



## PILN

Pacific Invasives Learning Network.  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa  
E: [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org)  
T: +685 21929  
F: +685 20231  
W: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

### PILN Teams:

- [American Samoa](#)
- [Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands](#)
- [Fiji](#)
- [French Polynesia](#)
- [Guam](#)
- [Hawaii](#)
- [Kiribati](#)
- [Kosrae](#)
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- 



*Contributions for our final Soundbites for 2010 are now needed!*

## NETWORK NEWS:

*PILN SOUNDBITES is the monthly newsletter of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network: a participant-driven island network, reporting on news of PILN Country Teams and the Pacific Invasives Partnership. Relevant and news-worthy invasive news are also reported. The Soundbites aims to be informative to PILN teams and the general public. Past issues are available from our webpage: [www.sprep.org/piln](http://www.sprep.org/piln). Do share this issue with your colleagues and networks. Comments and feedback are always welcome to help improve our services. Please send them to the PILN Coordinator: [posas@sprep.org](mailto:posas@sprep.org).*

- Great news! American Samoa and Western Samoa have signed a memorandum of understanding to work collaboratively on environmental issues, under the 2-Samoas Initiative (read more below).
- Seven Fijian islands declared rat free following two years of monitoring by Birdlife Pacific.
- CABI's Microbial Identification available
- Invasive lionfish update from the Caribbean
- NZ Kiwifruit under attack from disease

## PILN TEAMS - UPDATES:

*Many of you have suggested that this is one of the most interesting and valuable bite 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.*

**AMERICAN SAMOA:** [source: Tavita Togia, - [tavita\\_togia@nps.gov](mailto:tavita_togia@nps.gov)]

Restored one acre of disturbed park-land with 1400 native trees consisting of five indigenous species. The tree species include asi (*Syzygium inophylloides*), gasu (*Palaquium stehlinii*), mamalava (*Planchonella samoensis*), tamanu (*Calophyllum neo-ebudicum*) and ifilele (*Intsia bijuga*). The crew used weed eater machines and machetes to maintain the new reforestation area.

**GUAM:** [source: Diane Vice - [dianevice@gmail.com](mailto:dianevice@gmail.com)]

The Brown Treesnake Technical Committee Working Group met November 17th-19th at the National Parks Headquarters in Hagatna, Guam. Over three days, Federal and local partners involved in brown treesnake research and control presented agency updates and discussed future plans for brown treesnake interdiction and resource protection. The impending military buildup on Guam and activity throughout Micronesia highlights an intense need to control brown tree-snakes on Guam.

On Tuesday, November 16, 2010 the Guam Department of Agriculture released 16 captive-bred ko'ko birds, also known as the Guam rail, on Cocos Island. A short ceremony with speeches by the four Safe Harbor Agreement signatories: the Cocos Island Resort, the Guam Department of Agriculture, the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was held. Local school children performed cultural dances and chants. Following the ceremony a smaller release team shuttled over to Cocos Island to release the birds at dusk. Anthony Ramirez from the Guam Historic Preservation Office provided a Chamoru blessing prior to the release of the birds.

The flightless ko'ko bird is native to Guam but was extirpated from the wild as a result of the introduced brown treesnake in the late 1980's. Cocos Island, located one mile off the southern tip of Guam, is snake-free and therefore considered excellent site to attempt to establish a breeding population of ko'ko birds.

Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources received grants from the Department of Interior's US Fish & Wildlife Service Federal Aid Programs, Brown Treesnake Technical Assistance grants, and the Aquatic Nuisance Species grant program. USDA's Wildlife Services and Forest Service also provided financial and technical assistance for the project. Local government and private partners include Cocos Island Resort, Guam Visitor's Bureau, Guam Telephone Authority, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Statistics & Plans and the Pacific Daily News.

