IAS Thematic Half Day · COP17 · Yerevan, 24 October 2026

12:10–13:00 · Closing Session

Where do we go from here?

Moderator: Mr Emmanuel Pasco-Viel, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Negotiations on Climate and Nature



Water hyacinth and water lettuce. Photo: Gerard Peltre



Photo: Yohan Petit, CBN de Corse

IAS Thematic Half Day · COP17 · Yerevan, 24 October 2026

Closing Session

Dr Robin Pouteau

IRD France

Dr Vincent Florens

University of Mauritius

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Photo: Yohan Petit, CBN de Corse

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Dealing with alien species in ecological restoration on islands: lessons from two success stories

Robin Pouteau, IRD
F. B. Vincent Florens, University of Mauritius

Islands are epicenters of the biodiversity crisis

- 996 known extinctions (IUCN 2026)
- 75% of them have occurred on islands (Fernández-Palacios *et al.* 2021)
- Most native vertebrates from Mascarene Islands suffered the same fate

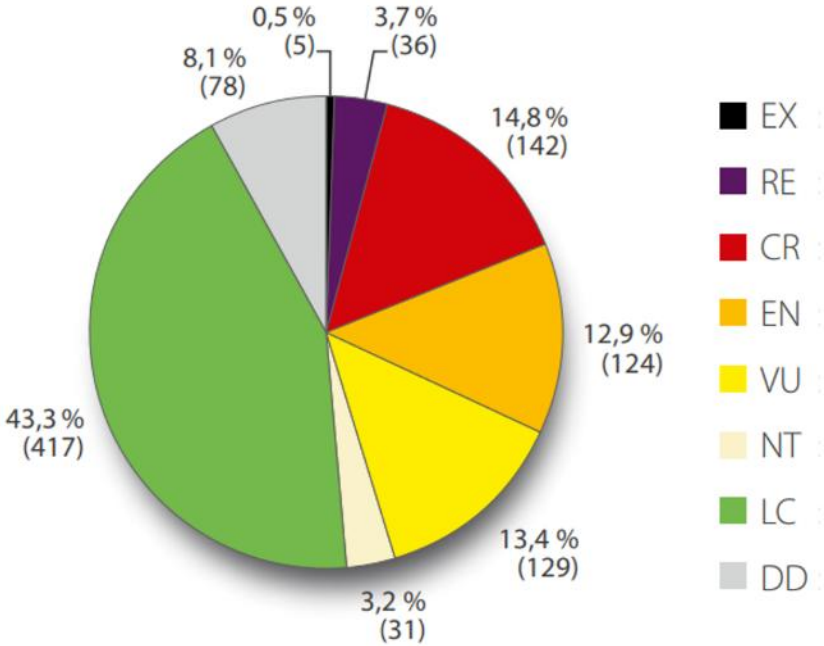



Jebulon / Wikimedia Commons / CC0

As dead as a dodo?



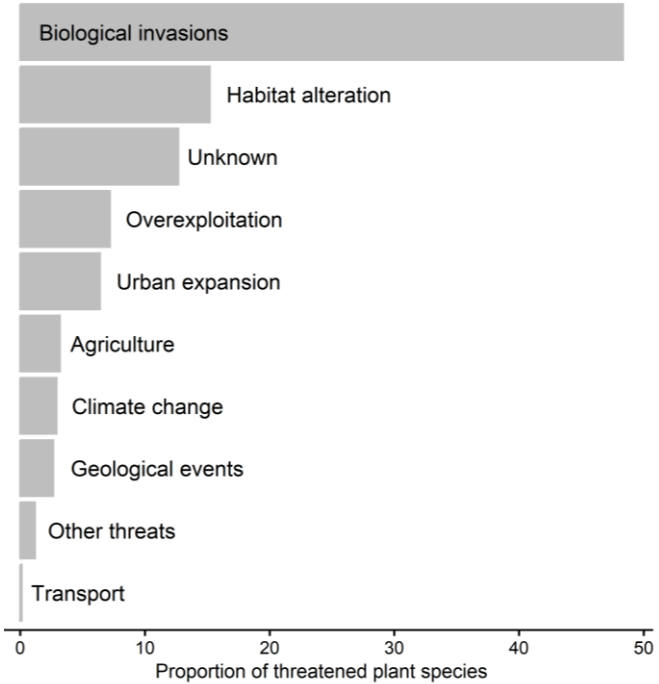
- 5 extinct plant species on Reunion Island
- 41% threatened with extinction (UICN Comité français *et al.* 2023)



As dead as a dodo?



