

Palau National Invasive Species Committee

A COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL



Action Plan 2007 – 2010

Background

A workshop was held on November 28-29 2006 for National Invasive Species Committee (NISC) members and partners, with the purpose of drafting an action plan for the NISC. Workshop participants initially carried out a review of the National Strategy. The mission statement and goals were then revised, with the proposal to consolidate public awareness activities as a separate Goal, new Goal 5.

The Action Plan is for the NISC, 2007 - 2010. Objectives were drafted for this plan to define the role of the NISC as a coordination and facilitation body in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the 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 identified for priority objectives.

Acronyms

BMR	Bureau of Marine Resources
BPW	Bureau of Public Works
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
DFWP	Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EQPB	Environmental Quality Protection Board
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations
NEPC	National Environmental Protection Council
NISC	National Invasive Species Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NISS	National Invasive Species Strategy
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoS	Ministry of State
MRD	Ministry of Resources and Development
OEK	Olbiil Era Kelulau (National Congress)
OERC	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination
PCS	Palau Conservation Society
SPREP	Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Acknowledgements

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NISC Action Plan 2007 - 2010

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Objectives, Outcomes and Actions for Goal 1

GOAL 1: To provide the framework and the capacity for ongoing management of invasive species at national, state and community levels in the Republic of Palau.

Objective 1.1. Harmonize and coordinate invasive species activities in the Republic of Palau.

Outcomes:

- Effective inter-agency coordination – vertical and horizontal
- Partners recognize, accept and understand their roles and responsibilities
- Invasive species activities involve multi-sector and multi-agency (government, private, public, traditional leaders and organisations, etc.)

Actions:

1. NISC creates and maintain a database of current invasive species activities.
 - Draft database shared with NISC member agencies and key stakeholders, and on the PalauCBD website in year 1 following implementation.
2. NISC creates a database of available expertise, responsibilities and interests.
 - Draft database shared with NISC member agencies and key stakeholders, and on CBD website in year 1 following implementation.
3. NISC identifies the stakeholders affected by current and planned activities and establishes appropriate forums for regular meetings with key sectors and community.
 - Participated in at least 4 key sector meetings each year.
4. NISC member agencies share projects and opportunities with each other in the regular meetings and reports.
 - NISC members participate in bimonthly meetings

Objectives, Outcomes and Actions for Goal 2

GOAL 2: To prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species in the Republic of Palau.

NISC Objective 2.1: Coordinate and facilitate towards achieving Strategic objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

Outcomes:

- Palau will have an adequate legal framework
- Palau will have sufficient trained Quarantine staff, with adequate equipment
- Palau will have clear procedures for inspection of all incoming vessels and cargo
- Palau will regularly conduct cross-training for Quarantine, Customs, Environmental, and Health officers and inspectors, and protected area managers in the prevention of new introductions
- Palau will regularly conduct cross-training for private companies involved in imports in the prevention and detection of new introductions
- Palau will have detection and monitoring procedures around all ports of entry
- Palau will regularly conduct cross-training for Quarantine, Customs, Environmental, and Health officers and inspectors, and protected area managers in the prevention and detection of new introductions
- Palau will regularly conduct cross-training for private companies involved in imports in the detection of new introductions
- Palau will have the capability to identify newly-introduced species
- Palau will have response plans and equipment for rapid response to new introductions of high-risk species such as the brown tree snake and red imported fire ant
- State governments will initiate programs to prevent the spread of invasive species
- A national public awareness campaign will be conducted
- The national government will assist state governments to prevent the spread of invasive species
- There will be widespread adoption of prevention procedures by local governments, and by the public at large
- Protected area managers will have the knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent introduction of invasive species into protected areas

Actions:

1. NISC is a clearinghouse resource for review and comments on plans, legislation, regulations, budget requests, etc. on request.
 - At least 2 requests received and acted on within the first year of implementation.
2. NISC identifies external and local expertise for training, training opportunities and capacity building.
 - At least 4 opportunities identified and acted on within the first year of implementation.

3. NISC assist with and participate in training for prevention, early detection and management of invasive species.
 - At least 2 courses / workshops within the first year of implementation.
4. NISC coordinates with the Bureau of Agriculture and other agencies to support the development and implementation of inspection procedures.
 - Bureau informs NISC of progress at least 2 times per year, as a tabled agenda item.
5. NISC organize a framework of external and local expertise for the rapid identification and assessment of new introduced species.
 - Database of external expertise created and cooperative agreements made within the first year of implementation. (Note: this complements the database of local expertise identified under Goal 1)
 - Preliminary identification within 2 weeks, preliminary assessment within 1 month of identification. Results forwarded to appropriate implementing agency immediately upon completion.

