



PRISMSS

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)

Invasive species are the leading driver of biodiversity loss in the Pacific. They have a significant impact on ecosystem resilience leading to a loss of ecosystem services and a reduced ability to adapt to climate change.

PRISMSS aims to assist the Pacific in stepping up on-the-ground management of invasive species.

[Visit PRISMSS](#)



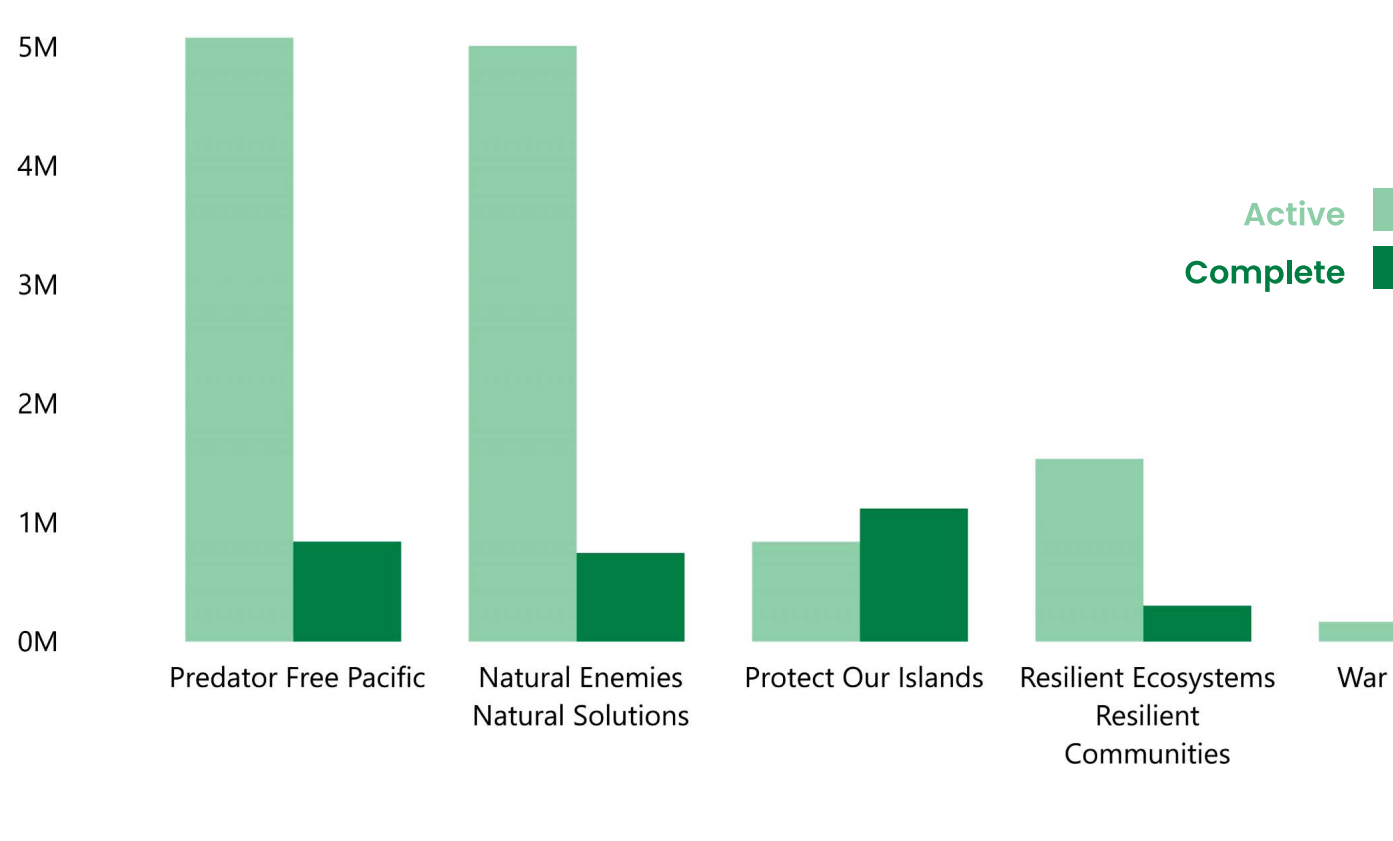
The PRISMSS team Jordan Schuster (Communication Officer), David Moverley (Invasive Species Adviser), Josef Pisi (Associate), Wayne Asera (IT and Administration Officer)