- 5 extinct plant species on Reunion Island
- 41% threatened with extinction (UICN Comité français *et al.* 2023)
- IAS threaten half of the native flora (Pouteau *et al.* under review)



IAS as a final “coup de grâce”



- Slow-motion extinctions
- Our challenge: make "dead tree walking" regenerating again

Office National des Forêts

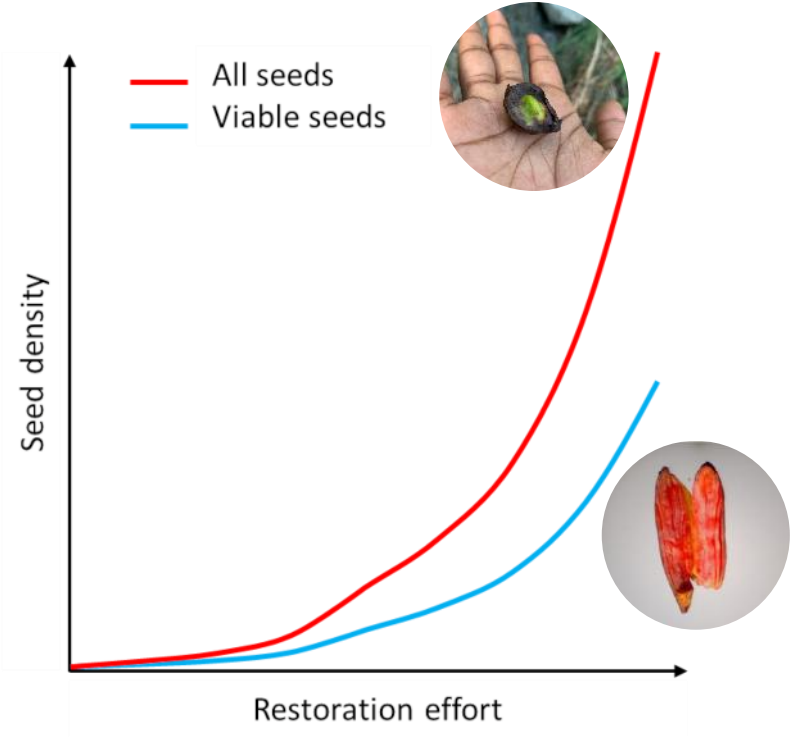




Controling IAS…



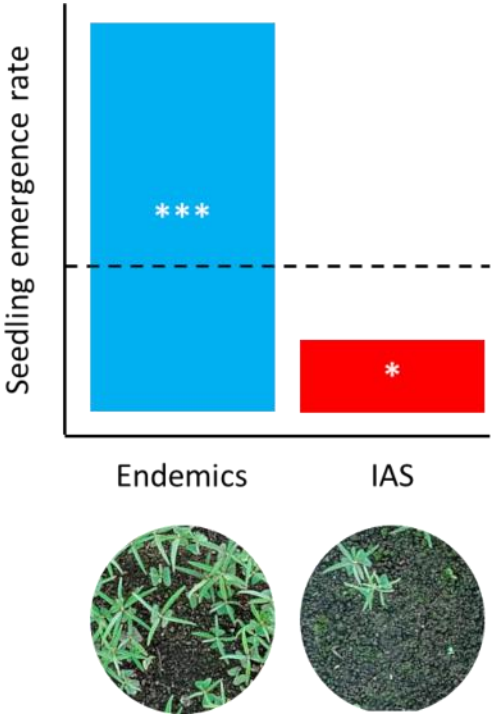
- … increases seed production and viability (Andriamihaja *et al.* 2026)



