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NETWORK NEWS:

PILN SOUNDBITES is the monthly newsletter of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network – a participant-driven network, reporting on news of PILN Country Teams and also from the Pacific Invasives Partnership. It focuses on invasive species management and biodiversity conservation issues. Previous issues of the PILN SOUNDBITES are available on the PILN webpage at the SPREP website: www.sprep.org/piln. Please feel free to share this issue of SOUNDBITES with your colleagues and networks. Comments and feedback are welcomed, please send them to: posas@sprep.org or piln@sprep.org. Contributions for the September 2010 PILN SOUNDBITES issue are now needed.

Check out the PILN webpage – <http://www.sprep.org/piln> for more resources to assist you with invasive species management. Your comments and suggestions will improve our services to you, so please keep them coming.

PILN TEAMS - UPDATES:

Many of you have suggested that this is one of the most interesting and valuable parts of your *SOUNDBITES*. Yet we don't hear enough from you. Let us make this one of the highlights of our learning network and contribute an item a month.

GUAM:

- Diane Vice advises that a meeting is being scheduled for Guam Invasive Species Action Committee (GISAC) on the 30th August, which will coincide with the visit by the SPREP Invasive Species Officer (Dr Alan Tye) and the PILN Coordinator.

FIJI:

- An invasive species meeting was held as part of the Fiji's NBSAP review and in preparation for the 16-18 August regional pre-COP 10 meeting. Chaired by Eleni Tikoduadua the meeting discussed the position and interventions for Fiji to consider for the Convention on Biological Diversity's Conference of Parties scheduled in mid-October.

HAWAII:

- Six pesky invasive species on Hawaiian radar. A brief item put together by Sheila Sarhangi (www.honlulumagazine.com) highlighted six small insects that the public are encouraged to be aware of. Ranging from the Small Hive Beetle, Naio Thrips, Varroa Mite, Erythrina Gall Wasp, Ohia Rust and the Nettle Caterpillar, these pesky critters are threats to native biodiversity as well as the bee industry.
- Pat Bily advises of a recent DNA information about variations in the Myrtaceae rust (*Puccinia psidii*), noting that the introduction of new strains of this rust is of high concern too Hawaii, as it should be for the rest of the Pacific. Other notable activities include continuing work to improving Hawaii's biosecurity and containment of local pests such as the Little Fire Ant and the Coqui Frog.

KIRIBATI:

- Ratita Bebe advised of some changes to the composition of their PILN team. We congratulate and welcome them to the network. We note that Mrs Turang Teuea-Favae and supported by Tekimau are coordinating IAS matters in Tarawa. Invasive species issues for Christmas, Line and Phoenix islands are coordinated by Ratita Bebe and Katareit (Assistant Wildlife Officer)

MICRONESIA (GENERAL)

- A request from Chela Zabin for assistance in preparation of the Micronesia Risk Assessment and Biosecurity Plan. Chela's team is working on the marine invasive species segment and is in need of input and assistance from knowledgeable folks in the region. Specifically, they would like to hear from anyone working on marine invasive species in the greater Micronesia region, people with knowledge about environmental law, importation of live marine species, aquaculture, shipping volume, routes and practices, and any previous or current work on marine invasive species issues in the following countries (and for each state or island group contained within): Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. A trip is being planned to the region in late September through early October and would like to meet with some of the key stakeholders. Please do get in touch with Chela Zabin (zabinc@si.edu) for further information.

SAMOA:

- The Samoa's National Invasive Species Action Plan published in 2008 is now available in hard copy. The Action Plan can also be downloaded from the SPREP's Information Resource Centre (www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp)

NEWS FROM PACIFIC INVASIVES PARTNERSHIPS:

Pacific Invasives Initiative

- PII has put together a Questionnaire on behalf of the Pacific Invasives Partnership to collect information on invasive species management initiatives, as implemented by the countries. The purpose of this Questionnaire is to identify gaps within the Invasive Species component of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and to make recommendations where possible. Further information on the Questionnaire can be obtained from Pacific Invasives Partnership by contacting Ms Natasha Doherty (n.doherty@auckland.ac.nz)

