



Simulation Exercise – Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP)

TECHNICAL REPORT

François Martel, Forestry and Conservation Consultant
James Atherton, IAS specialist
29 June 2015

**“EXERCISE INVASIVE SPECIES
EMERGENCY RESPONSE”**

SIMULATION REPORT

June 26 – 2015

9am to 5pm

MAF Crops Research Station, Nu’u

INVASIVE SPECIES EMERGENCY RESPONSE
COMMITTEE (ISERC)

TABLETOP/OPERATIONAL EXERCISE

Prepared by

James Atherton and François Martel

Introduction

This report describes the results of the simulation exercise carried out to test the understandability, relevance, practicality and effectiveness of the Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP) to invasive species emergencies. The exercise was conducted on June 26, 2015 at the MAF Crops Research Centre at Nu'u. A hypothetical invasive species outbreak of the Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) was simulated in the exercise.

The exercise allowed the members of the Invasive Species Emergency Response Committee (ISERC) to better understand the proposed SISERP by role playing key roles in the SISERP and to then be able to provide constructive feedback so that the plan can be made most effective, appropriate and relevant to Samoa. Details on the exercise are given in the Exercise Manual at Annex 1 and the Powerpoint Presentation at Annex 2.

Attendance

Name	Job Title	Role Played in the Simulation	Email
Malia Pisi	Snr Disaster Mgmt Officer	DMO Rep	Malia.pisi@mnre.gov.ws
Maanaima Matau	MAF-CROPS	MAF CEO	maanaima.matau@maf.gov.ws
Angelica Tugaga	MAF-CROPS	Eradication Team	Angelika.matafeo@maf.gov.ws
Fuatino Leota	ACEO-DEC	ACEO-DEC	Fuatino.leota@mnre.gov.ws
Maturo Paniani	NISC	Evaluator, PM	maturo.paniani@mnre.gov.ws
Lesaisaea Niualuga Evaimalo	Principal Terrestrial Officer	Monitoring Team Leader	niualuga.evaimalo@mnre.gov.ws
Faalelei Tunupopo	MAF-CROPS	Eradication Team	Faalelei.tunupopo@maf.gov.ws
Greg Sherley	UNEP	Technical Adviser	greg.sherley@undp.org.ws
Molly Nielsen	MNRE-DMO	Facilitator	molly.nielsen@mnre.gov.ws
Talei Fidow Moors	Principal Quarantine Officer	ACEO- Quarantine-Response Manager	principal@samoaquarantine.gov.ws
Fuifatu Billy Enosa	MAF- Crops	Eradication Team Leader	billy.enosa@maf.gov.ws
Filomena Nelson	ACEO-DMO	Evaluator	filomena.nelson@mnre.gov.ws
Vaitoa Toelupe	CSSP	Evaluator	vaitoa.toelupe@cssp.gov.ws
Vesi Ioane	MAF-Quarantine	Public Awareness Team	vesi.ioane@maf.gov.ws
Anoano Seumalii-Vaai	MAF-Quarantine	Pest Detector	anoseumalii@gmail.com
Akeripa Misa	MWCSD Senior Policy Analyst	Community Liaison	amisa@mwcsd.gov.ws
Jackie Adam	MAF-Quarantine	Team Leader Public Awareness	awareness@samoaquarantine.gov.ws
Francois Martel	Consultant	Exercise Director	francois@polynesianexplorer.com
James Atherton	Consultant	Exercise Director	jatherton@samoa.ws

Simulation Agenda

Time and Activity	Lead person	Objective
9am- 9.10am Welcome and Prayer	MAF Rep	
9.10am- 10am Briefing on the simulation exercise and the roles and responsibilities of ISERC members in an emergency response	Francois Martel/ James Atherton	For all participants to be clear on the structure and operation of the SISERP (Refer to Annex 2)
10am -10.30am Review Roles and Discussion	Facilitator	To clarify any confusion
10.30am-12pm Scenario: Little Fire Ant Briefing on LFA and commencement of simulation with Initial Investigation Phase	Francois Martel/ James Atherton	To run through the Initial Investigation phase
12pm- 1pm Lunch		
1pm -3pm Alert Phase and ER phase	Facilitator	To run through the Alert phase and ER phase
3pm-3.15 pm Afternoon Tea		
3.15pm-4.30pm Stand down Phase and Recovery Phase	Francois Martel/ James Atherton	To run through the stand down and recovery phases
4.30pm- 5.00pm Debriefing and Assessment	Facilitator and Evaluators	To debrief and evaluate the exercise

General comments on the plan

- Need to consider what tools and “resources” needed for the plan, and where they are held
- Add “precautionary principle” to the principles-eg plan for the worst!
- Consider the Alert Phase a “Standby phase” DAC needs to be on standby at this phase
- PM declares a state of emergency – lasts 48 hrs, HoS proclaims an emergency – lasts 30 days

- DMO can provide vehicles for ER, PPE and safety gear etc as required- response manager needs to id resources needed from DMO. Need also to have a post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) to inform the recovery phase
- Need to determine appropriate length of time when pest not recorded before you can declare the country eradicated- depends on life cycle of pest
- DMO must review all PA material before it is released
- Need a secretariat for the ISERC- who will do this role? Should be made clearer
- Further training in the SISERP must involve more stakeholders- eg MoH, village community, farmers association etc
- Plan should have a specific timeframe eg 3 yrs, then reviewed

Evaluation Results

An evaluation form was prepared by DMO and participants were asked to complete it at the end of the exercise. The results are given below.

