



PACIFIC INVASIVES LEARNING NETWORK

SOUNDBITES

JANUARY 2012

Pacific Invasives Learning Network.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa

+685 21929

Fax: +685 20231

www.sprep.org

PILN Teams:

- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Kiribati
- Kosrae
- Marshall Islands
- New Caledonia
- Niue
- Palau
- Pohnpei
- Samoa
- Yap



Network News

PILN SOUNDBITES is the monthly newsletter of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network: a participant-driven island network, reporting on news of PILN Teams and the Pacific Invasives Partnership. Past issues are available online: <http://www.sprep.org/piln>

HAPPY 2012!

Two months to go and counting down to our 3rd PILN Meeting:

PILN Network Meeting – March 21-28th 2012

@ Kiritimati Atoll, Kiribati

PILN Teams and Country Updates

American Samoa

Recovery of native forest after removal of invasive tree



Falcataria moluccana or locally known as ‘tamaligi’ is a non-native tree that has invaded native forests of American Samoa. A recently published research by Flint Hughes, Amanda Uowolo and Tavita Togia in the *Biological Invasions* journal provided details of tamaligi trees being removed from lowland forests. Native trees quickly colonized areas that were once occupied by the invasive tree. Seedlings of the tamaligi were high, but after three years of forest recovery, most

of the seeds were gone. The researchers suspected the shading effect caused by the re-establishing native trees as the reason for the low seedling count. These elements – rapid positive response by native trees, susceptibility of the invasive tree to girdling, and susceptibility of seeds to shading – are important conditions for successful and long-term control of tamaligi in American Samoa. The work has been carried out in collaboration between the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry in Hilo, Hawaii and the National Park of American Samoa.

To obtain a copy of this research publication – see our Publication section (page 10), or write to Tavita Togia - Tavita_Togia@nps.gov .

Fiji

NEC endorses FIST submission

The Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce submission to be endorsed as a working group under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to the National Environment Council (NEC) has been approved. The NEC is the premier body where all permanent secretaries from different Government sectors meet to discuss issues relating to the environment. Endorsement from NEC sends a positive message in tackling invasive species issues in Fiji and especially in the departments. It also gives support to FIST members so that they are able to meet, plan and to take action to address invasive species in the country. For further information – please contact Ilaisa Dakaica of Biosecurity Authority Fiji or Sarah Tawaka of the Department of Environment.

Guam

GISAC first meeting for the year!

The Guam Invasive Species Advisory Committee held its first meeting for the year on the 19th January. The meeting discussed the recent invasion of the island by the Little Fire Ant, invasive pet species, the upcoming Micronesia Chief Executives Summit and the Regional Invasive Species Council.

Little Fire Ant

A presentation by Ross Miller (University of Guam) on the Little Fire Ant noted that it was first detected in November 2011, although it may have been on Guam for about 5-10 years. The movement of plant material may have helped in spreading LFA. Delimiting surveys are not complete, and funding is needed to do this.

Non-native species on Guam

GISAC noted that some non-native species available in pet stores sometimes end up establishing in the wild, such as the red-eared sliders, now found breeding in ditches. The Committee noted that any introduction of non-native species to the wild will have negative impacts to Guam's ecosystem. Pets and ornamental species do not belong in the wild but in contained gardens, cages and houses. Any detection of a non-native species in the wild should be removed before it becomes established. The Committee noted the need to amend legislation as a mean to control non-native species. Developing of a 'White List' and a 'Black List' for species that can and cannot be brought in was discussed, and the Committee noted that this could be done fairly easily with current knowledge and using lists from Hawaii. The committee assigned a group headed by Russell Campbell to progress this issue.

Micronesia Chief Executives' Summit and RISC

The Committee noted that the next MCE Summit will be held on Guam from March 12-15th, 2012. The Regional Invasive Species Council will meet prior to the summit as per the usual practice. RISC is hoping that the RISC SAP will be finalised at the Guam gathering.

RISC SAP Education & Awareness Goal

A Rare social marketing campaign focused on biosecurity within Micronesia may be possible as part of the RISC Strategic Action Plan outreach goal. Rare was interested in the concept however, they are working on starting a 2-year cohort in Micronesia later in 2012 to focus on sedimentation and marine protected areas. Other less-intensive options may be considered, such as utilizing Rare-alumni personnel across the region to implement a single campaign or one person to implement a campaign (one very busy travelling person). This may be something the MBP will suggest and DOD may be a possible partner/funder.

