



PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL APPROACH



Marine Invasive Species

International Coral Reef Initiative – Pacific Day Event

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Presentation Overview

Pacific Regional
Environment
Programme

Regional
Networks

Regional/Global
Instruments

New Initiatives

Challenges &
Opportunities





Pacific Regional Environment Programme

- Lead agency in the Pacific region for biodiversity, climate change and management of solid waste and pollution
- 25 members including Australia, France, New Zealand and the USA
- Over 35 years of support to Pacific countries in the management and protection of the environment



Vision: "The Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures."



Pacific Regional Environment Programme

- Invasive species is a priority cross-cutting issue for the Pacific - it is addressed under the two programs of SPREP: Pacific Futures & Island Ecosystems



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Marine Pollution Adviser (MIS)



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Invasive Species Officer (all Invasives/Coordination)



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Pacific Invasives Learning Network Coordinator



Regional Networks

- **Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP)** – regional and international agencies working on invasives in more than one PICTs
- PIP is the Working Group of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation in the Pacific
- Provides technical support to the Pacific Invasives Learning Network

PIP members include NZ DoC, USP, SPC, US Forest Service, IUCN, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Global Islands Partnership, Global Invasive Species Programme, Birdlife International, US State Department, Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum, Pacific Invasives Initiatives, et al.





Regional Networks



Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) capacity building network for the Pacific integrating all sectors working with invasive species



Regional Networks

- PILN Teams: American Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Pohnpei, Samoa, Yap & CNMI
- Each team identifies projects where network support is needed:
 - Strategic (e.g. national strategy, legislation)
 - Field (e.g. marine invasive species survey)





Regional/International Instruments

- Pacific Islands Region Ocean Policy
- Pacific Invasives Guidelines
- Shipping-Related Introduced Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands (SRIMP-PAC)
- IMO - Ballast Water Convention
- Convention on Biological Diversity





Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP)

- Goal -sustainable use of ocean resources
- 5 Guiding Principles :
 - i) improving understanding; ii) sustainable development and management; iii) maintaining the ocean health; promoting peaceful use; v) creating and promoting partnerships
- Framework and Strategy for Regional Coordination, Integration and Collaboration on Ocean issues





PIROP - Framework & Strategy

- Address threats from introduced/invasives
- Develop a coordinated approach at national/regional levels
 - Implement existing regional commitments & control of MIS
 - Develop and implement regional/national plans
 - Policies and best practices to address inter alia MIS - aquaculture, GMOs, inter-island and intra-country transfer
 - Improve understanding/awareness of threats of MIS





Guidelines for invasive species management in the Pacific

- Developed after extensive consultation among PICTs
 - Endorsed by the 26 SPREP/SPC members
 - Highlights:
 - No defined lifespan
 - Short and simple
 - Comprehensive guide to what needs doing to manage invasive species
- Aid to planning - local and regional levels





Guidelines for invasive species management in the Pacific

- Guideline Structure: 9 key lines of action
 - Foundations for Invasive Management
 - 1) Generate support; 2) Build capacity; 3) Legislation
 - Problem Definition/Decision Making
 - 4) Baseline & Monitoring; 5) Prioritization, risk assessment; 6) Research on priorities
 - Management Action
 - 7) Biosecurity, 8) Managing established invasives (eradication, containment, bio-chemical-physical control), 9) Restoration of native biodiversity





Shipping-related introduced marine pests in the Pacific region (SRIMP-PAC)

Protect and enhance the marine environments by preventing, minimising and controlling the introductions of shipping-related marine pests

- Assess and monitor the current and potential risks
- Assist PICTs to develop better capacity
- Sustainable finance
- Framework for regional cooperation, coordination and harmonisation of introduced marine pests within the region and with Pacific-Rim countries





IMO - Ballast Water Management Convention

- Adopted in 2004 - 27 Parties/25% of the world's merchant shipping gross tonnage (needs 30 states or 35% of merchant gross tonnage)
- Parties pledge to prevent, minimize and eliminate the transfer of invasive species and pathogens through ballast
- Encourage to work individually or jointly with other parties in the management of ballast





Convention on Biological Diversity

- Invasive Alien Species is one of the cross-cutting issues discussed at Conference of Parties held recently in Nagoya, Japan
- Invasive Alien Species Issues - include biofuel, climate change, introduction of pets, aquarium and terrarium species, live bait and live food





Initiatives

- Micronesia Challenge - Micronesia Bio-security Plan
- Two-Samoas Initiative
- Melanesian Spearhead Group/Challenge?
- Polynesian Mana Challenge?





Initiatives

Micronesia Challenge (www.micronesiachallenge.org)

- Commitment by Micronesian countries: FSM, Palau, Marshall Islands, Guam and CNMI to preserve the natural resources - goal of conserving 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of land by 2020
- Micronesia Bio-security Plan - Defending Biodiversity: Regional Cooperation and a Proactive Approach to Bio-security in Micronesia





Challenges & Opportunities

Collaboration

- More inter-country initiatives (e.g. Micronesia Challenge, 2-Samoa initiative, Locally & Community Managed Areas)
- Public-Private Partnership

Coordination

- ICRI and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - joint program of work?

Emerging Issues

- Climate Change and Invasive Alien Species (Deadly Duo);
- Ballast Water Management;
- PIROP - Oceanscape;
- Engagement at all levels





KEY MESSAGES

- Marine Invasive Species a serious threat to marine environment
- Regional collaboration/coordination critical for PICTs (CROP, PIPs, PILN,
- Sub-regional and inter-countries initiatives (Micronesia Challenge; 2-Samoa Initiative; LMMAs)
- Existing initiatives need to be actioned: Countries to be parties to the BWMC