Number of Responses	12
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<i>How would you rate the following in a scale from 1 to 5? 1= Very Poor 5=Brilliant!</i>	<i>Average Rating</i>
I have a clear understanding of the goals and objectives of the simulation	4.4
I have greater/extensive understanding of the SISERP Content	4.1
I have greater understanding of the SISREP:	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phases of Activation and Actions 	4.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure / Command and Control 	3.75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and Responsibilities 	4.1
I feel there was clear communications and coordination between the response teams throughout the ER process	3.1
My agency's role in the SISREP is clear	3.9
Please provide recommendations on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to improve the plan ➤ More stakeholders to be involved in simulation- especially other govt departments and village communities 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simulate more types of pest incursions ➤ Ensure early notice of govt agencies ➤ DMO role needs to be clarified ➤ Higher level govt representation needed in these exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to improve the role(s) of your respective agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the role of all agencies ➤ Participants need to be more active and provide full commitment to the plan ➤ Improve communications between agencies ➤ DMO to conduct trainings in toolkit for response agencies ➤ More consultation between MNRE/MAF ➤ More training in the ER phase in particular ➤ Ensure technical support is “pre-arranged” from technical partners before the emergency ➤ ISERC to meet at the NECO during the ER phase to improve coordination with DMO ➤ More hands-on field exercises needed 	
General Feedback:	

Plus/Delta

The final part of the exercise was a quick assessment led by the facilitator of what went well and what didn't. The results are shown below.

What worked well	What didn't work so well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Met new friends ➤ Confidence boost ➤ Plan- practical feeling with simulation ➤ Good interaction ➤ Evaluators/facilitators were good ➤ Director was excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Need a secretary for the ISERC ➤ Time management ➤ Some people not participating well ➤ Briefing before role play not so good ➤ Positions in plan should all participate ➤ More time needed ➤ Need a Reverend next time

Suggested improvements to the SISERP

- More involvement of other agencies, NGOs etc
- Command and control structure not so clear, especially DMO role
- SPC and other regional organisations need clearer role
- Need secretariat for ISERC, until then MAF to select the secretary based on response manager
- NEOC to be control centre during ER phase

- Need QA mechanism in place to ensure highest standard- needs to be mandated to someone- eg response manager
- Need to do a post disaster needs assessment to be more strategic during recovery phase...

Conclusions

The simulation exercise achieved its objectives to test the SISERP and to solicit constructive feedback to improve it. However, the following recommended improvements for the next simulation are suggested:

- These exercises need to be repeated regularly so that the processes are retained;
- All participants must read and understand the SISERP before the exercise and be fully briefed on their role so that they are well prepared;
- Participants must try to stay on “role” throughout the exercise;
- Ideally all ISERC members, including CEOs, should attend the exercise so that they can play their own roles in the ISERC;
- Community members should participate in the exercise;
- Separate technical trainings are also needed for the technical teams in the technical elements of the SISERP for a range of invasive species.

Acknowledgements

The consultants would like to thank the MAF Crops Section for hosting the simulation exercise, the DMO team of Filomena, Molly, Maria and Vaito’a for their guidance and constructive feedback on the exercise and Dr Greg Sherley for his professional support as the Exercise Technical Adviser. Faafetai lava all!

Group Photo



Annex 1: SISERP Simulation Exercise Manual

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. REFERENCES

- Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP)
- Other documents as required

2. BACKGROUND

Exercise “Invasive Species Emergency Response” is a Table Top Exercise to test the understandability, relevance, practicability and effectiveness of the Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP) to invasive species emergencies. A hypothetical invasive species outbreak will be simulated in the exercise:

- Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)- a current potential invasive threat to Samoa

The exercise will allow the members of the Invasive Species Emergency Response Committee (ISERC) to understand the proposed SISERP and to provide constructive feedback on it so that it can be made most effective, appropriate and relevant to Samoa.

Exercise “Invasive Species Emergency Response” will be held on Friday June 26th at 9am to 5pm at the MAF Crops Research Station at Nu’u.

3. PARTICIPATION and DIRECTING STAFF

The following people are expected to participate in the simulation exercise, some of whom will be directing staff.

Title	Confirmed Name	ISERC members?	Proposed simulation roles
MAF			
CEO MAF or designate	Dr Seuseu Tauati	ISERC Chair	Chair of ISERC; briefs Minister MAF; declares IA
ACEO – Quarantine or designate	Talei Fidow Moors	ISERC Member	Response Manager
Quarantine	Jackie Adam		Team leader public awareness during ER
Senior Advisory officer (Savaii)	Matau Maanaima		Assists public awareness during ER

