

Palau National Invasive Species Committee

NISC



DOSEBELII BELAU

**Strategic Action Plan
2013-2017**

Background

A workshop was held for members and partners of the Palau National Invasive Species Committee (NISC) from March 26-28, 2013, with the purpose of drafting a strategic action plan (SAP). Workshop participants initially carried out a review of the goals and objectives of the previous NISC action plan (2007-10). The goals were then revised, and a new goal, Goal 6, was adopted, to ensure that activities in the plan are adequately resourced.

Objectives were drafted for this plan to define the role of the NISC as a coordination and facilitation body, and to provide activities for NISC member and partner agencies. Objectives were prioritized in terms of logical sequence of activities, urgency of need, and those which are clearly within the responsibility of the NISC and its partners; actions were identified for all the objectives. This plan was adopted by the NISC on May 24, 2013.

Acronyms

BMR	Bureau of Marine Resources
BOA	Bureau of Agriculture
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
DFWP	Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection
EDRR	Early Detection and Rapid Response
EQPB	Environmental Quality Protection Board
MNRET	Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
NISC	National Invasive Species Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRCS	(US) Natural Resources Conservation Service
OEK	Olbiiil Era Kelulau (National Congress)
PAN	Protected Areas Network
PCS	Palau Conservation Society
PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network
RRT	Rapid Response Team
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure(s)
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Acknowledgements

The NISC thanks the Bureau of Marine Resources for the use of their excellent meeting room for the workshop, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the loan of their projector. Dr. Posa Skelton, the PILN Coordinator, provided excellent facilitation and direction to the workshop, and Ms. Mereseini Seniloli of the SPC Micronesia Office provided guidance and support throughout the workshop. In addition, we thank all the partners who joined us and contributed to the formulation of the plan. Finally, we acknowledge the assistance of our local volunteer facilitators: we could not have done this without you.

NISC Strategic Action Plan 2013 - 2017

The Action Plan is for the years 2013 - 2017. Objectives and activities were drafted for the NISC as a coordination and facilitation body, as well as activities for partner agencies and organizations. Objectives were prioritized in terms of logical sequence of activities, urgency of need, and those which are clearly within the responsibility of the NISC and/or its partners.

Goal 1 To build resilience of communities and ecosystems by increasing capacity and providing the framework (policies and enabling conditions) for ongoing management of invasive species at national, state, and community levels.

Objective 1.1 Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and increase capacity in communities and all sectors, for invasive species prevention and management.

Actions

1.1.1 By the end of Year 1, the NISC will determine which/whose capacity should be assessed (e.g., PAN Site managers and conservation officers, communities, partner agencies, government agencies, etc.).

1.1.2 By the end of Year 2, the NISC will carry out a capacity needs assessment for the agencies/organizations identified in Action 1.1.1.

NOTE: will need local consultant, or technical assistance from SPREP and/or SPC

1.1.3 By the end of Year 2, the NISC will prioritize identified needs for action

1.1.4 By the middle of Year 3, NISC members and partners will develop a capacity building plan of action.

NOTE: will require technical assistance

1.1.5 During Years 3-5, the NISC and its partners will implement capacity building activities based on the prioritized plan of action.

Objective 1.2 By the end of Year 5, develop and implement a functional framework for invasive species management

Actions

1.2.1 By the end of Year 1, the NISC and its partners will determine which policies, procedures, and regulations in relation to invasive species management need to be reviewed.

NOTE: will need local consultant, or technical assistance (i.e. SPREP/SPC)

1.2.2 By the end of Year 2, the NISC and its partners will conduct a comprehensive policy review and gap analysis.

NOTE: will need local consultant, or technical assistance (i.e. SPREP/SPC)

1.2.3 By the end of Year 2, the NISC and its partners will prioritize policy and regulatory gaps, and address these in a prioritized plan of action.

NOTE: will need local consultant, or technical assistance (i.e. SPREP/SPC)

1.2.4 During Years 2-4, National and State governments will create new and/or revise existing policies, regulations, and procedures, according to the plan developed in Action 1.2.3.

NOTE: will need local consultant, or technical assistance (i.e. SPREP/SPC)

1.2.5 During Years 2-5 relevant staff will be updated/trained on new and revised policies, regulations, and procedures.

NOTE: will need local consultant, or technical assistance (i.e. SPREP/SPC)

GOAL 2 To prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species.

