

INVASIVE SPECIES



A THREAT TO VANUATU BIODIVERSITY

SAKO (INDIAN MYNA)

Brown with a black head, and yellow beak with strong legs.

Impact: Highly aggressive birds that compete with and displace native wildlife from habitat areas.

Very noisy, a nuisance to humans, feeds on anything including insects, fruits and vegetables, scraps and even pet food.

Causes loss of native birds and habitats.

Distribution: Efate, Santo, Malekula & Tanna.



RAT

Description: Rats are generally slender with a pointed head, large eyes, and prominent, thinly furred ears. They have moderately long legs and long, sharp claws.

Impact: Prey on native species eggs and disturb the natural habitat, agricultural crops and produce.

Distribution: Throughout Vanuatu



AFRICAN SNAIL

Description: Largest of all land snails from 15-20cm.

Impact: Pest of crops and natural vegetation causing loss and disturbance of native species

Distribution: Present in Santo, Malekula, Efate, Tanna, Epi & Emae



PISPIS TREE (AFRICAN TULIP)

Description: Fast growing evergreen tree that can grow up to 24m high. Produces large flat clusters of velvety, bronze-green buds and large orange-red flowers with yellow frilly edges.

Impact: Pose great disturbance of natural vegetation and disturbed rainforest

Distribution: Efate, Santo and Erromango.



POSEN STA FIS (CROWN OF THORNS)

Description: Fast growing, coral eating star fish of an average length of 31 cm that can grow up to 1 m. Has 21 arms with dense spines.

Impact: Very poisonous sting, preys on corals and disturbs the native coral reefs.

Distribution: Present on Santo, Efate, Aneityum, Banks and Malekula.



WOTA LETES (WATER LETTUCE)

Description: Floating plant that looks like floating head of lettuce. It has light green leaves that are thick, hairy and ridged.

Impact: Blocked water ways, disturb water quality and disturb the native aquatic organism habitat.

Distribution: Present on Vanua Lava, Gaua, Pentecost, Tanna,



For more information about any of these invasive species, please call 25302 e-mail: environment@vanuatu.gov.vu