

Pacific Invasives Learning Network Network Soundbites, January 2008

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.

Looking for equipment suppliers? Check out the PII / PILN **Equipment Catalogue** at: <http://www.issg.org/cii/pii/>. Add your supplier to the catalogue.

Current activities

American Samoa

Congratulations to Tavita Togia for receiving the Conservation Service Award from the US Department of the Interior, for the Tamaligi control work. In August 2007 he also received the American Samoa Community Stewardship Award, and the Tamaligi project was also selected to represent the Pacific West Region in the annual National Park Service report to the US Congress, as being the best of over 30 parks in the region presenting projects. I am proud to add that Tavita is one of the founding partners of PILN and is actively involved in the networks guidance. Keep up the good work!

Guam

Guam has just hosted a very successful Island Species-Led Action 2008 course, delivered by the Durrell Conservation Wildlife Trust of the UK. This was held from 4 to 16 February, and 26 people from 17 different agencies / countries participated in the 11-day course, to learn and share experience in endangered species management on islands. The next iteration of this course will be held in 2009, probably in Fiji. We'll send out information and application forms for interested people later in the year.

Palau

The weeds team is mapping infestations of *Mikania micrantha* and *Imperata cylindrica*, for the first time since 2002. The purpose is twofold: First, to really get a handle on whether the population is shrinking (we hope) or growing (please no more) as that, in the end, is what really makes a successful eradication. The information from the mapping exercise will then be used in a pilot training workshop led by PII and Te Ngahere that will focus on planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Palau's priority weed eradication projects to ensure success of those projects. The lessons learned from the workshop will provide a model for other invasive species management projects in the Pacific. While mapping, we recorded information about each site for the database. The team is also photographing each site. Thanks to the TNC for their support, both financially and in the planning, and to PALARIS, the Palau Automated Land and Resources Information System who are preparing the maps, and also setting up the database.

Pohnpei

The new chairman of the Pohnpei Invasive Species Taskteam for 2008 is Mr. Engly Ioanis and the Vice chair is Roseo Marquez, taking over from Konrad Englberger who has done a splendid job over the past year.

Update on the feral pigeon eradication from Konrad: "On 14 January Engly and two staff from CSP and I visited after 8:00 p.m. two breeding places with feral pigeons. At one place we got 4 adults and 2 nestlings. We believe there are no more here. At a second place we took 8 eggs and had two adults escape. We will ask the Governors office to shoot the two reminding pigeons.

Other than this two there are not many left. We know of one in COM Palikir and Jim is going to take care of the one. The total count is 11 adults in December and last night 6 adults and 8 eggs. We should be able to complete the pigeon eradication soon. With the sparrows it is a different story but we are working on it. It is a matter of time to get them also.”

Samoa

The first phase of a long term project led by MNREM and Conservation International to restore the Mt Vaea Forest Reserve to its original native vegetation has almost been completed. The objective of the project is to successfully manage invasive weeds in the reserve and replant the area with native species. Project planning activities began at the end of 2007 with a plant inventory and survey of the 78ha project area within the reserve, which took 6 weeks to complete. A total of 72 (1ha.) blocks were superimposed and mapped over the area and 36 transects (50m x 10m) were established and surveyed, noting the general floral features of the area including: ground cover, seedlings/saplings and upper canopy species. Additionally, in each transect photo-points were taken and all stems of living species greater than 5cm DBH were measured and recorded. Each species was identified with specific notes also taken on the trees form (e.g. forked, broken, leaning, etc.). In addition 12 bird survey stations have been identified in the reserve and surveys are being carried out every 3 months, before, during and after the restoration work. This is led by Faleafaga Toni Tipama'a of DEC/MNRE in collaboration with CI, and PILN is coming on board for the other biota research led by Dr Jill Key. Protocols are being drawn up for monitoring of other biota, such as skinks and mollusks. Mark Bonin led the vegetation survey, and has analyzed the data and is currently in the final stages of drafting the restoration plan. The project team meets regularly to discuss the results and ideas, and includes SPREP, JICA and PILN who are assisting with technical advice. It is hoped that implementation of the restoration plan will commence in early 2008, once further funds have been secured.

Wallis & Futuna

A 3 weeks field survey (29 Oct-17 November 2007) was carried out in Wallis (main island of 'Uvea and offshore islets), by a team of 1 zoologist (rats and birds), 2 entomologists (arthropods), 1 malacologists (molluscs), 2 botanists (plants; one being Jean-Yves Meyer of French Polynesia). The program was funded by the French Oversea Territory of Wallis & Futuna, and supported by its Service territorial de l'Environnement, and conducted by IRD in Noumea, New Caledonia. There was strong collaboration with the Service de l'Environnement (Director: Paino Vanai and his staff) who helped with the logistics (transportation in boat, guiding), and also with the Service de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt (Atoloto Malau).

The main results were a survey of all the habitat types (native ecosystems and agrosystems, from seashore to the bottom of inland craters) and the inventory of all the non-native/alien terrestrial animals and plants, and prioritization of the worst invaders. The chief of the Service de l'Environnement gave a positive answer to joining PILN. Details of the main results should be published soon as a preliminary report to the Service de l'Environnement de Wallis.

In Paris next month there will be a second annual meeting of the project "Initiative sur les Espèces Exotiques Envahissantes dans les collectivités françaises d'Outre-Mer" run by the French Comitee of IUCN, to share data and knowledge on invasive species and their management between all the French overseas territories (French Guiana, La Réunion, Mayotte, Martinique et Guadeloupe, Saint-Pierre & Miquelon, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis & Futuna).

Yap

On 21 – 22 February Yap carried out the first stage of their invasive species action planning process, with a workshop to define the strategic framework and coordination mechanism of the

plan. In total around 15 people participated from 7 agencies. The second stage, drafting action plans, will take place in late June / early July 2008. The Yap invasive species taskforce is to be congratulated on an excellent start to their planning process.

Planned work

Let me have details of any worked you are planning and would like to include.

Guam

Eradication of rats and mice from Cocos Island, planned for the dry season 2008 (April).

New Caledonia

Restoration of Lepredour Island, South Province, together with the Pacific Invasive initiative.

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