

PILN SOUNDBITES - JANUARY 2011

Pacific Invasives Learning Network



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Marshall Islands
New Caledonia
Niue
Palau
Pohnpei
Samoa
Yap



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Contributions for our February Soundbites are now needed!

Network News

PILN SOUNDBITES is the monthly newsletter of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network: a participant-driven island network, reporting on news of PILN Country Teams and the Pacific Invasives Partnership. Past issues are available from our webpage: www.sprep.org/piln. Do share this issue with your colleagues and networks. Please send comments and feedback to the PILN Coordinator: posas@sprep.org.

Greetings for the New Year. This year is both the year for the Dugong in the Pacific and the International Year of Forests (<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>). Dugong is a marine mammal found in six Pacific Islands and Territories and is of immense cultural importance to our communities. The theme for the Pacific Year of Dugong is Respect and Protect. The Year of Forests reminds us of the importance of these ecological systems to our life. Island forests have been threatened by our activities and also invasive species. This year it is about celebrating forests for us – a timely reminder of the need to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. We wish you all a successful Year of Dugong and Forests.

It is the start of the year and most of our teams are still in the planning mode, so expect more activities in the coming months. January is the Feral Month for the Australia Broadcasting Corporation and you can find out more on community responses in reporting invasive species (see Interesting Links on page 6).

PILN Teams - Updates:

Many of you have suggested that this is one of the most interesting and valuable bite of your SOUNDBITES. Yet we don't hear enough from you. Let us make this one of the highlights of our learning network and contribute an item a month.

Palau: Government considers the introduction of Tilapia

The Government of Palau is currently considering amending legislation to allow the Bureau of Marine Resources to give out Tilapia to its citizens and encourage them to establish Tilapia fish farms. According to Dr Joel Miles, a long-term campaigner of invasive species in Palau and also one of the founding members of PILN, the new proposal by the Government will overturn an earlier decision made in 2003 to eradicate Tilapia from Palau. The eradication took six years to complete, requiring thousands of dollars as well as hundreds of hours of paid and volunteer work. The recent proposal will expose Palau's unique freshwater and marine fisheries to the harmful impacts of tilapia. A body of scientific evidence has been provided to the Palau team to allow them to advise the decision makers.

Pacific Invasives Partnership News:

SPC - Dr Viliami Fakava our Pacific representative to the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group [source: Easter Galuvao, SPREP Biodiversity Adviser, easterg@sprep.org]



Congratulations to Viliami Fakava for his representation of the Pacific Islands to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to address the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food. Viliami is the Biosecurity Officer of SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) based in Suva, Fiji. He will be attending the consultative meeting in Geneva, Switzerland scheduled for 16-18 February 2011. Please do get in touch with Viliami if there are issues that you would like him to raise. [image: SPC,

LRD]

USFS - Invasive Battler Anne-Marie Larosa bids farewell to the Pacific [from Anne-Marie Larosa]

Twenty-million acres of some of the most unspoiled country in the world will be Anne-Marie Larosa's new backyard. One of the founding members of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network, Anne-Marie will take up her new post as the Deputy Refuge Manager at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In her own words:

"I cherish the memories I have of working with all of you in the Pacific Islands – another wild and wonderful place. I hope that the Pacific Invasives Partnership continues to get support to stem the tide of invasives in the Pacific. You have great leadership in Souad

and Posa. Alan and Jill Key certainly round out a great staff (welcome back Jill in your new and related position - we still consider you one of us). Mahalo nui loa for everything you all have done for me and taught me about your islands and your incredible cultures. I have never felt as welcome anywhere as I have when I visited your islands and I have plenty of photo reminders of your smiling faces. Along with your incredible and highly threatened natural resources, the people of the Pacific are truly a global treasure and it has been a great pleasure working with all of you. I wish you all good fortune personally and professionally and hope to keep up with the great work you are doing in the Pacific. The islands have been in my blood for decades, since I first arrived in Hawaii in 1975, and always will be. My husband, Jeff, and I plan to retire in Hawaii so we will be back in a few years to reconnect with all of



you, I hope, in some way. Please pass on this message to my other island friends I may not have included. The US Forest Service is still committed to this partnership and until my position is re-filled, David Bakke (dbakke@fs.fed.us) will be the representative/contact to the PIP for the US Forest Service.