PRISMSS Update

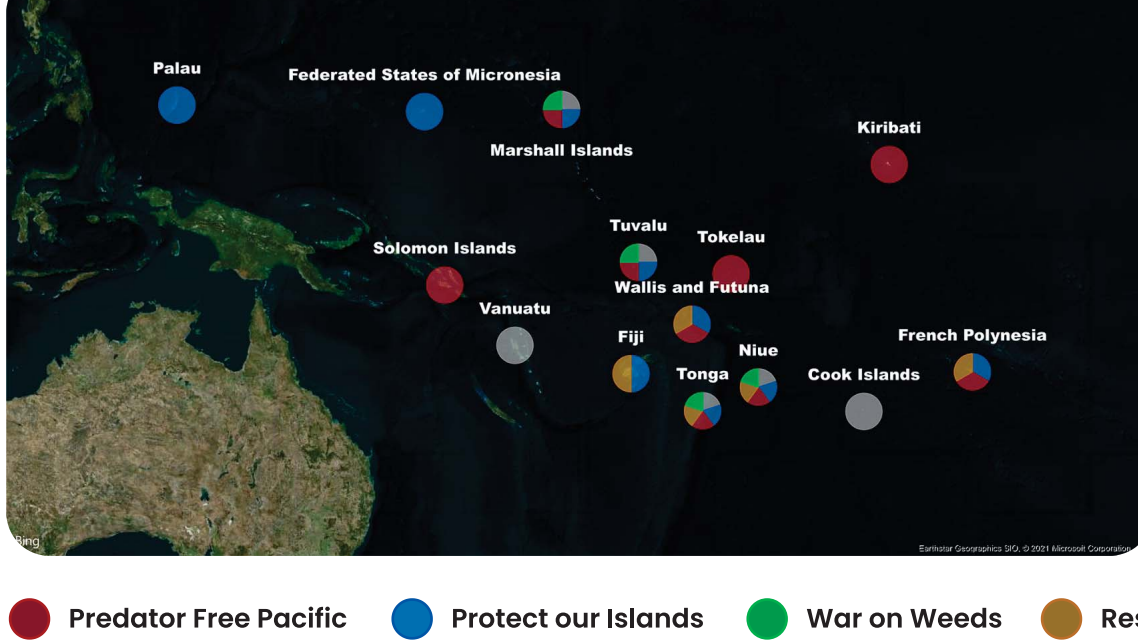
PRISMSS has had a significant boost since being formed in 2019. To complement the funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which initiated the PRISMSS and provided a PRISMSS Associate staff member, the Government of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT) funded "Managing Invasive Species for Climate Adaptation in the Pacific" (MISCCAP) project is increasing the functionality of the PRISMSS through the funding of a PRISMSS office at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to house the PRISMSS team, partners and other associated project staff, PhD students and consultants all working on PRISMSS activities.

PRISMSS core staff has increased with the addition of an IT and Admin Officer and a Communications Officer, and a Capability Development Adviser has been seconded from the NZ Department of Conservation under the project. PRISMSS systems are being built to manage requests, track progress, and provide information to enhance the capability to secure additional funding.

Active and Completed PRISMSS Actions (US\$)



Active and Completed Management Actions



Proposed Management Actions



● Predator Free Pacific ● Protect our Islands ● War on Weeds ● Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities ● Natural Enemies – Natural Solutions



Protect our Islands

"National and Inter-Island Biosecurity and Early Detection/Rapid Response"

The Protect our Islands (POI) team have been busy supporting Niue, Marshall Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu with reviewing their national biosecurity legislation. A standardised review template has been designed to facilitate this process. A standard process and template have also been designed and used to prioritise invasive species and create Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) Plans for these countries, which are now progressing through the national endorsement process. PRISMSS partners have been collating information on Standard Operating Procedures responding to incursions of weeds, birds, and cats for this work. These protocols will fit within the relevant EDRR plans and be useful throughout the Pacific.

Contributions have been made towards developing a biosecurity course for the Pacific and instructional videos on biosecurity which will be delivered by the Pacific Community (SPC) Learning Management System due to be launched in September. Pest Risk Assessments are being conducted with Samoa and Vanuatu.



