

FIJI Submission for the In Depth Review on Invasive Alien Species by the Convention on Biological Diversity

The following sections are arranged according to the broad categories developed in the UNEP/IUCN issue-based module framework (<http://www.tematea.org>), including:

- Legislative measures and national policies
- Management
- Assessment
- Provision of resources
- Communication, education and public awareness
- Cooperation

The text includes priorities for work, including areas in which PILN and its teams will be involved, as well as areas that are necessities for future action. Hopefully, this listing of priority activities will be useful for other island regions facing invasive species problems as well as for the international and donor communities in allocating resources.

Legislative measures and national policies

Biosecurity legislation: disseminate and incorporate model biosecurity legislation developed by the Secretariat of the South Pacific Community. Support development of regulations and protocols under the legislation in relation to environmental threats (e.g., by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme).

Management (General, followed by specific species categories)

Training courses: identify and provide resources/access to available training courses (e.g., quarantine and related skills such as computers, databases) and expertise.

Technical manuals: provide information on and support for the use of available or pending technical manuals.

Building quarantine systems: support as part of the Regional Invasive Species Strategy the progressive building of quarantine systems starting with countries serving as major transportation and trade hubs, with early recipients committing to provide training and support to non-recipients (e.g., Australia-AID assistance to Samoa).

Expert exchanges: facilitate extended visits or professional attachments of Samoan or rim specialists (e.g., from Australia, New Zealand, the U.S.) to Pacific island countries, particularly those that do not receive major quarantine aid and/or support local biosecurity officers to visit and see those systems.

Quarantine staff certification: develop a regionally usable certification system for quarantine staff with levels and performance standards.

Good ship “Restoration”: consider the feasibility of outfitting a ship with appropriate equipment and vehicles to serve as a mobile eradication and restoration unit to build on economies of scale in launching multiple, coordinated invasive species management efforts on islands.

MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES

Management and prevention: focus on pathway analysis to identify threats, particularly at the regional level; develop a white list to improve biosecurity; developed risk assessments for most common aquatic commodities (e.g., related to sea food companies/ships, fisheries); and identify top 15 worst marine invasive species for the Pacific.

Hull Fouling and ballast water: identify and build capacity for monitoring, compliance, outreach and research on impacts of pathways associated with hull fouling and ballast water. Support development of regional model regulation and integration of national measures on ballast water contained in model biosecurity legislation developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Baseline surveys: support training in parataxonomy, monitoring, ship inspection, etc. to enable baseline surveys in Pacific island countries and territories.

Information on marine invasive species: summarize what is known regarding marine invasive species and disseminate information.

Regional marine invasives officer: establish a regional quarantine position similar within the Secretariat to the Pacific Community, analogous to the regional plant protection officer (PPO) to share information with other countries of the Pacific.

Response tools: encourage research to develop and disseminate response tools and strategies for introductions of marine invasive species.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Plant identification: support a traveling road show/workshop on parataxonomy based on training model used in Madang, Papua New Guinea; carry out needs survey at country or sub-regional basis; improve use of computer, microscope and identification keys; and develop annotated list of resources for plant identification including directions on how to collect specimens.

Invasive plant management: adapt and run course on invasive plant management developed by the New Zealand Department of Conservation with a focus on control techniques for field crews. Biocontrol: Support workshop on biocontrols (e.g., for African tulip).

Technical exchanges: support technical and learning exchanges (e.g., Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati on techniques for field crews; Fiji and American Samoa for weed control in protected areas; Samoa and Federated States of Micronesia on bio-control of *Coccinia grandis* release program; New Caledonia and French Polynesia on *Miconia* control; and Hawaii with other Pacific islands on existing areas of skills and expertise).

Community-based early detection: develop training in identification and survey techniques for community-based early detection of key invasive species.

Road construction/maintenance: convene workshop on the development and application of guidelines for road construction and maintenance crews with a focus on training the trainers (e.g., monitoring, plant identification, sampling, basic GPS and mapping, databases, relaying information, training manuals).

RAT MANAGEMENT

Skill-sharing mechanisms: develop mechanisms for arranging and supporting skill-sharing specific to rat eradication and control that build on existing projects (e.g., Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau) and include prioritization methodologies.

Demonstration and training projects: establish a demonstration projects that are well-suited for on site training.

Information and expertise: compile available information and expertise on rat management (e.g., reports, training manuals, guidelines, biosecurity and prevention protocols)

BIRD MANAGEMENT

Management: increase capacity to manage invasive birds (e.g., Mynas) in the areas of: research on bird ecology (dispersal and impact studies); research on control methods; information on the effects of management; information on people's perceptions of mynas as invasive; and funding.

Public awareness: consider awareness raising for government officials and the public.

PACIFIC ANT PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Regional prevention programmes: support regional prevention efforts, such as species based programs like the Pacific Ant Prevention Programme with a focus on collaboration for regional biosecurity, training on ant identification and improved control methods and capacity for implementation.

Assessment

Data management: provide training on data management systems (e.g., GIS mapping, data capture and analysis).

Thematic database: develop a thematic database that would share high-level information in areas such as management methods, economic and risk assessment methodologies and available expertise to complement information tools that are species-specific (e.g., IUCN's Global Invasive Species Database and Global Registry of Invasive Species).

Provision of resources

Project funding: provide support and mentoring for funding applications and proposal writing, including the better access to available donor databases, improved understanding of project and budget needs, development of donor relation skills.

Communication, education and public awareness

Island awareness packages: use two countries – one with an agricultural export base and one with a tourism base – to develop model awareness packages for marketing bio-security to politicians and sectors, including economic impact assessments.

Public awareness materials: gather existing public awareness materials in Pacific rim and island countries and territories related to invasive species, and distribute through CD-ROM, the Internet and hard copy.

Social marketing: support training and access to experts in social marketing (e.g., through RARE trainings).

Media production: provide support for production aspect of designing public awareness materials.

In-flight videos: initiate in-flight vides on invasive species for the region working with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

Cooperation / Regional

Regional strategy: finalize the Regional Invasive Species Strategy being developed under the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and consider a regional convention or resolution on biosecurity under the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, that also endorses the regional strategy.

Sub-regional coordination: establish coordinators for major Pacific sub-regions (e.g., Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia) to: ensure dissemination of regionally and internationally available information; identify needs and sources of support; support coordination of activities, funding grants, etc. within the sub-region; and facilitate communication with other sub-regions and regional organizations.