

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Auckland Uniservices Limited
Project Title:	Expansion of the Database of Invasive Species Impacts on Island Biodiversity & Ecosystems
Date of Report:	10 May 2012
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CEPF Region: Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction: 2. Improve management of key biodiversity areas

Grant Amount: \$61,589

Project Dates: January 1, 2011-April 30, 2012

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

1) IUCN Oceania, Suva Fiji: International organization:

The Pacific Office of the ISSG the implementing agency of the project serves as the Invasive Species Focal Point for the IUCN Oceania Regional Office (ORO). The partnership has been developed in order to deliver an integrated programme of work on regional invasive species issues. IUCN Oceania and ISSG Regional Pacific Office are working together to implement activities that contribute to the programme of IUCN Oceania and help ISSG achieve its goals for the Pacific region. Activities include raising awareness of invasive species issues, networking between practitioners, communities and experts, and providing reliable invasive species data and information to decision makers for analysis and support tools. The ISSG represents IUCN Oceania at relevant invasive species meetings such as the Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP).

The programme of work contributes to achieving the following Oceania programme results:

OC-1.2.2 - IUCN standards, tools and knowledge contribute to the management of invasive species in the Pacific.

OC-1.2.2.2 - Regional organizations better informed to control and manage invasive species in the Pacific

The IUCN ORO provided administrative and logistical support in the implementation of the Pacific components of the project. Assistance included providing all support for travel within the Pacific and facilitating links with practitioners in the Pacific region. The

IUCN ORO has also provided critical support in raising the profile and awareness of the database through the IUCN Organization and other global partners.

2) Members of the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) – Regional Organization

The Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) is the Invasives Species Working Group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation. The ISSG is an active partner in the partnership which includes over 23 agencies that work on invasive species and cross-cutting issues in one or more countries in the Pacific region. Several members of this partnership specifically key partners like Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII), BirdLife International, Manaaki Whenua- Landcare Research have assisted in making the project a success. The PII is focused on capacity building and providing technical support in the region. The PILN teams and other invasive species practitioners in the region are the main recipients of the training and capacity building activities. Both the PII and the PILN have ensured the inclusion of an invasive species information component in their training and other activities. The information training component includes sharing information, experiences and best practice, promoting the use of invasive species information sources including the Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species Database, the Global Invasive Species Database and other relevant invasive species information resources.

BirdLife International and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research members assisted in providing information including distribution of species as well as detailed information on management action, completed, ongoing and planned.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

Reduce the threats of invasive alien species on island ecosystems and the native species they contain by increasing awareness of invasive alien species, and of ways to prevent their spread, control or eradicate them.

Island ecosystems appear to be more vulnerable to invasions. Island ecosystems tend to have fewer species present and are less complex with distance from the continent; simpler systems are less resilient to new arrivals. Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are an appropriate example of the damage which can be caused to island ecosystems by invasive species. Having invaded pristine ecological sites in the Hawaiian Islands pigs are damaging native ecosystems by uprooting native plants and facilitating the spread of other introduced plant and bird species, including mosquitoes which carry avian diseases.

IBIS was developed by the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group in response to feedback from island conservation managers that there was a need for better access to data and information that would inform better decision making especially in the management of this insidious threat. Availability of reliable information and access to this information are recognized as a major barrier to management of the prevention and management of invasive species.

IBIS aims to record and provide information on the impacts of invasive alien species on native species on islands (with a focus on those that are classified as 'threatened' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species- Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU)), and the management of this threat.

Although the database is a new resources and has no long record of use and feedback the ISSG has received several comments and suggestions from users of the database that the IBIS will be a valuable critical decision support tool. Information collated and featured in IBIS has been provided to other global organizations such as Island Conservation and the Global Islands database.

The management information provided in IBIS with links to project documents and other technical information will provide a good basis for exchange of information and best practice. This information resource coupled with the networking that ISSG promotes and facilitates on island groups such as the Pacific, Western Indian Ocean and Caribbean will make the IBIS a key tool in the management of the biological invasions- a key threatening process driving biodiversity loss on island ecosystems.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Actual Progress toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Enhance the Pacific (Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity hotspot) component of IBIS the database of Island biodiversity and the threat of Invasive Species.

The Pacific Regional Pilot phase of IBIS firstly aimed at completing a review of the globally assessed Pacific region species (from the priority CEPF Countries) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to identify which of these species are or have been under the threat of invasive alien species. An in-depth study was conducted of the species identified and the following information and data have been collated and presented in IBIS.

- Distribution records of native biodiversity and invasive alien species: recorded in the following location types – Region, Country, Island Group, Island, and Sites such as an Important Bird Area (IBA), Endemic Bird Area (EBA), Ramsar Designated Site, Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) or an Area of Zero Extinction (AZE).