Controling IAS…



- … increases seed production and viability (Andriamihaja *et al.* 2026)
- … increases seedling emergence (Andriamihaja *et al.* 2026)



Controling IAS…



- … increases seed production and viability (Andriamihaja *et al.* 2026)
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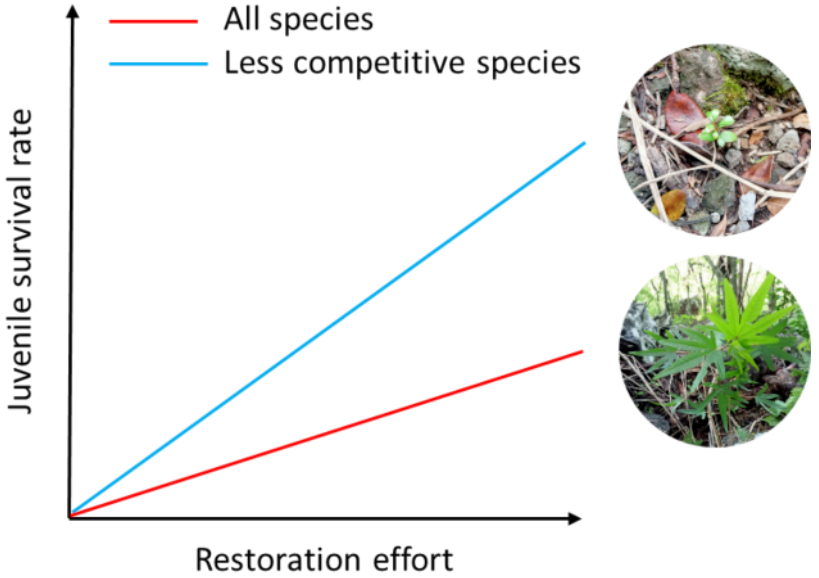

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Controling IAS…



- … increases seed production and viability (Andriamihaja *et al.* 2026)
- … increases seedling emergence (Andriamihaja *et al.* 2026)
- … increases juvenile survival (Pouteau *et al.* 2026)
- … increases juvenile biomass (Rojat *et al.* in prep.)



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Ecological restoration saves species



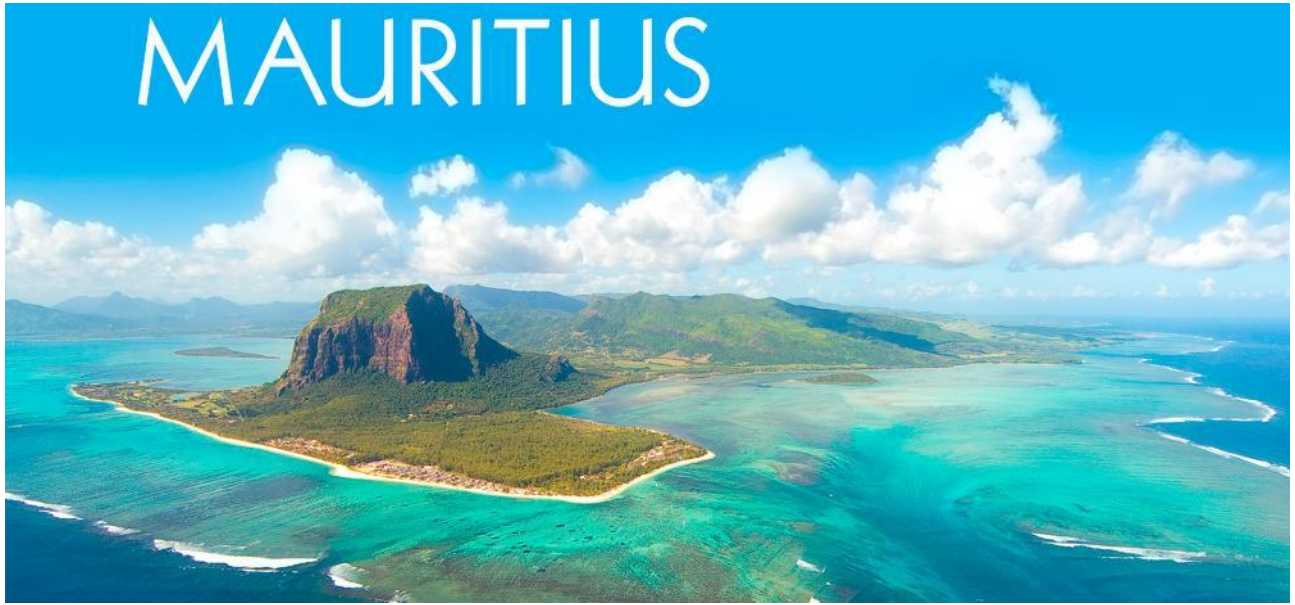
- Target 6 → Target 4
- Islands as a top priority
- Secure long-term funding



