



# Meeting the invasive species challenge in the Pacific Region

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# Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP): Overview

- Regional coordinating body for invasive species
- Agencies working on invasive species issues in more than one Pacific country or territory
- Coordinated planning and assistance to meet the needs of PICTs
- Guiding strategy: the *Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific*
- Charter: functions, membership criteria & commitments, structure and roles, communications & reporting
- 29 partners as of September 2011



# PIP Partners 2011

## **CROP (Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific) agencies**

Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme  
University of the South Pacific

## **Donors, technical assistance agencies and NGOs:**

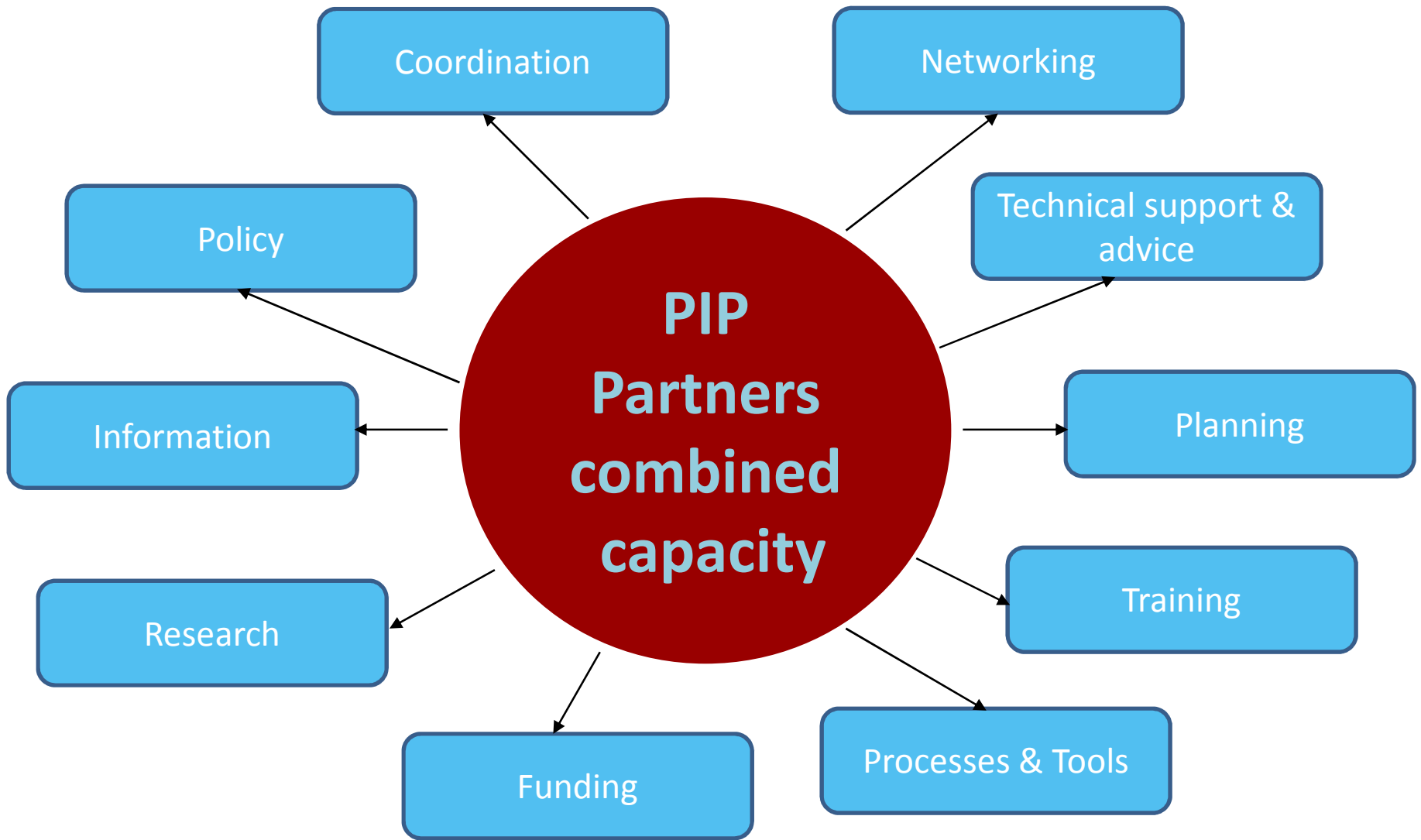
Austral Foundation  
BioNet-PaciNet  
BirdLife International  
CAB International  
Conservation International  
Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific  
Global Island Partnership  
Invasive Species Specialist Group  
Island Conservation  
IUCN Oceania Regional Office  
Landcare Research

