



## SOUNDBITES – JUNE 2012

Pacific Invasives Learning Network

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. PO Box 240, Apia Samoa. Tel. +685 21929. Fax. +685 20231.

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>



A cane toad eating a snake

Image: Crystal Kelehear – 3rd Prize at the recent Invasive Animals CRC Photography Competition 2011. See website:

<http://www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos/2011-winners/>



Every Action Counts  
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

### PILN teams and country updates

#### Cook Islands

##### *Rarotonga Monarch conservation effort*

The population of the Rarotonga Monarch (*Pomarea dimidiata*) once one of the world's rarest birds, is on the rebound thanks to intensive conservation action, particularly through the control of invasive alien predators like black rats. An estimated 380 individuals is recorded, which is over ten times larger than at its low point. Conservation efforts are still needed to keep the population healthy. Further information on <http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/threat-to-amazon-birds-greater-than-ever>

#### Hawaii

##### *Funds to fight coffee berry borer*

More than \$500,000 has been targeted for efforts to fight the coffee berry borer on the Big Island. The pest, which was discovered on the island in 2010, is now responsible for the damage or destruction of up to 50 percent of some farmers' coffee yields in the Kona and Ka'u regions. The money will partly be used to treat farms with a fungus that has been shown to be effective in controlling the berry borers. Read more about [coffee berry borer](#)...

#### Samoa

##### *2<sup>nd</sup> Mongoose sighting*

Staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment quickly deployed traps in the Aleipata district after a sighting of a mongoose was reported by a villager. Fear that another mongoose may be on the loose comes not long after a mongoose was removed from the same area in 2009. Despite weeks of trapping and survey there is no sign of the mongoose and no more reporting from the public. For further information please contact Assistant Chief Executive Officer – Faleafaga Toni Tipamaa ([toni.tipamaa@mnre.gov.ws](mailto:toni.tipamaa@mnre.gov.ws))

## Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) – news

### The Pacific Invasives Partnership annual planning meeting

The Pacific Invasives Partnership held its annual planning meeting from 18-20<sup>th</sup> June at the IUCN-Oceania office in Suva, Fiji. The meeting was chaired by Dr Souad Boudjelas who was elected for another term as the PIP chair. The meeting allowed the partners to review the 2011-2012 work-plan and to develop its 2012-2013 plan. Thirteen participants attended the meeting with additional members joining via skype. Some of the key outcomes from the meeting include:

- Draft 2012-2013 Workplan – to be finalized electronic and circulated to all members
- Draft Communication Strategy to be completed and an Action Plan to be developed
- Completion of a communication paper for the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in the Cook Islands
- PIP response and preparation for upcoming events including the World Conservation Congress (Korea), the pre-COP 11 and NBSAP review (Rotorua), the SPREP Meeting (Noumea, New Caledonia) and CBD COP 11 (Hyderabad, India). A roadmap will be developed for some of these events for invasive species events.

Contact Souad Boudjelas ([s.boudjelas@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.boudjelas@auckland.ac.nz)) for more information.

### The National Invasive Species Council

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) – Newsletter (June 2012) has been released. Some of the items include – US Rep. Louise Slaughter introduces bill to prevent the import of harmful non-native animals and diseases, Obama administration to present Asian carp control options by 2013, USDA provides funding to co-operators for pest and disease management and disaster prevention, aquatic invasive species cost businesses hundreds of millions annually, and much more. See [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov) for more information.

### Pacific Plant Protection Organisation – Regional Technical Board Meeting

The Regional Technical Board of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation held its meeting in Nadi from 25-27<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. The meeting was attended by Pacific Invasive Partnership members including the GEF-PAS Facilitator (Dr Gianluca Serra) who gave a presentation. A Pacific Invasive Learning Network presentation was delivered by a Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce member – Ana Tunabuna.