Title	Confirmed Name	ISERC members?	Proposed simulation roles
Principal Advisory officer	Tommy Tuuamalii		Team leader movement control during ER
Quarantine	Vesi Ioana		Assists movement control during ER
Principal Research Officer	Aualiitia Parate		Field Controller
Quarantine	Anoano Seumalii-vaa		Pest detector for the simulation
Senior Crops Research Officer	Billy Enosa		Assists TA. Team Leader Eradication during ER
MNRE			
CEO-MNRE or designate	Tauti Fuatino Leota	ISERC Co-Chair	Chair of ISERC; briefs Minister MNRE
ACEO- DEC or designate		ISERC Member	
Principal Terrestrial Officer- DEC	Lesaisaea Niualuga		Assists TA. Team Leader Monitoring during ER
Senior Terrestrial officer- DEC	Czarina Stowers		Assists TA and Team Leader Monitoring
DMO	Molly Nielsen		Facilitator
DMO Representative	Malia Pisi	ISERC Member	Represents DMO in the simulation; Linkage to DAC
DMO	Vaitoa Toelupe		Evaluator
ACEO DMO	Filomena Nelson		Evaluator
National Invasive Species Coordinator	Taupau Maturo Paniani	ISERC Member	Evaluator; PM (declares an ISER)
Other			
MWCSD Rep	?	ISERC Member	Assists with community liaison and recovery
MoH Rep	?	ISERC Member	Assists with health issues
UNEP Rep	Greg Sherley		Technical Adviser for the simulation
SNITT Rep	Leatigaga Mark Bonin	ISERC Member	Reports to SNITT and provides technical advice
Consultant	Francois Martel		Exercise Director
Consultant	James Atherton		Exercise Co-Director

The Directing Staff are responsible for managing the Exercise so the objectives are met in a timely manner. They are also responsible for directing participants to the task at hand and avoid participants going astray from the Exercise Objectives

4. EXERCISE PURPOSE

Exercise “Invasive Species Emergency Response” aims at testing the effectiveness and practicality of the SISERP as well as the readiness and capacity of the ISERC to respond to an invasive species emergency. The exercise not only provides an opportunity for ISERC agencies to provide feedback on the SISERP but also to assess their capacity to deal with an invasive species emergency. The exercise will simulate an invasive species emergency- an invasion of the Little Fire Ant.

Objectives of the Simulation Exercise:

Solicit feedback on the effectiveness and practicality of the SISERP;

Develop and encourage teamwork;

Develop problem solving capacity;

Highlight importance of:

- Procedures and Phases for Invasive Species Emergency Management
- Organisational Structures and Chain of Command in an invasive species emergency
- Data preparedness
- Multi sectoral assessments
- Coordination
- Information management
- Reporting
- Logistics
- Resource Management
- Inclusive response
- Planning according to needs
- Interpersonal communication skills
- Working in a multicultural, high pressure environment
- Awareness of security/safety requirements

5. EXERCISE SCENARIOS

5.1 Little Fire Ant

The Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)- is a South American ant that is currently spreading into the Pacific and is a real threat to Samoa. The LFA can deliver a painful sting, blind animals, and reduce biodiversity. The LFA is currently found in Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, New Caledonia, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

If the LFA invades Samoa it will impact on our ability to grow our own food, enjoy our gardens, and hike through the forest. Ground nesting seabirds and sea turtle hatchlings will be attacked, along with many of our rare insect species. Once little fire ant is established, there is little hope of eradication.

The simulation exercise for LFA assumes the following hypothetical features:

- LFA was first detected by a MAF employee on June 25, 2015 at Nuu at 2pm in a pile of garden waste. The MAF employee complained of a small red ant with a very painful bite and reported it to his supervisor who in turn contacted the ACEO Crops.
- The current full area of infestation is unknown, other than the initial location.

Further details will be injected into the simulation as it runs to make it as realistic as possible.

6. DRAFT PROGRAM

Time and Activity	Lead person	Objective
9am- 9.10am Welcome and Prayer	MAF Rep	
9.10am- 10am Briefing on the simulation exercise and the roles and responsibilities of ISERC members in an emergency response	Francois Martel/ James Atherton	For all participants to be clear on the structure and operation of the SISERP
10am -10.30am Review Roles and Discussion	Facilitator	To clarify any confusion
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7. ASSUMPTIONS

For the purposes of this exercise, the following are relevant assumptions:

- That the scenario selected is appropriate for Samoa given its invasive species invasion history;
- That all ISERC member agencies will participate in the Table Top Exercise to evaluate their Response plans ;
- That the primary focus of this Exercise is to test the SISERP;
- That ISERC will be the role players in the Exercise;
- That the Directing Staff are clear with their roles and responsibilities in managing the Exercise so the Exercise Objectives are achieved;
- That the Directing Staff will facilitate a De-Brief immediately after the Exercise;
- That the Exercise is a full day process

8. EXERCISE PRODUCTS

The Exercise Communication code name is: **“EXERCISE INVASIVE SPECIES EMERGENCY RESPONSE”**

All communications will use this Code Name during the Exercise. The Bulletins issued for this Exercise will state the word **“EXERCISE INVASIVE SPECIES EMERGENCY RESPONSE”** on the top of the Bulletin.

The main exercise guide for this simulation includes the Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP) and the National Disaster Management Plan.

All correspondence relating to this exercise will clearly be identified as **“For Exercise Purpose Only”**.

9. LOCATION FOR THE TABLE TOP AND OPERATIONAL EXERCISES

The table top exercise will be held at Nu’u Crops Research Station. The operational exercise to visit the site of the Little Fire Ant infestation will also take place at Nu’u.

10. EXERCISE DELIVERY/FORMAT (TABLE TOP)

- The SISERP presented to all participants
- Special Ideas will be provided accordingly depending on the Exercise situation
- Directing Staff for each Group are responsible for the special idea injects
- Two independent evaluators will evaluate the exercise as it is implemented

For the operational exercise, the activation will start with information transmitted to the ACEO of MAF about the invasion.