**SAMOA:**

Discussions were held from 4-5 November between officials from Samoa and American Samoa with the outcomes reported at the Pacific Day Event of the International Coral Reef Initiative general meeting held in Apia, Samoa. The 2-Samoas agreed on an memorandum of understanding to work collaborative on environment Initiative with the aim of increasing the benefits through good organization, developing a strategic plan and improving communication among other issues. This will add value to the PILN teams in American Samoa and Samoa and strengthen collaborations.

Samoa also co-hosted the International Coral Reef Initiative with the French Government and coordinated the Pacific Day Event where marine invasive species was highlighted. A presentation was given by the PILN Coordinator on Pacific Islands regional arrangement in addressing marine invasive species.

## MARSHALL ISLANDS [source: Henry Cappelle]

lakwe all: For RMI we're still working on the *Mikania* and *Chromolaena* and next target will be the *Meremia peltata*. World Food Day will be on the 4th of December and awareness will also be included.

## Marshall Islands College Field Trip Confirms New Invasive Species [source Yokwe Online - College of the Marshall Islands]

A field trip by the College of Marshall Islands Environmental Science class stumbled across what may be a new invasive species to the islands. A 3-inch brown caterpillar was discovered during the field trip to the container yard of Delap Dock, near Ports building. The caterpillars were feeding on the kaar tree (*Premna serratifolia*) and it is suspected that it may have been brought in via a container. According to Professor Nancy Vander Velde, the field trip organizer, invasive species are a huge problem worldwide and can cause millions, even billion of dollars of damage crops and the environment. The opportune moment of discovering these caterpillars may have saved irreparable damage to the Marshall Islands native flora. Henry Capelle, the Chief of Agriculture advised that they are currently waiting for confirmation from experts with regards to the identity of the caterpillar. In the meantime a chemical pesticide, Methomyl, is being used to contain the situation.

## NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC INVASIVES PARTNERSHIPS:

### Birdlife Pacific: Seven Fijian islands declared rat-free!! [source: Sia Rasalato sia@birdlifepacific.org.fj]

In August 2008, the BirdLife International Fiji programme undertook aerial based rat eradication operations on seven islands in the Ringgold group. After two years of consistently monitoring the seven islands for rat presence and positive responses of eradication, the Fiji programme is declaring these islands rat free: Nukusemanu, Nukupureti, Nagelelevu, Vetauua, Tainibeka, Tauraria, Nukubasaga. This comes after recent monitoring survey (8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Nov) led by the BirdLife Fiji team. The team recorded many positive changes such as the presence of a large Bridled tern colony in Tauraria, which has not been recorded in previous visits; Nukubasaga recorded frigate birds nesting on the low sandy herbaceous strands (at ground level); an increase in turtle breeding sites on Vetauua, Nukupureti and Nukubasaga, and also marked increase in skinks/gecko activity on the islands. These islands were battered by Cyclone Tomas in early March, with impacts still evident today. Restoring the island's biodiversity is only the first step; keeping them rat free is the challenge, and this is vital for the success of the project. Biosecurity plans have been developed for these islands and village representatives were trained in biosecurity. A management planning workshop for the Ringgold Islands is scheduled for 2011 where action plans for the protection of the islands will be developed. BirdLife Pacific has held meetings with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Fiji Government's Fisheries Department with regards to turtle sightings. These organizations together with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme will visit Ringgold Islands for turtle surveys later this month.

### Pacific Invasives Initiative: [source: Natasha Doherty - [n.doherty@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.doherty@auckland.ac.nz)]

The Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) recently released the "Invasive species management in the Pacific: a review of national plans and current activities". The review assessed the alignment of the invasive species components of National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Invasive Species Action Plans (NISAPs) with the "Guidelines for invasive species management in the Pacific: a Pacific strategy for managing pests, weeds and other invasive species". The review identified areas that need to be addressed, or could be strengthened by Pacific Island Countries to better address invasive species management issues. If you would like a copy of the review or require assistance with invasive species management issues, please contact PII ([pii@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:pii@auckland.ac.nz)).