Hawaii

Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC)

HISC's Public Outreach Working Group (POWG) held a public meeting on the 17th January at the Kalanimoku Building, Punchbowl, Honolulu. The meeting provided the opportunity for participants to meet the new Ohau Invasive Species Coordinator Outreach Specialist, discussed the new POWG Chain, launched the Hawaii Environmental Literacy Plan, reviewed the draft invasive ant communications plan and workshop and discussed

the POWG's 2012 goals. HISC also discussed a coordinated communication plan regarding invasive ants and to assist in the development of a long term management plan for Axis deer in Maui County.

HISC adopts resolution for the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan

HISC adopted a resolution regarding the Micronesian Biosecurity Plan that: i) applauds the United States Department Of Defense for funding a proactive assessment of biosecurity risks; ii) supports the review of the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan and the development of the Strategic Implementation Plan by the University of Guam and partners (including experts from Hawaii); and iii) requests that the finalized documents recognize the risks to Hawaii associated with the planned military buildup on Guam.

For more information please contact Joshua Atwood or Jacki Kozak (Joshua.p.atwood@hawaii.gov; jkozak@hawaii.edu).

Pohnpei

i-STOP meets

Invasive Species Team of Pohnpei (i-STOP) held their first meeting on 20 January. The meeting allowed for the nomination of officers to serve on the i-STOP Committee. The current chair – Kadalino Lorens will continue his chairmanship until March, when he will hand-over to Gibson Santos. Bejay Obispo was nominated as the vice-chair with Konrad Englberger as the secretary. i-STOP acknowledged the contributions made by the outgoing director of Conservation Society Pohnpei, Mr Patterson Shed for his support to i-STOP and invasive species work in Pohnpei.

from James Stanford:

James would like to advise interested persons of the US Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey's Brown Treesnake Response Office's upcoming trip to several islands within Micronesia to work with local partners on capacity building and community and school outreach for biosecurity/invasive species. While James has primary contacts preparing agendas for each location, other local groups, agencies, etc. are welcome to contact him at: james_stanford@usgs.gov to discuss possible activities, presentations, etc. Due to the short period of time on each island during this trip, James is willing to participate in meetings, presentations, workshops, any time that he is on island including evenings and weekends.

Itinerary:

- Chuuk 8 - 10 February | Kosrae 10 - 13 February
- Majuro 13 - 16 February | Pohnpei 16 - 18 February

Pacific Invasives Partnership News:

Birdlife Pacific Partnership

Birdlife Pacific Partnership's e-bulletin is now available for your reading pleasure. Issues covered in the latest edition include:

Invasive species Cast Away in Fiji | State of Palau's Birds report launched | BirdLife Pacific Invasive Species Programme | Planning ahead in the Cooks | Aircraft carrier and helicopters come to unique island's rescue | Singing Kagu in focus | Fiji Petrel crash-lands in Gau | Pukeko crowned New Zealand Bird of the Year | Fijian Site Support Group starts own reforestation project

Sign up for the newsletter at birds@birdlifepacific.org.fj

IUCN Oceania Regional Office

The inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum

The IUCN's Oceania Regional office is working with its partners and the Government of the Solomon Islands to host the inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum.

The Pacific Islands Species Forum will be an opportunity for scientists, researchers, policy-makers, and conservation practitioners to come together and share scientific knowledge relating to species research and

conservation in the Pacific. The small island states of the Pacific are isolated, with distance proving a major barrier to the spread of knowledge and facilitation of support networks. As such, there has been a lack of consolidated approaches on species issues within the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and species conservation is often low on the agenda. The Pacific Islands Species Forum will provide support needed by experts working in isolation, whilst injecting enthusiasm for people to continue working on key species conservation issues in remote locations. The Forum will take place in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 25th - 27th April, 2012. For more information, please contact Helen Pippard - helen.pippard@iucn.org or the webpage: http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/oceania/oro_getinvolved/speciesforum/

Fiji surveys unearthed new plant species



Alifereti (from USP) holding up the newly discovered plant

A recent survey of the island of Kadavu in Fiji by IUCN Oceania and partners unearthed a plant not known to science. The plant, which belongs to the genus *Medinilla*, is closely related to the another endemic species found on Taveuni (*Medinilla waterhousei*) or 'tagimoucia'. The discovery of the plant was accidental, as the purpose of the trip was to work with local communities to help in the management of the water resources on the island.

