



**MOU SIGNED
FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

In efforts to better manage two invasive species in Fiji, the Common Myna and Cane Toad, the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) has today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BirdLife International Pacific Secretariat (BirdLife) and Fiji Nature Conservation Trust (legally registered) operating as NatureFiji – MareqetiViti (NFMV).

The MOU establishes the basis for cooperation between the agencies with the intention of enhancing surveillance, monitoring, eradication, biosecurity, data sharing, resourcing, communications and public outreach for Common Myna and Cane Toad on Rotuma.

Both species are regarded as environmental and agricultural pests and a social nuisance. Introduction of Common Myna and Cane Toad to Rotuma is thought to have occurred since 2017 and the partnership is seeking to permanently remove them from the island.

The MOU will further establish the administrative framework to facilitate the sharing of relevant information and resources in relation to the eradication and management of the two species; promote, enhance, and strengthen cooperation and coordination.

All parties will work collaboratively, engage in knowledge sharing and providing relevant capacity building, which will work towards ensuring the core objectives of the MOU are achieved.

This will encompass having clear communications in relations to information, data and statistics, providing required guidance and assistance to each other as and when required and informing each other of any changes that would be required in terms of how the work is being carried out.

It is envisaged, that the MOU will greatly strengthen the relations between the Fiji Government and civil society while ensuring Fiji's natural environment, agricultural industry and way of life is protected.

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