Biosecurity in the Pacific



Kennedy Kaneko setting rat traps



Predator Free Pacific

"Removing Introduced Mammalian Predators from Islands"

Despite headwinds, the Predator Free Pacific programme has made some good progress over the last year. Critical surveys and consultation have been undertaken in French Polynesia, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna. This will allow operations to proceed in 2021 for Wallis and Futuna and in the remaining countries and territories in 2022.

Over the next 12-18 months rats and other invasives will be removed from several small islands building local capacity and illustrating the benefits to community livelihoods and biodiversity. Work to assess the feasibility of removing invasive species from Niue will also be completed.



War on Weeds

"Management of high priority weeds"

Following the successful PRISMSS Programme Management Training in 2019, the War on Weeds team has been focused on working with countries that had operational programmes in existence prior to the pandemic. This includes working with partners in Niue and Tokelau to develop their plans and provide resources.

A recent Battler Series Publication Manage low-incidence priority weeds to conserve Pacific biodiversity is currently available on the Battler Resource Base. A new publication is currently being developed to support in-country training when travel becomes possible again. Look out for The Safe Use of Agrichemicals for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific which will be available in 2022.



Weed management training in Tokelau



The African tulip tree beetle feeding on african tulip



Natural Enemies – Natural Solutions

"Biological control of widespread weeds"

The Natural Enemies - Natural Solutions (NENS) programme aims to develop enduring capability and capacity to develop biocontrol for serious invasive weeds in the Pacific, to make better use of safe and effective natural natural enemies, and to develop much needed new ones. The NENS team now has a dedicated Programme Coordinator, Mr Temo Talie, to assist the team. One of his first tasks was to organise the NENS virtual training via zoom in March 2021 which is available for viewing on the NENS webpage.

The feasibility of targeting Singapore daisy (*Sphagnetocola trilobata*) has been explored, and plans have been made to enact the project. Singapore daisy is a problem throughout the Pacific particularly on atolls. In addition, a beetle (*Leptinotarsa undecimlineata*) has been studied as a natural enemy for *Solanum torvum* which looks promising. This weed is a widespread problem for farmers in many Pacific countries. The African tulip tree beetle (*Paradibolia coerulea*) was also released in the Cook Islands in June 2021, which was a world first. This is the second agent for African tulip to be released in a Pacific country. African tulip is a huge problem in the Pacific where it dominates landscapes and reduces the resilience of native ecosystems.

Resilient Ecosystems – Resilient Communities

"Priority area ecological restoration"

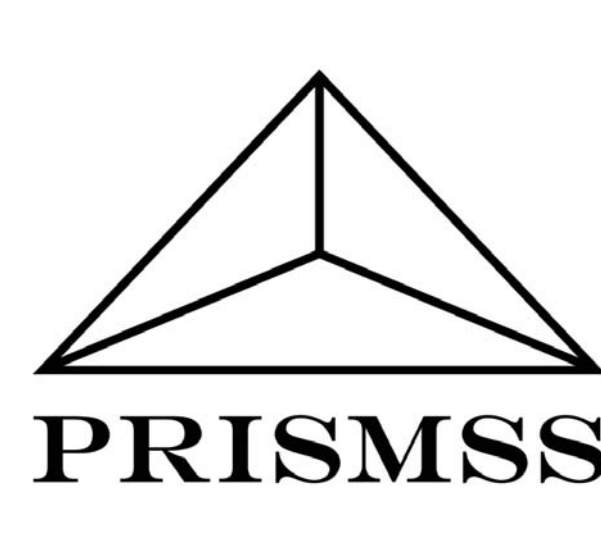
High priority area ecological restoration sites are continuing to be supported by PRISMSS in French Polynesia, Tonga and Wallis and Futuna through managing the impacts of multiple invasive species. A key aspect of this is engaging with the local community to ensure the sharing of knowledge, participation, and sustainability of the projects.

With international travel virtually impossible at present, methods are restricted to what can be delivered safely with low risk. Planning is underway with Marshall Islands, Niue, Pitcairn Island, Samoa and Tuvalu to establish programmes. You can get a good feel for what is involved in restoring an ecological area by accessing the Battler Series on this programme.



Mr Sosefo Malau tackles taro vine on Nukufotu island in Wallis and Futuna

PRISMSS Partners



PRISMSS Powered by



Visit PRISMSS

SPREP.ORG/PRISMSS

Contact us:
prismss@sprep.org

© 2021 PRISMSS. All Rights Reserved.