Mauritius: Tropical oceanic island, Indian Ocean



- “Sister” island of La Reunion [Mascarenes]
- 8,9 MY, 1,865 km², colonized: 1638



Early vegetation studies (1930's)

- Forest composition studied in the 1930's
- Formed basis for protected areas (1940's)
- Baseline for long-term monitoring
- Early "vaccination" against 'shifting baselines'



Led to early realization of need for control weeds



- Started 1960's. Expanded from 1990's
- Most beneficial management, by far





Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal for Nature Conservation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jnc

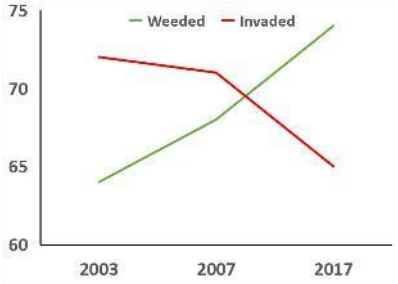
Invasive alien plant control: The priority to save one of the most rapidly declining island-endemic plant species worldwide

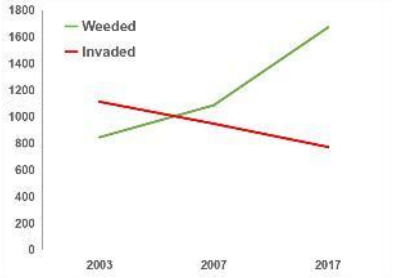
Prishnee Bissessur [a,*], Raphael Dennis Reinegger [b], Cláudia Baider [c], Ragilen Mamoodee [a], François Benjamin Vincent Florens [a]

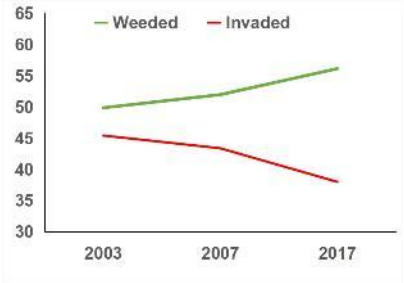
Weeding halts and reverses dying forest ecosystems



- Tree species richness
- Tree density
- Tree ‘biomass’











