Cook Islands

CBD PSIDS INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES TRAINING

15-17 JULY 2025 | APIA, SAMOA

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What are the main IAS in the CI?

Burr grass

Peltate morning glory

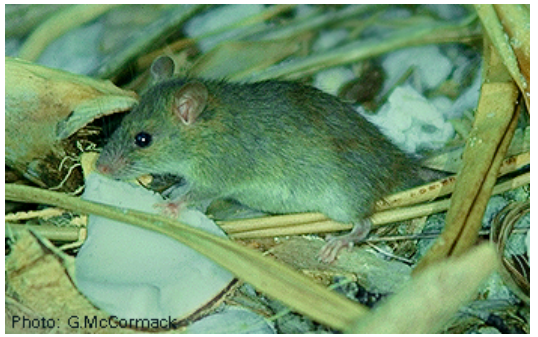
Wild pigs

Myna birds – Jungle and Indian

Mimosa pudica

African tulip tree

White footed ant



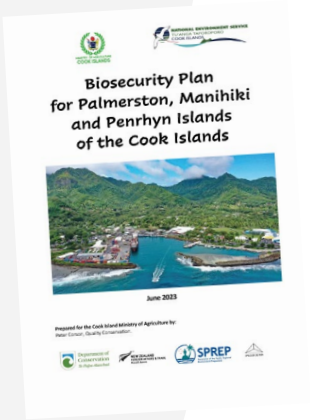
Rats

What made you identify them as “main” IAS, (e.g damage caused to nature, to health, economic losses, etc..),

- Recognised as priority invasive species in the NISSAP 2019-2025, and the CI priority weed listing for biocontrols 2021
- Also, the impact that these spp. have on food security and community livelihoods

What are the main strategies used in your country to address IAS?

- NISSAP 2019-2025
- Update and review of CI NBSAP, 2025
- Biosecurity plan for some of the Northern Group developed but not holistic
- Biocontrols for a number of spp.
- National EDRR endorsed and in place for fruit fly, ants etc.
- If IAS management is a priority on the outer islands, try to embed IAS management into their island sustainable development plans
- 2025 Biosecurity Strategy (draft)



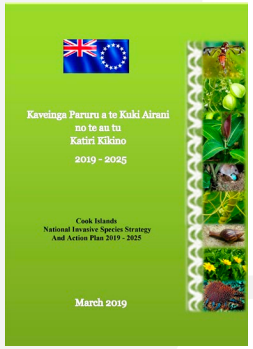


Table 5: Biocontrol Agents recently released on Rarotonga (Source: MOA)

Biocontrol Agent	Host Plant	Biocontrol Agents on host plant
Heliconius butterflies *(Heliconius errata)*	**Red Passion Fruit vine** *(Passiflora rubra)*	
Rust fungus *(Puccinia xanthii)*	**Cockleburr** *(Xanthium strumarium)*	
Tectococcus ovatus	**Strawberry guava** *(Psidium Cattleianum)*	
Mikania rust fungus *(Puccinia spegazzinii)*	**Mile-a minute** *(Mikania micrantha)*	
Rust fungus *(Puccinia arechavaletae)*	**Balloon vine plants** *(Cardiospermum grandiflorum)*	
Gall forming mite *(Colomerus spathodeae)*	**African tulip trees** *(Spathodea campanulata)*	

What are the main challenges associated with IAS management?

Monitoring of biocontrols – often conducted only when MWLR visit in-country. Monitoring is not regular due to competing priorities

Limited human resources to implement and monitor biosecurity actions at ports for inter-island travel (focus is on international ports)

Ongoing monitoring and data collection

Project development takes time. By then, the IAS issue may no longer be manageable or no longer a priority.

What would you need to implement T6 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

- Map and monitor invasive species, including their impacts on ecosystems.
- NENS: Review, implement and monitor biocontrol measures
- Pathways: Conduct public outreach to reduce unintentional introductions of invasive species.
- Pathways: Strengthen biosecurity at domestic ports & more awareness on biosecurity importance
- Strengthen legislation for invasive species by island.
- Develop and review invasive species management programs for key areas and islands, and rapid response protocols for key species, incorporating monitoring reports
- Track the rat control and eradication programs and assess progress toward making islands rat-free – Palmerston, Suwarrow, Takutea, Takitumu Conservation Area etc.
- Enhance partnerships with agencies, stakeholders and Pa Enua to manage and eradicate invasive species

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