## **Regional programmes**

Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)  
Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)

New Zealand (MFAT) Aid Programme  
New Zealand Department of Conservation  
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand  
Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum  
Pacific Basin Information Node  
The Nature Conservancy  
United Nations Environment Programme  
USDA Forest Service  
US Department of State  
US National Invasive Species Council  
Univ. of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit  
Univ. of Melbourne Dept of Resource Management and Geography


**Pacific sub-regional representation:** Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council



## Highlights from 2010 – 2011 (Cont'd)

- Draft Communications Strategy on invasive species
- Review of national invasive species strategies and plans completed
- Review of Pacific Invasives Projects Database and gap analysis
- Annual meeting held in Suva in June 2011
- Identified PIP priorities for 2011 – 2012
- Prepared Action Plan 2011 – 2012
- Review of PIP performance and participation

# Highlights from 2010 - 2011

- Technical support and advice to Pacific agencies (government and NGOs)
- Assistance to Fiji on the invasive species component of the NBSAP Implementation Framework  Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce (FIST)
- Technical Advisory Group for the regional invasive species project (GEF-PAS) established
- Continued technical support and advice to the CEPF
- Support to the Micronesia Biosecurity Plan

# Lessons learned

- Shared goal with different objectives, priorities and strengths
- Partners contribute differently
- Joint work planning is essential

# Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)





## PII (Cont'd)

- Established in 2004 as the first regional programme of the *Cooperative Initiative on Invasive Alien Species on Islands* (COP6 Decision VI/23/19)
- First formal partnership on invasive species in the Pacific

# What we do?

We work with Pacific agencies to strengthen their invasive species management capacity:

- Technical assistance
- Best practice process and supporting tools
- Formal and on-the-job training
- Facilitate access to Subject Matter Experts

# Lessons learned on Capacity Development (CD)

- Building long-term, trusting and respectful relationships is essential
- Work to well defined and agreed CD objectives
- CD process must be led by the partner agency, not the CD provider
- CD require long-term commitment
- CD is a process, not just delivery of one-off training events

# Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)

# Invasive species highlights from around the Pacific



# Biosecurity

- Regional biosecurity bill – Cook Islands and Fiji.
- Biosecurity and trade support
- Pacific Ant Prevention Programme
- Micronesia Biosecurity Plan

# Incursion response

- Surveillance for red imported fire ant in Fiji
- 2 successful mongoose incursion responses in Samoa and New Caledonia (2010)

# Invasive species control

- Rat control
  - Cook Island: conservation of the endangered Rarotonga flycatcher or kakerori (from CR to EN). Successful translocation to Atiu.
  - French Polynesia: conservation the Tahiti flycatcher (CR) and the Fatu Hiva flycatcher (CR)

# Invasive plant management

- Several invasive plant species being managed:  
American Samoa, Fiji, Kosrae, Palau, Pohnpei,  
Samoa, Vanuatu, Yap.

# Island restoration through invasive species eradication

- Several island restoration projects involving eradication of rats, cats, rabbits and goats in Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Palau and Samoa