- Summaries of description of the invasive species threat, management action completed, ongoing and planned with links to more information, and, a summary of conservation outcomes as a result of management action. A bibliography/reference list is included in each datasheet
- An assessment of the threat of invasive species on native biodiversity- presented in the form of a species impact table including the primary impact mechanism and outcome.

Links are provided to invasive species profiles on the ISSG Global Invasive Species Database; threatened species datasheets on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and to any Eradication events on the Database of Island Invasive Eradications.

With the conclusion of this project the Pacific region baseline information is completed. Further work which the ISSG has committed to continue with will include enhancement of this component including details of management action, impacts etc.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

Not relevant

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

There were a few challenges encountered in the implementation of the IBIS project. The project was conceptualized and an initial proposal made to the CEPF small grants to conduct a scoping study and the development of a dataset of selected threatened species (CR, EN and VU) from the nine CEPF priority countries. This dataset in Access was to be made available to stakeholders in the Pacific to aid in decision making in the management of invasive species in the priority Key Biodiversity Areas.

Feedback received indicated that the dataset was suitable for analyses and assistance with prioritization. A second proposal was made to the CEPF and the database (IBIS) was to be web-enabled and searchable. The funding also provided for enhancing the information was an increased number of species.

The challenges encountered were to do with the creation of the online resource, mainly with the presentation of information and the search functionality. Feedback indicated that stakeholders needed information components in different combinations and that the structure of the database must make it possible to make this internal links so users could obtain information in their desired combinations for e.g. selection of an invasive species (*Rattus rattus*) would provide users the list of threatened species in the region that were under threat from the black rat and the threat mechanism and outcome.

Searches would provide detailed information on the presence of the black rat in all the selected location types- Region, Country, Island Group, Island, and Designated Area. Several iterations have led to the development of a tool which will allow detailed information to be recorded and retrieved by users.

Care is also taken to provide information that was peer reviewed, so the information provided is of the highest quality. This is a challenge as the review process sometimes takes longer than envisaged as identified experts are busy.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Some positive unexpected impacts were the interest and goodwill shown by researchers and holders of data and information on islands. There have been several contributions of raw data and information on the presence of vertebrate pests and impact information as a result of studies or surveys undertaken.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Enhancement of IBIS with the addition of information on 385 IUCN Red Listed endemic/native species from the Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspot.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

385 Pacific native and endemic species from the Pacific Region and priority CEPF countries were shortlisted for the preparation of IBIS datasheets. Desktop literature review and consultation with practitioners and conservation managers was undertaken to collate information and data.

Invasive Species threat summaries were prepared for each of the threatened species- information included a description of the invasive species threat including the threat mechanism and impact outcome. All invasive species names were linked to the species profile on the Global Invasive Species Database. Invasive species management summaries were compiled for those species where some invasive species management action was undertaken. The management action and methods were described with links provided to project documents and other related information. A summary of the outcomes as a result of the management action is also included. A species relationship table has been compiled which lists the invasive species that is the threat with the threat mechanism and impact outcome listed.

The summaries were peer reviewed by practitioners and experts. The summaries were revised based on the comments received.

Component 2 Planned: Communication strategy and implementation

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

A Communication strategy was developed with the main objective of a) promoting the use of and b) encouraging contribution to the IBIS resource. A decision was taken to participate in at least two training/workshop type events which presented an opportunity to promote the resource, its use and contribution of information and updates to the resource. It was aimed to target two audience groups a) decision makers and management level stakeholders, and b) conservation managers and practitioners. The two events selected were 1) the 22nd annual meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), attended by representatives of the 21 SPREP member governments and held between September 13th-15th 2011 in Apia, Samoa and 2) The PILN meeting to be held at Kiritimati, Kiribati during March 2012.

A side event was conducted during the SPREP meeting jointly hosted by the PILN Coordinator and the Invasives Team at SPREP to promote IBIS and the use of Biodiversity databases to support action in conservation. IBIS was promoted and its use demonstrated. A one page information document was distributed to participants. The event was well attended and the question answer session was informative both for the participants as well for the ISSG because it helped identify user needs better. IBIS was also promoted in the sidelines in discussions at other events and at every opportunity in meetings with decision makers.

