



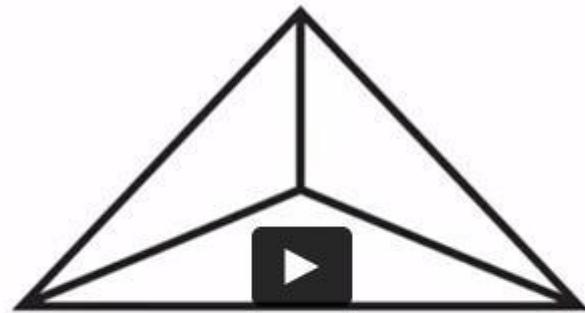
PRISMSS

Restoring Island Resilience

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.

Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) is a coordinating mechanism designed to facilitate the scaling up of operational management of invasive species in the Pacific. PRISMSS brings together experts to provide support within the Pacific region with a focus on protection of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem function. As a service provider, PRISMSS provides a comprehensive suite of support services in a cohesive, effective, efficient, and accessible manner to Pacific Island countries and territories.

ABOUT PRISMSS



PRISMSS

RESTORING ISLAND RESILIENCE

PRISMSS is a coalition of organisations working together to tackle the issue of Invasive species in the Pacific, providing Pacific Island countries with access to best practice and expertise in managing invasive species. The five programmes of PRISMSS currently are

Protect Our Islands, Predator Free Pacific, War On Weeds, Natural Enemies Natural Solutions, and Resilient Ecosystems Resilient Communities which address all thematic areas of invasive species management.

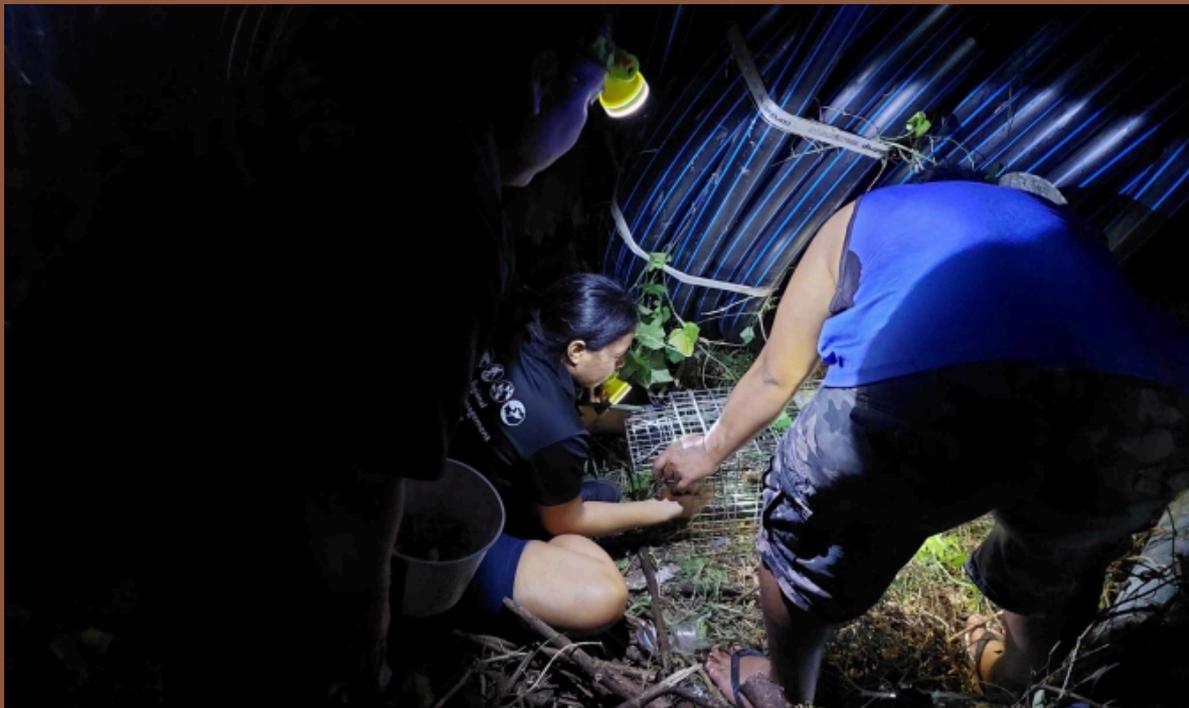


PROTECT OUR ISLANDS

Prevent the arrival, establishment and spread of invasive species

PRISMSS provides technical assistance that led to the capture of mongoose in Samoa

In a true display of collaboration and partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and a Member country to ensure the protection of our Pacific environment, SPREP through the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) responded to a call for assistance received from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of Samoa regarding.... [Read more](#)



PREDATOR FREE PACIFIC

Removal of invasive mammalian predators from islands

PFP on the Prowl

In recent months, the Predator Free Pacific programme has achieved significant progress in restoring ecosystems and enhancing livelihoods across the Pacific through the removal of invasive species. Supported by the PRISMSS Restoring Island Resilience project and funded by NZ-MFAT, Island Conservation have partnered with regional entities to carry out essential eradication efforts aimed at preserving biodiversity and boosting resilience.

