Meeting the Invasive Species Challenge in the Pacific Region
Overview

• Why a regional approach in the Pacific?
• Key Pacific initiatives
• Benefits to countries
• Regional lessons
Why a regional approach in the Pacific?

• Working alone:
  – Limited and isolated capacity and resources
  – All sectors affected (environment, economy, society)
  – Invasive species cross borders

• Working together:
  → Cooperation and coordination
  → More effective, more efficient
CROP (Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific) agencies

unique role:
intergovernmental agencies established by Pacific countries and territories to provide services to them.

Three CROP agencies are particularly responsible for invasives work, mandated by their member countries and territories to lead and coordinate it in the region:

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- University of the South Pacific
CROP agency roles

- **Provide services** to island member countries and territories
- **Channel assistance** (funding, technical...) from four supporting member countries (Australia, France, NZ, USA)
- **Mandated** by member countries and territories to lead and coordinate regional programmes on their behalf

**SPC**: mainly **production** sectors, e.g. invasives of agriculture and forestry.

**SPREP**: **environmental** management, including invasives in natural areas.

**USP**: **education and training**, strong programme in invasives, biodiversity and livelihoods.
Pacific Roundtable - Regional Mandate

• Coalition of organisations working on *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation*
• Coordination and implementation of *NBSAPs* on behalf of countries
• Currently focussing on *Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea*
• Has thematic working groups, including *Invasive Species Working Group* (more about this later....)
Invasive Species Working Group

Role, function, structure (clarified 2009):

• umbrella regional coordinating body for agencies working on invasive species in more than one Pacific country or territory

• coordinated planning and targeted assistance to meet the needs of Pacific countries and territories

• guidance and support to two regional initiatives (PII and PILN),

To reflect partnership function, renamed:

Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP)

(still remains the Roundtable’s Invasive Species WG)
PIP Partners 2010

CROP (Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific) agencies
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
University of the South Pacific

Regional programmes
Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)
Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)

Donors, technical assistance agencies and NGOs:
Austral Foundation
BioNet-PaciNet
BirdLife International
Conservation International
Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific
Global Invasive Species Programme
Global Island Partnership
Invasive Species Specialist Group
Island Conservation
IUCN Oceania Regional Office
Landcare Research
New Zealand Agency for International Development
New Zealand Department of Conservation
Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum
The Nature Conservancy
United Nations Environment Programme
USDA Forest Service
US Department of State
US National Invasive Species Council
PIP Partners combined capacity

- Coordination
- Networking
- Technical
- Planning
- Training
- Processes & Tools
- Funding
- Research
- Information
- Policy
How does PIP work?

**PIP’s goal**

is to assist Pacific island countries and territories to plan and achieve more effective invasive species management

**PIP and its members do this by**

- building local capacity and
- helping to tackle invasives problems

**PIP members have adopted a regional strategy** to guide them in this work
• Developed with extensive consultation among Pacific countries and territories

• Endorsed by 26 member countries and territories of SPREP and SPC

(...more about the Guidelines later in the workshop)
PIP achievements

- Support to PII and PILN, including funding
- Coordinated technical support to countries
- Coordinated input to large regional projects e.g. GEF-PAS
- Produced information paper on invasives and climate change
- Regional summary of investment in invasive species management
Cooperative Islands Initiative (CII)

CII Vision: “To facilitate cooperation and enhance capacity to prevent and manage IAS on islands”

• Proposed by Small Island States at SBSTTA 6 in 2001

• Launched by NZ Government and the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) at CBD COP 6 in 2002
CII: Achievements 2002 – 2004

• Technical support and advice to island countries around the world

• SPREP Invasive Species Prevention Course

• Generic Training in Invasive Species Management Course for GISP

• Funding for PII

• Pacific Ant Prevention Programme (PAPP)
Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)

PII Vision: “The natural heritage and people of the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories are protected from the threats of invasive species”

- Established in 2004 as the first regional initiative of CII
- First formal partnership on invasive species in the Pacific
PII Mission: “to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Countries and Territories to effectively manage invasive species threats”