## BioNET-International

### Raising awareness on the role of taxonomy in invasive species [source: Kornelia Rassmann, BioNET-Secretariat]



Recently released by BioNET-International is a set of postcards highlighting the importance of taxonomy in supporting global understanding in biodiversity, invasive species, species of interest in pharmaceutical products and conservation. The Giant African snail, *Achatina fulica*, was highlighted as a serial pest feeding on 500 plant species and carrying pathogens and being a biosecurity risks to tropical and subtropical countries.

**CABI's Microbial Identification available** [source: Richard Smith, Director BioNET]

I am pleased to bring you news that CABI's microbial identification service is now available FREE to many CABI member countries, including yours / countries in your LOOP. The service provides authoritative identification of bacteria and fungi of agricultural importance, including those relating to food security and plant health including quarantine organisms. The free service is available to agricultural research centers including university departments, and government institutions responsible for agriculture and food security. Click the link below:

<http://www.cabi.org/default.aspx?site=170&page=3387> for details and a list of eligible countries. Please disseminate this announcement to relevant institutions and ask those applying to use the service to mention that they heard about it through BioNET. The BioNET Secretariat is hosted by CABI.

**US National Invasive Species Council** [source: Lori Williams]

**Defending Biodiversity: Regional Cooperation and Proactive Approach to Biosecurity in Micronesia**

On the side of the Convention on Biological Diversity negotiations, a session was held to promote the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan - part of the Micronesia Challenge. Lori Williams, Executive Director of the United States National Invasive Species Council chaired this session and provided an overview of the Biosecurity. She noted the seriousness of invasive species and that regional efforts are most effective in addressing them. "IAS must be controlled across regions if any single effort within the region is to be successful". For island regions this is especially important given that 90 % of bird extinctions have taken place on islands. Two island invasives were highlighted, including the Brown Tree Snake and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on Guam. The Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) was established by Chief Executives.

**Stas Burgiel joins US NISC** [source: Stas Burgiel - [sburgiel@gmail.com](mailto:sburgiel@gmail.com)]

It is with excitement and some regret that I announce my departure from the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP). I have worked directly with GISP for about five years, first as technical liaison and over the past year in a role directing policy efforts. I have only positive things to say about the organization, its potential and the fundamental need for it to play a coordinating role on invasive species at the international level. I would also like to thank Sarah Simons, GISP Executive Director, as well as the institutional partners for their longstanding support and comradeship.

Fortunately, I will still be engaged with invasive species policy work as I assume my new role with the U.S. National Invasive Species Council as their assistant director for prevention and budgetary coordination. I will keep one foot in the international arena, while assuming a greater focus on domestic issues. This is a great opportunity to continue putting policy ideas into practice, while also staying a bit closer to a young family.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you and finding new ways to collaborate. Until I have my new contact information, you can reach me at [sburgiel@gmail.com](mailto:sburgiel@gmail.com), +1.202.288.2360 (cell) or through my LinkedIn.com account (same email as above).

Best regards, Stas

*Stas and Sarah Simons were great sources of information and advice for the Pacific Island countries at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nagoya last month. We thank you and also wish you Stas all the best with your move. We look forward to continuing our partnership and friendship in your new role.*

**International Coral Reef Meeting: Pacific Day event talks invasive species arrangement in the Pacific**



The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) - a global partnership to raise awareness and protect the world's coral reefs held its 25<sup>th</sup> general meeting in Apia, Samoa from 8-12 November. The meeting was hosted by the governments of Samoa and France, who are the co-chairs of the Coral Reef Initiative. A special day was dedicated to issues of importance to the Pacific Islands. Threats to coral reef ecosystems, climate change and traditional knowledge management for marine conservation were discussed. The Pacific Day event provided the opportunity to highlight successful projects, partnerships and collaborations in the region and also to discuss threats to coral reefs.

Marine invasive species and ciguatera (poisoning from consuming certain types of fish) were two key threats on the Pacific Day event agenda. The focus on marine invasive species highlighted the regional partnerships, networks, tools and initiatives existing in the Pacific to address invasive species. The role of climate change in combination with invasive species as threats to coral reef ecosystems was also highlighted.

