Managing Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Tuvalu: Challenges, Strategies & Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

Training Course for Pacific Small Island Developing States on Invasive Alien Species

15th July – 17th July

Apia, Samoa

IAS in Tuvalu

Pests	Weeds
Rats	Leucaena
Yellow crazy ant	Wedelia
Fruit flies	Taro vine
Mealy bug	Burgrass
Cane toads	Mile a minute
Kou leaf worm	Ivy gourd
Crown of thorns starfish	Sargassum





Why are they invasive?

Human health & property risks
Adverse effects on public health and potential damage to homes and infrastructure.

Threats to endemic and native species
Negative impacts on local biodiversity, including endangered species such as tepukapili, native crab populations, seabirds and green sea turtles.

Economic impacts on agriculture and fisheries
Reduced productivity and sustainability in key economic sectors, affecting livelihoods and food security.

Addressing Tuvalu's main IAS

Prevention – through border controls and quarantine

Early Detection & Rapid Response – to stop invasions before they spread.

Eradication – especially on small, high-value islets.

Control – containing the species that can't be eradicated.

Restoration – bringing back native plants and wildlife.

Policy & Partnerships – with local and regional bodies like SPREP and PRISMSS

IAS management challenges

- Biosecurity challenges
- Data deficiency
- Limited personnel & infrastructure
- Lack of technical & financial resources
- Inadequate legislation & enforcement
- Not included in the government's 21 priorities
- Absence of or inadequate protocols, such as those to warn of threats, predict invasiveness of new species at the border, maintain quarantine procedures and set priorities for management
- Issues with public:
  - Monitoring cameras stolen
  - Disagreement with the necessity of eradicating certain invasive plants

Needs to successfully implement T6 of the KMGBF

SUPPORT - from Government, village communities and funders

CAPACITY - including strong institutions, individuals with sound management and technical skills and regional networks

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS - appropriate laws, regulations, policies, protocols and procedures.

- ❖ Comprehensive monitoring system
- ❖ Centralized species database
- ❖ Capacity building
- ❖ Enhanced biosecurity
- ❖ More eradication programs that are community-driven
- ❖ Restoration
- ❖ Financial resources
- ❖ Community engagement
- ❖ National, regional & sectoral cooperation

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