NOTE: Goals 2 and 4 are closely related, and their implementation must be coordinated

Objective 2.1 Prevent the introduction of new species with the potential to become invasive

Actions

2.1.1 During Years 1-2, concurrently with review and adoption of the Biosecurity Bill (see Goal 4), the BOA, with support of NISC partner agencies, will develop and begin to implement a biosecurity plan.

NOTE: the plan should include updating of quarantine regulations, to put the burden of proof of non-invasiveness on the importer, and with a schedule of fines for violations of the regulations, as well as clear plans for development of early detection and rapid response (EDRR) capability

2.1.2 By the end of Year 2, the BOA, with the support of NISC partner agencies, will develop and/or revise standard operating procedures for dealing with introductions of living organisms into Palau.

2.1.3 Beginning in Year 1, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the BOA, with the support of NISC partner agencies, will develop and maintain a "white list" of organisms acceptable for import, including, as necessary, conditions for import

2.1.4 Beginning in Year 1, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the BOA, with the support of NISC partner agencies, will develop and maintain a database of all introductions of living organisms.

2.1.5 Beginning in Year 1, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC and partner agencies will develop and implement outreach and coordination programs regarding import laws, regulations, and procedures, for multiple stakeholders, e.g.:

- targeted at policy makers
- targeted at plant lovers/importers
- targeted at government agencies

Objective 2.2 Ensure early detection of, and rapid action against, new introductions of potentially invasive species.

Actions

2.2.1 By the end of Year 2, in accordance with the biosecurity plan developed in Action 2.1.1, the NISC and its partners will establish standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the appropriate government agencies and nongovernmental organizations to ensure early detection of invasive species.

2.2.2 By the end of Year 2, in accordance with the biosecurity plan developed in Action 2.1.1, the NISC and its partners will establish a cross-sectoral rapid response team (RRT) with SOPs. The RRT should be organized according to an agreement to obtain commitment from member agencies (budget, staff and resources), and which mainstreams or integrates the rapid response plan into agency work plans.

2.2.3 By the end of Year 3, member agencies of the RRT will develop and implement financial and operational plans for each agency to include commitment of necessary resources to the RRT. The plans should:

- Identify funds, capacity (people to be trained/agencies), resources
- Specify development of a database (to including profiling of likely pathways/vectors and others) to ensure that resources are targeted where they are most needed
- Include outreach, such as social-networking sites and a hotline.

Objective 2.3 Prevent or reduce the spread of invasive species within Palau, especially from one island to another – See Objective 4.1 for related actions

Actions

2.3.1 By the end of Year 2, the NISC and its partners will identify and prioritize target vectors and pathways for invasive species within Palau.

2.3.2 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC and its partners will develop and implement an outreach campaign focused on preventing the spread of invasive species within Palau.

2.3.3 By the end of Year 3, NISC members and partners will work with conservation officers in each state, and the Alliance of Palau Conservation Officers, to develop a protocol for early detection of and rapid response to invasive species, in particular at PAN Sites and other protected areas.

2.3.4 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will develop and conduct standardized trainings on detection of and response to invasive species, to increase capacity of conservation officers.

GOAL 3 Reduce negative impacts of existing invasive species.

Objective 3.1 Inventory, assess, and prioritize existing invasive species for appropriate management action, including control and/or removal.

Actions

3.1.1 By the end of Year 1, the NISC and its partners will review existing literature on invasive species in Palau, and compile available information.

3.1.2 By the end of Year 2, the NISC and its partners will produce an inventory and assessment report and distribute to appropriate stakeholders (communities, policy makers, and relevant agencies).

3.1.3 Beginning in Year 3, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC and its partners will conduct agency workshops and community outreach to build awareness about the inventory and assessment report.

3.1.4 By the end of Year 3, the NISC and its partners will prioritize invasive species known to be present in Palau for action.

3.1.5 By the end of Year 3, the NISC and its partners will identify and map invasive species hotspots (priority areas) and critical areas for protection (e.g., PAN sites) based on existing knowledge.

3.1.6 By the end of Year 2, the PAN Office, with the support of NISC members and partners, will develop guidelines for integration of invasive species prevention and management into PAN site management plans, provide these guidelines to all PAN site management teams, and modify PAN regulations to require the integration of invasive species prevention and management into all PAN site management plans.

3.1.7 By the end of Year 5, invasive species prevention and management will be integrated into all PAN site management plans.

Objective 3.2 Implement management actions identified through inventory, assessment, and prioritization activities.

Actions

3.2.1 Beginning in Year 1, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC will facilitate effective coordination and collaboration among agencies and organizations for implementation of management actions.