Vectors and pathways, including genetically modified organisms introduced through mariculture and aquaculture need to be scrutinized to minimize the introduction of pests and invasive species. A critical issue raised was the need to assist Pacific Island countries in developing policies and legislation on invasive species. The International Maritime Organisation's Ballast Water Management Convention was considered as critical in addressing marine invasive species, and countries were encouraged to consider becoming members of this Convention.

Meet some of the invasive species workers attending the ICRI Meeting:

*Eleni Tikoduadua - Principle Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of Fiji*



*'We are looking at establishing a national invasive species committee to play a key role in invasive species issues. Ideally, we would like this committee to be comprised of all organizations and agencies working on invasive species in Fiji. One of the roles that I would like them to play is to provide recommendations for consideration by the Government, including reviewing outcomes from technical meetings, synthesize national, regional and international reporting requirements and also provide advice to the National Environment Council. I welcome the support from our regional partners to assist with moving this forward.*

*My role is to coordinate on behalf of conservation partners on issues relating to biodiversity. This role involves coordinating and implementing activities on invasive species, such as the current eradication programme that we have for the introduced marine iguana [reported in August PILN Soundbites]. I chair the invasive species meetings, which are held when needed.*

*The current 'hot' invasive species issue in Fiji is the termite infestation that started in the western division of Viti-Levu Island. This has now spread to the northern division of Vanua-Levu. What is worrying is the expansion of this termite infestation, which considerable resources are being utilized to try and contain. Government resources are stretched and important lessons that we need to learn from this remain to be identified, as all efforts are focusing on dealing with this outbreak'.*

*Ricardo Gomez Lozano -Mexico, National Commission of Protected Areas.*



*Invasive issue in country: 'Mexico has, unfortunately, a significant number of terrestrial and marine invasive species, so the Ministry of Environment is in the process of developing a national strategy to promote the control, eradication, prevention and management of current and future invasive species'.*

*Role in invasive species: 'At the Wider Caribbean, we are creating a multinational strategy to control lionfish, a strategy to open and committed collaboration among countries to promote regional arrangements that minimize the impacts of invasive marine species. Locally, Mexico seeks to adapt this strategy to the local issues and needs to include these proposals in a national strategy to reduce risks of invasive species and prevent new invasions'. Hot invasive in country: 'In the marine environment associated with coral reefs, lionfish is definitely our main focus, since it causes loss of biodiversity that is converted into economic losses resulting from the loss of tourism and fisheries; factors that keep social viability of the Mexican Caribbean'.*

#### **Vacancies & Consultancies:**

- 1) Coastal Environmental Advisor - Republic of the Marshall Islands, Environmental Protection Authority. Closing date: 10<sup>th</sup> December. More information from Mr Lowell Alik, Deputy General Manager: tel. +692 625 5202. email: [eparmi@ntamar.net](mailto:eparmi@ntamar.net) or [rmiepa@ntamar.net](mailto:rmiepa@ntamar.net)
- 2) Coastal & Marine Adviser - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Closing date: 7 January 2011. More information from the Personnel Officer: tel. +685 21929 ext. 230; fax 20231. email: [luanac@sprep.org](mailto:luanac@sprep.org)
- 3) Fisheries Information Technology Officer - Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Closing date 20 December 2010. More information can be obtained by emailing: [spc@spc.int](mailto:spc@spc.int).
- 4) Consultancy: implementation of secured SPC member country web pages, to distribute confidential country specific data summaries and documents online. Interested consultants/companies can obtain more detailed specifications by contacting Emmanuel Schneiter ([emmanuel@spc.int](mailto:emmanuel@spc.int)). Closing date 2 December 2010.
- 5) Consultancy: Letters of Inquiry to Organize the CEPF Mid-Term Evaluation Conference for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot. Conservation International - Pacific Islands. Closing date 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (Samoa time). Contact Leilani Duffy ([l.duffy@conservation.org](mailto:l.duffy@conservation.org)) for further details.