11. POST EXERCISE EVALUATION


11.1 Debriefing

Immediately after the operational exercise, a debrief by all participating agencies will take place to record lessons learned from the exercise and to provide recommendations on way forward and relevant improvements to the SISERP and operational arrangements. An independent assessment of the exercise will also be done by the two evaluators.

12. REFRESHMENTS



- Refreshments for participants will be provided

Annex 2: Presentation Given



Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP)


SIMULATION EXERCISE
26th June, 2015



François Martel and James Atherton
Consultants

Slide 1


Overall Goals of the Simulation Exercise



1. Test the effectiveness and practicality of the SISERP as well as the readiness and capacity of the ISERC to respond to an invasive species emergency.
2. Provide another opportunity for ISERC members to provide feedback on the SISERP but also to assess their capacity to deal with an invasive species emergency.

Slide 2

Objectives of the Simulation Exercise



- Solicit feedback on the effectiveness and practicality of the SISERP
- Develop and encourage teamwork
- Develop problem solving capacity
- Highlight importance of:
 - Procedures and Phases for Invasive Species Emergency Management
 - Organisational Structures and Chain of Command in an invasive species emergency
 - Data preparedness
 - Multi sectoral assessments
 - Coordination
 - Information management
 - Reporting
 - Logistics
 - Resource Management
 - Inclusive response
 - Planning according to needs
 - Interpersonal communication skills
 - Working in a multicultural, high pressure environment
 - Awareness of security/safety requirements

Slide 3

Simulation Agenda

Time and Activity	Lead person	Objective
9am- 10am Briefing on the simulation exercise and the roles and responsibilities of ISERC members in an emergency response	Francois Martel/ James Atherton	For all participants to be clear on the structure and operation of the SISERP
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Slide 4

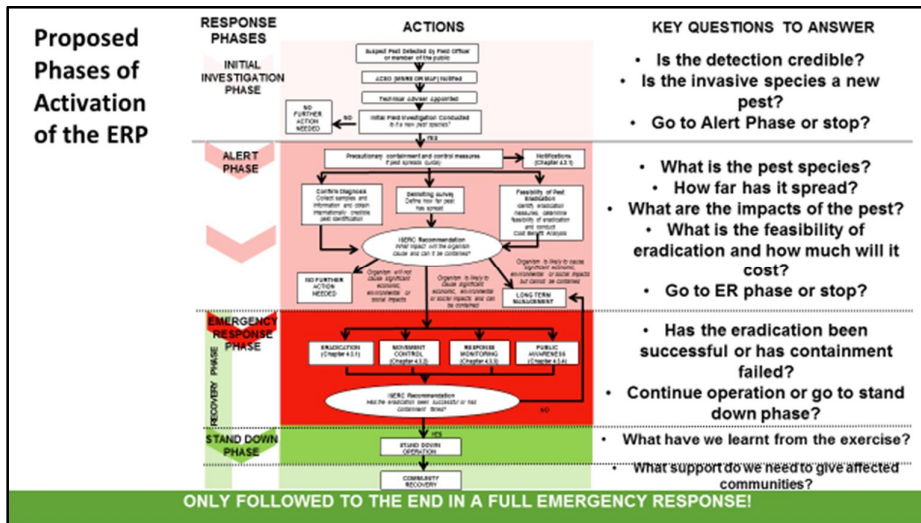
Part 1: Recap on the SISERP

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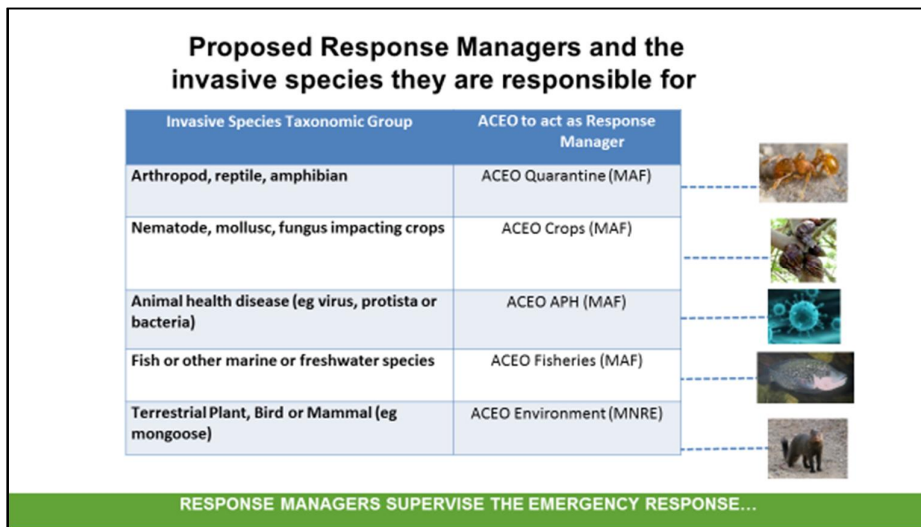
Proposed Phases of Activation of the ERP