3.2.2 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, inventory assessment and prioritization recommendations will be integrated into agencies' strategies and work-plans, especially in the PAN.

3.2.3 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC and its partner agencies will work to ensure adequate funding (through appropriations, grant funding, and leveraging other resources). – see Goal 6

3.2.4 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will increase and expand their capacity to manage invasive species through training and hiring additional staff, and purchasing necessary equipment.

3.2.5 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, actions identified in PAN site management plans will be implemented.

Objective 3.3 Work with partners to support the restoration of economies and ecosystems negatively impacted by invasive species.

Actions

3.3.1 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC and its partners will consult with communities and partners to support development of economic and ecosystem restoration plans.

3.3.2 By the end of Year 2, the NISC and its partners will work with partners to support the implementation of at least one economic and ecosystem restoration plan (including bio-security measures). At least one plan will be developed and implemented by the end of Year 2.

3.3.3 Beginning in Year 3, and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC and its partners will continue to support ongoing monitoring and restoration efforts. At least 5 plans will be developed and implemented by the end of Year 5.

GOAL 4 Develop and implement more effective collaboration, coordination and participation in efforts and initiatives for invasive species prevention and management among state, national, regional, and international partners.

Objective 4.1 State and national governments are working together to enhance domestic biosecurity.

Actions

4.1.1 Beginning in Year 1, and by the end of Year 3, the NISC and its partners will develop a process to ensure the continuity and functionality of the NISC.

4.1.2 During Years 2-5, states, with the support and advice of NISC members and partners, will establish state biosecurity legislation and regulations that complement national legislation and regulations.

4.1.3 During Years 3-5, individual states, with the support and advice of NISC members and partners, will develop and implement strategic implementation plans for state biosecurity regulations.

Objective 4.2 Palau's biosecurity laws and regulations are consistent with regional and international standards.

Actions

4.2.1 By the end of Year 1, NISC members and partners will form a working group with OEK, SPREP, and SPC to review the existing biosecurity bill (developed as part of an SPC-assisted project and introduced into the OEK in 2008), and all proposed amendments.

- 4.2.2 By the end of Year 1, the working group will propose amendments to the biosecurity bill, as necessary.
- 4.2.3 By the end of Year 1, OEK members will reintroduce the biosecurity bill.
- 4.2.4 By the end of Year 1, NISC members and partners will identify target groups for outreach & lobbying for passage of the biosecurity bill.
- 4.2.5 By the end of Year 1, NISC members and partners will lobby for passage of the biosecurity bill.

Objective 4.3 Effective collaboration, coordination, and participation with regional organizations and initiatives working to prevent and manage invasive species.

Actions

- 4.3.1 By the end of Year 1, NISC members and partners will develop a list of regional organizations working to prevent and manage invasive species.
- 4.3.2 By the end of Year 1, the NISC will share the above list with NISC member agencies and key stakeholders.
- 4.3.3 During Year 2, NISC member organizations will evaluate each organization and determine whether it is feasible to join, and recommend membership/partnerships of selected organizations.
- 4.3.4 During Years 2-5, the NISC will engage in membership/partnership with the selected activities and initiatives.

Objective 4.4 Endorsement and compliance with appropriate international bodies, agreements, and conventions working to prevent and manage invasive species.

Actions

- 4.4.1 During Years 1-2, NISC members and partners will review and comment on relevant international agreements, and provide recommendations for/against the endorsing the agreements
- 4.4.1 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, Palau will actively engage and participate in international agreements/initiatives.

GOAL 5 To increase public awareness and community participation so that all sectors of society actively support efforts to minimize the risk and negative impacts of invasive species on the economy, society, and the environment.

Objective 5.1 Public awareness with regard to invasive species prevention and management has increased.

Actions

5.1.1 By the end of Year 2, NISC members and partners will develop a media outreach campaign with an invasive species focus (newspaper, television, radio)

5.1.2 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will work with the Ministry of Education, private schools, and Palau Community College to incorporate invasive species awareness materials into school curricula.

5.1.3 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will carry out community visits to raise awareness of specific invasive species issues.

Objective 5.2 Community and sectoral participation in the prevention and management invasive species has increased.

Actions

5.2.1 Beginning in Year 1, and throughout the period covered by this plan, community leaders, with the support and advice of NISC members and partners, will lead/organize awareness, control, and/or removal activities in their communities.

5.2.2 By the end of Year 2, NISC members and partners will assist communities in acquiring funding assistance and incentive materials (e.g., cleaning tools, signs) to generate community pride.

