

Micronesia Biosecurity Plan (MBP)

Background: In support of the Military relocation to Guam and the CNMI and the associated Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is funding scientific analyses of terrestrial and marine invasive species risks to Micronesia that could occur as a result of the relocation. This effort is being conducted to help remove invasive species threats to the Military mission, and to address invasive species concerns raised by the Micronesian Chief Executives and federal and regional partners. These analyses will be performed by U.S. government scientists and incorporated into a biosecurity plan (the MBP) that will provide a blueprint for the entire region of Micronesia (Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM and RMI) to effectively prevent new invasive species incursions and minimize additional invasive species damage.

Risk Analyses: Starting this fall, risk analyses will be conducted for species from all taxa (plant, animal and pathogen) of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Ports of origin, ports of entry, pathways and commodities will also be analyzed. All risk analysis results will be presented as low, medium or high risk. The logical framework for these assessments will be well represented and reference materials will be thoroughly cited.

Biosecurity Plan: The risk analyses will be combined with inspection needs assessments, current best management practices and technologies to produce a comprehensive MBP. The MBP will not only rank species, ports, pathways and commodities of high, medium and low risk, but it will also make recommendations for required port facilities, staffing levels, staff trainings, technologies needed, best management practices, monitoring systems and rapid response capability for each Micronesian jurisdiction.

Partnership: The MBP will be developed by a partnership of U.S. agencies working in close collaboration with a variety of local and regional invasive species experts. U.S. Federal partners include DoD (funding, military logistics), Department of Agriculture (terrestrial analyses and port evaluations), U.S. Geological Survey (freshwater analyses), the Smithsonian Institute (marine analyses) and the National Invasive Species Council (overall coordination and primary liaison with regional partners). U.S. agencies will work closely with agricultural, trade, port authority, inspection and quarantine and academic personnel and experts from each Micronesian jurisdiction.

Beyond Micronesia: This biosecurity plan will also address invasive species risks coming from and threatening the State of Hawaii as a result of the Military relocation. The BMP is complementary to similar efforts going on elsewhere in Oceania and will allow several broader synergies and efficiencies to be realized. This BMP is the first proactive assessment of invasive species impacts of such a major U.S. government action and in many ways is a globally unique effort. As such it is receiving attention internationally and is being lauded as an excellent example of regional collaboration on invasive species issues by many regional and international organizations and conventions such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity.