



# PACIFIC INVASIVES LEARNING NETWORK

## SOUNDBITES – APRIL 2013

Pacific Invasives Learning Network  
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The monthly electronic newsletter of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)  
– reporting on invasive news from PILN teams and the Pacific Invasives Partnership.  
Past issues are available online: <http://www.sprep.org/piln>

### ***Bula vinaka Invasive Battlers***

Our Soundbites for April is compiled in the Happy Isles of Fiji. Fiji hosted two invasive species related meetings: i) the Pacific Invasives Partnership meeting – a meeting of key agencies and organisations with a focus on better coordination and collaboration on invasive species management; and ii) Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Final Meeting to celebrate the successes and achievements of the CEPF investment. Please don't forget to register for the 9<sup>th</sup> Nature Conservation Conference – at [www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference](http://www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference)



2-6 December 2013

**Register now!**

## PILN TEAMS AND COUNTRY UPDATES

### **American Samoa – National Parks Service continues to battle invasives**



Staff at the National Park of American Samoa continue to make progress in their activities against invasive species. The focus on *Falcataria moluccana* (tamaligi) is being monitored through a regularly updated database. Activities have been based on Lauli'i village, east side of Tutuila Islands. The number of mature tamaligi trees removed is recorded in phases – with 194 in the first phase, 1442 in phase 2. Below is the update from Tavita Togia:

*Weekly Update: April 8 - 12, 2013*

Area of Operation: Lauli'i village, east side, Tutuila Island;  
Field Team: Josh Puni (Field commander)

Crew leaders: Tama, Ben, Ike, Kilion, Bencasey, Feleti;  
Crew members: Marston, Tutuila, Senetenari, Kananafou,

Loia, Bryson, Roman, Tualagi, Elama, Kona, Teddy, Abel, June;

- Part one: Total number of mature tamaligi removed (Mon - Fri) = 194; Total DBH = 6,750; Average DBH/week = 35cm
- Part two: Total number of tamaligi removed in second quarter = 1,442; Overall Average DBH = 42cm;
- Part three: 59% of tamaligi removed are 10 to 40cm, DBH while 41% of trees removed ranges between 40 to 120cm DBH.
- Part Four: Tamaligi removed for the following months:
  - February = 410 trees removed, total DBH = 23,258cm, Avg DBH = 57cm
  - March = 558 trees removed, total DBH = 21,503, Avg DBH = 39cm
  - April = 474 trees removed, total DBH = 15,125cm, Avg DBH = 32cm
- Part Five: Tamaligi removed by villagers. More than 50% of the trees removed were from the villages of Lauli'i and Leloalua. Lauli'i = 539 trees, 37.4%; Leloalua = 252 trees, 17.5% ; Pago Pago = 241 trees, 16.7%; Utulei = 234 trees, 16.2%; Atule'u = 19 trees, 1.3%; Aua = 83 trees, 5.8%; Faga'alu = 63 trees, 4.4%; Gataivai = 10 trees, .7%; Satala - 1 tree, .1%

### **Fiji – FIST member attends PIP meeting**

Salaseini Bureni from the Fiji Forestry Division braved the traffic of Suva to attend the Pacific Invasives Partnership annual meeting held at the Land and Resources Division of SPC in Nabua. For Salaseini this was her first PIP meeting and one that she was looking forward to. After two-days of the meeting she caught up with the PILN Coordinator to reflect on aspects of the meeting. Overall she found the experience very rewarding, especially learning of the work agencies are doing to assist Pacific countries to address invasive species. Prior to attending the meeting, she was engaged as part of a biodiversity team to survey the Emalu Forest in Navosa (Vanua Levu) in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific under a GTZ/GIZ funded project. She mentioned that being in the field – you get one perspective, and by attending this meeting, one can clearly see how the field-work fits in with the meeting and office discussions. This holistic approach will only enhance her capacity to invasive species management.