## **MEETING/CONFERENCE & TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **European Commission: Working Group on Invasive Alien Species**

Three working groups have been established by the European Commission to look at invasive alien species. The working groups focus on prevention, early warning and rapid response, and eradication, control/management of IAS and restoration of damaged ecosystems. The Prevention working group will meet on December 8<sup>th</sup> in Brussels, with the Early Warning and Rapid Response meeting on 3 February 2011, and the Eradication, management and Restoration to meet 30 March 2011.

### Micronesia Chief Executive Summit (15-17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2010)

The Micronesia Chief Executive Summit is being proposed to be held in Palau from 15-17<sup>th</sup> December. The Summit will discuss the work of the Regional Invasive Species Committee.

### Ant Identification Workshops - February 2011 [source: Casper Vanderwoude - [casper@hawaii.edu](mailto:casper@hawaii.edu)]

Two ant identification workshops are currently being planned by Casper Vanderwoude and team for Palau and Yap. The dates will be finalized shortly and this will be circulated to the PILN teams and partners. Other training are being organized for Pohnpei and Kosrae but dates are not yet decided. Details can be obtained by contacting Casper.

### NZ Biosecurity Institute Conference July 2011 [source: Dr Margaret Stanley via Pacific Invasives Initiative]

The annual conference for the NZ Biosecurity Institute will take place in Takapuna on the North Shore of Auckland (July 6-8, 2011). The theme of the conference is: the Northern Gateway: Tomorrow's pests today. It will focus on Northland and Auckland as the gateway to New Zealand for pests. Find out how they are closing the doors on threats to NZ and fighting what is already there. You will hear great speakers and be able to attend field trips that will showcase the innovative/unique programmes going on around the region. For more information and to register for the conference, visit <http://www.biosecurity.org.nz> [Note- registration is not yet available - but proceedings of previous conferences can be viewed]

### Global Resistance Challenge 2013

The Global Resistance Challenge 2013 conference offers a multidisciplinary forum focused on all aspects of herbicide resistance in crops and weeds and their impact on global food production. Scientific sessions will range from the molecular basis of herbicide resistance evolution through agro-ecology and agronomy to on-farm resistance management. The **Global Resistance Challenge 2013** conference will provide a stage for young and established private and public sector researchers, crop consultants and others to present their work in front of a welcoming international audience in the beautiful portside city of Fremantle, Perth, Western Australia. We welcome everyone who wishes to discover the latest advances in herbicide resistance to Perth in February 2013, to experience a magnificent Western Australian late summer. Further information can be obtained from Lisa Mayer ([lisa.mayer@uwa.edu.au](mailto:lisa.mayer@uwa.edu.au))

### Symposium on eradication vertebrate pests on islands [source: Dr Wendy Henderson [wendy.henderson@invasiveanimals.com](mailto:wendy.henderson@invasiveanimals.com)]

The 15<sup>th</sup> Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference is to be held in Sydney, Australia on June 20 - 23, 2011 ([www.avpc.net.au](http://www.avpc.net.au)). As part of the conference we will be holding a symposium on the management of vertebrate pests on islands. We are soliciting oral papers (15 minutes total) around this topic - eradication, sustained control, biosecurity and quarantine, detecting and managing survivors, the strategies and tools that worked or failed, management of non-target or environmental problems, etc. The emphasis is for projects in the Australasian region but papers from elsewhere will be considered especially if they demonstrate some general or novel problems or solutions. So, if you have a story to tell from your island and its pests send an abstract to the conference organizers at the above website and a copy to the symposium organizers (Elaine Murphy and John Parkes) at [emurphy@doc.govt.nz](mailto:emurphy@doc.govt.nz). The deadline for abstracts is 28 February 2011.