# Fiji: Vatu I Ra Restoration Project, BirdLife Fiji Programme




**Nagilogilo clan, 2.3 ha,  
uninhabited**

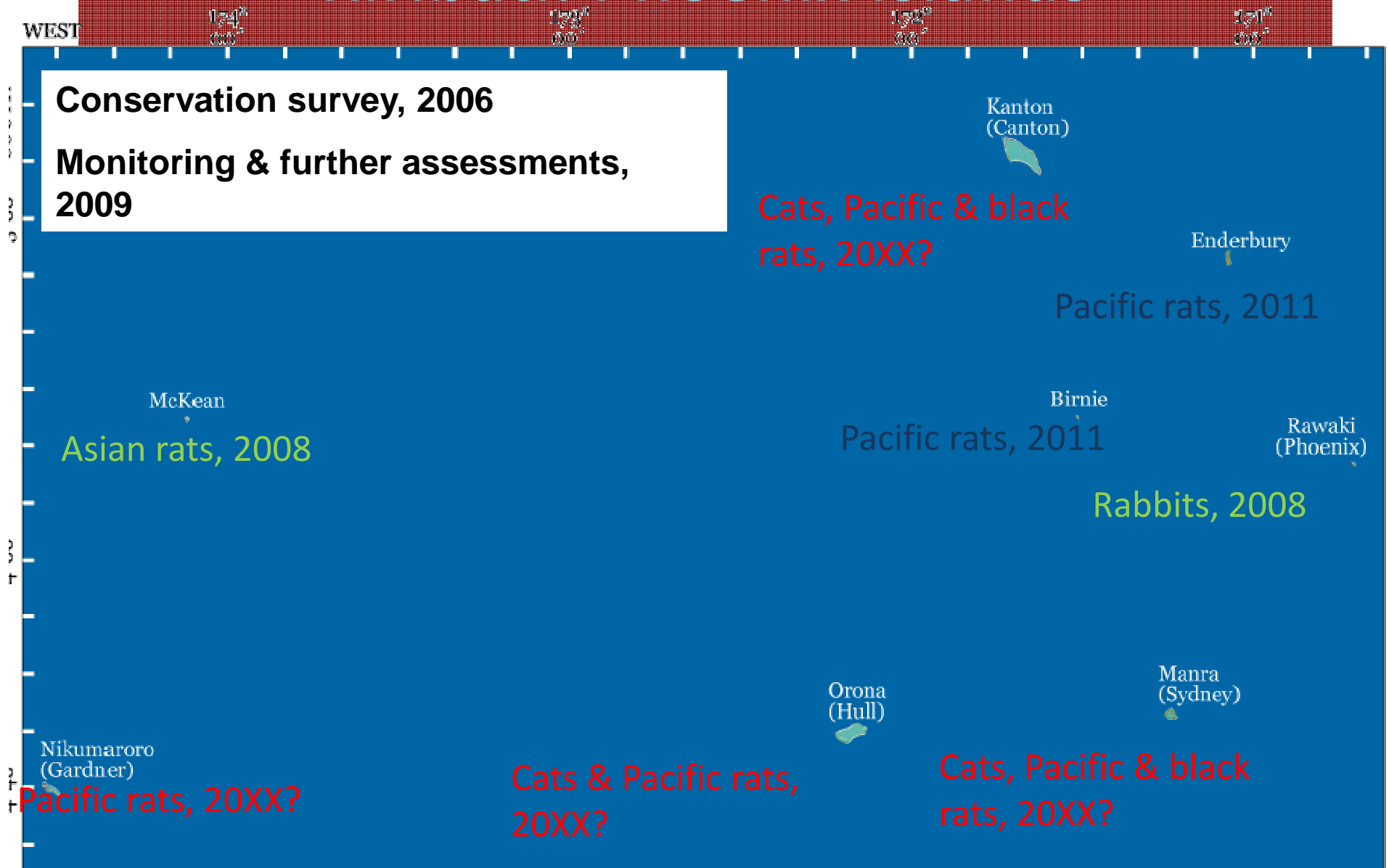
**Important Bird Area**

**9 spp of breeding seabirds**

# Lessons learned

- Even “small” operations require careful planning and appropriate consultation
- Project management and community engagement skills are as crucial as the technical ones
- Celebrating success
- Leveraging success 
- Regional-scale effects can result

# Kiribati: Phoenix Islands







## Outcomes: McKean Island

June 2008: Before  
the rat eradication

Dec 2009: After the  
rat eradication



# Conclusions

- Some good progress but much remains to be done
- Need greater focus on biosecurity at the border and between islands within countries
- Need to generate political support
- Need greater focus on institutional capacity strengthening
- Need for mainstreaming across other conservation areas and sectors
- Need \$\$





Thank you!

