Call for Applications

Training Course on Economic Analyses of Invasive Species in the Pacific

The training course will be conducted by Landcare Research NZ, with assistance from the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) and the University Of South Pacific Institute of Applied Science. The course is funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

ABOUT THE COURSE

This course will teach project managers and professionals working in the area of invasive species management, methods to develop, conduct, and present economic analyses of invasive species eradication or control. The training will provide the methodology and tools for participants to conduct their own benefit-cost analyses in the field. It will include a mix of facilitated classroom learning sessions and hands-on practical experience. Emphasis will be placed on how to estimate economic and environmental benefits of managing invasives at the project level. Participants will leave the course with the experience of completing an economic analysis on an invasive species of their choosing. The three parts of the course include:

1. Initial 3-day intensive classroom course outlining the necessary tools to conduct an economic analysis of invasive species eradication or control. The course will emphasise defining the problem, quantifying economic, environmental, and social benefits of reducing local impacts from invasive species, estimating costs of eradication or control, collecting data, and presenting findings. Case studies from the Pacific Region will be used to illustrate the methodology.

2. Participants develop and conduct their own cost-benefit analysis for a problem of their choosing over a four-month period. Guidance and assistance for the case study part of the course will be provided electronically by the instructors.

3. Individual case studies will be presented, evaluated, and discussed over a 2-day period in September 2012 (date to be determined).

The course will be led by Dr. Adam Daigneault, Environmental and Natural Resource Economist, Landcare Research NZ. The training is limited to 12 participants.

3 PART COURSE

1. Classroom Training: May 14–16, 2012
   University of South Pacific Suva, Fiji Campus

2. Case Work Development: May–September 2012
   At participants' home organisations

3. Evaluation and Presentation of Case Studies: 2 days in September 2012 (date TBD)
   University of South Pacific Suva, Fiji Campus

COST

There is no fee for attending the training program, but participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation. Lunch will be provided during the classroom training sessions.

PREREQUISITES

We encourage project managers and professionals from a variety of backgrounds and organisations working with issues surrounding invasive species in the Pacific Islands Region to apply. The training will be in the English language. Previous training in economics is not necessary, but knowledge of Microsoft Excel is essential. Students are asked to provide their own laptops for classroom exercises, if possible.

APPLICATIONS

Application forms may be obtained by emailing the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) at: pii@auckland.ac.nz. Preference will be given to applicants currently working on specific eradication or control projects. Applicants are asked to submit a brief overview of a proposed study project that provides information on the invasive species of interest, the location of the study, and proposed option of eradication or control.

Applications due: Tuesday 10 April 2012