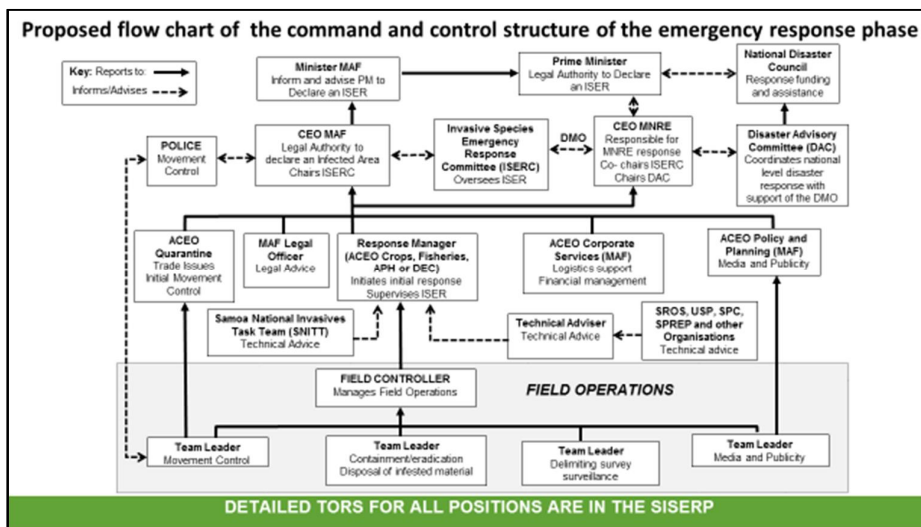
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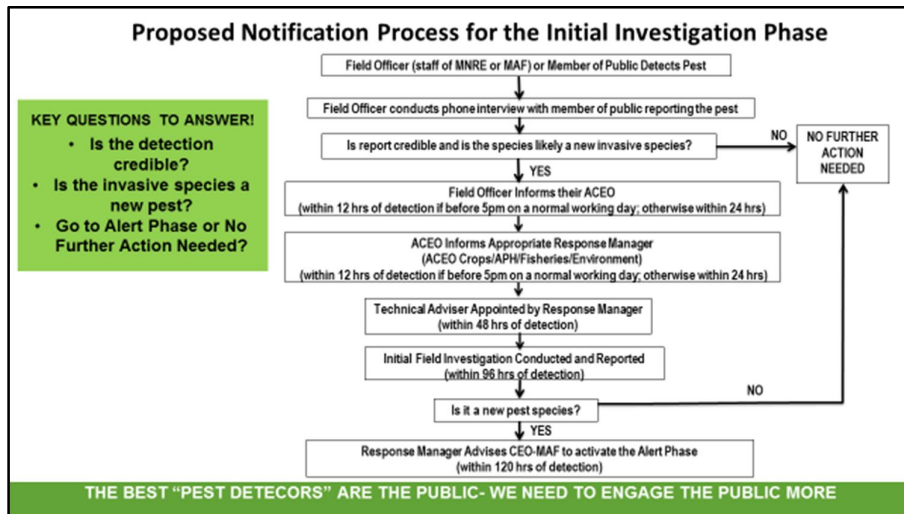
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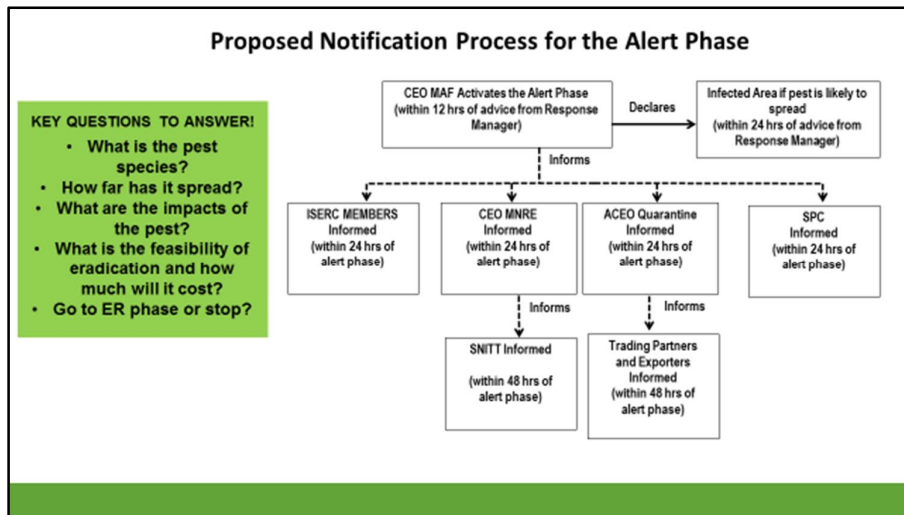
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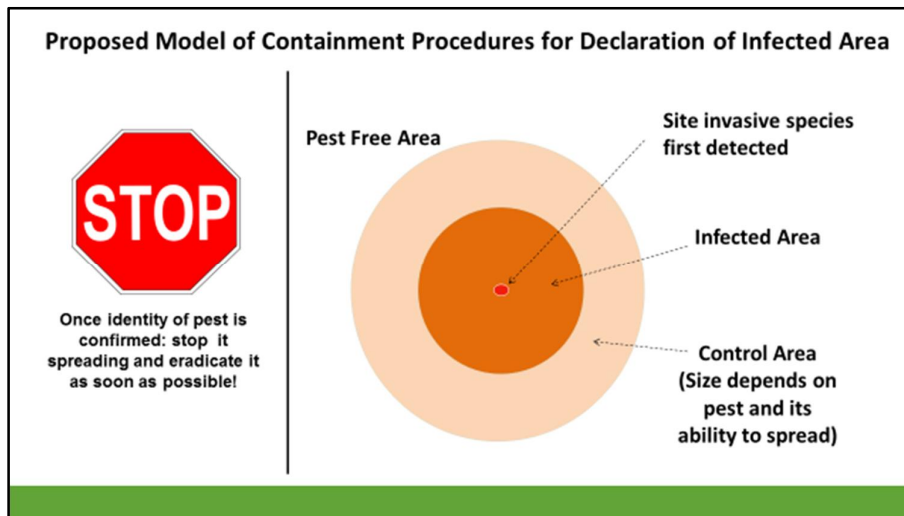
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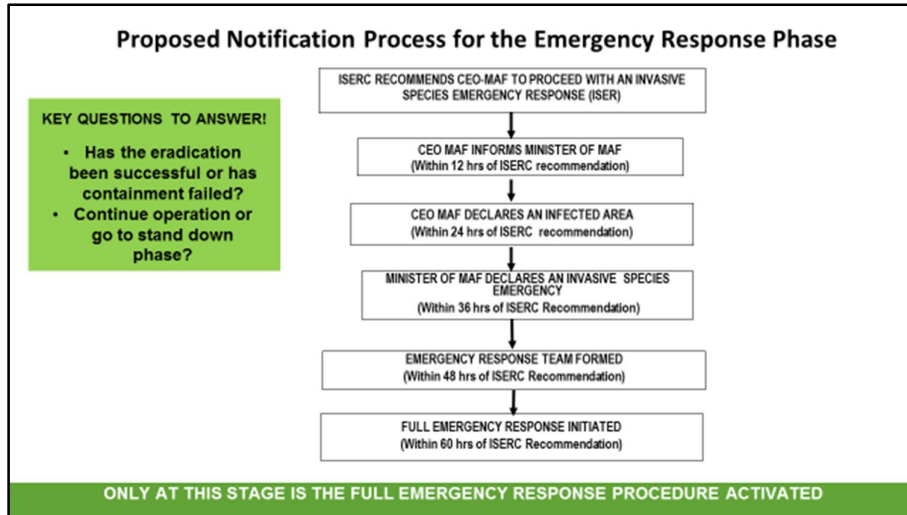
Slide 10



