



DoD Pacific Islands Region Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species (TER-S) Workshop

Project #
06-298

Background:

The Department of Defense (DoD) manages nearly 30 million acres of land and thousands of square miles of air and sea space to conduct missions vital to national security. These same areas provide habitat for a great diversity of plants and animals, especially in the Pacific Region. The Hawaiian Islands alone host more than 15 military installations and ranges encompassing over 200,000 acres of lands that provide habitat for nearly 100 listed species. Yet, this vibrant and diverse ecology is under immediate threat from development, urban expansion, non-native invasive species (NIS), and other factors. DoD has a vested interest in maintaining training and testing capabilities throughout the Pacific Region. In partnership with DoD's Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP), the Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy) co-sponsored the *Pacific Islands Region Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species (TER-S) Workshop* held 6-8 June 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Objective:

The specific objectives for the *Pacific Islands Region TER-S Workshop* were to: 1) identify and prioritize TER-S management needs among the Pacific Region islands; 2) examine the current state of practice within DoD for TER-S management; 3) identify existing gaps in knowledge, technology, and management; and 4) prioritize investment opportunities to address these gaps.

Summary of Approach:

The workshop opened with a plenary session consisting of presentations from Hawaii's State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Bishop Museum, and the Hawaii Army National Guard. Overviews on the state of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems followed, as did a tour of Marine Corps Base Hawaii so participants could see how DoD natural resource management personnel deal with the challenge of effectively using land, air, and sea space for national security missions while simultaneously conserving species protected by the Endangered Species Act and those at risk of needing such protection. The following two days consisted of concurrent breakout group discussions on species needs, impacts of NIS on TER-S, ecosystem management, and technology transfer.

Benefit:

In undertaking recommendations resulting from this workshop, SERDP, ESTCP, and Legacy can help address

ecological threats in the region by targeting program resources towards conservation-related research, demonstration, and management efforts that support species and habitat protection goals, while maximizing training and testing flexibility.

Accomplishments:

Workshop outcomes included a prioritized list of information gaps and management needs. Results showed that NIS, wildland fire, restoration, and the structure and function of ecological systems were the top attendee concerns. Participants also identified a need for improved communication and data sharing among regional stakeholders, gained a better understanding of existing regional partnerships, and established new personal and professional connections through which they can work to better integrate research, management, and collaborative initiatives among each other and with DoD to benefit TER-S in the region.

For more information on the Pacific Islands Region TER-S Workshop, including its results, please visit www.serdp.org/tes/Pacific/.



Red-footed boobies, Ulupa'u Crater Weapons Range, MCBH. Photo: L. P. Boice

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