vavauenvironment.org
	Phone	+676 7833018
<b>Contact person/s Implementing/Consortium partner 4</b>	Partner countries where implementing partners carry out activities	Tonga
	Name of organisation	Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
	Surname	Moverley
	First name	David
	Organisational unit/department	Biodiversity Conservation
	Position	Invasive Species Adviser
	Email	davidm@sprep.org
	Phone	+685 21929

	Partner countries where implementing partners carry out activities	Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Wallis & Futuna
<b>Contact person/s Implementing/Consortium partner 5</b>	Name of organisation	Island Conservation - Palau
	Surname	Beouch
	First name	Joyce
	Organisational unit/department	Board
	Position	Chairperson
	Email	jkbeouch@gmail.com
	Phone	+680 7754031
	Partner countries where implementing partners carry out activities	Palau

### 3 Partner institution/s

<b>Contact person/s Partner institution/s Partner country 1 PALAU</b>	Name of political partner institution	Koror State Government (KSG)
	Surname	Rudimch
	First name	Eyos
	Organisational unit/department	State Government
	Position	Governor
	Email	kororostategov@gmail.com
	Address	P.O. Box 116, Koror, Palau 96940
<b>Contact person/s Partner institution/s Partner country 1 PALAU</b>	Name of political partner institution	Palau Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (MAFE)
	Surname	Victor
	First name	Steven
	Organisational unit/department	Ministry
	Position	Minister
	Email	palau.mafe@palaugov.org
	Address	PO BOX 100, 96940, Republic of Palau
<b>Contact person/s Partner institution/s Partner country 2 SAMOA</b>	Name of political partner institution	Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)
	Surname	Iese-Stowers
	First name	Czarina
	Organisational unit/department	Division of Environment and Conservation
	Position	Principal Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation Officer
	Email	czarina.stowers@mnre.gov.ws
	Address	Level 3, TATTE Building, Sogi Samoa

<b>Contact person/s</b> <b>Partner institution/s</b> <b>Partner country 2</b> <b>SAMOA</b> <i>If applicable</i>	Name of political partner institution	Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)
	Surname	Faillagi
	First name	Afele
	Organisational unit/department	Biosecurity Division
	Position	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
	Email	afele.failagi@maf.gov.ws
	Address	Beach Road, Matautu-Tai, Samoa
<b>Contact person/s</b> <b>Partner institution/s</b> <b>Partner country 3</b> <b>TONGA</b>	Name of political partner institution	Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC)
	Surname	Pulotu Akau'ola
	First name	Sione
	Organisational unit/department	Executive
	Position	Chief Executive Officer
	Email	folaos@gmail.com
	Address	Sanft Building, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
<b>Contact person/s</b> <b>Partner institution/s</b> <b>Partner country 4</b> <b>WALLIS &amp; FUTUNA</b>	Name of political partner institution	Service Territorial de l'Environnement de Wallis et Futuna - STEWF
	Surname	Maugateau
	First name	Ateliana
	Organisational unit/department	Environment Department
	Position	Cheffe du Service
	Email	ateliana.maugateau@environnement.wf
	Address	BP 294 Mata Utu, 98600, Uvea, Wallis et Futuna

#### 4 Preparation phase

##### General information on preparation phase

Country missions were conducted through the preparation phase to establish authentic engagement and effective communication with stakeholders, including decision-makers at the local and national level, and collaboratively develop the full IKI proposal. National and local leadership (including indigenous persons and local communities - IPLCs) were proactively engaged in facilitated conversations aimed at establishing the foundation of partnerships anchored in local core values and belief systems, and the strategic approach for the proposal was developed through these partnerships to ensure free prior and informed consent (FPIC) from the outset. Through these missions and associated pre- and post- planning, the project gender action plan was also completed, and results logic collaboratively agreed.

#### 5 Context

##### General project context

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are extremely vulnerable enclaves of unique fauna and flora that are facing intense pressures from climate change. These pressures are being further exacerbated by invasive species that have a profound impact on the native biodiversity, leading to a reduction in native vegetation and wild species, impacting local agricultural productivity, and undermining food security, human wellbeing and the climate resilience of these islands

#### **Country-specific context** *(only fill out if activities take place in more than one country)*

In **Palau**, invasive rats have heavily impacted native biota by preying on eggs, seedlings, and small wildlife, undermining forest regeneration and reducing nutrient flows from seabirds that support reef health. Challenges center on ensuring long-term biosecurity through strict early detection, community-led monitoring, and preventing reinvasion. Palau faces constraints in funding as limited budgets compete with pressing national priorities. Impacts disproportionately affect women involved in subsistence agriculture.