Birdlife International – Pacific Partnership

- The latest e-bulletin of Birdlife Pacific (July-September 2010) is now available for your reading pleasure (www.birdlife.org). Hot off the e-press is MANU (Société d' Ornithologie de Polynésie) becoming a full member of Birdlife Pacific Partnership and Cook Islands (Te Ipukerea Society) implementing a Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) that will be managed by Ms Jacqui Evans. For further information please contact Don Stewart (birds@birdlifepacific.org.fi)

Technical Invasive Species Committee develops TOR to assist Fiji

- The Terms of Reference for the Technical Invasive Species Committee, which was established on a request from the Roundtable Chair and Coordinator to the Pacific Invasives Partnership in 2009 on behalf of Fiji's Department of Environment, has now been drafted. The request was for assistance with the invasive species component of the NBSAP implementation framework. The composition of the Committee includes Eleni Tokadua (Environment), representative from Biosecurity Fiji and selected members from the Pacific Invasives Partnership (Souad Boudjelas, Steve Cranwell, Warea Orapa, Alan Tye and Posa Skelton).

SPREP's 2009 Annual report now available

- The 2009 SPREP's Annual Report is now available for your viewing pleasure. A copy can be obtained by contacting the Secretariat or by downloading the English and/or French versions: http://www.sprep.org/att/publication/000865_SPREP_ANNUAL_REPORT_2009.pdf or http://www.sprep.org/att/publication/000868_SPREP_ANNUAL_REPORT_2009_FRENCH_WEB_A.pdf

SPC -Vacancy for an Entomologist

- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Entomologist in its Land Resources Division. The closing date for applications is 24 September, 2010. Further information can be obtained from recruitsuva@spc.int

MEETING/CONFERENCE & TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Biosolutions for Biopollutions 2010 Workshop cancelled (source: Marc Imlay, Alien-List)

The workshop scheduled for 18-19 August has been cancelled due to low registration numbers.

EarthCorps International Program (source: Mark Howard, Aliens-List)

EarthCorps is now recruiting for the 2011 international program. The program is for those looking for more hands-on experience in environmental restoration (including the removal of invasive flora). The position is for 6-months of learning for young (under 25) environmental leaders from countries outside of the United States to develop skills in environmental restoration, volunteer management and leadership. Please visit the web link to learn more (<http://www.earthcorps.org>)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

ACP Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations is issuing a call for proposals through its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme to African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries. The ACP-FLEGT Support Programme provides assistance to ACP Countries for putting the European Union FLEGT Action Plan into practice, and supports the collection, analysis and dissemination of FLEGT-related information and lessons learned among ACP country stakeholder groups. Proposals due before 22 October 2010. Further information can be obtained by emailing: acp-flegt-call-for-proposals@fao.org.

UNESCO: Pacific Youth Visioning for Island Living 2010 Small Grants

Youth Visioning for Island Living is a capacity building initiative that aims to empower young people in small islands to make a difference. The UNESCO Office for the Pacific states encourages young people and or youth organisations from member countries to submit application to support a wide range of projects. If you are a young person or a youth organisation and would like to take part in this opportunity, feel free to contact Natalia Pereira (n.pereira@unesco.org)

ITPGRFA Benefit-sharing Fund: Call for Proposals 2010

The Call for Proposals 2010 under the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty, which will invest more than USD 10 million in projects globally, is now opened for its biennial cycle 2010-2011. Any governmental or non-governmental organization, including genebanks and research institutions, farmers and farmers' organizations and regional and international organizations, based in countries that are Contracting Parties eligible for funding, may apply for grants until **8 September 2010**.

Rapid Response Facility

The Rapid Response Facility (RRF) is an emergency small grants programme jointly operated by Fauna & Flora International (FFI), UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the United Nations Foundation. With a target processing time for grant applications of just 8 working days, the RRF provides rapid support to enable conservation practitioners to tackle emergencies in some of the World's most important sites for biodiversity. To date it has supported 16 rapid interventions in 14 UNESCO designated natural World Heritage sites, responding to the conservation impacts of a range of emergencies such as natural disaster, armed conflict and sudden increases in illegal activity within these protected areas. Those interested in approaching the RRF for emergency funding should see www.rapid-response.org, which provides details on application procedures, funding criteria, and case studies of past RRF grants.