"The discovery of this previously unknown species of plant gives us a sense of just how fragile nature can be," says Dr Milika Sobey, Water and Wetlands

management."

Programme Coordinator at IUCN's Oceania Regional office. "The fact that it was found during work on a watershed management project is one more lesson in how important it is that nature is included in the priorities for water

A single population was found during the survey and efforts are currently underway to describe the new find. "We only managed to find one plant of this kind," says Mr Marika Tuiwawa, of the University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Science, who discovered the species. "Commercial agricultural activities and uncontrolled bush fires are the main threats to this species. A simple fire could destroy it in a matter of minutes."

SPREP launches Clean Pacific 2012 Campaign



The Clean Pacific 2012 campaign will be launched in partnership with the World Wetlands Day celebrations in Apia, Samoa on 2 February. The relationship between proper waste disposal practices, management and pollution prevention and healthy wetlands is a critical one. The Clean Pacific campaign will aim to promote a clean and healthy environment for our Pacific peoples through improved waste management practices. The Clean Pacific

campaign is a regional waste management and pollution control campaign coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with its member countries. The campaign will galvanise actions at all levels to improve the management of wastes and pollution through promotion of a range of activities, which contribute to a healthy environment, including wetlands. For more details please contact SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control Team at wasteteam@sprep.org. *Read more on www.sprep.org*

Vacancies and Opportunities:

Global Fellowship in Marine Conservation (Summer Term II)

The Duke University Marine Lab is offering an educational opportunity from July 9 to August 10, 2012. This is an opportunity for students and professionals to think about conservation biology and policy. Global Fellowships in marine conservation will be awarded on a competitive basis. The Fellowship covers travel expenses, room and board, and tuition for both BIO 109/ENV 209 Conservation Biology and Policy plus one specialized elective course. Electives (subject to availability) include: Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles,

Marine Mammals, Marine Ecology and Marine Invertebrate Zoology. The Global Fellowship application **deadline for summer, 2012, is February 15, 2012**. It is available to any international applicant with a good working knowledge of English who has an interest in marine conservation biology and policy. The course does not have specific prerequisites, but Global Fellows have a BA or BS degree in hand, are enrolled in such programs, or have some professional experience. Contact Rachel.lopiccolo@duke.edu for further information.

Micronesia Conservation Trust

A vacancy exists at the Micronesia Conservation Trust based in Pohnpei, FSM for a **Capacity Building Program Manager**. If interested please contact Lisa Andon (deputy@ourmicronesia.org). Closing date: February 21, 2012.

Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI)

Two vacancies exist at FSPI Solomon Islands and Vanuatu offices. Two **Project Managers** are needed to oversee FSPI operations in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Appointments are for two years with a possible renewal for a further two years. **Closing date is February 29th**. Please send applications to coastaladm@fsp.org.fj

RARE

Two vacancies exist: i) **Program Director, Micronesia** to be located either in Palau, Pohnpei or Guam. Start date 2012. ii) **Pride Program Manager, Micronesia** – to be based either in Palau, Pohnpei or Guam. Start date Feb/March 2012. Visit the following web-pages to apply online:

<http://hire.jobvite.com/j/?cj=o3k1Vfw3&s=Micronesia> and <http://hire.jobvite.com/j/?cj=oXh4VfwX&s=Micronesia>

SPREP Vacancy

Climate Change Coordination Adviser (CCCA) – applications close Friday 10th February 2012. Contact Luana Chan (luanac@sprep.org) for more information. Visit the SPREP Employment page for other vacancies: http://www.sprep.org/vacancies/vacancies_list.htm

UNCCD – Land for Life Award

THE UNCCD has recently launched the Land for Life Award to recognize efforts that promote soil health through sustainable land management. Three awards will be granted for 2012 from a total prize fund of up to USD 100,000. To apply – <http://www.unccd.int/land4life/menu.php> . Deadline for this is **29 February, 2012**.