**Samoa** faces severe threats from invasive rat species predating seeds, seedlings, forest birds, and indirectly weakening forests' capacity to regenerate post-cyclone and buffer against erosion and sedimentation. Invasive species management must navigate complex village governance, where chiefly systems hold authority. Limited government resources and competing needs constrain investment in eradication projects.

In **Tonga**, invasive rats, feral pigs and feral cats have devastated native seabirds, eggs, vegetation on islands, and disrupted vital nutrient cycling that builds reef and ecosystem resilience. Where eradication programmes have been implemented recovery of biodiversity has been considerable. Challenges remain in scaling and maintaining long-term biosecurity. Reliance on subsistence farming means invasive species undermine livelihoods, yet households—especially women and elders—may lack the empowerment to act.

On the islands of **Wallis & Futuna**, rats have caused significant biodiversity loss, hampering forest regeneration, fruit production, and posing health risks such as leptospirosis. Eradication operations in 2022 marked a major breakthrough for ecosystem health, with reported improvements in fruit yields and sanitary conditions. Challenges include maintaining vigilance across remote islets and sustained participation across diverse local groups under the highly centralized administration.

## **6 Objectives and measures**

### **Overarching project objectives and measures**

The overall outcome of this initiative is to support four countries / territories in the Pacific to 'demonstrate capacity and leadership by successfully implementing improved plans and actions to prevent and manage invasive species, enhance inter-island biosecurity, promote conservation and sustainable use, and restore ecosystem integrity as a nature-based solution to achieve climate resilience, while enhancing biodiversity, local economies, food security, and human health and wellbeing.'

Four work packages (WP) provide integrated pathways to achieve this. WP1 builds the enabling environment through mainstreaming, WP2 creates the policy frameworks, WP3 puts these into action through eradications and WP4 (rewilding) improves biodiversity. Key beneficiaries are the indigenous persons and local communities reliant on the ecosystem services of the target sites, and the national statutory agencies who will receive the capacity-building and resources for project implementation.

### **Country-specific objectives and measures**

- **PALAU:** Rat eradication will be conducted on 52 islands and islets in the Ngerukewid & Ngemelis Island Clusters and the recently completed inter-island biosecurity framework will be implemented to stop the reintroductions of invasive species. Native biodiversity recovery will be supported through the reintroduction of the Federico nut cycad (*Cycas micronesia*) plant species.
- **SAMOA:** Rat eradication will be conducted on Apolima Island and an inter-island biosecurity framework will be developed and implemented to stop the reintroduction of invasive species. Native

biodiversity recovery will be supported on nearby Nu'utele Island (already post-eradication) through the reintroduction of the Mao / Ma'oma'o (*Gymnomyza samoensis*) bird species.

- TONGA: Rat, feral cat and feral pig eradications will be conducted on Tofua Island and three surrounding islets, and an inter-island biosecurity framework will be developed and implemented to stop the reintroduction of invasive species. Native biodiversity recovery will be supported on nearby Late Island (already post-eradication) through the reintroduction of the at-risk Tongan Megapode bird species (*Megapodius pritchardii*).
- WALLIS & FUTUNA: Rat eradication will be conducted on Alofi Island and an inter-island biosecurity framework will be developed and implemented to stop the reintroduction of invasive species. Native biodiversity recovery will be supported through the reintroduction of the at-risk Shy Ground-Dove bird species (*Pampusana stairi*).

## 7 Multiplier effect

### Overarching project multiplier effect

Through the inter-island biosecurity frameworks local and national stakeholders will have the strategy and skills to manage invasive species long-term. Pilot sustainable financing mechanisms will further enable the trialling and lessons learned for replication to other sites. Target IPLCs will be empowered to support site-based implementation, benefitting from the increased agricultural productivity, food security and climate resilience of their islands' through improved ecosystem integrity.

## 8 Summary /short description of project

### Summary / short description of entire project

Invasive vertebrate species (rats, feral pigs and feral cats) are having a profound impact on the native biodiversity of Pacific Islands, leading to a reduction in native vegetation and wild species, impacting local agricultural productivity, and undermining food security, human wellbeing and the climate resilience of these islands. This project will work with national and local stakeholders, including indigenous persons and local communities, to eradicate these invasive species from 58 islands in Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Wallis & Futuna. This will be supported by extensive awareness raising campaigns to engage and empower local stewardship, including women and youth. The development of inter-island biosecurity frameworks will ensure the avoidance of reintroductions, and the rewilding of the target sites with key endemic bird and plant species will accelerate biodiversity restoration and promote climate resilience of the sites.