

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT



<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Auckland UniServices Limited for the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Accelerating Invasive Species Management in the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot
<b>Date of Report:</b>	30 November 2013
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Souad Boudjelas and Bill Nagle, Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)

**CEPF Region:** Polynesia-Micronesia

**Strategic Direction:** 1. Invasive species prevention

**Grant Amount:** \$167,294

**Project Dates:** December 1, 2011-September 30, 2013

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

**Pacific Invasives Partnership (PII):** Lead partner, management of the project and reporting, technical support and capacity development for grantees, participation in the CEPF Technical Advisory Group and input to the planning and preparation of the Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific.

**Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN):** Support on national planning and coordination to invasive species country teams, facilitation of and input to the preparation of the strategy.

**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP):** Input to the preparation of the strategy and facilitation of its endorsement at 24th SPREP Annual Meeting.

**Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP):** Contribution of information, review and endorsement of the strategy.

## Conservation Impacts

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

Our project has contributed to the implementation of Strategic Direction 1: Prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas by:

- developing a strategic framework for future capacity development efforts in the region: Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific.
- developing the capacity within government and non-government agencies for the planning and implementation of biosecurity and invasive species management,
- strengthening coordination between agencies and across sectors at the national level through support to existing invasive species country teams and encouraging the establishment of new teams in countries that are still without and,
- Raising awareness of invasive species threats and generating support for their management.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

Key achievements:

- Completed the Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific, a strategic framework for future capacity development efforts.

- Enhanced the knowledge and skills of 23 practitioners from environment and quarantine agencies in island biosecurity.
- Contributed to enhancing the knowledge and skills of another 20 practitioners in invasive bird management (this was done in partnership with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, the grantee, and other partners).
- Contributed technical sessions on the PII Resource Kit for Rodent and Cat Eradication and inter-island biosecurity at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PILN Meeting. These resulted in increased understanding of what it takes to plan and implement an eradication and the benefits of effective biosecurity and what it involves. The latter was attended by 40 practitioners, from 15 countries.
- Technical support and mentoring provided to at least 10 CEPF grantees and several government and non-government agencies.
- Facilitated inputs from several experts on the eradication or control of rodents, cats, ants, birds and plants and biosecurity.
- Provided support on national planning and coordination to 9 existing invasive species teams and encouraged 4 other countries that are without a national team to establish one.
- Contributed to generating political support for invasive species management at Pacific Leaders Forum meetings in the Cook Islands in 2012 and Marshall Islands in 2013.

### **Project Approach (500 words)**

The development of the Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (Component 1) involved a desktop review of relevant documents; a questionnaire survey of capacity development recipients and providers; interviews with providers and recipients in Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand; preparation of a comprehensive matrix of capacity development activities and the identification of constraints, lessons learned, and recommendations for future improvements in CD delivery.

Assistance to grantees and invasive species country teams was provided on demand. Once a request was received, we worked with a grantee/team to scope what is required then, tailor assistance to the needs of the grantee/team. This assistance ranged from on-going technical advice and mentoring, proposal writing, completing feasibility studies to training and strengthening of networks.

### **Link to CEPF Investment Strategy**

Strategic Direction 1: Prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas.

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

To contribute to maximising the effectiveness of the CEPF investment in Strategic Direction 1 for the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot

### **Actual Progress Towards Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

The project focused on developing the capacity of CEPF grantees and other Pacific practitioners in invasive species management and island biosecurity. More specifically, it contributed to developing experience and skills in many aspects of invasive species management including, rodent eradication and control, invasive bird control, invasive plant management.

With regards to island biosecurity, the project enhanced understanding of the importance and underpinning principles of biosecurity and developed skills in 1) risk pathway analysis and mitigation, 2) planning and implementing surveillance, 3) planning and implementing incursion responses and 4) communicating about biosecurity at community and government level.

The project also reviewed the state of capacity development and identified priorities and developed a strategic framework to guide future investment in capacity development for invasive species management in the Pacific region.

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

- Priority capacity needs for invasive species management for the region are identified.
- CEPF grantees and country invasive species team have access to the support necessary to carry out their projects.

**Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

- ***Priority capacity needs for invasive species management for the region are identified.***
  - Completed a review of capacity development activities related to invasive species management in the Pacific which identified the following priority capacity needs: communicating invasive species impacts effectively to the public and decision makers; project planning and design; fundraising for sustainable project implementation; leadership; invasive species management policy development; technical aspects of invasive species management; data management and biosecurity. The review was the basis for the Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (see Component 1 below).
- ***CEPF grantees and country invasive species team have access to the support necessary to carry out their projects.***
  - Enhanced the knowledge and skills in island biosecurity of 23 practitioners from environment and quarantine agencies through formal training.
  - Planned, prepared and delivered invasive bird management training to enhance the knowledge and skills of 20 practitioners (in partnership with the grantee, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and other partners).
  - Prepared and delivered technical sessions on the PII Resource Kit for Rodent and Cat Eradication and inter-island biosecurity at the 3rd PILN Meeting. This resulted in increased understanding of what it takes to plan and implement an eradication project, the benefits of effective biosecurity and what it involves. The latter was attended by 40 practitioners, from 15 countries.
  - Technical support and mentoring provided to at least 10 grantees and several government and non-government agencies.
  - Facilitated inputs from experts on rodent, cat, ants, bird, plants eradication/control and biosecurity to projects and training.
  - Provided support with national coordination and planning to 9 existing invasive species teams and encouraged 4 other countries that are without a national team to establish one.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected:** N/A

**Species Conserved:** N/A

**Corridors Created:** N/A

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

Being responsive to grantees needs and adopting a partnership approach were key to the success of the project.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

A major positive impact has been on PII itself. During the preparation of the Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific we learned that PII has had a huge influence on the progress of invasive species management in the Pacific and, through that, has contributed to the conservation of threatened species and key biodiversity areas. This finding motivated our team further.

## 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:**

Subgrant to PILN - To prepare a Pacific Islands Capacity Development Strategy (PICDS) to inform capacity development activities for invasive species management.  
Sub-Grant to SPREP (Contracting party for PILN) signed 29 August 2012.

### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

Completed the Capacity Development Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific. It was developed in consultation with the Pacific Invasives Partnership and Pacific invasive species practitioners and its purpose is to “guide investment efforts by relevant agencies working on strengthening the capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to manage invasive species for the benefit of the Pacific islands biodiversity, ecosystems and people”.

The strategy provides the strategic framework for future capacity development efforts. It also provides a set of recommendations for capacity development providers and recipients to improve the delivery and uptake of activities. The strategy was developed from a comprehensive review of capacity development activities between 2006 and early 2013 which identified priorities for capacity development efforts in the future.

It has been endorsed by the Pacific Invasives Partnership, the regional coordinating body for invasive species management in the region. This partnership groups all the main agencies working on invasive species in the region including, capacity development providers.

The strategy was also endorsed at the 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in September 2013 in Apia, Samoa.

### **Component 2 Planned:**

To support CEPF grantees and country invasive species teams with their invasive species management projects.

### **Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

PIL responded to all requests from grantees. Our assistance ranged from provision of technical support and mentoring to undertaking two major feasibility studies and delivery of training (see details below).

The following activities were completed:

- Provided technical support and mentoring on biosecurity, eradication and control of rats, feral cats and invasive birds, invasive ants, invasive plants.
- Feasibility study on the restoration of Maraeti'a plateau in the Punaruu Valley, Tahiti, French Polynesia.
- Feasibility study for the management of selected invasive plants in the Olum Watershed, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia.
- Contributed to the design, development and delivery of an Invasive Bird Management Training Course.
- Completed the design, development and delivery of an Island Biosecurity Training Course. 23 quarantine and environment practitioners from the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu were trained.
- Coordinated expert input into projects and training courses.

- Participated in the Technical Advisory Group for CEPF Investment in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot. This included contributing to decision-making by reviewing proposals, assisting with project selection and providing technical advice to the Regional Implementing Team and assisting with the Final Evaluation Conference for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot.
- Sourced equipment for grantees.
- Assisted invasive species teams with coordination and/or national planning in Kosrae, Samoa, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Fiji, Palau and French Polynesia.
- Discussed the benefits of having a country invasive species team with Chuuk, Tonga, Nauru, Vanuatu and encouraged them to set up teams.