Objectives, Outcomes and Actions for Goal 3

GOAL 3: To reduce the impact of existing invasive species in the Republic of Palau.

Objective 3.1: Inventory, assess, and prioritize existing invasive species for appropriate management action, including control and/or eradication.

Outcomes:

- Palau will have the capability to assess the threats of specific invasive species
- Palau will have procedures to inventory assess and prioritize invasive species for action

Actions:

1. NISC compiles a comprehensive inventory of invasive species present.
 - Compilation of existing inventories complete within 6 months of implementation.
 - Initiate surveys to fill gaps within year 2 following implementation.
2. NISC develops objective criteria for prioritization – biological, social and economic.
 - Explore other models within the region in year 1 following implementation – familiar with at least 1 model in year 1.
 - Develop Palau process in year 2 following implementation.
 - Share the process for review and comments from regional experts and partners in year 2 following implementation.
 - Adopt the final process in year 2.
3. NISC assesses established invasive species and assigns national priorities based on the established criteria.
 - Prioritized list created by the end of year 2 following implementation.

- Top ten species for national action identified through the prioritization process by the end of year 2 following implementation.
- Prioritized list reviewed and updated annually.
- 4. NISC promulgates the results of the prioritization process through the National Environmental Protection Council.
 - Share the results of the prioritization process with stakeholders, the public at large and regional partners, in year 3 following implementation.
 - Advise the President to direct resources towards action on the top ten, in year 3 following implementation.

Objectives, Outcomes and Actions for Goal 4

GOAL 4: To strengthen partnerships and participation in regional and international efforts and initiatives for invasive species prevention and management.

Objective 4.1: Review and modify *biosecurity* laws and regulations to bring them into harmony with regional and international standards.

OUTCOMES

- A review of existing *biosecurity* laws and regulations, with regard to prevention of the movement of invasive species, will be completed.
- Laws and regulations will be modified as necessary to achieve Objective 4.1.

Actions:

1. NISC reviews and comments on proposed amendments to biosecurity legislation and regulations.
 - Comments submitted in a timely manner
2. NISC proposes changes to biosecurity laws and regulations, as appropriate.
 - Changes proposed, as appropriate.

Objective 4.2: Join and participate actively in regional organizations working to prevent and manage invasive species, as appropriate and feasible.

OUTCOMES

- A listing of regional organizations will be compiled and assessed.
- Palau will join and participate in the appropriate regional organizations.

Actions:

1. NISC develops a list of regional organizations working to prevent and manage invasive species.
 - List shared with NISC member agencies and key stakeholders, in year 1 following implementation.
2. NISC evaluates each organizations and determines whether it is appropriate and feasible to join.
 - NISC decides which organizations to join during year 2 following implementation.

3. NISC recommends joining organizations selected by the above process.
 - o NISC joins organizations when possible
4. NISC actively participates in the above organizations.
5. NISC hosts meetings of above organizations when appropriate and feasible.

Objective 4.3: Endorse and comply with relevant international bodies, agreements, and conventions working to prevent and manage invasive species, as appropriate and feasible.

OUTCOMES

- o Relevant international agreements will be reviewed.
- o Appropriate agreements will be endorsed.

Actions:

1. NISC and its members review and comment on relevant international agreements and conventions.
2. NISC and its members participate in relevant international meetings, as appropriate, and when funding is available.

Objectives, Outcomes and Actions for Goal 5

Goal 5. Public awareness raised so that all sectors of Palauan society actively support efforts to minimize the risk and impact of invasive species on Palauan economy, society and biodiversity.

Objective 5.2: Build capacity in social marketing skills.

Outcomes:

- o All stakeholder agencies and organisations to have social marketing skills, or access to them.
- o The skills are being applied to raise public awareness and create support for invasive species activities.
- o Skills are transferred to others working on invasive species activities.

Actions:

1. NISC identifies individuals in need of social marketing training (cross section of society, states represented, local community, etc).
 - o In year 1 following implementation by NISC member agencies.
2. NISC identifies local and external expertise in social marketing.
 - o In year 1 following implementation.
3. NISC builds social marketing skills through a local workshop:
 - a. NISC identifies a national priority project that needs a social marketing campaign developed.
 - b. NISC identifies key agencies and organizations involved with the project.
 - c. NISC identifies the local or external expertise to conduct the workshop.

- d. NISC organizes and find a sponsor for a social marketing workshop.
- e. NISC implements the workshop.
 - o In year 2 following implementation.
- 4. NISC identifies other training opportunities and appropriate people to send to them.
 - o 2 training opportunities identified and acted on in year 1 following implementation.