

**REPORT ON THE SECOND PIGS ERADICATION ACTIVITY ON NUUTELE ISLAND, 11<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007.**

**Prepared by Susau Siolo (Team Leader)  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2007.**

**Introduction:**

The second pig's eradication was a follow up activity of the first eradication as it was reported that there are still more pigs on the island that needs to be cleared off. It is a concern to remove pigs from the island because of the high risk that lies ahead on human health from the toxic bait that will kill the rats during the rat eradication operation when pigs consume this toxic bait. ***Assessment and advices was given that this toxic bait will affect the pigs when consuming it also people will intake the impact when they eat these affected pigs as some pigs won't die from up taking a small amount of bait but has a potential to live and in that case they will be carrier of this toxic bait.***

Pigs are also on the other hand destructors of the natural biodiversity on the island particularly the plants and the landscape of the island. It is also suspected to be the worst predator of turtle eggs which also contribute to the loss of this species as this island is one of the nesting ground for turtles.

This second activity was carried out on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April with the assistance from the Water sector staff and a local hunter that was hired which makes this task successful.

**Team members:** Susau Siolo (*Team Leader*)  
Eti Malolo (*Assistance*)  
Natapu Tupalu (*Assistance*)  
Tutasi Neemia (*Hunter*)

**Methodology:**

Shooting was the main method used for killing pigs at this trip as trapping was seen unsuccessful due to the unavailability of the appropriate equipment to use for this method. Two firearms were used by two members of the team (1 hunter and 1 officer).

**Results:**

Eleven pigs were caught during this hunting activity. The table below states what happen to these pigs :

<b>Total Pigs seen</b>	<b>Pigs shot &amp; escaped</b>	<b>Alive Pigs Caught</b>	<b>Pigs killed</b>	<b>Total pigs seen &amp; escaped</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>8 (adult size)</b>	3			5	Surely these 3 pigs are dead as they were confirmed shot from blood spilled in the area where these pigs were shot
<b>4 (medium)</b>			4		Two of these dead pigs were taken to the family and two were used by the team

size)					
4 (small)	2	2			The alive piglets were taken to the family
16					

A total of less than five pigs (adult size) included in the numbers of pigs that were seen during this trip are suspected to be still out there in the island healthy and alive. It is not known whether the remaining pigs are female or males but the worry is that if these are all female then there is still a great chance for the pig population to increase again in the future if monitoring work for pigs cannot be done. It is suggested that these pigs should be totally wipe out of the island before the end of this year and without giving them a chance to reproduce siblings.

**Hunting Locations:**

From experience in the first eradication Vini Beach side is the most accessible areas for pigs not only food availability is plenty in this area such as bananas, breadfruit and left over food from the team camp but also water which pigs extract from bananas when there is no rain at all during the week. Shown in the first eradication map below these sites are the same sites that were visited during the second trip and pigs were found. Pigs track is everywhere along the Vini side at about 50 – 60 metres from the beach where these pigs will get water and food from the crops as mentioned but they moved inland during nightfall up on the steeper part of the island that is hard to access by our team as not only of the steep mountain but the tight bush which is hard to enter.

From this trip and making comparison with the first trip we suspected that most of the pigs are found and stay along the Vini side area than in Nuutele side.



**Recommendation:**

As the impact of these pigs on the native flora and fauna of the Nuutele Island it is strongly recommended to continue the execution of pigs during monitoring work by the Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation team which they carry out from time to time. Pigs should be totally eradicated from the island to reduce this impact and to avoid existence during the Rat Eradication Operation takes place.

**Conclusion:**

This activity was worth doing as was mentioned that pigs create more impact on the island's unique resources. Removing of pigs totally is necessary to avoid more damage and to prevent the existing wildlife especially those species that are directly affected such as turtles.