

Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit training programme



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The Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit (PIAT) training programme

This programme is intended to deliver capacity building for the resources in the Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit (PIAT).

The overall objective is to enable the participants in the programme to be able to effectively use the resources and information in the PIAT to prevent and manage the problems caused by invasive ants.

Workshop structure

The training programme is in the form of series of seven standalone workshops covering the six main sections of the PIAT (***Problem ants part 1 & 2, Prevention, Assessing the problem, Getting rid of ants, Learning and Teaching and Legislation***). The programme starts with an introduction to the PIAT as outlined in ***About the PIAT***, includes one or more workshop topics (depending on audience needs), and completes with an overview of the ***Getting help*** section. Sometimes the workshops will be delivered as part of a series of training events over a number of months or years. In this case the ***About the PIAT*** and ***Getting help*** topics will be reviewed briefly at the beginning and end of each training event. These two topics are not assessed.

Each workshop has an accompanying workbook, which includes a selection of Exercises, each with distinct objectives. Each Exercise has a number of questions to be worked through and answered in the workbook. The workbooks are intended to provide participants with a record of what they have learned for future reference. Whenever possible, we have included practical components to the exercises, and related them to the local situation.

Breaks from theory and class work are scheduled for approximately every hour. These will either be refreshment breaks, “energisers” or breaks for field exercises.

Audience-specific needs

The full workshop programme covers the six main sections of the PIAT in separate workshops.

However, different sections of the PIAT are relevant for different types of roles. For example, the target audience for ***Prevention*** is Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who need to actively prevent the arrival and spread of invasive ants in the course of their work.

Where a workshop is intended for multiple audiences, some of the material is tailored according to need. This is why there are two ***Problem ants*** workshops – a general one for all audiences and a second workshop specifically for biosecurity and environment officers who need to more in-depth knowledge.

The information required for teachers is quite different so we have created an ***Invasive ants for teachers*** workshop specifically for them.

Workshop descriptions

Section	Description	Target audience(s)	Days
Problem ants part 1	Not all ants are a problem, but there are some important ones to watch out for, and they can cause serious problems	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers. Community stakeholders, teachers and others involved in awareness raising but without a background in biosecurity or environment. Officers involved in Outreach and consultants and NGO representatives will gain knowledge on informing the community about why ants are a problem.	0.5-1
Problem ants part 2	Where problem ants come from and how to identify them	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who may directly encounter invasive ants in the course of their work or may have ants sent to them for preliminary identification.	1-3
Prevention	Prevention is cheaper, and easier in the long run, than trying to get rid of ants	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who are involved in international or domestic biosecurity.	2
Assessing the problem	Before you start planning what to do about an ant problem you need to know how bad it is	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who may seek out or encounter invasive ants in the course of their work. Consultants and NGO representatives will also gain knowledge of how to survey and assess the impacts of invasive ants.	1-2
Getting rid of ants	Once you've decided to get rid of ants, you need to know how to do this properly	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who need to know how to manage invasive ants in the course of their work. In addition the workshop will be of benefit to consultants and NGO representatives who are involved in writing proposals for funding etc. to manage invasive ants.	3-4
Learning and teaching	Awareness of why ants are a problem is really important	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who are involved in outreach as part of their work. Consultants and NGO representatives should also find this useful. Teachers can be trained specifically in the Lesson Plan (Exercise 5).	1
Legislation	Laws, agreements and regulations help to prevent and manage ant problems	Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers who need to know about relevant legislation invasive ants in the course of their work. Policy makers, risk managers and others involved in the development of biosecurity and environmental legislation. As background information for consultants and NGO representatives .	0.5
Invasive ants for teachers	Introduces teachers to awareness of invasive ants and the lesson plan	Teachers who wish to include awareness of invasive species in their curriculum.	1

If the workshops are to be targeted to specific audiences, the following topics are suggested:

Target audience(s)	Suggested workshops	Approximate duration
Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers (domestic and international biosecurity and management of invasive ants)	<i>Problem ants part 1 & 2 Prevention Assessing the problem Getting rid of ants Learning and teaching Legislation</i>	9 - 11 days
Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers (outreach)	<i>Problem ants part 1 Learning and teaching</i>	2 days
Consultants and NGO representatives	<i>Problem ants part 1 Assessing the problem Getting rid of ants Learning and teaching Legislation</i>	5 days
Teachers	<i>Invasive ants for teachers</i>	1 day
Policy makers, risk managers	<i>Problem ants part 1 Legislation</i>	1 day

Getting started with the PIAT

The videos on the website pages start playing when the page is opened, so please mute the volume on your computer, or use headphones.

The toolkit can be viewed on a tablet or mobile phone, but for training a laptop or desktop computer should be used, preferably with a screen size of 15 inches or more.

If your facility has internet access, connect to the internet and open a browser (Chrome, Internet Explorer etc.). Type <http://piat.org.nz> into the URL space.

If you do not have internet access the trainer will provide you with a USB drive that has the website content downloaded onto on it. You can either use the USB drive or copy its contents onto your own computer.

The USB will have a folder in it called **piat.org.nz**. Click on this folder.

Click on the file **index.html** (some computers might show this as simply **index**).

This will open the website in your default browser. Use this as you would a normal website.

Some of the information is not available in the offline version, including some videos, and all links to other web pages. In the **piat.org.nz** folder you will find a folder called **videos** that includes all the key videos included in the workshops.

Certificates

For workshops run by Pacific Biosecurity, if participants wish, they may be able to be issued with a Certificate of Participation for each workshop. These certificates are endorsed by the Victoria University of Continuing Education and Executive Development. Students who request a Certificate of Participation will need to hand in their workbook at the end of the workshop, and will need to complete a course assessment in full. The facilitator will need to ensure that a reasonable effort has been made by the student to complete the workbooks, and that a course assessment has been completed. No assessment of student achievement is expected for a Certificate of Participation.

Evaluation of workshop effectiveness

Evaluation forms are provided for each workbook. Workshop workbooks and Exercises will be updated to reflect the feedback received.