5.2.3 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will take advantage of existing school and community activities to raise awareness of invasive species issues.

5.2.4 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will carry out at least one nation-wide activity focused on invasive species each year, e.g., National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Objective 5.3 Societal behaviors have positively changed, using appropriate enabling conditions, to effectively address at least one priority invasive species issue.

Actions

5.3.1 By the end of Year 3, NISC members and partners will develop and carry out one social marketing campaign on a selected invasive species, or invasive species issue.

5.3.2 During Years 4-5, NISC members and partners will carry out follow-up and monitoring activities to ensure and monitor the success of the social marketing campaign.

GOAL 6: To sustain a comprehensive and systematic effort to effectively address invasive species over the long term.

Objective 6.1 Efforts to prevent and manage invasive species are adequately and sustainably funded.

6.1.1 By December 2013, NISC members will undertake a costing for each of the activities of this plan. (lead – NISC Secretariat)

6.1.2 By December 2013, the NISC Secretariat will develop a funding matrix, identifying donor agencies, funding focus, dates, amount, and other useful information to assist with funding activities under the Strategic Action Plan.

6.1.3 By May 2014, NISC members and partners will prioritize activities in this plan to focus on those urgently needing funding.

6.1.4 By May 2014 the NISC Secretariat will to produce a document identifying other sustainable financing mechanisms (e.g. user-pays, cost for services or cost-recovery, fines, voluntary donations, private-public partnership, virtual community-e-funding, endowment fund, emergency response fund, etc.).

NOTE: will require technical assistance

6.1.5 By July 2014, NISC members and partners will develop a Sustainable Finance plan based on Actions 6.1.1-6.1.4. (lead – NISC Chair)

NOTE: will require technical assistance

6.1.5 Beginning in Year 1, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members and partners will work with the PAN Management Committee and PAN Fund Board to ensure that invasive species are one of the priorities for PAN funding and management activities.

6.1.6 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, funding proposals based on the priority key activities (Action 6.1.2) will be developed and submitted to potential funding partners, identified in Action 6.1.3.

Objective 6.2 There is sufficient political support for long term invasive species efforts.

Actions

6.2.1 By the end of Year 1, NISC members will identify key political persons, bodies (e.g. OEK), committees, and institutions that need to be sensitized for support on invasive species.

6.2.2 Beginning in Year 2, and throughout the period covered by this plan, NISC members will develop targeted awareness materials and utilize appropriate communication tools (e.g. champions) to ensure that these groups (political persons,

bodies, committees, and institutions) are sensitized to invasive species prevention and management.

6.2.3 Beginning in Year 1 and throughout the period covered by this plan NISC members will make every effort to ensure that politicians (especially the President) and other stakeholders (e.g. traditional leaders) are regularly participating in, and/or regularly informed about, invasive species activities (e.g., NISC meetings).

Objective 6.3 Long term efforts to address invasive species are effectively integrated into existing state and national government procedures, work plans, and activities.

Actions


6.3.1 Beginning in Year 1 and throughout the period covered by this plan, the NISC Secretariat will actively provide support to NISC member and partner agencies' work planning, to ensure that invasive species are included in work plans and that adequate resources (funding, capacity, and others) are committed.

6.3.2 Beginning in Year 1, NISC members and partners will ensure that Goals, Objectives, and Actions from the SAP 2013-2017 are reflected in their agencies' work plans, and that the necessary resources are allocated.

CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENTS

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this Strategic Action Plan has been adopted by the Palau National Invasive Species Committee.




Fernando Sengebau
NISC Chair

11/12/2013

DATE

ENDORSEMENTS

I hereby endorse this Strategic Action Plan, as adopted by the National Invasive Species Committee, and encourage the Committee to move forward with its implementation.

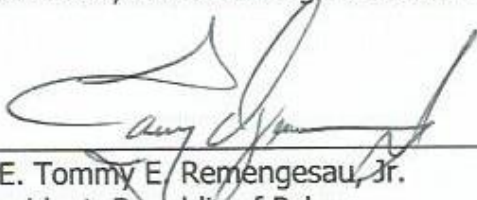


F. Umich Sengebau
Minister, Natural Resources, Environment
and Tourism

11/12/2013

DATE

I hereby endorse this Strategic Action Plan, as adopted by the National Invasive Species Committee, and encourage the Committee to move forward with its implementation.



H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President, Republic of Palau

11/19/13

DATE