### **Palau – seeks help with plant identification**



Joel Miles (Palau Invasive Species Coordinator) reported a new plant from Koror State Capital. The plant was planted as an ornamental. The size of the biggest plant is about 30 cm tall. The fully expanded leaves are 5-7 cm long. The inflorescence clusters are less than 1 cm in diameter. Joel reported slight itchiness from touching the plant – a sensation similar to that caused by stinging nettle. Discussion on the identification of this plant with worldwide experts on Pestnet concludes that this may belong to a *Laportea* species which is likely to be native to northern-Pacific region, including Palau and other Micronesian countries.

### **Pohnpei - i-STOP celebrates World Earth Day**



As the World celebrates Earth Day (April 22) – i-STOP celebrated it with over 600 students from around Pohnpei. The theme of the Earth Day was ‘The Face of Climate Change’. The work of i-STOP was show-cased through posters and other informative publications. Congratulations to the i-STOP team for this excellent public outreach effort. Images from this event are provided courtesy of Konrad Englberger.



### **i-STOP calls to meet**



The i-STOP committee has set a date for their next meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at the NRCS. The meeting will discuss some of the activities that took place in April, including the Nanmadap Youth engagement, Liability Agreement Form, Earth Day and the recent outcomes of the CEPF Final Meeting in Suva, Fiji, which was attended by i-STOP member Francisca Obispo.

### **Hawaii – calls for proposals**

Aloha and happy Earth Day. Below please find links to the FY2014 Project Proposal Guidelines for awards from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, as well as a template for submission. This year, proposals will be due by close of business on Wednesday, June 5, to be sent via email to [Joshua.P.Atwood@hawaii.gov](mailto:Joshua.P.Atwood@hawaii.gov). Please note that, as in previous years, the amount of funding that will be available to projects will not be known until later in June.

Aloha, Josh

[www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/hisc/pdfs/FY2014HISCProjectProposalGuidelines.pdf](http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/hisc/pdfs/FY2014HISCProjectProposalGuidelines.pdf)  
[www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/hisc/docs/hiscfy14proptemp.doc](http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/hisc/docs/hiscfy14proptemp.doc)

### C-GAPS plans meeting

Just a reminder that the next CGAPS meeting is scheduled for 9-noon on Wednesday, May 8 at the HDOA Plant Quarantine Conference Room, 1849 Auiki St. An agenda will be posted to these lists a week prior. A CGAPS Steering Committee meeting will be held from 12:15-3 p.m. directly following (we will be discussing HMLF-funded projects).

Note: With the loss of funding for HEAR staff (who maintained our CGAPS site along with hear.org), we are unable to post items to our website as quickly as we used to. We will be migrating our website to a user content management system in the coming months. Thanks for your patience.

Aloha, Christy Martin, Public Information Officer

### Crazy over ants



Many of our islands are infested with the Yellow Crazy Ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*). This ant is declared an environmental pest in many countries and is included as one of the world's worst 100 invasive species. The name 'crazy ant' is derived from their erratic walking style and frantic movements, especially when disturbed. Yellow crazy ants cause disruption to natural environments through offering protection to other pest species (e.g. sap-sucking scales and mealy bugs). They spray formic acid which may cause burning of the skin. Islands where this ant is reported as a problem include Tuvalu, Kiritimati Island, Tahiti, Samoa and Palau. Share your experience and story with us and let's plan to address this through a regional forum. Contact PILN Coordinator or Lesio Saurara at SPC – [LesioS@spc.int](mailto:LesioS@spc.int) for further information.

## PACIFIC INVASIVES PARTNERSHIP (PIP) – NEWS

**FIJI – Photo Log** – a selection of images taken at the Pacific Invasives Partnership meeting and the CEPF Final Meeting in Suva, Fiji.



CEPF Technical Advisory Group celebrating Greg Sherley's birthday



John Watkin (CEPF) reacting to the successful projects in the Pacific.



