

# Invasive Species

## in the Cook Islands

### What are Invasive Alien Species?

Invasive Alien **Species** are plants, animals and **micro-organisms** that have been introduced into an environment in which they did not originally live and are able to grow and reproduce without the help of people.

### Why are they of concern?

Invasive Alien species cause changes to **ecosystems** and sometimes wipe out other species that are native or naturally found in the area. They grow rapidly and spread over large areas which cause environmental and economic harm, or harm to human health. They can cause native plants to become **endangered** and also causing the **extinction** of many plants and animals.

### How do they spread?

Invasive Alien Species usually spread by humans, intentionally or unintentionally. They also spread naturally by wind, water or hitch hike on birds, animals as well as vehicles and vessels.

### What can we do to help protect our Biodiversity?

- Declare all your plants and animals when you are travelling.
- Ensure your shoes are cleaned of all soil before travelling.
- Ensure that all equipment, vehicles or packages sent to the Pa Enuu are free of soil, grass, rubbish or insects.
- Declare anything you bring back to our shores. If you are unsure ask a Biosecurity officers.

#### SPECIES

A group of living organisms of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.

#### MICRO ORGANISMS

Any organism too small to be viewed by eye such as bacteria, protozoa, and some fungi and algae.

#### ECOSYSTEMS

Collection of living things, plants and animals interacting with each other and their environment.

#### ENDANGERED

A species of plant or animal currently in danger of extinction.

#### EXTINCTION

The dying out of a species of any living thing or the complete disappearance of a species from the earth.

#### BIODIVERSITY

The variety of life forms, the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and how they interact with each other in the environment.

### What are some Invasive Alien Species in the Cook Islands?



Photos from: Cook Islands Biodiversity Database

#### RAT

Are known to eat birds eggs and young chicks which strongly impacts our native and endangered bird populations.



Photo by: NES Officer - E Munro

#### BALLOON VINE

A creeping vine that competes for sunlight by quickly growing over and smothering other plants. These vines can eventually kill native trees by shading them from sunlight.



Photos from: NES Office

#### STAR-BURST

Competes with other plants for ground space and produces suckers from the root system.



#### PIGS

Disrupts an ecosystem when searching for food and destroys agriculture root crops such as taro and maniota.



#### MYNAH BIRDS

Chaises native birds from there nests and feed on agricultural crops.



# Katiri Kikino

tuitarere i te Kuki Airani

## Eaa teia apinga e Katiri Kikino?

Ko te katiri kikino, e au tumu rakau, tita totoro me kore e au manumanu, te ka riro atu i te tākinokino me kore tāmanamanatā, i te tupu'anga o te katiri rakau tupuna me kore manu tupuna. Ko teia au katiri kikino, e tae kiteakore'ia mai ana ki roto i to tatou basileia. Ka tupu viviki ratou e ka viviki katoa ratou i te totoa, tamanamanata atu i te turanga o te Aorangi.

## Eaa tatou ka matakite ei i te Katiri Kikino?

Te katiri kikino ka tāmanamanatā atu aia i te turanga o te aorangi, pera tikai te ngai noo'anga, te tupu'anga, e te piri'anga o te au apinga ora mei tetai ki tetai. Ka riro katoa te katiri kikino i te tāmanamanatā e te takore takiri atu i te au katiri rakau e te manu tupuna e tupu nei i roto i to tatou enua.

## Akapeea ratou i te totoa'anga?

Te maata'anga o te taime na tatou na te tangata e totoa ana i te katiri kikino na roto i te apai'anga mai i teia no tetai akakoro'anga me kore kua aru mai i tetai au apinga ta tatou i apai mai ki roto i te basileia. I tetai taime e tae kiteakoreia mai ana te katiri kikino na roto i te mareva, na runga i te manu rerevao e tetai uatu apinga.

## Tetai au ravenga rikiriki no te paruru'anga i to tatou Ao Ora Natura:

- Ka anoano'ia tatou, kia akakite atu i te au tū rārā e te 'ua rakau pera te manu, ta tatou ka apai mai ki roto nei i te basileia kia papu ia tatou e, kare te reira e riro mai, ei tāmanamanatā i to tatou ao ora natura.
- Me oki mai koe ki te ipukarea, ka anoanoia koe kia tama meitaki i te vari e te one mei runga mai i toou tamaka.
- Me ka tuku atu koe i tetai apinga angaanga, mei te pakoti, pereoa, me kore e motoka e te toroka, kia tama meitaki ia te one, repo e te tita mei runga mai i te reira.
- Te pati atu nei matou i ta kotou tauturu, kia angaanga, kapiti tatou, i te paruru'anga i to tatou ao ora natura kia kore teia au katiri kikino e totoa atu i roto i to tatou ipukarea e kia vai parataito ua to tatou basileia.

## Tetai akara'anga i te au katiri kikino i roto i te Kuki Airani.



### KIORE TOKA

E manu kino te kiore toka, e kai ana aia i te 'ua e te pepe a te manu. E kai katoa ana aia i te au kai, a te tangata mei te nita, meika e te vai atura.



### KŌPŪPŪ TAVIRI

E ngāngā'ere toro teia. Ka tupu aia, me kore, ka taviri aia, na runga i te au tumu rakau, tāmanamanatā atu ei, i te tupu'anga o te au rakau enua, na roto i te kukumi'anga, me kore, tāmarumarū'anga, i te rakau enua. E kitea ia ana teia ngāngā'ere e tupu rerevao ara i runga i te au tumu rakau takapini ia Rarotonga.



### TERITO

E tumu rakau teia e akaangaanga aia i te tāmata, me tipu koe iaia ki raro, ka maata atu tona 'uri me tupu mai, tāmanamanatā atu i te tupu'anga o tetai rakau enua. Ka tupu aia i te ngai marumarū e ka viviki katoa aia i te totoa.



### PUAKA

Te puaka rerevao e tākinokino ana aia i te one kai a te tangata na roto i te ketu'anga, e te kai'anga i te one kai, tāmanamanatā atu, te kimi puapinga a te reira tangata. E riro katoa te puaka i te toto'a atu i te tita kikino na roto i te tu'anga i te 'ua rakau.



### TE MANU KAVAMANI

E riro ana aia i te tāmanamanatā i te one kai na roto i te kai'anga i te one tomati, nita, meika e te vai atura. E riro katoa ana aia i te arumaki i te manu enua mei te Tangae'o, Kukupa mei runga mai i tona ko'anga.