Until Then – a hui hou

Anne Marie (Annemarie.larosa@gmail.com) [image: Jill Keys]

Thank you Anne-Marie for all your hard work and support to our PILN teams and for assisting in our fight against invasive species in the Pacific Islands. On behalf of your PILN fraternity, I wish you and your family the best with your job and new home. Look forward to hearing from you when you are back in the region. Alofa atu. PSkelton

Birdlife International – Pacific Partnership seeks a Programme Manager (from Don Stewart)

Dear Colleagues

Following the signing of a contract between the Delegation of the European Union and the BirdLife Pacific Partnership Secretariat in Suva last month, we are now looking for candidates for a new regional position in the Secretariat to manage a 4-year, EU-funded project: *Local Livelihoods - Combating Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific for the benefit of biodiversity and people* aimed at reducing the spread and the negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of invasive alien species in the Pacific region. The advertisement can be found at this link: <http://www.birdlife.org/jobs/jobs/2011/Req-Proq-Dev-manager-pacific.html> with further links there to the job description and terms and conditions of appointment. The appointee will be based in Suva and will lead the development of field-tested models for the eradication, control and bio-security of invasive alien species. Projects will be implemented by BirdLife Partners in six Pacific countries and territories for which the Programme Manager will provide technical support and overall programme coordination.

Vacancies, Scholarships & Consultancies:

University of the South Pacific: In-Country Project Coordinators (15 positions) at the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) of the University of the South Pacific (USP). Position is available immediately for 1 year, renewable to a maximum of 4 years, subject to satisfactory progress. Remunerations €10,000 per annum to be paid in local currency where the position is based. Closing date: 4 February 2011. More information on www.usprecruits.usp.ac.fj.

SPREP: Information Resource Centre Manager. Position to manage the SPREP information resource centre and library, to coordinate the Pacific Environment Information Network, to implement the information component of the ACP Multilateral Environmental Agreements project. Closing date: 18 February 2011. Contact sprep@sprep.org for further information.

China-Pacific Islands Forum Scholarship Scheme: Available to all Pacific Island Forum countries (except Australia & New Zealand) to undertake studies at the undergraduate, postgraduate and scholars levels. Applications accepted between January and April 2011. Enquiries to Mr Filipe Jitoko (filipej@formsec.org.fj)

Eurasian Mussel Outreach Position, Sacramento, California. Closing date 01 March 2011. Position will serve as primary staff member for the University of California Cooperative Extension Eurasian Mussel Education and Outreach Programme. Contact Jodi Cassell (jlcassell@ucdavis.edu) for further information.

Pest Alert Snippets:

Poland frogs are under threat from the deadly fungus (Chytridiomycosis). A recent study by Sura, Janulis and Profus found 18 per cent of green frogs were infected in five sites.

Frogs across Australia and US may be recovering from Chytridiomycosis (fungal disease) that has devastated populations around the world. Research by Michael Mahony at the University of Newcastle found frog population re-establishing since the crash that took place between 1990-1998.

A new outbreak of coconut leaf feeder is taking place in east Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India. The culprit is a species of *Acria* from the family Lepidoptera and sub-family Oecophoridae (Xylorctinae). According to PestNet, this has been a serious pest for oil palm since the mid-1990s.

A biocontrol for the Cuban Laurel Thrips has successfully established in the Cook Islands. *Macrotrachelia* feeds on the larvae of the thrips, which have been causing serious problems to plants.

Meeting, conference and training announcements:

Contribute your meeting dates to our PILN Calendar available on our webpage (<http://www.sprep.org/PILN/Calendar.htm>)

State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report Pacific Training Workshop

Date: 19-21 January 2011. Location: Nadi, Fiji. Contact: SPC – lrhelpdsk@spc.int.

Workshop for Pacific island countries and territories to contribute to the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report.

Convention on Biological Diversity – Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species

Date: 2-4 February 2011. Location: Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: CBD Secretariat – secretariat@cbd.int.

Meeting to discuss the possible development of standards by appropriate bodies that can be used at an international level to address identified gaps and to prevent the impacts and minimize the risks associated with the introduction of invasive alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food.

Yap Ant Identification Workshop

Date: 14-16 February, 2011. Location: College of Micronesia-FSM Yap State Campus

Learn to identify Yap ants including native and non-native. Limited spaces. If you would like to attend, please let Casper Vanderwoude (casperv@hawaii.edu) or Jacquie Robson (jacqueline.d.robson@hawaii.gov) know as soon as possible.

Palau Ant Identification Workshop

Date: 21-23 February, 2011. Location: Palau Community College

Learn to identify Palau ants. Limited spaces. If you would like to attend, please let Cas (casperv@hawaii.edu) or Jacquie (jacqueline.d.robson@hawaii.gov) know as soon as possible.