The ISSG Information Services manager who was scheduled to participate in the 3rd PILN meeting could not attend due to a medical condition in the days before the meeting. The presentation and notes that were prepared were passed on to the PILN Coordinator to use during the allocated information management session. A two hour interactive session had been planned to demonstrate IBIS. It was also suggested to the Coordinator that PILN team members could get in touch with the ISSG manager for any clarifications or questions they may have. Although no PILN Team member got in touch we have had the opportunity to meet several PILN members after the event to discuss any questions. PILN Teams are either the national invasive species committee or a sub-group of a national committee. These teams are multi-agency and multi-sector and are usually led by one or two government agencies, with support from the others. There are currently 15 PILN Teams

The opportunity of the Pacific Species Forum held at Honiara Solomon Islands was also used to promote IBIS; a joint presentation was made by the ISSG manager and PII Program Manager of the preliminary results of an assessment of invasive species management action in the conservation of threatened birds in the Pacific over the past decade, the costs and outcomes of these management actions. The data and information collated for IBIS was used as the reference data.

Globally IBIS was promoted at the two Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meetings – SBSTTA 15 (November 2011) and SBSTTA 16 (April 2012) in Montreal Canada. The ISSG held a side event jointly with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) where all the resources of the ISSG including IBIS were presented. ISSG participated in holding kiosks for invasive species information services during both the SBSTTA meetings and the use of IBIS was explained to the CBD Parties who attended the kiosks.

Further opportunities will be presented at the meeting of the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) during September 2012 at Jeju, Korea and the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP) 11 at Hyderabad in India in October 2012. ISSG has a poster session during the WCC promoting the ISSG information resources including IBIS and a planned side event in the islands section during COP11

Component 3 Planned: Review of IBIS and long term sustainability

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

A Review of IBIS and a long term sustainability plan was drawn up by the ISSG Secretariat. The ISSG recognizes that the key to a sustainable long-term plan for IBIS as well the other related resources of the ISSG is developing partnerships and working collaboratively so stakeholders take ownership of the resource and use it and contribute to it. A sustainability plan was developed which is attached.

CDROMs are being prepared of the updated version of IBIS version end June 2012 for distribution during July 2012. CDROM copies will be posted to the CEPF offices shortly

A brief report summarizing the findings of a user survey has been attached. A survey was undertaken through emails and one to one discussions on who would find IBIS useful and the feedback on the beta version. The results were favorable with a maximum of respondents finding the resource useful and effective and respondents identifying over 12 purposes IBIS could be used for.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

One of the activities in component 2 (training 2) was unrealized as ISSG was unable to participate in this meeting. As explained above remedial measures were taken and other opportunities were taken to engage with that group of stakeholders. The ISSG believes that this has not affected the overall impact of the project.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

CDROM of the updated version of IBIS are being prepared for distribution

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The project design was well thought out but the time lines set out during the design were very optimistic and presented a few challenges. The development of a complex relational database is an iterative process and requires a flexible timeline especially as feedback was invited by key persons whom had to be considered and relevant changes made. The feedback process proved to be a slow process and these sometimes delayed planned dates of completion of stages.

However, we believe that the consultative process worked beneficially and has resulted in the development of a resource which is useful and effective and will complement other information tools that have been developed to target invasive species management

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The challenges presented while implementing the project were maintaining timelines as explained above and also management of data and information that is available. It proved to be difficult to demarcate between building baseline information and further enhancement due to the inflow of data and information from stakeholders.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Information resources are valuable decision support tools. The user has to be kept in mind when developing the resource so that user needs are met.

Challenges are to keep the resource updated with good quality and current information. The challenge is also to be aware of changing information needs so that new functionality is added to the tool to keep it relevant and effective.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Invasive Species Specialist Group Regional Pacific Office, University of Auckland	A	18,000 NZD	This is an estimate of the in kind support in terms of staff time and IT support as well as the direct payments made by the ISSG to the developer of IBIS
Taiwan Conservation Grant	A	19,480 NZD	This grant has provided the funds to develop baseline information that can be included in IBIS related to invasive species threat to native biodiversity on sub-Antarctic Islands
US Government	A	29,066 NZD	This grant provided the funds to partially to develop IBIS and to include information on invasive species threats on native species in the American territories in the Pacific Region

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The ISSG through its long experience in managing information resources has realized that the key to sustainability is to adopt a low cost and collaborative model where stakeholder involvement and ownership is developed. This will assist in keeping the content of the resource growing and useful to stakeholders.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The ISSG/IUCN has recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the CBD and is a key participant in a Joint Work Plan of the CBD to develop invasive species information tools that can be used by the CBD Parties to achieve progress towards achieving Aichi Target 9 which states ‘ ‘. This has provided a good opportunity for the development and enhancement of IBIS.

IBIS has been recognized as a key knowledge product (under development) by the IUCN in its information document that was presented at the Second Plenary Session to Build IPBES -Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at Panama (16 - 21 April 2012). See Page 53 [<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-015.pdf>]

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Not relevant

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.				Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?				Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit															
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other		
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services											
Total																							

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