Ray Nias (Island Conservation) keeps notes of PIP discussions



Marika Tuiwawa (South Pacific Regional Herbarium) takes some of the CEPF participants to Colo-i-Suva rainforest. Photo by Jean-Yves Meyer



Souad (PII) in group discussions with CEPF Final Meeting Participants



Papiloa Foliaki (Tonga) promotes civil society activities



Francisca Obispo (i-STOP) presents to the participants following group work



## Pacific Invasives Partnership welcomes new Chairman



The Pacific Invasives Partnership welcomes its new chair for 2013 – Mr Josua Wainiqolo from SPC. Josh is the team leader for the Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation unit of the LRD, SPC. Mr Wainiqolo takes over from Dr Souad Boudjelas (of the Pacific Invasives Initiative) who guided the partnership over the last three years. Dr Boudjelas has been a strong leader in progressing many of the invasive species issues in the Pacific and she left behind many achievements including the inclusion of invasive species in the Pacific Forum Leaders communiqué in 2012. On behalf of the PILN teams I thank Souad for her hard work. We welcome Mr Wainiqolo in his new role and we look forward to working with him and SPC.

## Invasives and protected areas

Joel Miles from Palau and representing the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council to the Pacific Invasives Partnership meeting called for better integration and guidance for invasive species management in protected areas. While it is recognised that managing invasive species in protected areas contributes to the overall health of species biodiversity, most management plans do not specify invasive species management as part of the plan. If you wish to be part of this group – please contact Joel Miles ([joelmiles52@gmail.com](mailto:joelmiles52@gmail.com)).

## Pacific Invasives Partnership to attend the Nature Conservation Conference



The Pacific Invasives Partnership agrees to have a strong presence at the 9<sup>th</sup> Nature Conservation Conference scheduled for the first week of December in Suva, Fiji. The Partnership sees the conference as the premier forum to discuss key conservation challenges and to come up with priority actions for the next five years. Invasive species remain a persistent threat to islands and communities and with increase in movement of people, goods and cargoes – the threat will increase and the challenges for biodiversity and environment will exacerbate. One of the aims of the Partnership is to include invasive species in the major themes of the Conference – especially building resilience for islands in the face of a changing Pacific. If you wish to participate in the Invasive Species component of the Conference please contact David Moverley ([davidm@sprep.org](mailto:davidm@sprep.org)) or Neil Walkinshaw ([neilw@sprep.org](mailto:neilw@sprep.org)) for information.

## CEPF – Final Meeting: Civil Society speaks out



As the 58 representatives of 35 civil society organizations from 13 Pacific Island Countries and Territories throughout the Polynesia Micronesia Hotspot engaged in biodiversity conservation we contend that our natural resources are our greatest wealth, providing the people of the Pacific with an abundance of ecological services and provisions. In order for us to secure these vital services, habitats and species for our long-term future we call on all governments, international and local organizations and donor agencies to heed the following statement.

In the last decade there has been a modest expansion of local nongovernmental organizations resulting in some significant conservation achievements. However, this workshop highlighted the fact that there is still considerable pressure on the environmental sector in the face of both existing and emerging issues such as invasive species and climate change that need to be addressed. These threats are compounded in this region by the reality of these being small island nations that are home to critically endangered species and habitats...

*Contact the PILN Coordinator for the Full Statement!*

## 9<sup>th</sup> Nature Conservation Conference Update



Development of this regionally significant conference to be held in December this year is well underway. SPREP is working in partnership with the Government of Fiji and Pacific based NGOs to drive this process. Registration is now open and is only available from the conference website; register early as space is limited ([www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference](http://www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference)). Registration costs and details are all available from the conference website. Please take the opportunity to browse through the other sections of the website which include background information on the conference, a draft agenda and supporting notes. Bookmark this webpage as more conference details are being updated regularly, including a call for proposals for parallel sessions and sponsorship opportunities in early May. For further information or if you would like to receive conference email updates, please contact the conference organisers via [pacificconference2013@sprep.org](mailto:pacificconference2013@sprep.org).