Alien plants control: “Extinct” species reappeared



- Lapse of 79 to 239 years after last seen



Biol Invasions (2011) 13:2641–2646
DOI 10.1007/s10530-011-9980-3

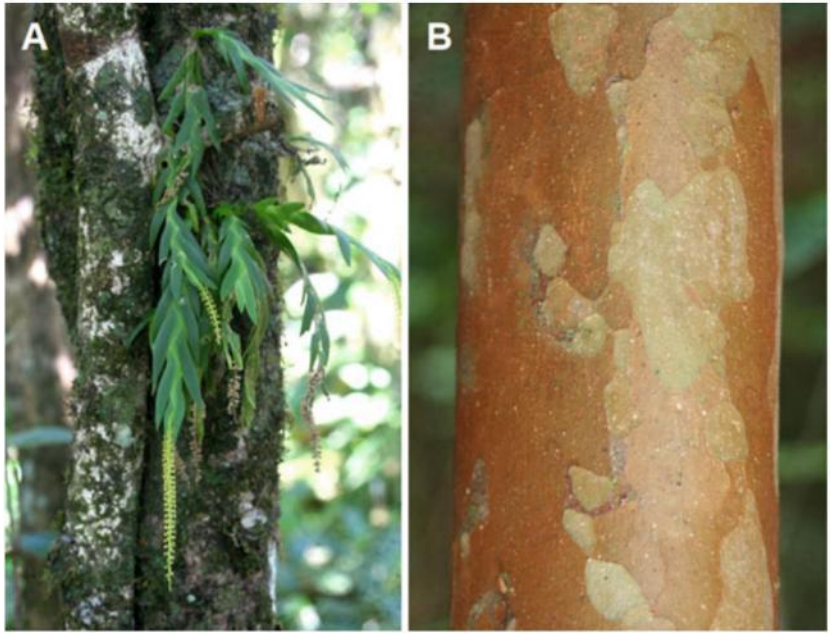
INVASION NOTE

Control of invasive alien weeds averts imminent plant extinction

Cláudia Baider · F. B. Vincent Florens

Native epiphytes recover

- Recovery of native orchids and ferns



PeerJ

Harungana madagascariensis (Hypericaceae) is a key phorophyte for native epiphytes and lianas during ecological restoration: case study on an oceanic island

François M.M.P. Baguette[1], Cláudia Baider[2] and François Benjamin Vincent Florens[1]

Recovery of butterfly community

- Insectivory also strengthens
- Three times more insectivorous birds







PeerJ Manuscript to be reviewed

Invasion of an oceanic island's native forests by alien plants weakens avian insectivory

Ghanishta Seeburrun, Cláudia Baider, François Benjamin Vincent Florens

PeerJ

Invasive Strawberry Guava weakens avian frugivory in native forests of an oceanic island

Ghanishta Seeburrun[1], Cláudia Baider[2] and François Benjamin Vincent Florens[1]

VARUNA

AFD EXPERTISE FRANCE

Biodivers Conserv (2010) 19:3835–3848
DOI 10.1007/s10531-010-9930-x

ORIGINAL PAPER

Recovery of indigenous butterfly community following control of invasive alien plants in a tropical island's wet forests

F. B. Vincent Florens · John R. Mauremootoo · Simon V. Fowler · Linton Winder · Cláudia Baider

Invasive species control alleviates human-wildlife conflict



- Mascarene Flying fox [*Pteropus niger*]
- Endangered, yet mass-culled 2015-2020
- IAS control alleviates HWC



Human-Bat Conflict Working Group
Mauritius

5

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Journal for Nature Conservation

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Foraging habitat quality of an Endangered mass-culled flying fox is reduced by alien plant invasion and improved by alien plant control

Vashist Omprasad Seegobin [a,*], Ryszard Zbigniew Oleksy [b], François Benjamin Vincent Florens [a]



Many invasive alien animal species.











Mammalian Biology
https://doi.org/10.1007/s42991-025-00562-3

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Invasive alien plants, rats and macaques reduce native food availability for an endangered mass-culled flying fox through multiple mechanisms with short to long-term effects

Vashist Omprasad Seegobin[1] · Ryszard Zbigniew Oleksy[2] · François Benjamin Vincent Florens[1]

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

African Journal of Ecology | WILEY

Toad-kill: Prey diversity and preference of invasive guttural toads (*Sclerophrys gutturalis*) in Mauritius

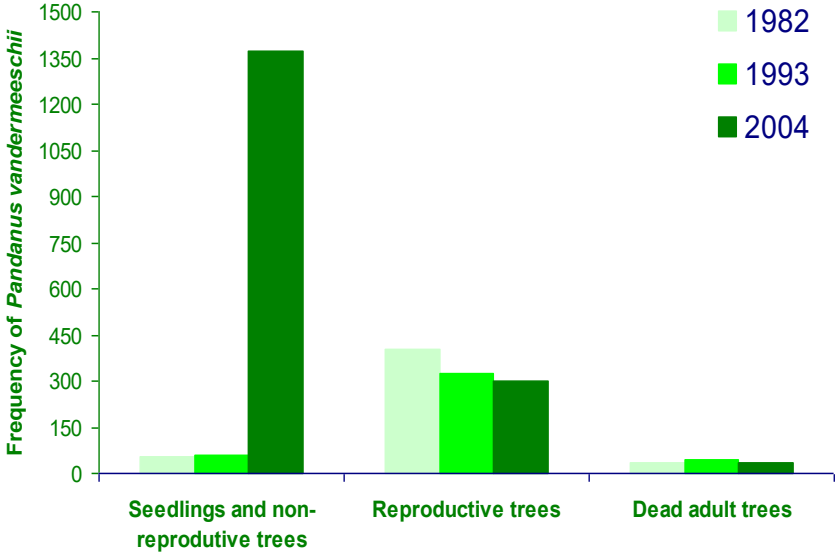
James Baxter-Gilbert[1] | F. B. Vincent Florens[2,3] | Cláudia Baider[4] | Yuvna Devi Perianen[3,5] | Denzel Shane Citta[2,3] | Chandani Appadoo[2,3] | John Measey[1]

