

Kiribati

# Main IAS in Kiribati

- Pacific Rat (*rattus exulans*)
- Black Ship Rat (*rattus rattus*)
- Feral Cats
- Ironwood (*casuarina equisetifolia*)
- Love vine (*Cassytha filiformis*)

# Impacts of IAS

- Mammals (IAS)
- Predation on protected bird species
- Invasion of islets (including land locked islet) frequented by breeding seabirds
- Birds affected by IAS include Phoenix petrel, White Throated storm petrel and Bokikokiko (Christmas warbler)
- Casuarina Equisetifolia; Displacement of native species (Beach Heliotrope and scaevola) and loss of habitat for native wildlife (inc Bokikokiko). Becoming widespread on Kiritimati Is.
- Cassytha filiformis; undermines ecosystem health in the Gilbert Islands by parasitizing important native vegetation, disrupting nutrient cycles and complicating ecosystem restoration efforts.

# Combating IAS in Kiribati

- Predator control; trapping and hunting of feral cats
- Rat eradication on breeding islets with BioScape (2022) Nimroona.
- WCU lacks the capacity and tools to deal with casuarina equisetifolia

# Challenges

- Lack of funding support
- Deterioration of equipment's
- Lack of capacity for control (early detection and prevention) and eradication measures in the Gilbert islands.

## In order to achieve T6 of KMGBF

- Need more control equipment's (traps, baits)
- Training needs; Rat and Cat detection and response
- Training on control methods to stop the spread of casuarina