



This summary of recent activities by people and agencies involved in the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) is collated and circulated by the PII Coordinating Team (PII CT). Feedback is welcomed – contact either the people directly involved in projects, or the PII Team [PII@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:PII@auckland.ac.nz). For further information visit our website <http://www.issg.org/cii/PII>.

### Satisfaction with PII

A survey to assess the level of satisfaction with services provided by PII and to identify areas for improvement was done early this year. The questionnaire was sent to 78 staff of Pacific organisations that PII works (or worked) with on invasive species management projects/activities. Although response was poor (18), the majority of respondents were either *very highly* or *highly satisfied* with their involvement with PII.

The majority of respondents -

- indicated that the quality of technical support (information, advice, access to experts) provided by PII was *excellent* or *good* and that the information and advice was *easy to understand*. With regards to peer review and training, most said the quality was *good* although a few indicated it was *fair*.
- reported that their *awareness* of the impacts of invasive species on biodiversity and livelihoods had *increased* and that their knowledge of and *capacity* to manage invasive species had *increased* as a result of their involvement with PII. Half the agencies had also received *financial support* as a result of being involved with PII.
- indicated that they would *again ask PII for support* with; building capacity, training, peer review, and provision of information on funding opportunities. They would also *recommend PII* to other agencies.

Comments provided by respondents on *how to improve PII services* have been taken into consideration in our work planning.

### Invasive species management funding on the increase

From a total funding envelope of 6 million USD for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot (during the 2008-2013 investment period), the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has earmarked 3 million USD for invasive species management projects.

Conservation International Pacific is providing grant management for CEPF. Many of the proposals received in the 2008-09 CEPF funding round were made under Strategic Direction 1 (Prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas). 34 proposals, 20 large grant and 14 small grant, were submitted under

SD1, which in both cases is 30% of all proposals received.

60% of large grant and 71% of small grant proposals from the September 2008 round have been funded and decisions are pending on the March 2009 proposals.

In the 2005-06 CEPF round (1 million USD and SD1 only), 32 applications were received and 56% were funded.

Reports from 2005-06 CEPF projects are at:

<[http://www.cepf.net/grants/project\\_database/polynesia-micronesia/Pages/invasive\\_species\\_grants.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/polynesia-micronesia/Pages/invasive_species_grants.aspx)>

### Another successful training workshop for weed management project design and implementation

The design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of priority invasive plant management projects in some Micronesian jurisdictions (The Republic of the Marshall Islands, the States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap of the Federated States of Micronesia, The Republic of Palau) were covered in a training workshop held in Pohnpei (FSM) in February-March, 2009.

The workshop was facilitated by PII and instructed by David Moverley. It was sponsored by the Regional Invasive Species Council of Micronesia, hosted by the Pohnpei Invasive Species Taskforce and funded by the German Government's Life Web Initiative. Invasive Species Taskforces in each jurisdiction helped select participants. Many Micronesian agencies (especially TNC) helped with organisation and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei provided logistical support.

This was the first weed workshop after the pilot in Palau in April, 2008. Attendees worked in teams to plan the success of their own projects. The workshop provided training in the use of data as part of successful project management and gave attendees the tools necessary to collect and manage data for project planning, implementation and accountability. Participant evaluation of the workshop gave a score of 94% for meeting expectations and for the usefulness of the workshop in improving participants' knowledge. The highest score (98%), was given to a question about whether the methods used in the workshop would help participants in their work.

Further information can be found at <http://www.issg.org/cii/PII>.

## Marine invasives

A new publication "Marine menace; an overview of the marine invasive species issue" is available from the Global Marine Programme of IUCN. The publication has sections on: Invasive impacts; Examples of damage caused by marine invaders; Fighting back - what can be done?; Preventing unintentional introductions; and much other information. It can be found at –  
<[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/marine\\_menace\\_en.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/marine_menace_en.pdf)>

## Resource Kit under construction

PII convened a meeting in April to design a practical guide which will assist agencies and practitioners to assess, plan and implement rodent and cat eradication projects. Practitioners from the Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, New Caledonia), the PILN Coordinator and experts from NZ Department of Conservation, Island Conservation and the private sector participated. The Resource Kit will follow the PII Project Development and Implementation Process (selection/prioritisation, feasibility study, project design, operational planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting). The meeting successfully built a profile of potential users, discussed the content, clarified roles and agreed on the format of the Kit. Participants also provided an opportunity for learning and sharing the experiences and challenges of eradication projects. Development of the Resource Kit will be coordinated by Jo Ritchie with input from specialists from NZ and around the world. A Reference Group of practitioners from the Pacific, including those that attended the meeting, has been established to get feedback on suitability of the material as the Kit progresses. Funding for the development of the Resource Kit has been kindly provided by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. For more information see PII News February, 2009 or visit <<http://www.issg.org/cii/PII>>.

## Projects in the French Territories

### New Caledonia:

PII organised and jointly hosted an April visit to New Zealand by the new Conservation International (CI) manager for activities in Province Nord, New Caledonia - including the multi-species invasive mammal control project in Mont Panie Reserve. Francois Tron discussed CI's plans for the control project on Mont Panie; a project on which PII, Association Dayu Biik, Government of Province Nord, New Zealand

Department of Conservation (DOC) and Landcare Research (LR) have worked with CI.

The visit was an opportunity for Francois to see at firsthand various pest control projects in New Zealand. After his return to New Caledonia, he was able to get support from the Province Nord Government to work on controlling feral pigs in village gardens as well as in Mt Panie Reserve.

### Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie:

Lucie Faulquier of SOPManu reports that everything went well for the rat baiting on Teuaua in February. Two applications of 15kg of Pestoff 20R were hand-broadcast on the islet seven days apart and many locals volunteered to help in the field. Information and recommendations were passed on to the community of Ua Huka through several meetings. The first monitoring and surveillance trip will be in July or August.

For these projects, SOPManu partnered with BirdLife as part of a two year regional seabird restoration programme supported by the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.

## Palau seabird project

Lukes Isechal (Palau Conservation Society) and Steve Cranwell (Birdlife Pacific) report that, despite major logistical difficulties, the Fanna Island rat baiting (supported by the David & Lucile Packard Foundation) went well. A 5-member PCS team with 12 community members completed the work. A 10x10 m baiting grid was set up on the island and two applications of 25kg of Pestoff 20R baits were broadcast 6 days apart in fine weather. Each application took two full days.

Some problematic areas included a swampy section of the interior coconut plantation, the thick coastal pandanus strands, and the rocky southern portion of the island.

Crabs were present but, although final data analysis is still to be done, bait was still available to rats after three nights in some plots. A monitoring and surveillance trip will be made in March 2010 and the chiefs and community of Fanna have begun management planning for this unique seabird colony.

## PII website upgrade - going live on June 5

PII's new-look website, which we hope will be more user-friendly and clearly communicate the type of support PII provides to Pacific agencies, will be launched on June 5! It will have information related to invasive species management, the latest news on invasives in the Pacific and information about the various projects that PII supports. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the new website once it is up and running. The PII website address remains the same – <http://www.issg.org/cii/PII>.