China-Pacific Islands Forum Scholarships Scheme

Ten scholarships are being offered by the Government of the People's Republic of China to nationals of Pacific Island Forum countries under a regional scholarship scheme. More information can be found on the website: www.csc.edu.cn. **Please submit applications by 13 April 2012**.

Durrell Conservation Training Prospectus 2012

Durrell's 2012 prospectus is available to download from their website <http://www.durrell.org/Training/Our-approach/conservation-training-prospectus/>. Topics covered range from introductory conservation workshops aimed at the interested amateur, to our courses for professional conservationists focusing on current issues, specific species groups and management techniques. We really do feel that we are running a sensational variety of courses for all levels of conservationist and are very proud of the number of guest lecturers from well respected conservation organisations from around the world. Upcoming courses include Facilitation Skills for Conservation Managers and An introduction to GIS for Conservation Managers. For further information about any of our courses please contact itc@durrell.org

The Weed's News seeks expression of interest

The Weed's News are seeking expressions of interest from people willing to join their Editorial Board. They are particularly keen to hear from people who can advise on special areas of weed research, for example, herbicide

resistance in weeds, agricultural weeds, weed issues in restoration ecology, organic weed control methods, and so on. Please email your expression of interest to me: [Dr David Low, Managing Editor, The Weed's News](#).

GLISPA

GLISPA is seeking an intern to help build a database. It would be preferable for the person to be based in New York City or Washington DC however it is not essential. The assignment can be from two weeks to one month, and may result in additional interning or other opportunities. Please do feel free to contact Jessica Robbins (JRobbins@mediaimpact.org) with applications or if you would like to discuss further.

Upcoming meeting, conference and training announcements:

These announcements are for activities taking place in 2012. If you would like to share an announcement with the Network, please send details to PILN Coordinator. More events can be found on our PILN webpage.

2012 calendar

early Feb	GEF-IBPOW Project Inception Workshop
February	Island Arks Symposium II Symposium to be held in Canberra, Australia. The Island Arks Symposium will bring together practitioners in terrestrial and marine ecology, coastal engineering, fire ecology, invasive species management, waste management, communication and marketing, and environmental economics to identify, discuss and resolve management challenges; identifying pathways for long-term conservation of island ecosystems including sustainable use. Further details: www.islandarks.com.au/
26 Feb – 3 Mar	United States national Invasive Awareness Week
27 Feb – 2 Mar	USGS Brown Treesnake Rapid Response Office – Will be hosting a refresher training course on Brown Tree Snake
5-7 March	Pesticide Risk Reduction Education – short course for Hawaii Island: Hilo. Registration deadline – 10 Feb. Registration fee - \$100 per person. Study packet fee - \$35. See http://pestworld.stjoh.hawaii.edu/pat/schedule.html or call Charles Nagamine +1 808 956 - 6007
12-15 th March	Micronesia Chief Executives Summit, Guam
19-21 March	Pesticide Risk Reduction Education – short course for Maui. Registration deadline – 23 Feb. Registration fee - \$100 per person. Study packet fee - \$35 (USD). Write to Charles Nagamine (cynagami@hawaii.edu) for more info.
19-24 March	Pacific Ant Project – Taxonomy training (tentative dates). Venue: University of Guam, GUAM.
21-28 March	Pacific Invasives Learning Network Meeting The meeting will be held on Kiritimati Atoll, Kiribati. This is the 3 rd PILN meeting, bringing together invasive species management practitioners from around the Pacific. The meeting provides the forum for celebrating invasive species management successes, as well as sharing of lessons learned, resolving some of the challenges faced by teams, and to plan strategically for the future. Further details from the PILN Coordinator.
28-29 March	PIP Teleconference
16-20 April	Birdlife Pacific Partnership Meeting – Mt Ruapehu, New Zealand
24-27 April	Weeds Across Borders 2012 Conference: Meeting the challenges of the future. Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Visit: Weeds Across Borders website: http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2012/index.html

