

Pacific Invasives Learning Network Network sound bites, July 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.

Palau

Palau is on schedule with their commitments from the first annual meeting, with two exceptions:

- The Regional Invasive Species Council meeting has been re-scheduled from June to July 20-21 due to a change in the dates of the Western Micronesia Chief Executive Summit, to which the RISC reports.
- Implementation of the project, "Community Mobilization for Control of Kebeas Along the Compact Road," has been delayed to August, to coincide with initiation of Operation Counter-Invasion and hiring of a National Invasive Species Coordinator.

SPREP has agreed to part-support a 3-day Private Pesticide Applicator Training cooperative project between Palau and Yap in October. This is a capacity-building project, which will build Yap's capacity to provide training in the safe and effective use of pesticides for invasive weed control and for agriculture. At the same time, this training will enhance Palau's capacity to provide such training, by providing hands-on training experience to potential trainers." Palau's invasive weeds program will also receive assistance with monitoring and record keeping from the Yap invasive weeds program.

Pohnpei

Pohnpei is also on schedule with their commitments from the first annual meeting.

Roseo Marquez has drafted a press release on PILN for the Conservation Society of Pohnpei newsletter.

A site survey was conducted by State Marine Resources and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei in one of the rivers in Palikir area regarding tilapia. The survey confirmed that tilapia is present in Pohnpei, all the way down the stream, and so it is probably too late for eradication. Donald David has started to map the distribution of tilapia and will make an alert for the newspaper and radio. Pohnpei is now looking to develop aquaculture policies and preventative quarantine measures which address the issue of freshwater and marine invasive species.

16 people attended the July Pohnpei Invasive Species Team (PIST) meeting, indicating more interest in invasive species.

The PIST decided to produce several newspaper articles for public awareness, one on Chain of Love "Not everything that is beautiful is good", one on tilapia, and a third one will be on feral pigeons."

Samoa

Samoa is also on schedule with their commitments from the first annual meeting.

Rattan has now been cleared from Samoa and the eradication is entering the follow-up and monitoring phase, to check and eliminate new seedlings.

Members of SNITT (Samoa National Invasives Task Team) are looking into the tilapia situation in Samoa, have initiated the process of developing an emergency response plan for invasive species, and are working on developing a ranking and prioritization system for invasive plants and animals. Members also attended a session on fund raising and effective grant writing, organised by Jill Key, on 3 July.

French Polynesia

Philippe Raust had a 4-day meeting in Tahiti from 12 - 15 June to finalize the Operational Plan for Vahanga.

PILN coordination

A meeting was held with Rosemary Godfrey of RARE on 7 July to discuss training for PILN participants in public awareness / social marketing for invasive species. Two ideas are being explored: of an 18-month diploma (long term) and a short course (short term).

Various options for addressing the issue of tropical rodent eradications are being explored, with PII among others.

The IUCN are interested in marine invasive species and PILN, a meeting is arranged on 14 August with the IUCN Marine Programme Officer of the Marine Global Programme.

Follow-up visits are being planned for American Samoa, Guam, Niue Palau, Pohnpei and Samoa; Jill is now officially a member of SNITT. First visits are being planned for Fiji, Hawaii, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands.

Active fundraising is on going to support the meeting for the second group of founding teams (Hawaii, February 2007) and the second annual meeting (American Samoa, August 2007), as well as to secure core funds. TNC have generously agreed to support PILN further, with a new sub-award up to the end of May 2007.

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