

# Fiji

## TSA on Invasive Alien Species

### -IAS

**Status:** Planned for 2021

**Funding agency:** GEF/UNDP/GoF Project: "Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic Threatened Species on Taveuni Island, Surrounding Islets and throughout Fiji.

**Implementing partners:** The Biosecurity Agency of Fiji (BAF) and focal points in key agencies such as:

- Ministry of Public Enterprises
- Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment
- Local governments and communities in the targeted sites
- Academic sector (SPREP, FNU, USP, etc.)
- Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP) and Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN)

Invasive alien species (IAS) are the greatest threat to biodiversity in the Pacific Islands. Numerous IAS have been introduced to Fiji, with significant impacts on natural landscapes and biodiversity and sectorial revenue, for instance, to the tourism and agriculture sectors. Although several national and local-level initiatives address IAS in Fiji, these efforts lack adequate capacity and an overall comprehensive strategy to ensure systematic and effective protection of biodiversity-rich and vital areas. A practical, organized, complete, and sufficiently funded eradication effort against IAS is currently lacking and urgently needed.

TSA will help understand the economic impacts of selected IAS on biodiversity, livelihoods, agriculture and forestry; and determine the economic costs of specific IAS, such as the taro beetle termites. It will look at the economic impacts and explore the value and net benefits of various management/control options. The study results will be critical to support the improvement of IAS management and make the business case for mobilization of long-term financing. Besides, the TSA will be informing local and national awareness-raising campaigns of potential impacts and the need for biosecurity reform. Similarly, the TSA findings will educate stakeholders regarding the costs of various options for addressing IAS and emphasize that IAS prevention, management, and control are everyone's responsibility. The TSA will assess the economic cost or potential avoided costs to homes and commercially essential crops like sugar cane. This data is indeed relevant to the government and the private sector.

The TSA will also promote the betterment of the legal and regulatory framework and the IAS action plans; besides, diversified financing and commitment to biosecurity and effective IAS management. It is anticipated that the TSA will increase political attention to the termite problem and mitigate the economic and social impacts on the western parts of Viti Levu and some parts of Vanua Levu.