22nd Pacific Science Congress – special session on invasive species

Date: 14-18 June 2011. Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Details: www.dnabarcodes2011.org/barcodeAbstract.php.

A special session titled DNA Barcoding of Pacific Invasive and Pest Species will be held as part of the 25th Pacific Science Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The special session recognises that as global trade and tourism increase, invasive alien species and agricultural pests represent an increasing threat to native Pacific biodiversity. DNA barcoding is an emerging global standard for identifying species using a short standardized gene sequence. DNA barcodes of pest species in quarantine have already been assembled under a number of global initiatives. The symposium will include presentations on DNA barcoding and its application to invasive alien species and agricultural pests, presentations by national quarantine and environmental agencies and discussions of strategies, priorities and opportunities for international collaboration.

15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference

Date: 20-23 June, 2011. Location: Sydney, Australia. Details: www.avpc.net.au

As part of the conference we will be holding a symposium on the management of vertebrate pests on islands. We are soliciting oral papers (15 minutes total) around this topic – eradication, sustained control, biosecurity and quarantine, detecting and managing survivors, the strategies and tools that worked or failed, management of non-target or environmental problems, etc. The emphasis is for projects in the Australasian region but papers from elsewhere will be considered especially if they demonstrate some general or novel problems or solutions. So, if you have a story to tell from your island and its pests send an abstract to the conference organizers at the above website and a copy to the symposium organizers (Elaine Murphy and John Parkes) at emurphy@doc.govt.nz. The deadline for abstracts is 28 February 2011.

NZ Biosecurity Institute Conference

Date: 6-8 July, 2011. Location: Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand. Details: www.biosecurity.org.nz.

The theme of the conference is: the Northern Gateway: Tomorrow's pests today. It will focus on Northland and Auckland as the gateway to New Zealand for pests. Find out how they are closing the doors on threats to NZ and fighting what is already there. You will hear great speakers and be able to attend field trips that will showcase the innovative/unique programmes going on around the region.

5th International Marine Debris Conference

Date: 20-25 March 2011. Location: Honolulu, Hawaii. Details: <http://www.5imdc.org/about/>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme are co-organising this conference. This innovative conference will allow participants to build new partnerships, raise public awareness and support, and inspire follow-up actions that will take us closer to a world free of the impacts of marine debris.

2011 International Biodiversity Conference

Date: 29 July – 4 August, 2011. Location: Banos, Ecuador. Details: <http://www.wsfbioconference.org/>

This is the third conference to be held in mega-biodiverse Ecuador. Abstracts are called for with a deadline of June 1st, 2011. Registration is USD\$300 before July 1st 2011; USD\$350 after July 1st. Conference covers issues such as ecological biodiversity research species, species specific research from around the world, biodiversity in a changing climate, biogeography projects and related research, physical impact of volcanism upon biodiversity, GIS and spatial ecology research, innovative environmental education, community programmes.

7th International Conference of Marine Bioinvasions

Date: 23-25th August 2011. Location: CosmoCaixa Science Museum, Barcelona, Spain. Details: <http://www.icmb.info/>

Conference title – Advances and Gaps in understanding marine bioinvasions. The Conference will encompass themes such as: development and tests of invasion theory, drivers of invisibility, patterns of invasion and spread at local, regional and global scales, impact of bioinvasions on ecosystem structure and function including the biology and ecology of invasive species, new tools for identification, monitoring, risk assessment and management.

10th International NCCR Climate Summer School 'Climate Change, Extremes and Ecosystem Services'

Date: 4-9 September 2011. Location: Grindelwald, Switzerland. Details: http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/summer_school/2011/

Young scientists are invited to join leading climate researchers in the Swiss Alpine for keynote lectures, workshops and poster sessions. Topics covered include – ecological implications of climate change, ecosystem services and climate change, food security and global land and water use in changing climate. This opportunity is for young researchers (PhD students and Post-Docs) worldwide. Participation is highly competitive and is limited to 70 places. Registration fee is 1200 CHF includes half board accommodation, excursion and teaching material. Deadline for application is 31 January 2011 and successful applications to be advised in February.

8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference

Date: 26-30 September 2011. Location: Berlin, Germany. Details: www.evpmc.org

Phil Cowen, Landcare Research New Zealand will be convening a symposium on invasive vertebrates focusing on impacts and management of European invasive vertebrates and comparisons between the European situation and other regions of the world. If you are interested in presenting at the symposium, please contact Phil by email – cowanp@landcaresearch.co.nz

25th International Congress for Conservation Biology

Date: 28 November – 2 December, 2011. Location: Christchurch, New Zealand. Contact: www.conbio.org/2011 or 2011@conbio.org

The call for proposals for symposia, workshops, and short courses is now open for the 25th International Congress for Conservation Biology. Meeting Theme: Engaging Society in Conservation Biodiversity around the world continues to decline at an ever-increasing pace, yet much of society carries on business as usual. How can conservation biologists engage with society to achieve positive outcomes for conservation without compromising our scientific rigor or integrity?

Global Resistance Challenge 2013

Date: February 2013. Location: Fremantle, Perth, Western Australia. Contact: Lisa Mayer (lisa.mayer@uwa.edu.au)

The Global Resistance Challenge 2013 conference offers a multidisciplinary forum focused on all aspects of herbicide resistance in crops and weeds and their impact on global food production. Scientific sessions will range from the molecular basis of herbicide resistance evolution through agro-ecology and agronomy to on-farm resistance management. The Global Resistance Challenge 2013 conference will provide a stage for young and established private and public sector researchers, crop consultants and others to present their work in front of a welcoming international audience in the beautiful portside city of Fremantle, Perth, Western Australia. We welcome everyone who wishes to discover the latest advances in herbicide resistance to Perth in February 2013, to experience a magnificent Western Australian late summer.

Funding opportunities:

PADI Foundation – 1 November 2010 to January 31, 2011

The PADI Foundation encourages and supports underwater science, environmental projects, and education. In 2010, it expects to award a total of approximately \$180,000 USD and will consider proposals with budgets up to \$20,000 though the average for proposals will be \$5,000 to \$10,000. For more information, see: <http://www.padifoundation.org/>.

Conservation Leadership Programme

BP Conservation Leadership Programme. The Conservation Leadership Programme is offering Future Conservationist Awards of up to \$12,500 to high potential teams who aim to develop their skills through practical conservation projects. The CLP offers support to young conservationists (35 years and younger) living and working in Africa, Asia, East/ Southeastern Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. See: <http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/FutureConservationistAward.asp>.

SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund

SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. The Fund supports research in one of four areas: 1) Species research, 2) Animal rescue and rehabilitation, 3) Habitat protection, 4) Conservation education. It has no set minimum or maximum grant amount but in the past it has supported projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for a one-year term. See: <http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/grantInfo.htm> No deadline - SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund Animal Crisis Grants. In 2007, the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund launched the Animal Crisis Grants, which provide rapid, much-needed funding to aid

wildlife and habitats in peril due to either natural or human-caused events. The Fund reserves up to \$100,000 each year for such grants. For more information see: <http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/animalCrisisGrants.htm>.

UNESCO: Pacific Youth Visioning for Island Living 2010 Small Grants

Youth Visioning for Island Living is a capacity building initiative that aims to empower young people in small islands to make a difference. The UNESCO Office for the Pacific states encourages young people and or youth organisations from member countries to submit applications to support a wide range of projects. If you are a young person or a youth organisation and would like to take part in this opportunity, feel free to contact Natalia Pereira (n.pereira@unesco.org)

Rapid Response Facility

The Rapid Response Facility (RRF) is an emergency small grants programme jointly operated by Fauna & Flora International (FFI), UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the United Nations Foundation. With a target processing time for grant applications of just 8 working days, the RRF provides rapid support to enable conservation practitioners to tackle emergencies in some of the World's most important sites for biodiversity. To date it has supported 16 rapid interventions in 14 UNESCO designated natural World Heritage sites, responding to the conservation impacts of a range of emergencies such as natural disaster, armed conflict and sudden increases in illegal activity within these protected areas. Those interested in approaching the RRF for emergency funding should see www.rapid-response.org, which provides details on application procedures, funding criteria, and case studies of past RRF grants.

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Proposals for projects for 2011 are being requested and must be submitted to the Programme Office until 31 December 2010. Funding will be for investment projects and activities in the fields of technology transfer, policy advice, research cooperation, capacity development and training and elaboration of studies and strategies. PILN teams may wish to apply under Area II: Adaptation to climate change and Area III: Preservation and sustainable use of natural carbon sinks/REDD. Further information can be obtained online - <http://www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en/application>

Invasive news and interesting links and websites

January is feral month for ABC

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation is having January as its Feral Month. This is an experiment in 'citizen science' where the audience is requested to report any feral animal sightings across the country during the month of January. Whether you have spotted feral camels in Oodnadatta, cane toads in Townsville or feral cats in your back alleyway ABC wants to know about it. Take your camera out with you and add a photo to your report if you can get one. You can follow the reports from citizen scientists online at <http://feralmonth.crowdmap.com/>

United Nations General Assembly urges international community to address invasive alien species

The resolution from the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly urges the international community to increase assistance to small island developing states to strengthen biodiversity protection and address the current and emerging threats posed by invasive alien species.

