



Government of Kiribati

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PHOENIX ISLANDS PROTECTED AREA  
 A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

## BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS FOR ENTERING PHOENIX ISLANDS PROTECTED AREA (PIPA)

Key risks of landing on the Phoenix Islands are that invasive alien species (IAS) may get ashore and subsequently have devastating impacts on the indigenous biota. Key IAS threats associated with landing are:

- Rodents (rats/mice)
- Foreign ants (e.g. species of fire ants or crazy ants)
- Other invertebrates, e.g. spiders, snails
- Seeds of invasive weeds, e.g. lantana
- Disease.

These risks are significant and currently there are no pest-proof inspection facilities at most Pacific departure points and none at landing points in the PIPA.

Protocols to minimise these risks are as follows:

### Country of departure

1. Observe customs and quarantine requirements of departure country (e.g. Fiji, Samoa, USA) and destination country (Kiribati).
2. Carefully inspect the wharf at the departure port to ensure that it has no infestations of ants.
3. If dingies or other small craft are to be used for loading, ensure that these are free of ants and other invertebrates; always spray their interior with **Permethrin**-based insect spray. (**Note: use Permethrin-based sprays only as they have a residual effect - do not use Pyrethroid/pyrethrum sprays which are temporary knock-down sprays only**).
4. Obtain food stores and other supplies from reputable and hygienic sources that minimise the chances of rodents, ants, other invertebrates, weeds, etc, being present.

### On board the vessel

5. Keep food stores in sealed containers on the vessel.
6. Maintain permanent rodent traps and/or poison bait stations (with diphacinone or brodifacoum baits) on the vessel.
7. In the event of rodents or invasive ants being detected on board, further quarantine advice is required from the PIPA administration.

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8. In the event of aerial insects being detected on board (e.g. wasps), quickly eliminate these and inspect to ensure eggs have not been laid on board, e.g. on fruit.
9. Avoid transporting live animals (e.g. pets, birds) on board unless these are authorised by the PIPA and Government of Kiribati.

Before landing at the Phoenix Islands

10. At the destination island(s) keep all food and equipment being taken ashore to a minimum.
11. Thoroughly inspect all food supplies, camping equipment and clothing etc as a first step before being transported ashore:
  - The inspection must comprise a visual search for rodents, ants, other invertebrates and seeds.
  - Carry this out in a clean, open, well-lit area, e.g. the deck of the vessel.
  - Bang and shake items and develop a search image for ants which are the smallest and least conspicuous invertebrate likely to emerge.
  - Wash or wipe any loose food items, e.g. fruit and vegetables, and place in clean insect-free bags.
  - Keep a can of fly-spray handy at all times for rapid responses to emerging insects.
  - Likely sites for seeds are in socks, shoes, velchro, pockets, seams, etc. Store any seeds found and destroy on return from the islands.
12. After inspection in 11 above, all food, camping equipment and clothing must be placed in sealed containers (e.g. water-proof drums) following the visual inspection above. The interior of the containers must be sprayed with **Permethrin** insecticide at least one hour before leaving the vessel and the container kept sealed during this period including the landing process. (Note that for health reasons it is advisable to wash any loose food items that were exposed to insecticide, but do this once ashore).
13. At least one hour before landing, carefully inspect and spray (with Permethrin) the interior of all landing vessels that are being used for transporting people and supplies, etc, to the island(s).

Whilst at the Phoenix Islands

14. Kindly report to PIPA Office on any illegal activities at sea, land or elsewhere at the Phoenix Islands Protected Area

After the expedition

15. Provide a full report to the PIPA on the procedures above, including details of any IAS found, actions taken and their outcome(s).

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