

# Wash Before You Walk

## Protect K'gari from Non-native *Phytophthora*

### Non-native *Phytophthora*

Non-native species of *Phytophthora* are soil-borne pathogens that attack the root systems of native plants & trees. These microscopic organisms cause patches of dieback & tree-death in forests & other vegetation communities, which has devastating impacts on the health of country & the wildlife who depend on it.

### Non-native *Phytophthora* & Cultural Values

Non-native *Phytophthora* can impede the Butchulla peoples' ability to practise culture, as many of the species threatened by the soil-borne pathogen are edible, medicinal &/or cultural resources. Eucalypts, banksias & native pines are all at risk. Grass trees, are also highly susceptible to the disease.

Protecting K'gari from non-native *Phytophthora* is a priority for the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation. The Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation's Land & Sea Rangers are working with Forest Pathologists, Dr. Geoff Pegg & Dr. Louise Shuey, from the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries to monitor & assess dieback & conduct root & soil testing in suspect sites on K'gari.



Dieback symptoms on native hoop pine at Lake Allom, K'gari. Photo by Dr. Geoff Pegg, DAF.



Dieback symptoms on a grass tree, K'gari. Photo by Dr. Geoff Pegg, DAF.



## Come Clean, Go Clean – Stop the Spread of Non-native *Phytophthora*

You can help to protect K'gari from non-native *Phytophthora* by:

- Thoroughly cleaning your vehicles, boots, camping gear & other potential carriers prior to travelling to K'gari
- Thoroughly clean your boots before travelling to your next destination
- Stay on the track & do not enter areas that are closed to the public
- Keep a shoe-cleaning kit in your vehicle or hiking gear – include a spray bottle of disinfectant and a scrubbing brush



Butchulla Rangers cleaning their boots after entering a suspect site, K'gari.  
Photo by Dr. Geoff Pegg, DAF.



Dr. Louise Shuey collecting samples at a suspect site, K'gari. Photo by Matilda Davis, BAC.

## Bust the Biosecurity Baddie – Recognise & Report Non-native *Phytophthora*

You can help us to keep an eye out for non-native *Phytophthora* on K'gari by emailing photographs of patches of plant & tree dieback & death to [blsr@bac-k'gari.org](mailto:blsr@bac-k'gari.org), be sure to include the location & date discovered. Then we can add it to our list of sites to monitor, assess & test.

You may also report this to the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries ([Report a biosecurity pest or disease | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](#)) or Biosecurity Queensland (13 25 23).