**Component 3 Planned:**

To prepare a fundraising strategy for PII

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

Following advice received from discussions with a fundraising specialist, we are currently working with a communication specialist to complete a fundraising prospectus as a first step in developing a fundraising strategy.

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

All components were achieved.

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

- PII 2012. Feasibility Study for the Management of Invasive Plants within a Proposed Protection Area, Olum Watershed, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. Unpublished report. Pacific Invasives Initiative, Auckland, New Zealand.
- PII 2012. The Restoration and Conservation of Remnant Native Forest on Maraeti'a Plateau, Punaruu Valley, Tahiti, French Polynesia. Unpublished report. Pacific Invasives Initiative, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Posters to raise awareness of yellow crazy ants and encourage reporting of sightings on Kiritimati, Kiribati (in English and iKiribati versions).
- Biosecurity awareness poster (iKiribati version)
- PII "Making a Difference" Poster for the CEPF Final Evaluation Conference for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot.
- PII promotional leaflet.

**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)***

PII used its 7-years of lessons learned from working with CEPF and with CEPF grantees to design and implement this project.

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

Being flexible, responsive and able to tailor assistance to grantees and invasive species country teams' needs is the key to the success of this project.

Another important aspect that contributed to the success of the project was the long-term working history of PII and PILN with many of the grantees and country teams.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

- Capacity development is not just about one-off training events, it is a process. Capable practitioners require encouragement, opportunities to keep developing confidence in their role and opportunities to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with others. Reinforcement of capacity development must be an integral part of the process.
- Building strong, long-term, trusting and respectful relationships between recipients and providers is essential for successful capacity development.
- Recipients must be willing to have their capacity developed. You cannot force people to learn.
- Organisations where the leadership is open to change are more likely to embrace learning.

## 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
Packard Foundation (Grant to PII)	A	15,000	Oversight, technical support and training
PILN	A	25,000	Support to country teams
Fonds Pacifique (Grant to PILN)	A	60,000	Contribution to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> PILN meeting.

**\*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 sustainability of the project is through the developed capacity within government and non-government agencies that benefited from the project. It is anticipated that beneficiaries will continue to apply and expand their knowledge and skills.

**Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.**

An unexpected result was the embracing by the Pacific's political leaders of the need for more invasive species management action. This recognition should lead to sustained efforts to combat the invasive species threat.

## Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A.

However, PII promoted the completion of and explained the Pest Management Plan at the Invasive Plant Management Plan Training Course in Samoa. We have also included it into the Resource Kit for Invasive Plant Management.

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

CEPF has been pivotal in engaging civil society in invasive species management and increasing successful on-the-ground action in the region. CEPF has also been forward-looking in

recognizing the need for technical support and capacity development and ensuring that grantees have access to this through its partnership with PII as invasive species management can be complex at best and can cause harm if projects are not rigorously planned and implemented.

It is unfortunate that there are no plans for a consolidation phase to the current CEPF as this would have helped cement conservation gains, learning, and action on the ground. The region must ensure that future investments in invasive species management must build on CEPF's investment. CEPF could play an important advocacy role in this through encouraging donors to build on the gains of the CEPF.

PII is grateful to CEPF for their support since 2005 and contributing to strengthening PII's role as a lead provider of technical support and capacity development for invasive species management.

We hope that the successful engagement of CEPF with PII has provided the CEPF with a model to use in other biodiversity hotspots. PII would be happy to engage with those hotspots and would welcome help from CEPF in facilitating discussion with relevant agencies in these regions.

Congratulations to CEPF for facilitating the development of the capacity necessary for invasive species management and being the driver of on-the-ground action in the region.

#### **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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

#### **Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Dr. Souad Boudjelas  
Organization name: Pacific Invasives initiative (PII)  
Mailing address: C/- School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, Private bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand  
Tel: #64 (09) 923 6805  
Fax: #64 (09) 373 7042  
E-mail: [s.boudjelas@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.boudjelas@auckland.ac.nz)

**\*\*\*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.

<b>Project Results</b>	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.				
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?				
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									
<b>Total</b>																					

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