14-25 th May	Pacific Invasive Plant Management Training – Apia, Samoa
4-8 June	PIP Annual Meeting – tbc
26-28 June	Biological invasions during the first ISRivers Congress in Lyon (France)
18-20 July	NETS2012 – Pests in our Diverse Landscapes: The pressure is on! NETS2012 is calling for papers for the upcoming conference. Whether you are involved in animal pests, weeds, biocontrol, marine biosecurity, insect invaders, community outreach or other biosecurity related issues, if you have something that you think would be of interest to others attending NETS2012, please submit your abstract. Abstracts for workshops also welcome. Closing date for abstract submissions is 16 February 2012. Please send abstracts to Carolyn Lewis, NETS2012 Conference Organiser, at carolyn.lewis@xtra.co.nz
6-15 Sept.	IUCN World Conservation Congress (Jeju, Korea)
8-9 Oct.	CBD COP 11 (Hyderabad, India) – http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-124-cop-en.pdf
8-11 Oct.	8-11 October 2012. 18 th Australasian Weeds Conference 2012. The Sebel and Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria. The conference will showcase recent advances in weed science, extension and policy across Australian and international communities and landscapes. The program will provide valuable information and networking opportunities for anyone with an interest in aspects of weed legislation and development of practical solutions to evolving weed problems.

Funding opportunities:

Sound Approach Bird Fund

The Sound Approach Bird Fund offers up to £10,000 to bird conservation projects around the world. Projects must have a significant conservation benefit, making a real impact on the survival of threatened species. There is no deadline - applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. A decision will be made within two months of applying. Email birdfund@soundapproach.co.uk for further information. <http://soundapproach.co.uk/funding>

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. For more information see: <http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/animalCrisisGrants.htm>.

Rapid Response Facility

The Rapid Response Facility is an emergency small grants programme that provides emergency funding of up to USD \$30,00 to address severe and time sensitive threats to endangered biodiversity, primarily within UNESCO natural World Heritage sites. The grants are 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. 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.

JRS Biodiversity Foundation – request for pre-proposals

JRS Biodiversity Foundation is now issuing a new Request for Pre-Proposals. The Foundation is specifically seeking 1, 2, or 3 year projects to advance the field of biodiversity with a particular interest in those endeavors that systematically gather and make widely available information that is required to realize conservation outcomes. No minimum or maximum funding limit has been established for individual grants but JRS is

allocating an amount of \$1 million US dollars to fund this new call for each of the next 3 years. More costly projects will have a higher review threshold. All pre-proposals will be evaluated on their own merits and only those posted on the Foundation website www.jrsbdf.org will be considered. In order to apply, it is necessary to log on via the Foundation home page. No pre-proposals will be accepted after 15 February 2012. Remember, the Foundation will only accept pre-proposals for this call via its website. If you have a problem entering your information please contact the Foundation IT support at: nick@sitetechs.com

Invasive news and interesting links and websites

Marine pests attract to sound

A New Zealand study is set to help the shipping industry save millions of dollars. Scientists have discovered that a noisier vessel or port is more likely to attract unwanted sea pests. Biofouling is one of the most significant issues for marine invasive species in New Zealand and the study is believed to be the first of its kind. Scientists using an underwater laboratory have been taking samples of mussels, barnacles and other slippery gunk growing on the hulls of vessels. Serena Wilkens led the research team, which used an underwater microphone to record the low-frequency hum created by the generators ships use while in port. She said they replayed the noise back in the laboratory to mussel larvae and found the larvae exposed to the vessel noise were settling and attaching to surfaces about 40% faster than larvae that were not exposed to the vessel noise. When organisms attach to a hull they create significant drag on a vessel which means more fuel needs to be used, increasing the cost for boaties. But it's expensive to clean vessels. The problem is a significant biosecurity threat, with two thirds of introduced species in New Zealand having hitchhiked on vessels.

Kiwifruit disease linked to China

[Andrea Fox, Fairfax NZ News]

China is in scientists' radar as the likely origin of the virulent bacterial disease Psa-V which has caused severe economic losses to New Zealand's export kiwifruit sector. A comparison of draft genomes of Psa strains by biochemists at Otago University suggests a Chinese origin for the devastating outbreaks in New Zealand and Italy, says a preliminary research report from the university's biochemistry department. The report, commissioned by Seeka, says genomes from Chinese Psa strains and New Zealand strains are very similar and that suggests the New Zealand outbreak did not arise from Italy but directly from China or 'via an unknown intermediate'. Read more on [Fairfax NZ News](#).