Successful eradication efforts on Jemo and Bikar islands in the Republic of the Marshall Islands have marked a crucial milestone in safeguarding these islands' unique natural resources.

The Nukufetau community, in Tuvalu, undertook their first rat eradication and received biosecurity training to prevent reinvasion, ensuring the long-term health of local ecosystems. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to protect native species and promote sustainable livelihoods throughout the Pacific.

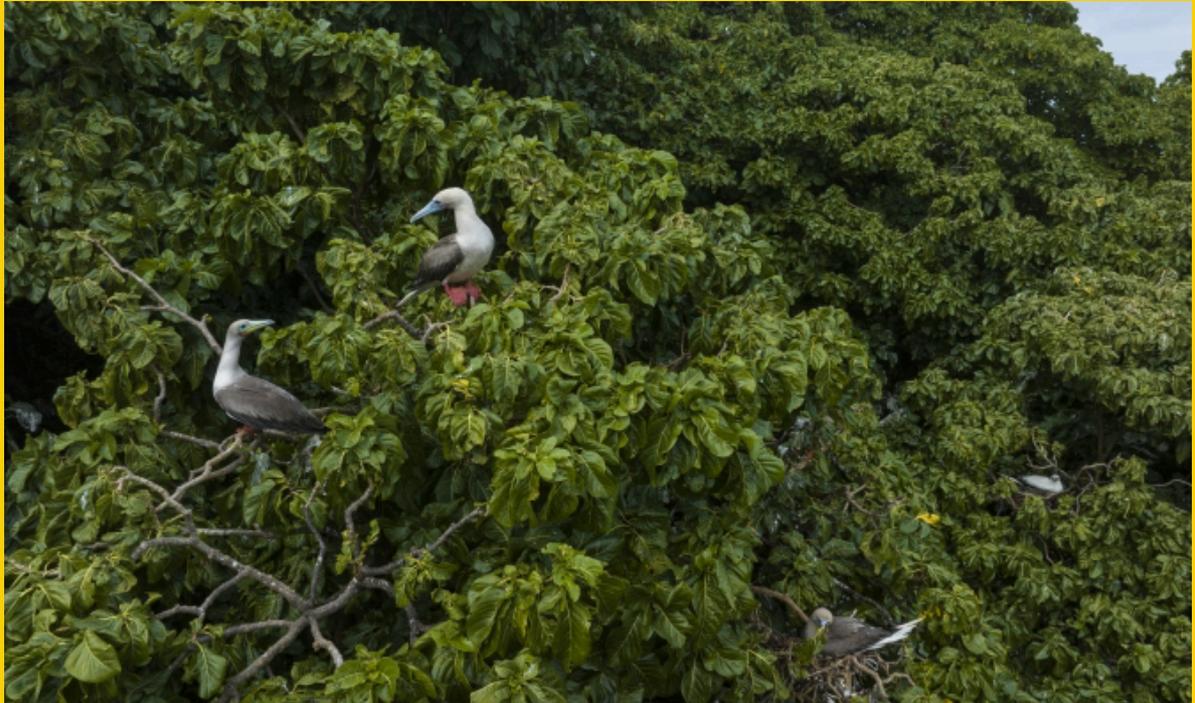
The Tonga's Ha'apai island group, continues to implement programme initiatives. Pigs were removed from Kelelesia island in late July, and efforts to eliminate rats from Kelelesia and nearby Tonumea are currently

underway.

In the Cook Islands, work on Takutea commenced in late August after a brief delay. The first bait application has been completed, with the second scheduled for late September. This project, like others in the region, underscores our commitment to eradicating invasive predators and restoring natural habitats.

Following consultations with the Taupulega (local council) in Nukunonu, in Tokelau, the eradication site has been shifted to Fakaofu atoll. This decision, based on ecological and logistical considerations, highlights the program's flexibility to meet local needs. Operations are expected between August and September, with strong community support.

These accomplishments have been made possible through close collaboration with in-country government authorities, local NGOs, PRISMSS, and support from NZ MFAT. The dedication of all involved is vital to conserving biodiversity, restoring island ecosystems, and improving the well-being of Pacific communities.