### 25th International Congress for Conservation Biology Call for Proposals

The call for proposals for symposia, workshops, and short courses is now open for the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Conservation Biology, to be held from 28 November - 2 December 2011 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Meeting Theme: Engaging Society in Conservation

Biodiversity around the world continues to decline at an ever-increasing pace, yet much of society carries on business as usual. How can conservation biologists engage with society to achieve positive outcomes for conservation without compromising our scientific rigor or integrity? The deadline for proposals is **10 December 2010**. Proposal guidelines can be found here: <http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings/2011/register/proposals.cfm>. For additional information please visit [www.conbio.org/2011](http://www.conbio.org/2011) or contact the scientific program committee at [2011@conbio.org](mailto:2011@conbio.org).

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

### PADI Foundation - 1 November 2010 to January 31, 2011

The PADI Foundation encourages and supports underwater science, environmental projects, and education. In 2010, it expects to award a total of approximately \$180,000 USD and will consider proposals with budgets up to \$20,000 though the average for proposals will be \$5,000 to \$10,000. For more information, see: <http://www.padifoundation.org/>.

### Conservation Leadership Programme

November 15 - BP Conservation Leadership Programme. The Conservation Leadership Programme is offering Future Conservationist Awards of up to \$12,500 to high potential teams who aim to develop their skills through practical

conservation projects. The CLP offers support to young conservationists (35 years and younger) living and working in Africa, Asia, East/ Southeastern Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. See: <http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/FutureConservationistAward.asp>.

### SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund

December 1 - SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. The Fund supports research in one of four areas: 1) Species research, 2) Animal rescue and rehabilitation, 3) Habitat protection, 4) Conservation education. It has no set minimum or maximum grant amount but in the past it has supported projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for a one-year term. See: <http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/grantInfo.htm> No deadline - SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund Animal Crisis Grants. In 2007, the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund launched the Animal Crisis Grants, which provide rapid, much-needed funding to aid wildlife and habitats in peril due to either natural or human-caused events. The Fund reserves up to \$100,000 each year for such grants. For more information see: <http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/animalCrisisGrants.htm>.

### 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)

### 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](http://www.rapid-response.org), which provides details on application procedures, funding criteria, and case studies of past RRF grants.

### International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Proposals for projects for 2011 are being requested and must be submitted to the Programme Office until 31 December 2010. Funding will be for investment projects and activities in the fields of technology transfer, policy advice, research cooperation, capacity development and training and elaboration of studies and strategies. PILN teams may wish to apply under Area II: Adaptation to climate change and Area III: Preservation and sustainable use of natural carbon sinks/REDD. Further information can be obtained online - <http://www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en/application>

## MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES:

### Lionfish invasion in the Caribbean region - an update [source: Ricardo Gómez Lozano [rglozano@conanp.gob.mx](mailto:rglozano@conanp.gob.mx)]



Lionfish is a generalist feeder, consuming many economically/ecologically important fish species in the Caribbean region [image: reef.org]

The Indo-Pacific lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) is already costing countries in the Caribbean region millions of dollars and the prognosis does not look good. Ricardo Gómez Lozano, the representative of the National Commission of Protected Areas in Mexico provided an updated on the lionfish invasion, at the 25th Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative held in Apia, Samoa 8-12 November 2010. Eighteen countries from the Caribbean region met at Cancun, Mexico in August to discuss the state of invasion, control strategies, challenges and resource needs. A report of this meeting is available for interested parties (please contact Ricardo Gómez Lozano for more information). The workshop acknowledged that the lionfish is a long-term issue and eradication may not be possible. It is important for countries not to give up and to work regionally in addressing invasive species. Countries called for more research, especially focussing on the economic impacts of lionfish, as well as increasing public awareness efforts. Regional communication was also noted as important in the fight against lionfish invasion. Some of the lessons learned include the need for better

prevention strategies, including early detection and rapid response to slow the spread. The Caribbean humour was not lost in the seriousness of the issue with Bahamas' report recommending to; 'eat them into remission, if not submission'! The lionfish workshop agreed to a number of actions including establishing a regional working group and developing a best practice manual for lionfish control.

