



Introduction to Working Group IV: Islands and IAS

European Conference: Invasive Alien Species

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Washington, DC



Executive Order 13112 (Issued in February of 1999)

NISC was established by EO to ensure that Federal activities are:

- **Coordinated**
- **Complimentary**
- **Cost-efficient**
- **Effective**

Council's Co-Chairs: Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture & Commerce

Members: DOT, DOD, Treasury, DOS, EPA, HHS, USAID; USTR, DHS, & NASA.

- About **35** Federal agencies share the responsibility and authority for invasive species and as do all 50 states, tribes, local governments, and territories.



KEY GENERAL POINTS ON ISLANDS AND IAS

- 1) Islands are subject to all the usual pathways for introduction of IAS, including often high levels of tourism and trade.
- 2) IAS on islands, especially isolated islands with high levels of endemism, have a GREAT impact on the ecology, economy and human/cultural resources of it's inhabitants (i.e. Brown Treesnake in Guam)



KEY GENERAL POINTS ON ISLANDS AND IAS (cont'd)

- 3) Such islands tend to have very limited resources and require increased capacity to effectively address IAS making collaboration with major mainland nations AND with other islands in a region all the more critical. Creating a unified front of policies and sharing limited resources is the best way to go.
- 4) While the impact of IAS is often disproportionately harmful on islands, the fact that they are small and isolated provides unique opportunities for successful eradications and enhanced early detection (and when funded actual rapid response).



Brown Treesnake

- Introduced to the US Territory of Guam from Australia after WWII.
- Has extirpated 9 of 12 indigenous birds off of Guam,
- Causes hundreds of power outages every year on an island 3 times the size of DC.



Brown Treesnake (cont'd)

- Occurs in densities of THOUSANDS/square mile (maximum of 10,000/sq.mile).
- Now requires 5+ million dollars/year to keep from spreading to other islands (like Hawaii) where it would likely have similar catastrophic effects.

GAMBIAN RAT BIOLOGY

last 1/3 of tail creamy
colored



prominent cheek pouches

- 1) **OMNIVORE**
- 2) **5-6 LITTERS/YR W/ 1-5 YOUNG**
- 3) **COMMUNAL BURROWERS**
- 4) **MONKEY POX OUTBREAK**



Gambian Rat



NISC Pacific Initiative: Importance of Coordination

- 1) Developed in response to requests from the governments of Micronesia (Guam, CNMI, FSM, Palau + State of HI)
 - Funding support from an array of NISC members
- 2) Direct NISC involvement in IS coordination on a Regional Scale
 - Work with a motivated cadre of partners in Micronesia (Fed, State, Territorial, International, NGO, Academia, etc.)
 - Initiative will address all aspects and all taxa of IS,
 - BTS will most prominent of many vertebrate invasive species to be addressed.
- 3) Increase NISC expertise in State and Local level IS coordination efforts



Early Detection and Rapid

Response: *Finding IS early may provide the only opportunity to eradicate or contain them.*

Actions:

- Improve detection methods to speed up the process
- Seek a flexible funding source for rapid response contingencies
- Establish rapid response guidelines and teams in cooperation with local/state organizations

Melaleuca



Before



After



Cause of island extinctions

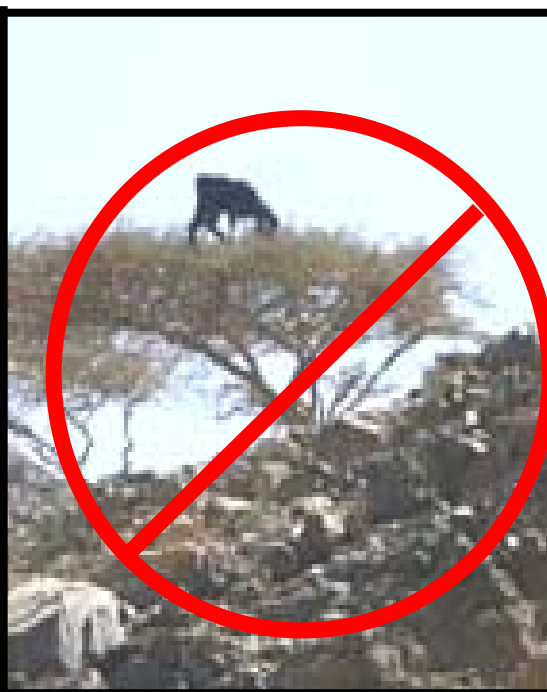
Invasive species

55-67% of island animal extinctions globally

Courtesy of Pat Patterson of Island Conservation



Islands are conservation opportunities



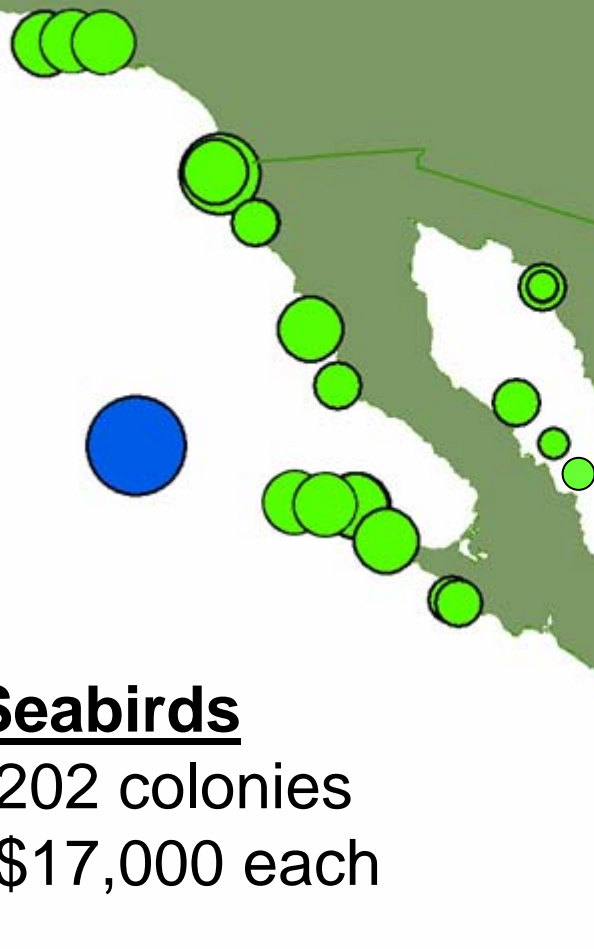
Invasive species *can* be removed
Ecosystems can recover



Eradicated

38 populations

from 27 islands



 Completed
 Current



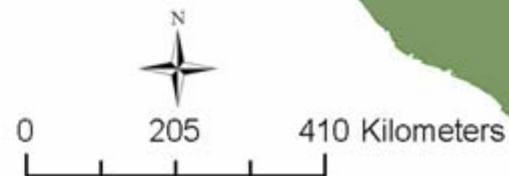
Seabirds

- 202 colonies
- \$17,000 each



Endemics

- 90 (20%)
- \$36,000 each





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