Works with agencies to strengthen their capacity to plan and implement invasive species projects.
PII Achievements

- Increased effective action on the ground
- 30 agencies gained knowledge and skills
- 4 training courses developed and delivered
- Processes and tools developed
- Funds leveraged
- Support to 6 successful eradication projects (another 2 waiting for confirmation)
- Many other projects currently being planned or undertaken with PII support
PII Lessons

- Starting small is best
- Building solid relationships is fundamental
- Institutionalising capacity is essential
- Celebrate and communicate success
- Rigorous planning based on best practice is essential
- Invest in good programme design with key stakeholders
- Delivering on social and economic goals is essential and requires the right partners
Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)

What?
• Professional network for Pacific invasive species workers
• Main link between PIP and the Pacific countries and territories

How?
• Fosters multi-agency teams in countries
• Promotes sharing of experience, expertise and skills
• Identifies training needs and develops training
• Monthly e-newsletter PILN Soundbites

Who?
• 14 Pacific countries, territories or states participating
All participating countries, territories or states have formed a multi-sector, multi-agency invasive species committee or team.

- Facilitated development of invasive species plans in 6 countries or territories.
- ~30 training opportunities (exchanges, training visits, workshops, courses) organised and supported - average 7 events per year.
- Two full network meetings held (next one overdue!)

Network Meeting 2007, Mo’orea, French Polynesia
PILN Lessons

- Successful planning requires a strategic approach – this is now provided by the Guidelines
- Only works effectively with full-time Coordinator – position now incorporated within SPREP
- Success depends on number of countries participating – next steps: increase geographical coverage
PAPP Achievements

- Endorsed by SPC’s 22 member countries and territories
- Baseline invasive ants surveillance completed at 72 high risk ports and airports
- 150 quarantine and customs staff trained in ant surveillance
- 35 entomologists and quarantine officers from 14 countries trained in ant taxonomy
- Emergency Response Plan for invasive ant prepared
- Red Imported Fire Ant incursion response undertaken
PAPP Lessons

• Regional approach to specific invasive threat can be warranted (e.g. tramp ants, biocontrol programmes for shared problems)
• A dedicated coordinator with sole focus on the programme is essential
• Building partnerships
• Regular training and reinforcement is essential
• There is a huge amount of goodwill from experts
Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC)

- Created by Micronesian Chief Execs – 2005
  - Close cultural, economic ties

- Members
  - Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM, RMI

- Goals
  - Benefits of Regional Cooperation
  - Directly Advise Chiefs
RISC Achievements/Next Steps

- 5 year plan
- Awareness activities
- Direct involvement by Chief
- DOD-Funded Micronesia Biosecurity Plan

- Next Steps
  - Internal capacity
  - Complete MBP and Implement
Country benefits: Kiribati

- Management Plan for Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA)
- Rats and rabbits successfully eradicated from 2 islands
- Rat and cat eradications being planned for other islands
- Draft biosecurity guidelines for the Phoenix Islands prepared
- Wildlife Conservation Unit and PIPA Office has gained knowledge and skills for managing invasives species
- Funding leveraged
June 2008: Before the rat eradication

Dec 2009: After the rat eradication

Phoenix Islands, Kiribati: McKean Island

Benefits to Countries
Country benefits: Fiji

Vatu I Ra Restoration Project, BirdLife Fiji Programme
• Even “small” operations require careful planning and appropriate consultation
• Project management and community engagement skills are as crucial as the technical ones
• Celebrating success
• Leveraging success $$$, ACTION
• Regional-scale effects can result
Lessons: Regional Partnerships

- Cannot do it alone: Strength in unity
- Shared vision with different objectives, priorities and strengths
- Partners contribute differently
- Effective cooperation requires good communication
- Important to clarify partners’ roles and responsibilities
- Joint work planning is essential
- Acknowledge and celebrate success and achievement of shared goals
Thank you!

Questions?