See the 5-minute video on lionfish invasion and some of the actions taken by locals in the Florida Keys:  
<http://video.nytimes.com/video/2010/11/22/science/1248069362582/an-exotic-predator-threatens-the-keys.html>

## INVASIVE NEWS AND INTERESTING NEWS/LINKS/WEBSITES:

The GISP publication reported in the October Soundbite is available on the SPREP's Information Resources and Communication site: Invasive species, climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation: addressing multiple drivers of global change / Stanley W. Burglele, Adrianna A. Muir. URL: <http://www.sprep.org/att/irc/ecopies/global/483.pdf>

**Governments urged to finalize ballast water's invasive species rules** [Worldfishing & Aquaculture  
<http://www.worldfishing.net/>]

The World Ocean Council (WOC), shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, and desalination industries have called for an urgent ratification of the Ballast Water Convention. Despite the Convention's approval in 2004, it is still not enforced until the required number of countries or 35% of the world's merchant shipping tonnage sign up. Currently 27 countries are members, representing 25% of the world's shipping tonnage. Ballast water transports about 10,000 marine species each day across the oceans, creating a major pathway for marine invasive species. Only four Pacific Island Countries are party to the Convention - PNG, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Cook Islands. To holistically address invasive species it is important that all pathways and vectors of invasive species are identified and managed.

**Kiwifruit under attack by disease!** [adapted from the NZ MAF website: <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/press/2010/suspected-bacterial-vine-infection.htm>]



[image <http://topnews.net.nz>]

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of NZ continues to confirm cases of Kiwifruit disease outbreaks in orchards throughout the North and South Islands. A total of 28 properties are under strict control (Restricted Place Notices), since the news made headlines early this month. According to the NZ MAF website the disease is caused by a bacterium called *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *actinidiae* (Psa), which carries no risk to human or animal health, and does not affect other plants, other than kiwifruit. The latest outbreak confirms the presence of the bacteria in NZ, which is found in Japan and Korea but is managed through appropriate agriculture practices.

**Stowaway spiders: an omen of invasive species to come** [source: Guam NewsWatch:  
<http://guamnewswatch.com/201011263701/Local-News/Stowaway-Spiders-An-Omen-Of-Invasive-Species-To-Come.html>]

There's something else to be thankful for as we remain grateful for a bountiful Thanksgiving and dig in our heels for nonstop holiday shopping. Commerce was never interrupted after an isolated cluster of Black Widow spiders was found aboard the Matson MV Manukai container ship early Wednesday morning. Experts say the spiders were never any threat to Thanksgiving or holiday shopping, but that invasive species importation could soon become commonplace as cargo tonnage grows with the buildup. From the harbor master's rooftop Wednesday afternoon, one could see cranes offload containers from the Manukai, because the spiders had already been cordoned off. On Wednesday Port General Manager Enrique Agustin told News Watch that the Division of Customs and Quarantine had already green-lighted the offloading of upper decks, but that Customs officials warned stevedores to lock down a spider-infested hatch. "It's critical that we move cargo out of this port...A lot of these containers have to hit the groceries around this week...it's also for the military...so a lot of stuff has to go out to the commissaries," Agustin said. "Customs, knowing this was a critical item, we could not hold back commerce." Customs and Quarantine Director Dennis Santo Tomas told News Watch the problem is recurring, growing, and bigger than a single incident. "You know, with the increasing problems of invasive species entering the ports of Guam, actually it was the Lieutenant Governor Mike Cruz that tasked us to formulate a little working group to actually put together a biosecurity task force for Guam specifically in light of these increasing problems. And of course we anticipated surges of cargo that will be entering our borders; there'll be a corresponding increase of invasive species showing up at our doorstep." The biggest challenge now is where to find the funds to fuel the task force. The isolated area of infestation on the Manukai was fumigated late Wednesday afternoon, so remaining cargoes could be released safely. The ship's big load came from the U.S. West Coast, but the Manukai stopped in Honolulu before arriving in Guam.

