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# Conservation in partnership – Samoa update



In **Pest 55**: February and March 2018 we ran a feature on one of PelGar's Conservation in Partnership (CiP) initiatives on the Pacific island of Samoa. We are delighted that PelGar has now updated us on progress.

Working with Auckland Zoo and the Samoa Conservation Society, PelGar International is providing support in the form of rodent bait stations and difenacoum rodenticide (Roban) to reduce the rat population in the Malololelei Reserve on the island of Upolu. The objective is to protect the critically endangered manumea, also known as the 'little dodo', the national bird of Samoa.

Gerwyn Jones, PelGar's business manager for the Asia Pacific Region, is pleased to report: "We are encouraged to hear that the bait take by the rats has been good, and that the local people have anecdotally heard more bird song in the area. There is even a piece of video footage from a wildlife



PelGar's Gerwyn Jones at the Malololelei reserve on Samoa



Black rat captured entering bait station using infra-red camera trap equipment

camera that shows a black rat entering the same station and feeding on the bait over three consecutive days. On the fourth day there is no sign of the rat, which no doubt has succumbed to the Roban rodenticide.

"The team at Auckland Zoo and the staff of the Samoa Conservation Society are doing a fantastic job. Even though the main goal is to bring the manumea from the brink of extinction, other native Samoan species are also being protected, such as the ma'oma'o bird," concludes Gerwyn.

PelGar is now involved in conservation work with a community based organisation, Falease'ela Environmental Protection Society (FEPS), on another part of the island in Samoa, in an attempt to save the manumea from extinction. In addition, one of PelGar's partners, Tenv Solutions has provided the rodent bait stations, at no charge, to help with this new project.





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