Eradication of rats from islet



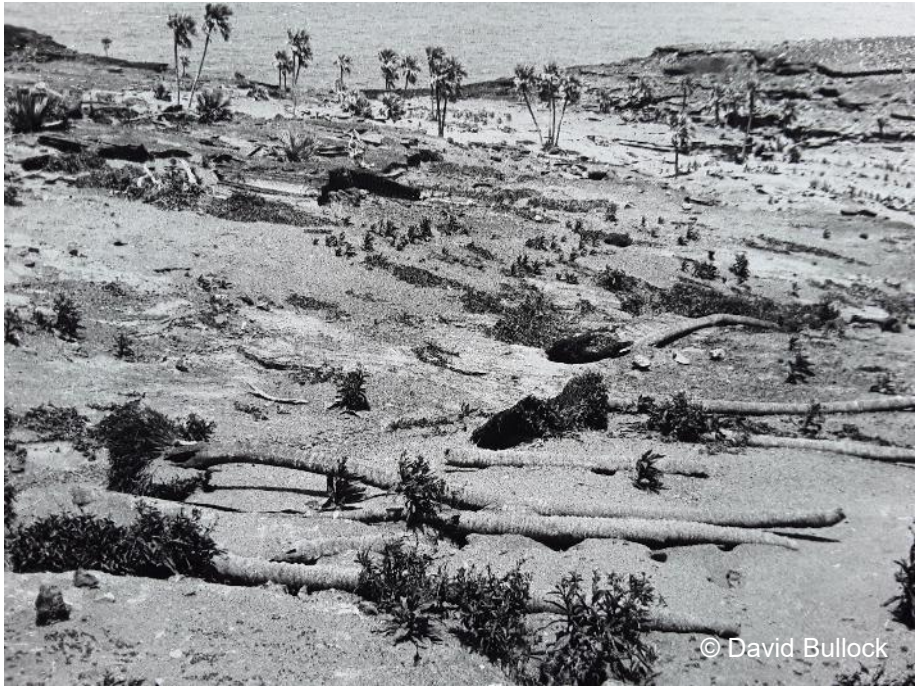
- Seed predators
- Rapid recovery of regeneration capacity





Overgrazing by invasive alien goats and rabbits

- Unchecked goats and rabbits populations
- Driving hardwood forest loss
- Many plant extinctions
- Some animal extinctions [e.g. burrowing boa]



Eradication of invasive alien goats and rabbits

- Severe soil erosion halted
- Major recovery of native plants (palms)



Eradication of invasive alien goats and rabbits

- Endemic snakes populations: + 550%



Eradication of invasive alien goats and rabbits

- Sea bird populations recoveries: + 550%



Invasive alien mammal and plant control

- Recovery of critically endangered birds
  - Echo Parakeet
  - Mauritius Kestrel
  - Pink Pigeon
  - And more…







Laboratory of impact and control of alien species



PeerJ

Invasive Strawberry Guava weakens avian frugivory in native forests of an oceanic island

Ghanishta Seeburrun[1], Cláudia Baider[2] and François Benjamin Vincent Florens[1]

nature communications

Article

Novel plant–frugivore network on Mauritius is unlikely to compensate for the extinction of seed dispersers

