Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM)

Invasive Species Management in Solomon Islands

Training course for Pacific Small Island Developing States on invasive alien species (IAS)

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Main IAS in Solomon Islands

IAS species	Group	Primary Impact
Giant African Snail	Mollusc	Crops destruction, gardens
Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle	Insect	Damage to coconut palms, leaves, etc
Little Fire Ant	Insect	farming pests
Merremia, African tulip. Japanese paper mulberry, mile-a-minute (Mikania micrantha), giant sensitive plant (mimosa spp), broomweed (sida spp), lantana, taro vine, etc	Plants/weeds	Overgrowth, smother native plants, occupy cultivation/farm areas, etc
Rats, Cats, Dogs, Mynah, Cane Toad	Predators	Predation on native fauna, displacement of species

- These are some of the commonly known IAS, but there are existing listings which can be accessed in other regional online database such as SPREP, SPC, BSI Solomon Islands, etc
- There is also a need to properly document the current status of IAS listing for Solomon Islands. There a numerous lists, studies and engagements that provided significant data, but we need a representative data that is approved by relevant authorities/sectors.

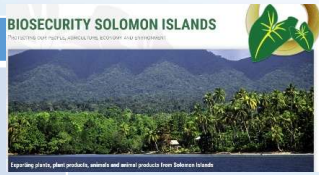
Why these are main IAS in Solomon Islands

Impacts/damage (social, economic, ecological)	Descriptions-summary
Widespread or Spread rapidly	Species like the Giant African Snail and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle are spreading quickly across Islands
Severe Ecological or Economic Impact	They damage native ecosystems, destroy crops (e.g., coconut, taro), and affect livelihoods
Threat to Food Security and Health	Pests like Little Fire Ants harm people, gardens, and increase farming costs.
Predation on Native Species	Feral cats, rats, and cane toads eat or outcompete native faunas, birds and reptiles.
Difficult to control/eliminate	Many species have no natural enemies and are hard to eliminate.

- **Recognized by Experts (listed by regional, international bodies, SPC, SPREP, PRISMSS partners, etc)**
- **We also combine Human observations of IAS occurrence and incidence, risks caused (damages to gardens, food crops, native plants and animals), and with existing report/study by experts, etc**

Strategies used to address IAS?

Approaches	Description	Example in Solomon Islands
1. Prevention & Biosecurity	Stop IAS from entering the country or new islands. (with Biosecurity SI)	Quarantine at ports/airports; inspecting cargo and equipment.
2. Early Detection	Find and act on IAS before they spread widely. (with Biosecurity SI)	Local training to report new pest sightings (e.g., beetles or ants).
3. Eradication	Eradication of an IAS from a specific area.	Giant African Snail removal campaigns using hand collection and bait.
4. Containment & Control	Reduce spread and impact if eradication isn't possible.	Use of pheromone traps for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. (with BSI Solomon Islands)
6. Public Awareness & Community Engagement	Educate communities and involve them in monitoring and control. e.g. Barana	BSI pest control, etc PRISMSS RIR (RERC)
8. Legislation & Policy	National laws and strategies to guide IAS management.	Solomon Islands Biosecurity Act and other National strategies



Challenges in addressing IAS in Solomon Islands

Challenges	Descriptions-summary
Limited Capacity & Resources/ weak border control	Many islands lack trained staff, equipment, or funding for detection, response, or eradication. Resulting in lack of mechanisms/tools/resources available to the general public. E,g SOP, guidelines, protocols, etc
Agency coordination, management	Weak Collaborations between agencies: IAS management conducted by sectoral agencies (MAL, MOFR, MECDM, MFRM, SIMA, Customs, Quarantine etc). No existing joint task force for IAS
Fragmented Legislation/policies	Weak enforcement and compliance of national laws related to biosecurity/protected areas management. (Fragmented legislations due to sectoral mandates and functions). No specific law or strategy /plan targeting IAS management developed (eg. NISSAP, EDRR
IAS re-invasion risks	Species can re-entre if pathways are not protected from IAS.
Difficult landscape & scattered Islands	Remote islands and rugged landscapes make monitoring and control logistically hard/ costly.
General Public /community Awareness	Awareness of IAS minimal/low. Public and Local populations unaware of IAS threats/risks or how to respond/reporting incidences. There is a need to raise prolife of the IAS in Country
Lack of research & data specifically focused on IAS	Not enough data on IAS documentations presence, distribution, impact, or effective control methods in local contexts, etc. Lack of prioritized IAS research to collectively document/update IAS current status for Solomon Islands.

What we need to Implement T6 of KMGBF?

Requirements/needs	Actions
Baseline Assessments of IAS (to review/update national status)?	Map where IAS, density, population and range of spread. Baseline inventories of establishments/ risks, etc,
Science-Based Solutions	Research into biological control, restoration, and climate-resilient strategies associated with IAS management. Mainstream IAS management into PA programs/, CBRM, CBFM, CBOs, NGOs, local conservation networks, etc
Strengthened Biosecurity Systems, existing permitting systems (EIA processes)bioresearch studies, etc	Strengthen institutional capacity of responsible sectors. Better quarantine, inspection, and regulations at borders and between islands. Inter Island biosecurity, Environment Impact Assessment Systems (EIA), etc
Technical Expertise & Skilled Workforce	Trained local personnel in IAS identification, monitoring, and response. **Multicriteria assessments of IAS to inform decision making, resources, etc**
Sustainable financing of long-term IAS programs	Long-term financing for eradication programs, public education, and restoration, etc
Public Engagement & Education	Inclusive of general public, and institutions, churches, and communities in early detection and control of IAS
Monitoring & Reporting Systems	Use of technology and cost-effective tools such, mobile apps, citizen science, or local networks for rapid response.
Build on Regional & International Support	Strengthen Partnerships with regional networks, SPREP, PRISMSS, GEF, FAO, NGOs, and research institutions.
Review and update National Policies/laws	Develop and implement National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP). Update response plans/strategies. Mainstream IAS management in all responsible sectors as frontliners/responders.

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