**US Forest Service receives \$1.6 mil grant to study hybrid ecosystems in Hawaii!** [source: National Invasive Information Center]

The US Forest Service has received a \$1.6 million grant from the Defense Department's strategic environmental research program to study the possibility of 'hybrid ecosystems' that will allow the incorporation of some non-native with native plants.

"Invasive species are so prevalent. You're hand weeding, trying to eliminate them and aren't able to keep up with them. It feels like you're fighting a losing battle," said Susan Cordell, research ecologist with the Forest Service. "Restoring these lowland tropical forests to a historic native state is not financially or physically feasible."



Hawaii's low-lying native trees and plants were wiped out by cattle, goats and other nonnative mammals that were set free to graze after the arrival of the first Europeans in the islands in the late 1700s. The animals trampled on ferns and undergrowth, drying the soil and tree roots. Later reforestation efforts resulted in the planting of fast-growing nonnative trees like eucalyptus instead of native trees. To see intact native ecosystems, you have to climb high into the mountains. Cordell said the grant will allow researchers to find ways for native species to "coexist" with some nonnative species. The study, to be carried out at Keaukaha Military Reservation, a 200-acre site on the Big Island run by the Army National Guard, is due to begin in April and last for five years. The first phase is a 14-month analysis of existing native and non-native species. The second phase will involve test plantings of several species combinations.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS:

### Managing invasive weeds under climate change: considering the current and potential future distribution of *Buddleja davidii* weed research

DJ Kriticos, MS Watt, KJB Potter, LK Manning, NS Alexander, N Tallent-Halsell.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-3180.2010.00827.x/ABSTRACT>

### Climate change funding in the Pacific

SPREP has released a draft report on the future of funding for climate change in the Pacific region. The report is being circulated for comments ([http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=854](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=854)). Climate change funding is a major issue in the Pacific, given the commitments pledged at the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009 to provide funding to assist vulnerable developing countries. Click the link above to get a copy of the report, or send an email to Espen Ronneberg (SPREP's Climate Change Adviser for further information - [espen@sprep.org](mailto:espen@sprep.org))

### Invasive Species, Environmental Change and Management, and Health

Petr Pysek & David M. Richardson

Invasive species are a major element of global change and are contributing to biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and impairment of ecosystem services worldwide. Research is shedding new light on the ecological and economic consequences of invasions. New approaches are emerging for describing and evaluating impacts of invasive species, and for translating these impacts into monetary terms. The harmful effects of invasions are now widely recognized, and multiscale programs are in place in many parts of the world to reduce current and future impacts. There has been an upsurge in scientific research aimed at guiding management interventions. Among the activities that are receiving the most attention and that have the most promise for reducing problems are risk assessment, pathway and vector management, early detection, rapid response, and new approaches to mitigation and restoration. Screening protocols to reduce new introductions are becoming more accurate and have been shown cost-effective.

### How well do we understand the impacts of alien species on ecosystem services? A pan-European cross-taxa assessment

Montserrat Vila, Corina Basnou, Petr Pysek, Melanei Josefsson, Piero Genovesi, Stephan Gollasch, Wolfgang Netwig, Sergej Olenin, Alain Roques, David Roy, Philip Hulme, DAISIE partners.

Impacts of alien plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments - on ecosystem services were assessed and found that 1094 species with documented ecological impacts and 1347 with economic impacts. Terrestrial invertebrates and terrestrial plants caused the most damage of all groups. The North Sea is the maritime region that suffers the most impacts.

Follow the Pacific journey to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change COP in Cancun, Mexico on the SPREP's blogsite: <http://Climatepasifika.blogspot.com>. Reporting from Cancun is Nanette Woonton, SPREP's Media and Publication Officer and two Pacific journalists - Makareta Komai, editor PACNEWS and Stanley Simpson, editor of Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

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Contact for PILN SOUNDBITES: Dr. Posa A. Skelton, PILN  
Coordinator  
SPREP, Apia, SAMOA  
Tel. +685 66276, Fax. +685 20231, [posas@sprep.org](mailto:posas@sprep.org)