Julia H. Heinen[1], F. B. Vincent Florens[2], Cláudia Baider[2], Julian P. Hume[3], W. Daniel Kissling[4], Robert J. Whittaker[5,6], Carsten Rahbek[7,8,9] & Michael K. Borregaard[1]

iScience

CellPress

Article

Changes in the chemical defenses of an invasive toad indicate drivers and limitations of adaptation

Max Mühlenhaupt, James Baxter-Gilbert, Julia L. Riley, Bayisile G. Makhubo, Nhlanhla S. Dludla, Cláudia Baider, F.B. Vincent Florens, Xavier Porcel, André de Villiers, Willem A.L. van Otterlo, and John Measey

Applied Vegetation Science (2016)

IAVS

Long-term declines of native trees in an oceanic island's tropical forests invaded by alien plants

F.B. Vincent Florens, Cláudia Baider, Nooshruth B. Seegoolam, Zeyn Zmanay & Dominique Strasberg

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics

ELSEVIER

Review

Conservation of oceanic island floras: Present and future global challenges

Juli Caujapé-Castells, Alan Tye, Daniel J. Crawford, Arnoldo Santos-Guerra, Ann Sakai, Kary Beaver, Wolfram Lobin, F.B. Vincent Florens, Mónica Moura, Roberto Jardim, Isolda Gómes, Christoph Kueffer

Journal for Nature Conservation

ELSEVIER

Breeding success of an endangered island endemic kestrel increases with extent of invasion by an alien plant species

C.J. Carpouron, N. Zuël, M.L.F. Monty, F.B.V. Florens

Journal for Nature Conservation

ELSEVIER

Invasive alien plants progress to dominate protected and best-preserved wet forests of an oceanic island

F.B.Vincent Florens, Cláudia Baider, Geneviève M.N. Martin, Nooshruth B. Seegoolam, Zeyn Zmanay, Dominique Strasberg

PeerJ

A scoping literature review on the impacts of non-native species on the native terrestrial biodiversity of an oceanic island

Ghanishta Seeburrun, Cláudia Baider, Prishnee Bissessur and François Benjamin Vincent Florens

Journal for Nature Conservation

ELSEVIER

Foraging habitat quality of an Endangered mass-culled flying fox is reduced by alien plant invasion and improved by alien plant control

Vashist Omprasad Seegobin, Ryszard Zbigniew Olekty, François Benjamin Vincent Florens

Review

Negative impacts of invasive predators used as biological control agents against the pest snail *Lissachatina fulica*: the snail *Euglandina 'rosea'* and the flatworm *Platydemus manokwari*

Justin Gerlach · Gary M. Barker · Cindy S. Bick · Philippe Bouchet · Gillianne Brodie · Carl C. Christensen · Timothy Collins · Trevor Coote · Robert H. Cowie · G. Curt Fiedler · Owen L. Griffiths · F. B. Vincent Florens · Kenneth A. Hayes · Jaymee Kua · Jean-Yves Meyer · Wallace M. Meyer III · Ira Richling · John D. Slapcinsky · Leigh Winsor · Norine W. Yeung

Plant Ecology & Diversity, 2017
https://doi.org/10.1080/17550874.2017.1402382

Taylor & Francis

ARTICLE

Rapid population decline of an endemic oceanic island plant despite resilience to extensive habitat destruction and occurrence within protected areas

Prishnee Bissessur[a]*, Cláudia Baider[b] and François Benjamin Vincent Florens[a]

[a]*Tropical Island Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation Pole of Research, Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, University of Mauritius, Le Réduit, Mauritius;* [b]*The Mauritius Herbarium, Agricultural Services, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Le Réduit, Mauritius*

Invasive alien plant control: The priority to save one of the most rapidly declining island-endemic plant species worldwide

Prishnee Bissessur, Raphael Dennis Reinegger, Cláudia Baider, Regillen Mamoudee, François Benjamin Vincent Florens

Thank you

Robin Pouteau · robin.pouteau@ird.fr
F. B. Vincent Florens · vin.florens@uom.ac.mu



Photo: Yohan Petit, CBN de Corse

Panel discussion: where do we go from here?