Slide 11



Slide 12



Slide 13

Part 2: Roles of Key Staff and Committees in SISERP

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Invasive Species Emergency Response Committee (ISERC)

- Role: key decision making body for the Invasive Species Emergency Response (ISER) including progressing through the phases or stopping the ER
- Must have a formal mandate for this role from Government
- Reports to the Minister MAF and thence to the NDC
- Is advised by the Technical Adviser and Response Manager
- Composition:
 - CEO MAF or rep (Chairperson)
 - CEO MNRE or rep (Co Chair)
 - MAF Management Team (ACEOs)
 - Response Manager for the specific pest
 - Technical Advisor
 - CEO MWCSD (responsible for Pulenu'u)
 - ACEO DEC (MNRE) and other relevant MNRE staff
 - DMO representative
 - MoH Representative
 - SNITT Representative
 - Police Representative
 - Industry representative relevant to affected commodity, Any other representative(s) of organisations that need to be involved depending on the pest outbreak

EXACT COMPOSITION OF ISERC WILL DEPEND ON PEST SPECIES INVOLVED

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Responsibilities of Members of the Invasive Species Emergency Response Committee (ISERC)

- Consider information provided by the Technical Advisor and decides whether to **proceed with each phase of the emergency response or whether one of the lesser options should be taken**. The information to be considered includes:
 - Confirmed pest diagnosis
 - Results of delimiting survey which indicates how far the pest has already spread
 - Assessment of impact of the pest
 - The feasibility of eradication given available treatment & control methods
 - Cost-benefit analysis
- The levels of response to a pest incursion are:
 - No further action
 - Long-term management
 - Eradication
- Meet regularly during the ISERC to receive updates on progress and to make any decisions about **changes in the approach** being used to eradicate the pest, upon the advice of the Technical Advisor(s) and Response Manager.
- Report to the Minister MAF, via the CEO MAF, on progress of the response.
- Determination of when to Stand-down and also the Recovery Measures to be taken

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Responsibilities of the Response Manager

Role: The Response Manager is responsible for overall management of the emergency response.

Responsibilities:

1. Initial investigation and Alert Phase

- Coordinates initial investigation
- Appoints Technical Adviser
- Ensures resources are available for initial investigation and alert phase
- Participates in an ISERC meeting to decide whether to declare an emergency response or not.

2. Declared emergency response

- Manages the operational aspects of the emergency response via the Field Controller.
- Liaises with Technical Advisor to identify the key operational components of the emergency response.
- If necessary, organises the establishment of an Operational Control Centre
- Selects Field Controller and Field Team Leaders and oversees the process of selecting Field Team members.
- Briefs Field Controller and Team Leaders and organises training if required to increase the number of people with appropriate skills to implement the response.
- Provides names of Field Team Members to the CEO MAF who appoints officers with the delegated authority to implement response measures
- Works together with ACEO Corporate Services to ensure the Field Teams have the resources that they require (equipment, vehicles, protective clothing, maps, data sheets, safety and first aid equipment, GPS, etc).
- Works together with ACEO Corporate Services to obtain financial management support, and to manage the day-to-day finances of the field response.
- Reports to the CEO MAF and the ISERC on progress of the response
- Provides advice to the CEO MAF and the ISERC on aspects of the response as required.
- Ensures that the necessary international organisations are notified of the pest outbreak.