## Pacific Invasives Capacity Development Strategy

A joint project initiative between PILN and PII saw the development of the Invasive Species Capacity Development Strategy for the Pacific Islands. The Strategy aims to assist guiding investment by agencies to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories manage invasive species. Some of the issues that are worthy of noting include:

- Countries to take greater ownership of the capacity development process to ensure better alignment between training and national priorities
- Dialogue between capacity development providers and recipients to ensure the appropriateness of the training
- Sustainability of training through long-term mentoring and technical advice
- Capacity development providers are trained to teach
- Encourage the use of resource kits
- Ensure people selected for capacity development are selected on merit
- Have clear commitments for both the capacity development provider and recipient

We welcome any feedback on the Capacity Development Strategy – *please contact the PILN Coordinator for a copy.*

## VACANCY AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

### Pesticide training course on Maui

Charles Nagamine will be running his Pesticide Risk Reduction Education course in Maui from April 15-16, 2013 and May 15-16, 2013. Please contact Charles for further information – check :

<http://pestworld.stjohn.hawaii.edu/pat/schedule.html>

Further training is also being organised for:

OAHU – Pesticide Risk Reduction Education

Date: July 16-17, 2013 (2 days). Location: Pearl City. Registration deadline: June 18. Registration fee: \$100/person. Study packet fee: \$35 (if you need one). Please refer inquiries to me or our website:

<http://pestworld.stjohn.hawaii.edu/pat/schedule.html>

### SPREP

SPREP has a number of vacancies and tender opportunities available. Please check out the SPREP's Job Vacancies page for further information. <http://www.sprep.org/Human-Resources/Job-Vacancy/>

Some of the vacancies include: SPREP-Finland Project, Project Manager and Environmental Planning Officer.

**The Rapid Response Facility (RRF)** invites small grant applications for UNESCO inscribed natural World Heritage sites, and tentative sites facing emergency threats to their biodiversity. The RRF is a unique small grant programme jointly operated by Fauna & Flora International and UNESCO World Heritage Centre. With a target processing





time for grant applications of just 8 working days, the RRF provides rapid support to enable conservation practitioners to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies in some of the world's most important sites for biodiversity. For more information from – [www.rapid-response.org](http://www.rapid-response.org)



**Project Co-ordinator Caribbean Invasive Species.** Reference number: 660413

Location: Caribbean Overseas Territories

The RSPB is developing a programme of invasive species management and island restoration in the Caribbean Overseas Territories, which includes working with and supporting partners Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and the Cayman Islands. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating implementation of an EU-funded project 'Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories'. The successful applicant will have skills and experience in the management of invasive species and island restoration and a strong back ground in project management and will be based with a partner in one of the Caribbean Overseas Territories. Contract: 1 year contract. Closing date: 17 May 2013. Interview date: 29 May 2013

**INVASIVE NEWS GLOBAL**

	<p><b>Like an oil spill that never goes away!</b></p> <p>A gluttonous predator – the lionfish is power-eating its way through reefs from New York to Venezuela. And although researchers are coming up with new ways to protect some reefs from the flamboyant maroon striped fish, they have no hope of stopping its unparalleled invasion. A recent study found that in just two years, reefs in the Bahamas lost on average 65 percent of their small prey fish. Larger fish, like red snapper and grouper, decreased by more than 40 percent. Researchers warn that similar devastation could be expected throughout the region. [source: Elizabeth Shogren – NPR]</p>
	<p><b>Frog terror attack</b></p> <p>Working on a tip, customs inspectors at Ben Gurion Airport nabbed a smuggler who had attempted to bring some 30 poison dart frogs, the release of which into Israel's environment could be catastrophic. The smuggler along with an accomplice, attempted to bring the frogs into Ben Gurion Airport earlier this week but they were halted before they could leave the customs inspection area. [source: David Lev – Arutz Sheva 7 – <a href="http://www.israelnationalnews.com">www.israelnationalnews.com</a>; image from Wikipedia]</p>
	<p><b>Spain's government relaxes the rule on invasives</b></p> <p>New relaxed regulations against invasive alien species would cause irreparable harm to biodiversity and economic losses. Spain will amend the current legislation on invasive alien species, reducing environmental protection and putting at risk millions of Euros. The new legislation will see the removal of hundreds of potential invasive species from the list of vetted species – meaning that they could be introduced without undergoing a vigorous risk assessment.</p>
	<p><b>Western Australia buzz by a bumble-bee</b></p> <p>The Department of Agriculture and Food are adamant that the cute yellow banded bumble bees are not wanted in Western Australia. This comes after a member of the community handed them a bumble-bee found buzzing around a punnet of Tasmanian raspberries.</p>