Scientists launch invasive rat eradication project in Galapagos

A full-scale assault is targeting invasive rats that threaten the survival of birds, tortoises, iguanas and native plants of the Galapagos Islands. Black rats, Norway rats and house mice, believed introduced to the Pacific Ocean archipelago by ships beginning in the late 17th Century, are being attacked with a specially designed poison spread by helicopter. The idea is to eradicate all nonnative rodents, beginning with small- and medium-sized islands, without endangering other wildlife. Developed and donated by Bell Laboratories of Madison, Wisconsin, the poison was first employed last weekend on Rabida, Sombrero Chino, Bartolome and Plaza

Norte islands, as well as five islets. The poisoned bait is contained in light blue cubes that attract rats but are repulsive for the sea lions and birds that also inhabit the islands. Officials say they will know in mid-February whether it has been successful. The project is being run by the Galapagos National Park Service with the backing of the Charles Darwin Foundation, Island Conservation, the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. *Read more on:*

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5qAHT6OkLyPIH2sfvLwvGGHLtqVbA?docId=5722780>

Plants do come downhill in response to warmer temperatures

Scientists have found that not all plants move uphill during warmer periods as previously thought, with some showing signs of moving downhill. The assumption that as temperature warms up, plants will start migrating upwards to cooler climes had been focused on temperature as a driving factor. Recent research published in the Science Journal, found that precipitation may be more important than temperature in defining the habitable range of species. *Read more on:*

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110120142400.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+invasivenews+%28Invasive+Species+News%29

Essex County celebrates success of invasive species removal work

A decade long scheme to control freshwater invasive species has been hailed as a success by the Essex County Council in England. The Council teamed up with a local charity Chelmer Canal Trust in 2003 and helped raise around £80,000 to pay for specialist teams and equipment to remove tones of the American species *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*.

Invasive species stop speciation and may be the cause of mass extinction

A research project by Alycia Stigall *An influx of invasive species can stop the dominant natural process of new species formation and trigger mass extinction events*, will, according to Ohio University research be published in the journal PLoS ONE. The study of the collapse of Earth's marine life 378 to 375 million years ago suggests that the planet's current ecosystem, which is struggling with biodiversity loss, could meet a similar fate. Although Earth has experienced five major mass extinction events, scientists have observed that the environmental crash during the Late Devonian was unlike any other in the planet's history. The actual number of extinctions wasn't higher than the natural rate of species loss, but very few new species arose.

Snakes a risk in isles

Hawaii could face economic impacts of \$593 million to \$2.14 billion if the brown tree snake becomes established, experts say. The public was invited to a discussion on invasive species such as the brown tree snake on Tuesday 25th at the state Capitol auditorium. The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species and Rep. Hermina Morita hosted the event.

English heritage gardens and landscapes under threat from invasive species

Researchers assessed the outbreak of the Dutch Elm Disease that ravaged the UK in the 1970s in consideration of the implications to heritage gardens and other natural heritage of a future outbreak. Recently introduced diseases such as the Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) and another caused by a related pathogen *Phytophthora kernoviae* have the potential to kill large numbers of trees across a wide range of species. The researchers identified lessons learnt and provided some recommendations for key groups involved in biosecurity. They called on governments and environmental groups to give more attention to the threat of invasive diseases pose to biodiversity and use their influence to raise the awareness of both policymakers and the public. The public would help to ensure that gardeners and tourists visiting gardens become more conscious of the dangers of cross-infection and the precautions that they should be taking. Diseases tend to come into the UK via imported plants and the researchers say we need to acknowledge the difficult trade-offs that will need to be made between freer trade and effective biosecurity.

Asian carp study may be too little, too late!

Local fishermen and environmentalists are saying that the US Army Corps of Engineers \$25 million study of the possible separation of the Mississippi and the Great Lakes watersheds may be too little, too late. The study, to conclude in 2015 is designed to provide the US Congress with feasible options for separating the watersheds to prevent transfer of aquatic nuisance and species, including the Asian carp. The large scale study spans 17 states within the two watersheds. Results from research by biologists from the University of Notre Dame and the Nature Conservancy are contributing to a federal lawsuit brought by the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania, contending the corps and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for allowing the Asian carp to infiltrate the Great Lakes.