Leaf blight hits taro in Ghana

Taro farms in Ghana have been hit by the destructive leaf disease – taro leaf blight, caused by *Phytophthora colocasiae* since 2009. By middle of last year – the disease had spread to other parts of Ghana. Pathological analysis by Bandyopadhyay and others confirmed the presence of TLB. This seriously threatens the taro-growing region of West and Central Africa. Taro varieties from the Pacific and Asia have been sent to Ghana to assist them with addressing the problem.

Canoe club collects invasive species

Members of the Kailua Canoe Club and volunteers took to the Ka'elepulu stream to clear out invasive mangrove trees that are threatening their practice area. Mangrove trees were introduced into Hawaii and have since spread along the coast. The club spent two weekends every month for the past 9 months, hacking, sawing and chopping away at the invasive trees. The club has filled 20 large trash containers with mangrove wastes.

Observer Ethical Award calls for citizen scientists to mark 2012 launch

To mark the launch of the 2012 Observer Ethical Awards, the Observer is calling for the UK to turn into a nation of citizen scientists, tracking and recording crucial information on non-native invasive species in their local areas. At the heart of the Observer Ethical Awards is the idea that change can only happen through people power. The Observer is asking members of the public to vote in the awards and to take part in a national experiment to record invasive species so that we can better understand their impact on native biodiversity and plan conservation strategy for the future. The awards have teamed up with scientists to devise a top ten list of species

that information is needed over the next year. All that's needed to become a citizen scientist is to send reports, sightings and pictures to the scientists via observer.co.uk/ethicalawards. The ten invasive species that people should look out for are: the grey squirrel; the muntjac (barking deer); the ring necked parakeet; Red-eared terrapin; Harlequin ladybird; Horse chestnut leaf miner; Rhododendron; the floating pennywort; the Himalayan balsam; Signal crayfish.

Green iguanas invading Sister islands

The invasion has started. Residents of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are reporting sightings of green iguanas in the Islands. The iguanas have been an increasingly common presence in Grand Cayman during the last decade, but until recent years, it appeared they had not made the crossing to the Sister Islands. Department of Environment staff have been called out to deal with a small handful of cases on both Islands, but warn that a close eye has to be kept on the number of green iguanas showing up there or the population could get out of control, like it has in Grand Cayman. Mat Cottam of the Department of Environment said it was likely some green may have "hitched rides" in shipping containers and that in the past people had brought green iguanas on the Islands as pets. Cottam said invasive species require immediate response for efficient control, because once established, eradication is usually effectively impossible.

Remote microscope opens online window on PNG plant pests

A remote diagnostic microscope installed recently in Papua New Guinea has enabled better collaboration and information sharing on emergency plant pests. The Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer, through the International Plant Health Program, installed the microscope in March in collaboration with PNG's National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA). PNG officers are now able to share real-time imagery of suspect exotic plant pests on the internet with experts in domestic and international institutions, including those within Australia. They have already used the microscope successfully on two occasions to determine the identity of suspect exotic pests. The microscope was used in collaboration with mite experts from the Australian National Insect Collection to identify the exotic honey bee mite, *Tropilaelaps mercedesae*. It was also used to identify a scolytid beetle, trapped in coffee plantations in PNG's Jiwaka province, suspected of being the exotic coffee berry borer *Hypothenemus hampei*. The CSIRO, using the digital images of important scolytid characteristics, determined that the beetles were not the damaging coffee berry borer.

Hawaii may get snake sniffing dogs

Hawaii is at-risk from the invasive brown tree snake from Guam. There are no highly trained detector dogs searching for the invasive species, which has decimated bird and animal populations in Guam. Detection dogs kept the snakes out of Hawaii, but budget cuts put the program in the doghouse back in 2009. Without the super-sniffers, snakes can sneak into the islands on a plane or a ship from Guam. Because Hawaii doesn't have any snakes in the wild, the islands also don't have any predators to keep the snakes in check.

"They could really devastate our poultry industry, egg industry and electrical supply because they get into transformers and create short-circuits," said Rep. Barbara Marumoto.