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Responsibilities of the Technical Adviser

Role: Provide specialist technical advice relating to the diagnosis, containment and eradication of the pest. May not be resident in Samoa and may need to be brought in as required or to advise a local technical expert.

Responsibilities:

1. Initial investigation and Alert Phase

- Collects samples and organises identification/diagnosis of pest; sends samples to overseas laboratory if necessary
- Obtains assistance of SPC and/or overseas technical specialist(s) if necessary
- Compiles dossier of information on the pest, including ecology (speed and mode of dispersal, hosts, etc); financial and social impact; trade implications; control/eradication options
- Takes pictures of the pest and its signs or symptoms
- Recommends precautionary measures to contain the spread of the pest from the initial site(s).
- Attempts to trace the source of the incursion, and provides advice to the Response Manager and the ACEO Quarantine, on measures that reduce the risk of further introductions by the same pathway.
- Designs and oversees delimiting survey, monitoring plan, eradication plan and advises on movement control measures to prevent spread of the pest.
- Submits report to ISERC including response options, recommendations and indicative budgets.
- Provides training to the Field Controller and Response Teams if necessary.
- Operates and maintains any laboratory facilities required.
- Assesses feasibility of eradicating pest.
- Considers the need for registration of any pesticides that are not already registered.

2. Declared emergency response

- Briefs Response Manager regarding necessary response procedures.
- Trains response team(s) and Field Controller if necessary to increase number of staff with appropriate skills .
- Provides technical advice to CEO MAF, ACEO Crops/APH/Fisheries/Forestry/DEC, ISERC, Response Manager, Field Controller, Field Teams
- Maintains a record of progress of the response.
- Monitors progress of response and recommends to ISERC any changes in response procedures.
- Communicates to the Response Manager any key technical issues which may have an effect on the success of the response strategy.

3. Stand Down Phase

- Writes a report on the operation with the Response Manager and Field Teams focusing on lessons learned and recommendations for further action

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Responsibilities of the Field Controller

Role: The Field Controller is responsible for managing the operational activities of the Field Teams in all phases of the emergency response. (NB Field Controller might also be the Response Manager)

Responsibilities:

1. Initial investigation and Alert Phase

Assists the Technical Adviser to conduct surveys of the pest, collect specimens and prepare pest dossier.

2. Declared emergency response

- Together with the Response Manager, selects Field Team Leaders and members of the Field Teams.
- Ensures an adequate number of staff with appropriate skills is available to implement the field tasks required to eradicate the pest.
- Ensures that all Field Team Members have the delegated authority to implement response measures
- Ensures that local public awareness has been put in place in the infected area to enlist the co-operation of the community.
- Works with the Field Team Leaders to identify the resources that they require (equipment, vehicles, safety and first aid equipment, datasheets, maps, GPS etc) and ensures these resources are obtained.
- Manages the operational activities of the Field Teams, including: making sure equipment is available where and when needed organising transport and accommodation
- Maintaining an inventory of issued equipment.
- Assists the Technical Adviser with all reporting

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Part 3: Briefing on Everyone's Role Today

Slide 20

Participant Roles

Title	Confirmed Name	Position in ISERC	Directing staff roles
MAF			
CEO MAF or designate	?	Chair	
ACEO – Quarantine or designate	?	Member	
ACEO – APH, Crops or Fisheries or designate	?	Member	
ACEO Policy and Planning or designate	?	Member	
MNRE			
CEO-MNRE or designate	?	Member	
ACEO-DEC or designate	?	Member	
Principal Reserves Officer and/or Principal Terrestrial Officer- DEC	?	Member	
DMO representative	Molly Nielsen	Member	Facilitator
National Invasive Species Coordinator	Taupau Maturu Paniani	Member	Evaluator
Other			
MWCS Rep	?	Member	
MoH Rep	?	Member	
UNEP Rep	Greg Sherley	Not a member of ISERC	Technical Adviser for the simulation
MAF entomologist	?	Member of ISERC during an emergency involving an insect	To be a counterpart for the Technical Adviser and to help coordinate field teams
ACEO- DMO	Filomena Nelson	Member	Evaluator
Consultant	Francois Martel	Not a member of ISERC	Exercise Director
Consultant	James Atherton	Not a member of ISERC	Exercise Co-Director

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Your job today...



- Try and maintain the simulation exercise as if it were real. There will be an opportunity at the end of the day to debrief and get your comments on the process, until then try and pretend it is a real incursion
- Try and stick to your TOR and to the SISERP process as closely as possible.
- There are two teams:
 - SISERC members led by Chair
 - Technical Team- led by Technical Adviser
- Special scenarios will be introduced into the simulation during the day to trigger moving through all phases...
- Try and demonstrate the key objectives of careful planning, team work, communication, coordination, respect of chain of command, and reporting
- If you are stuck refer to the Exercise Directors or Facilitators for help!

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Questions?

