



This summary of recent activities by people and agencies involved in the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) is collated and circulated by the PII Coordinating Team (PII CT). Feedback is welcomed – contact either the people directly involved in projects, or the PII Team PII@auckland.ac.nz. For further information visit our website <http://www.issg.org/cii/PII>.

Island Biosecurity Training in Samoa and Fiji

PII has developed an Island Biosecurity training course and delivered it in two countries recently. One was held in Apia, Samoa, in March for the Division of Environment and Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (DEC-MNRE) for the restoration project on the Alepata Islands of Nu'utele and Nu'ulua.

The other was held in Suva, Fiji, in June for The National Trust of the Fiji Islands (NTF) for their crested iguana recovery projects on Yadua Taba and Monuriki Islands.

The aims of the training are: 1) to enhance an understanding of island biosecurity, its purpose and how to maintain effective biosecurity programmes; 2) to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake basic biosecurity prevention, surveillance and incursion response activities; 3) to collect local knowledge for agencies to develop an island biosecurity plan.

In Samoa, the course was attended by up to 22 participants; staff from DEC-MNRE, community leaders from the Alepata and Safata Marine Protected Area committees, and a representative from the Samoan Ports Authority. A representative from the Samoa Quarantine Division gave a presentation on the work of Quarantine to participants.

The course in Fiji was attended by 12 participants; NTF staff and representatives from the community of Yanuya Island, Provincial Councils of Nadroga and Bua, Fiji Quarantine Service and Birdlife International. A talk on Fiji biosecurity legislation was given by the Quarantine representative.

The 4-day training introduced participants to the basic concepts of biosecurity and concentrated on the three main steps (prevention, surveillance, incursion response). These were reinforced with several practical exercises in the classroom.

The participatory approach of this training encouraged personal opinions and the sharing of experiences and discussion by the group in their own languages after the presentations in English.

In Samoa a fieldtrip to Satitua wharf to examine biosecurity issues at the point of departure for the Alepata Islands was held. In Fiji, the fieldtrip was to Mabalau Island to learn about the continued biosecurity measures conducted by the land-owners after a successful rat eradication.

Overall, participants demonstrated an increased level of understanding of the basic concepts of

invasive species management and the need for island biosecurity. Participants agreed on the important role of public awareness for effective island biosecurity. There were also agreements on the need for biosecurity inspections on local and international researchers and other visitors to the islands.

PII Communication

Website: Over the last year, 2,071 unique visitors from 108 countries or territories viewed our pages a total of 9,539 times.

Facebook: In just over a week, our Facebook site had 469 visitors, of which 39% were from Fiji, Samoa and Federated States of Micronesia.

Awareness materials are available at http://www.issg.org/cii/awareness_materials.html.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund support for invasive species management in the Pacific

The Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot is one of the most threatened of Earth's 34 biodiversity hotspots, with only 21 percent of the region's original vegetation remaining in pristine condition. The Hotspot faces a number of threats. Countries in the Hotspot that are eligible for Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) support include: Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands, Palau, FSM, Tonga, Kiribati and the following territories: French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn, Tokelau, Easter Island.

Since its establishment in late 2008, over half of eligible countries have projects funded by CEPF, with varying amount of investment in the three sub-regions (Micronesia, Polynesia, Fiji). Six regional projects account for 28 percent of current CEPF investment.

Projects supported by CEPF have an even distribution and coverage of the 14 eligible Pacific countries. The Fiji sub-region has the highest CEPF investment in supported projects, followed by the Polynesian sub-region, then the Micronesia sub-region.

The spread of country projects across the region and the range of investment may simply be an indicator of technical capacity and resources found in each of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and the bigger the country the more human resources and expertise are at its disposal.

On the other hand, the small countries such as Easter Island, Niue, and Wallis Futuna are the only countries with no country specific projects and one reason for this is due to lack of technical expertise available in the country to develop a proposal or submit a letter of inquiry. However, regional support projects (regional projects account for 28% of current CEPF investment.) serve an important role in their coverage of most countries through capacity building workshops mainly in the area of invasive species management.

Invasive Species Management (ISM) Projects supported by CEPF from September 2008-October 2009

| Country | Invasive Species Project Title | Invasive Species Targeted |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Cook Islands | 1. Enhance the breeding capacity of the reintroduced Rimatara Lorikeet (<i>Vini kuhlii</i>) on Atiu by reducing harassment by Common Myna (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>) | Common Myna |
| Fiji | 2. Documentation of Fiji's Introduced and Endemic Land Snail Fauna | Introduced snails |
| | 3. Resolving an Enigma: Conservation Management of the Fiji Petrel | Mongoose, rats and cats |
| | 4. Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana | Mongoose, and rats |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 5. Improving Invasive Species Eradication and Control in Pohnpei, FSM to protect the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve and Biodiversity | (plant invasive) False sakau, mile-a-minute, chain of love, ivy gourd and Honolulu rose |
| Marshall Islands | 6. Traditional landowner protection for endangered Ratak Imperial Pigeon (<i>Ducula oecania ratakensis</i>) and overwintering Bristle-thighed Curlew (<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>) in key atolls of the Marshall Islands. | Rats |
| Samoa | 7. Restoration of Nuutele & Nuulua Islands (Aleipata Group), Samoa through the management of introduced rats and ants | Rats and pigs |
| Palau | 8. Spay/Neuter Clinic to Prevent the Spread of Crab-eating Macaques in the Republic of Palau | Macaques (monkey) |
| | 9. Documenting an Existing Invasion to Prevent Future Introductions of Non-Indigenous Species in the Island-like Marine Lakes | Anemone <i>Aiptasia</i> spp. |
| | 10. Preventing the spread of Crab-eating Macaques in the Republic of Palau | Macaques |
| Tokelau | 11. Survey of indigenous biota and pests in the Tokelau Islands | Rats, pigs and invasive plants |
| Kiribati | 12. Biosecurity Plan for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati | Cats and rats |
| | 13. Pest eradications of priority islands in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) | cats |
| | 14. Holding the lines - Restoration of the Northern Line Islands, Kiribati | Cats and rats |
| Pitcairn Island | 15. Finalizing preparations for the eradication of rats from the Henderson Island World Heritage Site | rats |
| French Polynesia | 16. Fight against invasive plant species in Fatu Hiva | (plant invasive) <i>Miconia calvenscens</i> , <i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i> , <i>Psidium cattleianum</i> , <i>Syzygium cumini</i> , <i>Leuceana leucocephala</i> |
| | 17. Rehabilitation Project for Native Plant Cover of the Temehani Rahi Plateau on Raiatea, 2009-2013, to Counter Plant Pests | (plant invasive) Bladdernut, miconia, Chinese guava, cocoa plum and feijoa |
| | 18. Island Kingfishers of Niau and Tahuata: which Future? | Rats and cats |
| Regional Support Projects | 19. Developing an effective resource/tool for the prioritization of management action against invasive alien species that threaten the biodiversity value of the 60 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) identified for site-level investment by the CEPF. PII | All invasive species found in the Pacific (regional) |
| | 20. Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN): Expanding and consolidating the network to build capacity for invasive species management across the Pacific Islands. SPREP | |
| | 21. Developing Long-term Capacity for Invasive Species Management in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot | |
| | 22. Workshop to develop biocontrol strategy for the Pacific. Landcare NZ | |

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. CEPF will provide grants enabling non-governmental organizations, community groups, and other private sector entities to help conserve the hotspot. For more information, visit www.cepf.net

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