	<p><b>Invasive marine tunicates affect aquaculture facilities</b></p> <p>A cocktail of invasive tunicates is causing negative impacts to mussel farms in Puget Sound, Washington, USA. Three species – <i>Didemnum vexillum</i>, <i>Ciona savignyi</i> and <i>Styela clava</i> are causing concerns for resource managers.</p>
	<p><b>There's a new seaweed in town</b></p> <p>There's a new seaweed in town, a brown, bulbous balloon befitting the nickname 'sea potato'. Its New England debut was spotted by two plant biology graduate students; now researchers are keeping a close eye on <i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>'s progress to determine whether there is cause for alarm. A similar species is found in the Pacific – <i>Colpomenia sinuosa</i> and this is not invasive.</p>

## INVASIVE SPECIES PUBLICATIONS

E.G. LeBrun, J. Abbott & L.E. Gilbert. 2013. Imported crazy ant displaces imported fire ant, reduces and homogenizes grassland ant and arthropod assemblages. *Biol Invasions* DOI 10.1007/s10530-013-0463-6 April 2013

SAPIA (Southern African Plant Invaders Atlas) April. 2013. ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute No. 28. Newsletter is now out. Items covered in this edition includes: Bush encroachers and invaders | Emerging invasive species which should be eradicated | special warnings. This latest edition showcase images of invasive plants declared under the National Environmental Biodiversity Act. *Contact PILN Coordinator for a copy.*

The Micronesia Challenge Newsletter No. 18. May 2013 is out. Articles include MC Steering Committee meeting in Palau, PICRC publishes paper on collaborative research with Bureau of Arts & Culture, and more.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2013	Event	Participating Partner
<b>May</b>		
5-9 May 11-12 May 12-17 May	ANZPAC Workshop on Biofouling Management for Sustainable Shipping World Migratory Bird Day (UNEP/CMS) Impact of climate change on biological invasions and population distributions. Banff International Research Station, Banff, Alberta, Canada.	SPREP (Tony Talouli)
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity 2013: Water and Biodiversity (CBD)	
22 May – 19 Jul.	International Ocean Institute – Training Programme: Ocean Governance, Policy Law, Management. Dalhousie University, Halifax. Nova Scotia.	<a href="http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/">http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/</a>
<b>June</b>		
5 June 8 June 16-18 June	World Environment Day (UNEP) World Oceans Day (United Nations) Invasive Alien Predators – Policy, Research and Management in Europe	<a href="http://www.jagareforbundet.se/mardhund-conference">http://www.jagareforbundet.se/mardhund-conference</a> BirdLife International
16-22 June 17 June 18-20 June	BirdLife Congress (Ottawa, Canada) SPREP Day (Public Holiday) Global Environment Facility – 44 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Washington DC, USA.	
25 June	Day of the Seafarer (IMO)	
27 Jun	Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce Meet	FIST

*Disclaimer: Articles contained within this or other PILN Soundbites do not necessarily reflect the views of PILN teams, SPREP or the Pacific Invasives Partnership. Contact the PILN Coordinator for further information ([posas@sprep.org](mailto:posas@sprep.org)).*