

Pacific Invasives Learning Network Network sound bites, December 2006

Not all teams and their achievements are included here and for those missed out it just means I failed to catch up with you in time, so apologies.

Hawaii

- Penny Levin of the Hawaii Land Restoration Institute has produced an action plan for the Golden Apple Snail. This can be seen as a model as it includes a community action plan and all the necessary components for effective invasive snail management. Anyone interested in getting a copy can email Penny at pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com.

Marshall Islands

- The multi-agency awareness raising workshop identified public awareness as the top priority for invasive species action in the RMI, followed by inter-agency coordination and funding. If you would like to see photos of the workshop, let me know (jillk@sprep.org) and I'll send you an invitation to view them on Kodak Easy Share.

Kosrae

- Mikania still has a limited distribution in Kosrae, being found at only a few sites along the coast, so the Agriculture Department is confident that it could still be eradicated, if action is taken quickly.

Pohnpei

- The 4 species of weeds identified for priority action at the Palau meeting are well on their way to eradication: of the 18 known false sakau sites 15 are now free of it; of the 6 known sites with ivy gourd all are now free of it; of the 16 known sites with Chain-of-love 12 have had no recent sightings; and of the 9 known sites with Mikania 8 have had no recent sightings. The team continues with monitoring and looking for new sites.

Palau

- Palau carried out a planning workshop to develop an action plan for the national invasive species committee, 2007 - 2010. Objectives were drafted to define the role of the NISC as a coordination and facilitation body in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the National Invasive Species Strategy. Objectives were prioritized in terms of logical sequence of activities, urgency of need and those which are clearly within the responsibility of the NISC. Actions were then identified for the priorities.
- On October 20, 2006 the students and faculty of Koror Elementary School (KES) unveiled their new mascot, the Biib, also known as the Palau fruit dove. The new mascot is an endemic forest bird of Palau, and was selected by the KES students to replace their old mascot, the Iakkotsiang, or Sulfur-Crested Cockatoo. This change was initiated at the request of the NISC, because the Cockatoo is an invasive species. The project was completed with the support of the Palau Conservation Society and the donation of paint by Ace Hardware.

American Samoa

- Only 30 individual Tamaligi trees are left in the National Park and 1-mile buffer zone, all on steep terrain which requires ropes to access them. The team has now been trained in rappelling so they are ready to tackle these last ones safely and effectively. If you would like to see photos of the dramatic outlines of dead trees in the canopy in the National

Park, let me know (jillk@sprep.org) and I'll send you an invitation to view them on Kodak Easy Share.

- Also, 19 feral pigs have been killed in the last 2 months of the feral pig eradication in the Tutuila unit of the National Park.

Yap

- Yap is now interested in forming a PILN team and joining the network – welcome!

PILN Coordination.

- I have just come back from visiting seven countries – first visits to PILN teams in Hawaii, Marshall Islands and Kosrae, and follow-up visits to Pohnpei, Guam, Palau and American Samoa. Its great to see so much excellent work going on – congratulations to you all.
- Inspired by the progress made by Pohnpei and Palau in producing simple and realistic action plans to implement their national strategies, the Marshall Islands, Kosrae and Yap are now planning their own workshops.

PILN gratefully acknowledges the support of TNC, NFWF, CEPF, SPREP and all PILN teams and Partners.