## Invasive species Opportunities

### PhD scholarship for invasive species research in Australia

An opportunity to undertake research on exotic vertebrate risk analysis and invasion pathway modelling at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Assoc. Professor Phil Cassey. Contact Phil ([phil.cassey@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:phil.cassey@adelaide.edu.au)) for further details.

### Integrated Pest Management Officer vacancy

The Land Resources Division of SPC is currently recruiting an Integrated Pest Management officer. The position is based at SPC's regional office in Suva, Fiji. Closing date for this post is 12 July, 2012. Contact SPC at [recruit@spc.int](mailto:recruit@spc.int) for further information.

## Meetings, conferences and training announcements

26<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress being held in Tokyo, Japan (18-24 August) – <http://ioc26.jp/> There is a suggestion to have a symposium on 'eradication and control of invasive birds on islands'.

July		
2	Hawaii Invasive Species Council Funding (proposals due)	HISC
6-13	Ramsar COP 11 (Bucharest, Romania)	SPREP (Vainuupo Jungblut)
9-10	The Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership: An Organizational Workshop for Information Users and Providers and Request for Invasive Alien Species Information Needs Assessment	IUCN-ISSG (Shyama)
9-13	International Coral Reef Symposium (Cairns, Australia)	SPREP (Tim Carruthers)
9-18	Invasive Birds Management Training Workshop (Apia, Samoa)	Durrell Wildlife, PII, Landcare Research NZ, SPREP
12-13	Standards and Trade Development Facility (Geneva) <a href="http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm">http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm</a>	Souad, Shyama, Stas
18-20	NET2012 – Pests in our Diverse Landscapes: The pressure is on! (New Zealand)	
27-31	43 <sup>rd</sup> Pacific Islands Forum and Related Meetings (Rarotonga, Cook Islands)	PIFS
30	Hawaii Invasive Species Council-Resources Working Group meeting (Honolulu, Hawaii)	HISC
30	Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Conference (Waikaloa, Hawaii)	HISC
31-Aug 2	Hawaii Conservation Conference	HISC

## Invasive news global

### Australian invasive species taskforce needed

The Australian Government must stem the rising tide of environmental pests by creating a national body tasked with harnessing the energy and brainpower of community volunteers already battling the nation's escalating weed and feral animal crisis, the [Invasive Species Council](#) said today.

### Myrtle rust slipped through biosecurity borders

The pathogen, myrtle rust, had slipped through national biosecurity borders and has since spread to far north Queensland and Victoria. Climatic modelling suggests it will spread much further. There are more than 2000 plants in family Myrtaceae, Australia's dominant plant family, including eucalypts, bottlebrushes and tea trees - most are susceptible to the disease. Myrtle rust could alter the composition and function of forest, woodland, heath and wetland ecosystems. This incursion is about as bad as it can get for biosecurity in Australia – a new disease attacking our dominant plants, including species already on threatened lists. Read more on [Myrtle Rust](#)...

### Macquarie island is back in bloom

Scientists are astounded at the rapid recovery of native vegetation on Australia's sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island – affectionately known as 'Macca' – after the launch of a massive program to eradicate introduced rats, mice and an overwhelming rabbit population. Read more on [Macca](#)...

### Floating dock from Japan carries invasive species

When debris from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan began making its way toward the West Coast of the United States, there were fears of possible radiation and chemical contamination as well as costly cleanup. But a floating dock that unexpectedly washed ashore in Newport this week and has been traced back to the Japanese disaster has brought with it a completely different threat -- invasive species. Read more on the [Japanese dock](#)...

## Invasive species publications

### Scientific articles

Hussner, A. 2012. Alien aquatic plant species in European countries. *Weed Research*. Doi: 10.1111/j.1365-3180.2012.00926.x

## Newsletters and Books

Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) – Invasives Vol. 33, March-April 2012.  
Content covers the common prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*), and the removal of *Falcataria moluccana* from American Samoa. Contact K.V. Sankaran ([sankaran@kfri.org](mailto:sankaran@kfri.org)) for more information.

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