United Nations Small Grants Programme under the Second Decade

Applications for grants under the Small Grants Programme under the Second Decade will be accepted between 1 July 2010 and 1 October 2010. Applications are to be submitted to: indigenousfunds@un.org during this time period. Applications submitted outside of this time period or to other email addresses will not be considered for funding. The proposals will be assessed by the Bureau of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2011 and successful applicants will receive notice thereafter. A list of organizations awarded grants will also be posted on this website. Please note: Project must have a focus on indigenous peoples; all applicants must submit their project proposals in accordance with the Trust Fund Project Proposal Format and include both a summary sheet and a proposal document; projects will be disregarded if the required information is not present; additional information pertaining to the proposal will not be accepted beyond the deadline of submission (1 October 2010). Visit the webpage: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second_trustfund.html for more info.

MARINE INVASIVES:

Invasive Species on Coral Reef Meeting Agenda (source: National Invasive Species Information Centre)

Scholars, environmentalists and government officials met from August 4-6 to discuss issues like protecting coral reefs and controlling invasive species at the Hawaii Conservation Conference this week. The focus for the conference was the Pacific Ecosystem Management & Restoration, applying traditional and western knowledge systems. Speaking at the conference were some notable Pacific Islanders including Aroha Te Pareake Mead from Aotearoa, Honorable Togiola Tulafono, Governor of American Samoa and photographer and wildlife biologist, Jack Jeffrey. For further information see the website (<http://hawaiiconservation.org/2010hcc.asp>).

Lionfish on the menu may help control their invasiveness (source:

www.noaa.gov/stories/2010/20100806_lionfish.html)

The South-west Pacific lionfish invading the Atlantic Ocean may finally be served to willing diners to allow for their control and management. NOAA are encouraging chefs to find new ways to introduce lionfish to US consumers. Already in Turks and Caicos Islands there are year-long tournaments with cash prizes for the most number of lionfish caught. No doubt some of the traditional recipes abundant throughout the Pacific Islands could well be exchanged with our neighbours in the Caribbean.

Niagara ships invasive zebra mussels (source: Invasive Species News)

Niagara, the historically reconstructed ship of Commodore Oliver Perry, visited the Isle Royale National Park (Michigan, US) and unwittingly carried several colonies of zebra mussels attached to its hull. Evidence suggested that the mussels had been attached to the vessel for a considerable length of time. The incident illustrates the difficulty in slowing, much less halting, the spread of these invaders to other parts of the country, but it's worth continuing the effort.

Maui divers fish invasives from Hawaii shores (source: Associated Press)

Thirty-seven teams with 77 divers caught peacock grouper, black-tail snapper and blue-line snapper, all introduced species that prey on indigenous reef fish. Most of the fish caught were donated for research and the rest for composting.

INTERESTING NEWS/LINKS/WEBSITES:

August is the invasive month (source: National Invasive Species Information Centre)

The month of August is recognized as the invasive plant pest and disease awareness month by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Various activities are held throughout the month including an invasive species forum to bring a wide variety of stakeholders together to discuss invasive plant pest issues and potential actions to address them.

Health at risk from an invasive moth

An invasive moth that damages oak trees could pose a significant health risk to people, experts are warning. The moth, found mostly in trees in west London, is covered in sharp hairs containing toxins during its caterpillar stage. These can be blown into

contact with people, causing skin rashes, itchy eyes and triggering asthma attacks. The Forestry Commission is trying to get rid of the pest which has been in the UK since 2006. Further details can be found on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-10838343>

10 Invasive Species that Cost the US a bundle (source: National Invasive Species Information Centre)

It may read like a passenger checklist on Noah's Ark with a pair of birds, reptiles, fish, insects and mammals but they certainly come at a huge cost to US authorities and not to mention the environment. It also highlights that all our natural environments are not immune from the scourge of invasive species.