Invasive mussels gutted by a magic bullet

Scientists from the New York State Museum have identified a bacterium that targets the gut of invasive quagga and zebra mussels. The bacterium, which according to the researchers are found everywhere including our fingertips, contains a chemical that is exclusively harmful to the two invasive mussels. The bacterium is best served dead as living cells could make fish sick. The bacterium is not designed for open water use, so ecosystems impacted by invasive mussels remain an issue. This new method will be marketed under the name Zequanox and is expected to be available in March.

1.5 million items seized by US Customs and Border Patrol

In 2009 more than 1.5 million prohibited meat, plant materials and animal products were seized by the US Customs and Border Patrol, of which 166,727 were agricultural pests. This requires custom and quarantine officers to be vigilant at all time. Early this month, US customs agents intercepted a bag of rice containing invasive khapra beetle at Los Angeles International Airport. The khapra beetles are good at hiding in tiny holes making it difficult to control with insecticide sprays. Khapra can also go into hibernation to wait out unfavorable conditions, such as the lack of food and temperature variations.

New Publications:

The economic cost of invasive non-native species on Great Britain

F. Williams, R. Eschen, A. Harris, D. Djeddour, C. Pratt, R.S. Shaw, S. Varia, J. Lamontagne-Godwin, S.E. Thomas, S.T. Murphy. 2010. The report provides the estimate cost to the British economy of £1,291,461,000 to England, £244,736,000 to Scotland and £125,118,000 to Wales; totaling £1.7 billion.

Download the report from this website:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?sectionid=59>

Identification of boring beetles made easy

Author: Jiri Hulcr and Sarah M. Smith. A new electronic toolkit has been developed to assist non-specialist in the identification of boring beetles. The toolkit titled, *Xyleborini* Ambrosia Beetles: an identification tool to the world genera is the first multi-media internet based identification tool that is part of a larger work on resource for wood boring beetles of the world. *Xyleborini* is the most important and species rich of ambrosia beetles and contains more invasive pests than all other ambrosia beetle groups. For more information contact Jiri Hulcr – jhulcr@ncsu.edu. The toolkit can be accessed on <http://itp.lucidcentral.org/id/wbb/xyleborini/>

Managing invasive weeds under climate change

DJ Kirticos, MS Watt, KJB Potter, LK Manning, NS Alexander, & L Talent Halsell. 2011.

Buddjel davidii an ornamental shrub originally from China is widely distributed by horticulturalists and has subsequently invaded much of Europe, New Zealand and to a lesser degree the Americas and Australia. Climate research undertaken by the authors revealed considerable scope for the shrub to invade adjacent areas to existing naturalized populations. Its potential distribution increases in the northern United States and southern Canada, northern and eastern Europe and to a lesser extent in the south-western part of the South Islands of New Zealand. Elsewhere there are projected pole-ward range shifts (South America) or range contractions out of subtropical areas (Africa and Australia). These climate based models can help adapt weed management

programmes such as classifying areas for different types of weed management, support strategic control initiatives to prevent the spread of weed, inform the reallocation of resources away from controlling a weed where climate suitability is expected to diminish in the future and identify opportunities for inexpensive preventative management to be applied to minimize future weed impacts.

Canary Islands update references on introduced species

The updated list of references on introduced species in Canary Islands is now available online. Go to <http://www.interreg-bionatura.com/especies/bibliografia.pdf>.

Regulating invasive plants and use of weed risk assessments

William Roberts, Owen Harrod, Belida Mitterdorfer & Paul Pheloung.

Managing the potential weed risks associated with the entry of new plant species into a country is dependent on a comprehensive regulatory system to control entry and a reliable system for predicting potential weediness in advance of release. The weed risk assessment (WRA) system developed in Australia has been used by many countries to assess weed risks. Evaluation of this system using test datasets of plants with known characteristics has shown that it performs well in identifying species that may be weedy but has a significant rate of false positives. However, the costs associated with allowing weedy species to establish and spread significantly exceed the benefits forgone by rejecting useful, non-weedy species particularly when longer timescales are considered.

Pests and diseases of cultivated palm

A resource for pests and diseases of cultivated palms is now available online. (http://itp.lucidcentral.org/id/palms/resource/about_resource.html)

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