Because of the threat, Marumoto will introduce legislation this upcoming session to fund three detection dogs again. The canines could not only sniff out brown tree snakes, they can also be trained to target other invasive species or banned aquatic life. During the time without the dogs, Hawaii has seen a swarm of illegal animals arriving in the islands. It is hoped the detection dog program will start up this year because flights from Guam are expected to increase as military operations expand. The federal government has already set aside a \$300,000 grant for the brown tree snake detection dogs, but the state needs additional funding to stop other invasive species from getting in.

New Publications:

Scientific Articles

- Canning-Clode J, Fowler AE, Byers JE, Carlton JT, Ruiz GM, 2011. 'Caribbean Creep' Chills Out: Climate Change and Marine Invasive Species. *PLoS ONE* 6(12): e29657. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0029657
- Core, A., Runckel, C., Ivers, J., Quock, C., Siapno, T., DeNault, S., Brown, B., DeRisi, J., Smith, C.D., Hafernik, J. 2012. A new threat to honey bees, the parasitic phorid fly *Apocephalus borealis*. *E. PLoS ONE*.
- Foster, S., King, C., Patty, B., & Miller, S. 2011. Tree-climbing capabilities of Norway and ship rats. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 38:4 285-29
- van Driesche, R.G. 2011. The role of biological control in wildlands. *BioControl Online First*.
- Heard, T.A., Mira, A., Fichera, G., & Segura, R. 2011. *Nesaecrepida infuscata*: a biological control agent of the invasive plant *Mimosa pigra*. *BioControl Online First*.
- Brodier, S., Pisanu, B., Villers, A., Pettex, E., Lioret, M., Chapuis, J.-L. and Bretagnolle, V. 2011. Responses of seabirds to the rabbit eradication on Ile Verte, sub-Antarctic Kerguelen Archipelago. *Animal Conservation*, 14: 459–465. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-1795.2011.00455.x
- Towns, D. R. 2011. Invasive mammal eradications: the value of an ecosystem view. *Animal Conservation*. 14: 466–467. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-1795.2011.00497.x
- Chapuis, J.-L., Pisanu, B., Brodier, S., Villers, A., Pettex, E., Lioret, M. and Bretagnolle, V. 2011. Eradication of invasive herbivores: usefulness and limits for biological conservation in a changing world. *Animal Conservation*. 14: 471–473. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-1795.2011.00499.x
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- Haynes, G. D., Gongora, J., Gilligan, D. M., Grewe, P., Moran, C., Nicholas, F. W. 2011. Cryptic hybridization and introgression between invasive Cyprinid species *Cyprinus carpio* and *Carassius auratus* in Australia: implications for invasive species management. *Animal Conservation*. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-1795.2011.00490.x
- Hughes, R.F., Uowolo, A.L. & Togia, T.P. 2011. Recovery of native forest after removal of an invasive tree, *Falcataria moluccana*, in American Samoa. *Biological Invasion*. DOI 10.1007/s10530-011-0164-y

Books & Newsletters

- International Newsletter of Plant Pathology – ISSP Newsletter 41(1) January 2012. For more information see website: <http://www.isppweb.org/nljan12.asp#14>
- Kararehe Kion – Vertebrate Pest Research Newsletter – A newsletter by Landcare Research, NZ. Newsletter is available online – <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/newsletters/possnews/>
- Te Ipukarea Society Newsletter – December 2011. Topics in this months newsletter include: 1. New Climate Change Appointment; 2. TIS Strategic Plan; 3. Deep Seabed Mining; 4. Big Oceans Conference; 5. Marine Campaign: Te Ki O To Tatou Moana ei Angai Rai ia Tatou; 6. TIS Funding Strategy; 7. Waste Management Using Economics (Container Deposits and the like); 8. Water and Sanitation Update. Also, check out our blog site for older stories <http://ipukarea.blogspot.com>.
- Southern African Plant Invaders Atlas – January edition is now out.

Contact for PILN SOUNDBITES:

Dr. Posa A. Skelton, PILN Coordinator, SPREP, PO Box 240, Apia, SAMOA. Tel. +685 21929 ext. 276, Direct line: +685 66276, Fax. +685 20231, posas@sprep.org; www.sprep.org/piln

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