

Pigs Eradication Expedition

Date: 24th to 26th March 2007

Location: Nuutele Island

Purpose: Eradication of pigs from island as it is one of the major component of ALEIPATA island restoration program on rat eradication.

Team:

Staff

1. Samani C Tupufia: Terrestrial Biodiversity Section (DEC)
2. Isamaeli Asotasi : Marine Biodiversity Section (DEC)
3. Eti Malolo : Watershed Management Section (WRS)

Hunters:

1. Tasi
2. Pio

Equipments:

1. 3 riffles
2. 1 GPS
3. Knives
4. strings
5. Digital Camera

24th March 2007

Left DEC around 8:00am to pick up other members of the team from Vailima and Vailele then headed to Aleipata. Left Aleipata (Mutiatele) for Nuutele at 9.00.am arrived 9:30am.

Hunting:

Methodologies

Traps

Set out two traps one before the trail to the top of the island which is also the pigs trail pic 2&3 and the other close to the top where the pig bonds are pic (1) Refer to the pics below.



Trap close to the top (1)



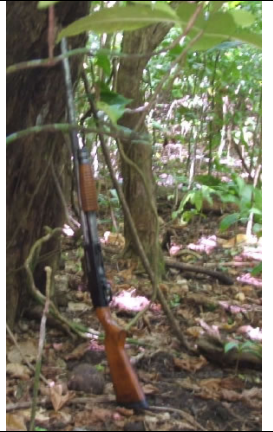
Trap before the trail to the top (2)



Isamaeli with the riffle (3)

Shooting:

Team used 3 rifles to effectively put down pigs. No dogs were used but accidental encounter with pigs creates opportunities for hunters to shoot pigs.



One of the rifle used in the hunting (5)

Results

Pigs

Killed and Found	Shot and escaped	Total number of pigs
4	3	7

Six of the pigs were females and one male, pigs shot and escaped were wounded badly and they would most likely not last for at least another day.



Pigs found and killed

Others

Species	Killed	Seen	Total
Red vented Bulbul	1	1	2



From the hunting there are still a number of pigs left on both sides of the island. Mostly female were been shot which is a good result. From the 7 pigs shot, 3 run but a possible kill, 2 were taken to the family (Faafetai Sagapolutele) and 2 small were used by the team. 6 chickens were shot on Sunday and was used by the team.

Monitoring for Friendly Ground Dove

Friendly ground dove were still seen in good numbers on both sides of the island. While at Nuutele beach 3 doves were spotted before, during and after the shootings.

On the Vini side dove were still seen at the same spot as before.

On the ridge, Polynesian starlings were seen with an increase number of whistlers on the flats of Vini. Bats were also seen feeding; Pigeons as usual were calling and feeding.

Conclusion:

All together this was a successful expedition for which it removes mostly female pigs, Seven pigs shot and six chickens and one red vented bulbul killed.

Recommendation:

1. To continue the eradication work for pigs for every time monitoring is done. Should always take a rifle to completely remove the pigs from the island ecosystem.
2. Start monitoring work for rats and Ground doves due to changes in seasons and weather.



Pigs eradication Map

Reported
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Terrestrial Conservation Section.