Slide 23

Part 4: Briefing on LFA and today's scenario

Slide 24

Briefing on Little Fire Ant



The Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)- is a South American ant that is currently spreading into the Pacific and is a real threat to Samoa. The LFA can deliver a painful sting, blind animals, and reduce biodiversity. The LFA is currently found in Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, New Caledonia, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

If the LFA invades Samoa it will impact on our ability to grow our own food, enjoy our gardens, and hike through the forest. Ground nesting seabirds and sea turtle hatchlings will be attacked, along with many of our rare insect species. Once Little Fire Ant is established, there is little hope of eradication.

Slide 25

Today's Scenario...



A strange ant was first detected by a MAF employee on Thursday June 25, 2015 at the Nu'u Research Station in a pile of garden waste. The MAF employee complained of a small red ant with a very painful bite and reported it to his supervisor who in turn contacted the ACEO Crops.

The current full area of infestation is unknown, other than the initial location....

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Annex 3 – SISERP Simulation Evaluation Forms

Evaluation Form for Simulations

Evaluation Form					
Role Being Evaluated:					
Simulation Code:					
Location:					
Site:					
Evaluator:					
Date of Exercise:	Start Time:			End Time:	
<i>Part I. For each criterion, check the appropriate column and add comments as appropriate.</i>					
Criteria based on selected Role & Responsibility (Timeline & Special Injects – Objectives of the Simulation)	Met	Not Met	Not Observed	Not Assessed	Comments/Recommendations
Test the effectiveness and practicality of the SISERP					
○ Procedures and Phases for Invasive Species Emergency Management					
○ Organisational Structures and Chain of Command in an invasive species emergency					

○ Data preparedness					
○ Multi sectoral assessments					
○ Coordination					
○ Information management					
Assess the capacity of ISERC members to deal with an invasive species emergency					
○ Reporting					
○ Logistics					
○ Resource Management					
○ Inclusive response					
○ Planning according to needs					
○ Interpersonal communication skills					

○ Working in a multicultural, high pressure environment					
○ Awareness of security/safety requirements					
○ Develop and encourage teamwork					
○ Develop problem solving capacity					
Provide another opportunity for ISERC members to give feedback on the SISERP					
○ Lessons Learnt					
○ Recommendations					
<i>Part II. Please provide additional comments here, including problems / identified.</i>					

**SISERP SIMULATION
26 June 2015
PARTICIPANT EVALUATION FORM**

Name	Organisation	Designation

<i>How would you rate the following in a scale from 1 to 5? 1= Very Poor 5=Brilliant!</i>	
I have a clear understanding of the goals and objectives of the simulation	
I have greater/extensive understanding of the SISERP Content	
I have greater understanding of the SISREP:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phases of Activation and Actions 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure / Command and Control 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and Responsibilities 	
I feel there was clear communications and coordination between the response teams throughout the ER process	
My agency's role in the SISREP is clear	
Please provide recommendations on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to improve the plan 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to improve the role(s) of your respective agency	
General Feedback:	

Annex 4 – Press Release

Government Ministries Successfully Conduct a Simulation of an Invasive Species Emergency Response in Samoa

PRESS RELEASE



A simulation exercise to test Samoa’s new Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP) was conducted on Friday June 26, 2015 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Crop Research Centre at Nu’u. The simulation was led jointly by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and MAF and was attended by 20 government staff and civil society participants. The purpose of the simulation was to test the relevance, practicality and effectiveness of the SISERP to deal with pest emergencies as well as to build the capacity of response agencies to deal with such emergencies. The development of the SISERP was funded under the Global Environment Facility- Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) “Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands” project which is executed by SPREP and MNRE and implemented by UNEP.

Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to Samoa’s native biodiversity and also have significant economic and social impacts. In recent years the impacts of invasive species pests on the environment and people’s livelihoods in Samoa have become more and more serious. The Taro Leaf Blight, Giant African Snail, Myna Birds and Rhinoceros Beetle are just a few examples of the many invasive species pests that have become established in Samoa at great environmental and economic cost in some cases totalling many millions of tala.

Concern about the impact of invasive species pests has led to great improvements by MAF in our first line of defence, namely our biosecurity and quarantine measures, to keep invasives out of Samoa. However, no quarantine or biosecurity system, no matter how good, can be 100% effective at keeping out all non-native species and therefore there is a need to detect and respond rapidly to a biosecurity breach.

The simulation followed the process that would be conducted should Samoa be invaded by the Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*). The Little Fire Ant is a South American ant that

is currently spreading across the Pacific and is a real and potential threat to Samoa. The LFA can deliver a painful sting, blind animals, and reduce biodiversity. If the LFA invades Samoa it will impact on our ability to grow our own food, enjoy our gardens, and hike through the forest. Ground nesting seabirds and sea turtle hatchlings will be attacked, along with many of our rare insect species. Once Little Fire Ant is established, there is little hope of eradication.

The simulation exercise successfully allowed participants to understand the SISERP, its linkages with related Government policies and plans such as National Disaster Management Plan, and in particular to provide constructive feedback on it so that it can be made most effective, appropriate and relevant to Samoa. MAF and MNRE with the guidance of the Disaster Management Office (DMO), plan further training and preparedness exercises in the near future so that Samoa is well prepared should we suffer another pestincursion. For further information on invasive species or the SISERP please contact MAF on 22561 or MNRE on 67200.