

## **Observations from the April 9, 2010 MISC Meeting on Early Detection & Rapid Response**

Overview: We framed the meeting on Early Detection & Rapid Response in the context of our Strategic Plan. We also asked the questions:

- Are we accomplishing our stated goals / objectives?
- Do the goals and objectives need to be modified?
- How can we improve on what we are doing?

The purpose of this document is to suggest answers to those questions and seek input on gaps, again using the Strategic Plan as the basis. Proposed answers are included in blue text after each Strategy or Performance Measure.

### **Early Detection – Objective 1.1: New terrestrial invasive species are detected at the incipient stage of invasion – when control or eradication is still feasible.**

*Strategies:*

1. USGS & MISC collaborate in implementing Maui-based early detection reporting system.

USGS & MISC continue to collaborate on the ED reporting system. USGS has taken the lead on this endeavor to date.

2. Survey Maui's roadsides, nurseries and botanical gardens during FY08.

Roadside, nursery, botanical garden, and landing zone surveys have been completed. This objective needs to be revised in light of those results and recommendations from FKS. See below.

3. Improve staff capacity to identify plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate species. Conduct biennial vertebrate identification training for Maui Nui natural resource workers.

Last staff Vertebrate training was 3/08  
Vertebrate crew went to snake training on Oahu in 2009  
Mike Ade has had Guam snake training (2006) and Guam refresher (2009)  
Botany workshop held in late 2008; refresher in 2009  
Little fire ant training (some staff) – 1/10

Actions Needed:

- Plan and schedule vertebrate training workshop
- Increase capacity for invertebrates: explore staff participation in Insects & Control class
- Schedule botany refreshers at least once per year
- Options: Cas for more in-depth ant training; Mach for all staff training

4. Implement "Eyes & Ears" program to expand public's familiarity with target species.

23 Workshops; 310 participants  
Revision / reprint of ED guide in process  
Input on target audiences requested via attached list of target audiences

5. Support public awareness of the statewide PEST hotline.

Subject of discussion at last ISCs meeting post CGAPS. Proposal is to test efficacy of PEST hotline. Not that many calls come in to PEST hotline on Maui. Recently, MISC has been receiving follow-up notification from HDOA re: frogs and other pests. Efforts to examine its effectiveness are pending.

6. Increase MISC's awareness of on-island activities for other taxa (e.g., invertebrates). Identify gaps in early detection.

FKS are filling this role of late, though MISC is still obviously plant and vert-centric. Suggest using CGAPS Strategic Plan to identify additional potential areas of work in Early Detection. For example, MISC is helping to meet the following components of the CGAPS Plan:

Importation of Invasive Plants (#3 in CGAPS S.P.)

- Ensure continued funding for weed-risk-assessment technicians. (DLNR, USFWS, USFS) – MISC supports this effort by housing the Maui-based WRA technician (although MISC is on the plus side of the bargain!)

- Work with plant industries and relevant agencies to produce a list of additions to the Restricted Plants List. (CGAPS, ISCs, USFWS, HDOA) –If still desired, need to schedule a meeting.

Early Warning for Pests not Present in Hawaii (#8 in CGAPS S.P.)

- Advocate for creation of a Pacific Initiative patterned after the Caribbean Initiative. (CGAPS, TNC, USFS, USDA APHIS)

- Use PestNet and PILN and similar networks to communicate pests of concern, and include in this effort vertebrate and aquatic pests that are not covered by OPIS or NAPPO alerts.

These latter two tasks are outside the scope of MISC's work, but we are exploring a possible grant that would provide some ISC expertise to Pacific Islanders working on invasive species. If funded, this would help strengthen the relationship with other Pacific islands and possibly enhance communication about pests of concern.

*Performance Measures:*

1. Public reports about invasive species via the state PEST hotline or directly to MISC increase. We are not tracking this accurately. Is this a good measure? Data from CGAPS suggests that PEST reports increase immediately following public service announcement about it. Suggest deleting this as a measure.
2. Numbers of trained observers familiar with MISC targets and other identified incipient species. Over 310 people trained in workshops. Presumably more via newspaper articles.
3. Number of miles surveyed; number of new detections. Surveyed 850 miles on Maui surveyed (2000 and 2009), 142 miles on Molokai (2005) and 105 miles on Lanai (2007). New island records included 19 on Molokai, and 9 on Lanai. Nursery and botanical garden surveys generated 314 new state records. One incipient species was detected during landing zone surveys. Relatively high level of weedy plants encountered during nursery surveys.

Suggestions for next areas of focus included:

- Work to require labeling of all plants by species name
- Collect voucher specimens for new state records (still need to collect 295/314)
- More surveys at botanical gardens and retail outlets
- Conduct road surveys 2x in one year to get handle on seasonality
- Summarize observations from landing zone surveys for best management practices

**Input on priorities from Committee members needed.**

Additionally, we did not discuss the second component of EDRR – Rapid Response. The following progress or pending actions are highlighted.

**Rapid Response – Objective 1.2: Clear protocols guide agency responses to detections of new invasive plants, vertebrates, invertebrates and aquatic species.**

*Strategies:*

1. Update and disseminate comprehensive Rapid Response Chart outlining agency responsibilities.

Clarifying agency roles and responsibilities was identified as a strategy in the CGAPS Plan. MISC has taken on the responsibility for organizing a workshop to review agency responsibilities. This option will be mentioned at the next MISC meeting.

2. Participate in development of a statewide decision-support system for identifying response options and priorities.

See above comment.

3. Create feedback loops to ensure adequate response is maintained.

Ditto.

*Performance Measures:*

1. Number of responses to new invaders In the last year, MISC has responded to *Erica lusitanica*, *Silybum marianum*, and *Wasmannia auropunctata* (surveys and PR campaign).
2. Key agency personnel have enhanced understanding of responsibilities for responding to invasive species reports. Could do pre- and post-surveys before beginning workshop.
3. Misguided referrals are reduced. Too hard to measure. Suggest dropping.
4. Time of response from discovery or report to assessment. Not measured. Suggest dropping as a measure.
5. Time of response from report to action. Could be pulled out of data but not currently tracked intentionally. Could be added to “Species Profile” information.

Query: Do we need clearer measures of success in this area?