



PRISMSS

Newsletter

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.

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PRISMSS Update

Welcome to 2022. Your PRISMSS team has continued to progress the development of systems and processes to improve assistance to the Pacific for the five PRISMSS programmes. These systems will allow for streamlined requests and assistance with PRISMSS partners, the storage and retrieval of country specific and programme specific information and allow for analysis at a greater and more beneficial level for countries, PRISMSS and donors.



SPREP Invasive species team in the battler lounge hosting the final SPREP webinar for 2021

PRISMSS will once again host the upcoming Battler Lounge Session in April. This will focus the Natural Enemies -Natural Solutions Programme and the benefits to climate change adaptation. This will also initiate a process to determine high priority widespread weeds at the regional level to focus on for the development of natural enemy opportunities for the future.

Lets look forward to 2022 and the increased opportunities that may come with it.



Protect Our Islands

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

Keeping our precious islands safe from new invasive species is the goal of the Protect our Islands programme.

Guidelines to prevent the spread of invasive species between islands are being developed for the Pacific by the New Zealand Department of Conservation under the MISCCAP project, and SPC is developing a series of videos for at-border and post-border biosecurity as part of an EDF project.

Our Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) work continues under the GEF 6 Regional Invasives Project. The Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) is major priority for EDRR. For more information on how to identify this ant and others check out the [Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit](#). If you need help putting together a national or inter-island EDRR plan, we welcome requests through the [PRISMSS Associate](#).

Another priority across the region for prevention and management is Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB). SPC has produced a [CRB manual](#).



Red imported fire ants come in a large range of sizes. © Dini Miller



Kennedy Kaneko setting rat traps



Predator Free Pacific

"Removing Invasive Mammalian Predators from Islands"

With many projects having been delayed over the last two years, 2022 is a chance to get back into action. Over the next quarter, the Predator Free Pacific Programme is looking forward to supporting the Ministry of Resources and Commerce in the Marshall Islands with their first ever rat eradication to protect biodiversity and improve the availability of natural resources.

Over April, the Predator Free Pacific Programme is working with the Koror State Government and other partners to deploy cutting edge drone technology to within Palau to remove rats from several islands. 2022 is our chance to rebuild momentum toward realizing the goals of the Predator Free Pacific Programme.



War On Weeds

"Management of high priority weeds"

The War on Weeds kicked into gear in Tonga recently with the start of a delimiting survey for the invasive *Castilla elastica* or Panama Rubber Tree. *C. elastica* is a deciduous latex-producing tree, native to Central America and parts of South America. It is present in several Pacific Islands where it poses significant threat to native forest ecosystems. This invasive tree was discovered in Tonga in 2015. Although it produces vast quantities of seed that are spread by birds, it is thought to be limited in distribution. This survey is looking to identify all populations of *C. elastica* in Tongatapu. The data will enable informed decision making about the management of this invasive species.

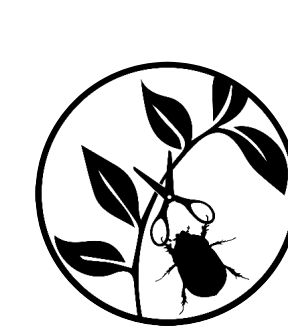
The Department of Environment team received training from the PRISMSS War on Weeds programme, in the use of a data recording tool called Fulcrum. This application enables the team to record data in the field from their phones. The use of Fulcrum is funded by the GEF6 Regional Invasives Project.



Panama rubber tree (*Castilla elastica*) - a deciduous latex-producing tree significant threat to native forest ecosystems



NENS Online Database is now live!



Natural Enemies - Natural Solutions

"Biological control of widespread weeds"

The [Natural Enemies Natural Solutions](#) (NENS) programme has created a new web resource to help inform decisions about NENS activities. Thanks to SPREP, this web resource is now [live](#) and we welcome feedback.

Drawing on multiple sources of information, this searchable [online database](#) brings together for the first time in one place the:

- Weed species reported in each of the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and an information sheet to assist with identification. Local names for weeds are included where known.
- Natural enemies for weeds that have been introduced into the Pacific region along with their current status.
- Weed species recorded in the Pacific that are biological control targets elsewhere in the world, thereby providing natural enemies to consider for the Pacific.

Each PICT will be able to easily review the weeds and natural enemies they have and identify potential opportunities for further adoption.



Resilient Ecosystems - Resilient Communities

"Priority area ecological restoration"

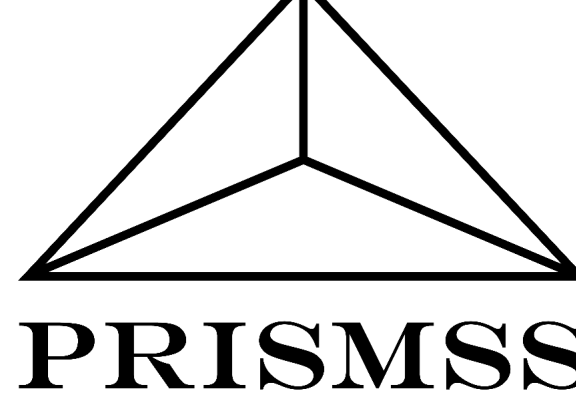
Restoration works are continuing in French Polynesia's Taputaputea UNESCO landscape for the removal of mature invasive trees and weeds, and in Wallis and Futuna for managing multiple invasive species such as pigs for Faioa islet, and invasive weeds on Nukufotu islet under the European Union funded PROTEGE project.

With restoration works already underway in Tonga, RERC programme now looks to extend its portfolio this year under the GEF6 RIP with virtual consultations already kicking off for Tuvalu, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), and Niue. The main purpose of the consultations is to explore and identify priority sites for restoration. A key aspect of this is collecting data and information to assist with the development of operational plans for the three countries.



Pigs on Faioa islet, Wallis and Futuna

PRISMSS Partners



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