Bats on the brink of extinction due to white-nose syndrome (source: Alien-List)

A disease known as white-nose syndrome has killed approximately one million little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) in North America putting them at risk of extinction. The severity of the disease is likened to the chytrid fungus that has decimated frog populations and the devil facial tumor disease threatening the Australian's Tasmanian devils.

UN warns Britain that endemic Henderson Island birds under threat (source: Souad Boudjelas)

The British have been warned by the United Nations that it is at risk of losing two of its five listings for natural World Heritage sites unless it urgently provides funding to eradicate rodents which are threatening critically endangered bird species found only on two remote islands. Henderson Island, part of Pitcairn Islands is home to the flightless Henderson rail, Stephen's lorikeet, Henderson fruit dove and the Henderson warbler. These endemic birds along with nine seabirds are under threat from Polynesian rats that are rampant on the island. For more information see the link (www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/)

Global Island Plant Conservation Network invites Pacific Islanders (source: Souad Boudjelas)

The Global Island Plant Conservation Network website (www.bqci.org/ourwork/islands) was recently launched by Botanic Garden Conservation International to focus amongst other things on facilitating rapid and effective early warning of emerging invasive species on islands. GIPCN would like to expand its network to islands and areas of expertise across all oceanic regions. If you are interested in joining the mailing-list, please send an email to Christoph Kueffer (kueffer@env.ethz.ch).

Two Pacific sites world listed (source: Fanny Douvère, World Heritage Marine Programme)

The Phoenix Island and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument are two Pacific sites recently listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Both sites contain large marine areas as well as unique island fauna and flora. Invasive eradication work has been undertaken on Phoenix Islands to ensure that native biodiversity is restored and protected. Further information on these two sites can be obtained on their respective websites (<http://www.phoenixislands.org>) and (<http://papahanumokuakea.gov>)

New study highlights better design for monitoring of animal and plant pests in NZ (source: Aliens-List)

Fifteen regional agencies dealing with animal and plant management were surveyed to assess their practice in pest control and monitoring. Of the NZ \$20 million spent on pest management, 21 % was for monitoring of which a proportion (31 %) was spent to monitor pest population changes. The most common monitoring design comprised a single treatment area with non-treatment areas, in which only results were monitored. This limits the ability of regional and local authorities to provide robust justification for their pest management activities and expenditures. The report recommended better design, additional resources for monitoring programmes, improved institution/political support for long-term programs, and better definition of long-term outcomes and objectives for pest management.

Invasive boa serious threat too Aruba's bird populations (source: Aliens-List)

The invasive Boa constrictor was first documented in Aruba in April of 1999 and the numbers of caught snakes has increased annually. Most of those caught are in areas frequented by persons who then notify the Rangers for their assistance. It is safe to presume that a most of those caught actually live in Aruba's wildlife. For more on this story, please go to: <http://www.birdlife.org/community/2010/08/anaruba-without-toupiak-prikich-patrushi-or-shocco/>

Study finds climate change affects geographic range of plants

Researchers at the University of Gothenburg have shown how climate change many million years ago has influenced the geographical range of plants by modeling climate preferences for extinct species. The method can also be used to predict what effects climate change of today and tomorrow will have on future distributions of plants and animals. According to the researchers, future climate change may also lead to alien species changing their geographical ranges and starting to interact with native species, in the same way as both marine and terrestrial species have done in recent years. This can lead to native species being outcompeted by alien species. For further information on this research see <http://www.sciencedaily.com>

Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre releases Island Net newsletter (source: Dr Wendy Henderson)

The latest edition of the IslandNet newsletter is now out. Some of the interesting items covered in the newsletter include Macquarie Island pest eradication project update, exotic rat eradications on WA islands, Island biosecurity training in Fiji and much more. For a copy or further information contact Dr Wendy Henderson (wendy.henderson@invasiveanimals.com).

DISCLAIMER: Efforts are made to ensure that the information presented in the PILN SOUNDBITES is accurate, up-to-date and from reliable sources. Materials within this SOUNDBITES do not necessary imply the views of SPREP, PILN Country teams or PIP. Please contact the PILN Coordinator should you need further information regarding PILN SOUNDBITES.

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