WAR ON WEEDS

Management of high priority weeds

Palau revives War on Weeds for climate resilience and adaptation

Building the natural resilience of Palau is at the root of a War on Weeds programme in the island nation. Five species of high priority weeds will be the target, namely *Praxelis clematidea*, African tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), chain of love (*Antogonon leptopus*) and the giant reed (*Arundo donax*). These weeds pose high risks to Palau with high potential to invade and transform the nature of ecosystems over a.... [Read more](#)



Federated States of Micronesia strengthens climate adaptation and cultural preservation through the War on Weeds programme

Invasive species have significant negative impacts on local biodiversity and ecosystems and managing them is essential for maintaining the health and stability of natural environments while also building the resilience of communities against climate change and preserving Pacific Islands cultural and.... [Read more](#)



NATURAL ENEMIES - NATURAL SOLUTIONS

Biological control of widespread weeds

Pacific Invasive Species Battlers Armed to Target Widespread Weeds with Natural Enemies

Natural enemies play a crucial role in the biological control of widespread weeds, offering an environmentally sustainable alternative to chemical herbicides. When prioritising weeds for biological control, several critical criteria must be considered to ensure effective and sustainable management which are captured in a new resource guide to help Pacific battlers in their fight against invasive species. The "Invasive Species Battler" series, which consists of a number of valuable resources produced in association with...[Read more](#)



Programme Coordinators Appointed

The Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research welcomed two additional members to the PRISMSS Natural Enemies - Natural Solutions Programme. Both Annette Mwayawa and Indigo Michael will be assisting the team as programme coordinators.

Annette, who will be based in Lincoln, joins the team from Papua New Guinea, where she gained experience in the use of natural enemies teaching at the University of Natural Resources and Environment in East New Britain.

During her time there, Annette gained field experience working on integrated weed management strategies, including the use of biocontrol agents and the control of invasive weed species. Annette recently completed a PhD in plant science at Lincoln University, where she looked at canopy development, biomass accumulation and the yield formation process in maize. She has a strong background in agriculture and is delighted to be onboard with such a talented team. She looks forward to contributing her skills and perspectives to make the programme a success.

Indigo will be based in Auckland, where she was born and raised. Indigo recently completed a MSc with first class honours at the University of Auckland. Her thesis explored the use of soil bacterial eDNA to detect the plant pathogen, kauri dieback (*Phytophthora agathidicida*), in the forest using machine learning tools. She is passionate about science education and increasing representation of Māori and Pasifika students in science. Indigo's family is from Tuvalu, Fiji, Samoa, and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa. Indigo is excited to be part of the team and is especially looking forward to meeting new faces across the Pacific and working together to create more inclusive and inviting environments within the invasive weeds space.

The newly appointed coordinators can be contacted on

- Annette Mwayawa: mwayawaa@landcareresearch.co.nz
- Indigo Michael: michalei@landcareresearch.co.nz



Webinar: Insights into the origins of Pacific weeds

This interactive webinar, led by Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research reflects on why it is important to discover where weeds originated from, how this generic work is done, and implications of this work on a number of invasive weeds in the Pacific.

(video below)





RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS - RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Priority area ecological restoration

The fight for Niue - A New Zealand Geographic Feature

A handful of environmentalists on Niue are waging an urgent battle against invasive species. Will reinforcements arrive in time? At the northern edge of Hakupu Village, on the small Pacific island of Niue, a signpost welcomes visitors to Huvalu Forest. Around it, lush ferns and densely clustered trees mark the fringe of Niue's last... [Read more](#)



EVENT SUPPORT

Pacific Invasive Species Battlers Embrace GEDSI and Traditional Knowledge



Regional participants attending the sixth Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) meeting reaffirmed the importance of applying Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and traditional knowledge (TK) principles, to enable invasive species management programmes and activities to become more inclusive, equitable, and effective, ultimately leading to better conservation outcomes... [Read more](#)



More highlights:

- [Cook Islands Host the Sixth Pacific Invasive Learning Networking \(PILN\) Meeting](#)
- [Cook Islands Showcase Successful Invasive Species Management Initiatives at the Sixth PILN Meeting](#)
- [New Caledonia scoops 2024 Pacific Invasive Species Battler of the Year Award](#)



Pacific **Invasive Species BATTLER**

For more resources on invasive species management in Pacific visit the

[Battler Resource Base](#)

What do our partners and battlers think about PRISMSS?



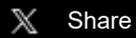
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Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) SPREP Campus, Avele Road, Vailima, Apia, Samoa

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