Moderator: Mr Emmanuel Pasco-Viel, Deputy Head for International Action, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Negotiations on Climate and Nature

Mr Karl Fellenius

Head of Delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Environmental Protection Authority (RMI EPA), and SBSTTA Bureau member for the Asia-Pacific region

Mr David Walkem

Invasives Canada

Ms Jolene Fellhauer

Manager, Operations and Training, Invasive Species Council of British Columbia

Dr Alla Aleksanyan

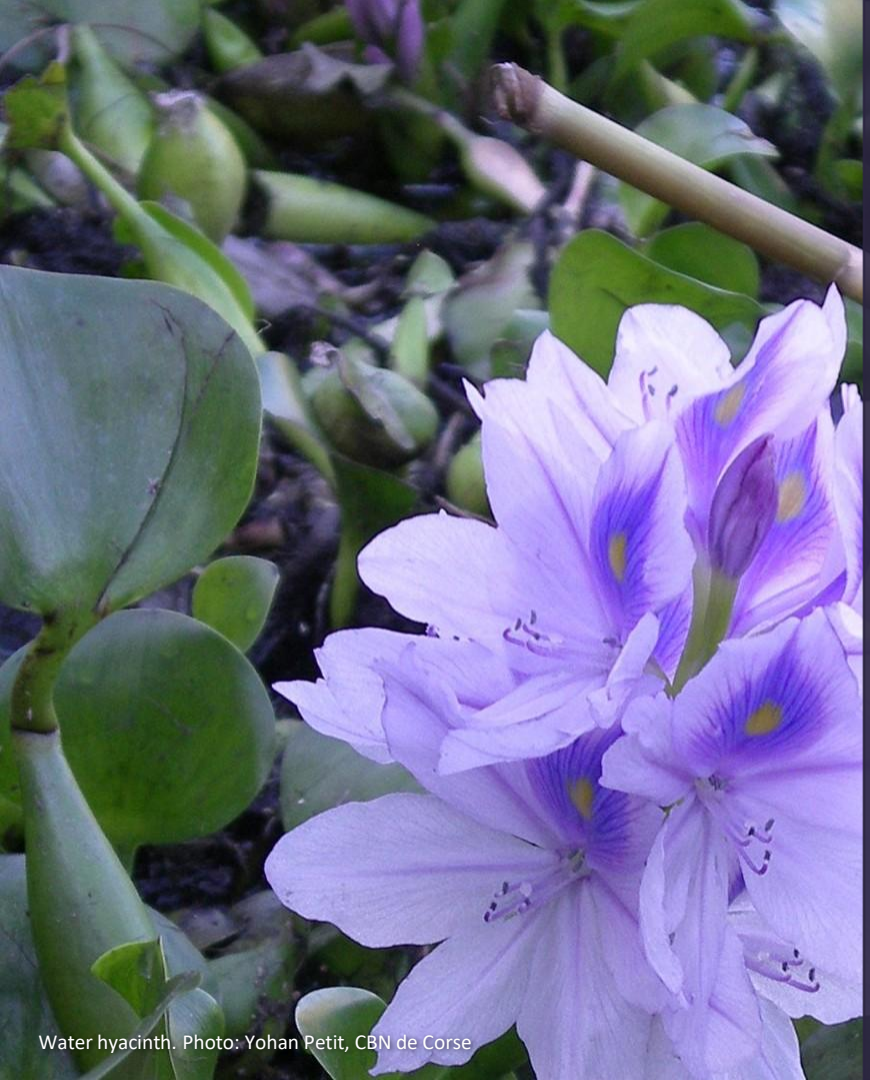
National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Lead Author, Chapter 2, IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment

Dr Aníbal Pauchard

University of Concepción and IEB, Chile; Co-chair, IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment and IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group

Prof Helen Roy

University of Exeter and UKCEH; Co-chair, IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment and IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group



Water hyacinth. Photo: Yohan Petit, CBN de Corse

IAS Thematic Half Day · COP17 · Yerevan, 24 October 2026

Closing Session

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms Anne Le Strat

Deputy Director General for Support to Public Policies and Stakeholders, French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)

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Thank You

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