

Poisoned Dead Mice Parachuted onto Guam to Kill Snakes

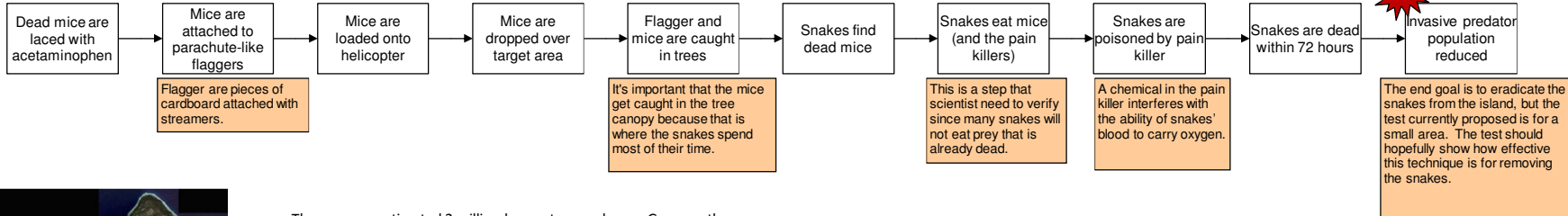
Guam
December 1, 2013

On December 1, 2013, 2,000 dead, poisoned neonatal mice were parachuted onto Guam on a unique mission to fight an invasive species, the brown tree snake. The parachutes are designed to catch in the trees and tempt the snakes, who live in the trees, into eating the mice.



Photo from US Agriculture report "Targeted Aerial Application of Acetaminophen for Brown Tree snake Control on Guam"

Process Map Plan to Reduce the Brown Tree Snake Population on Guam

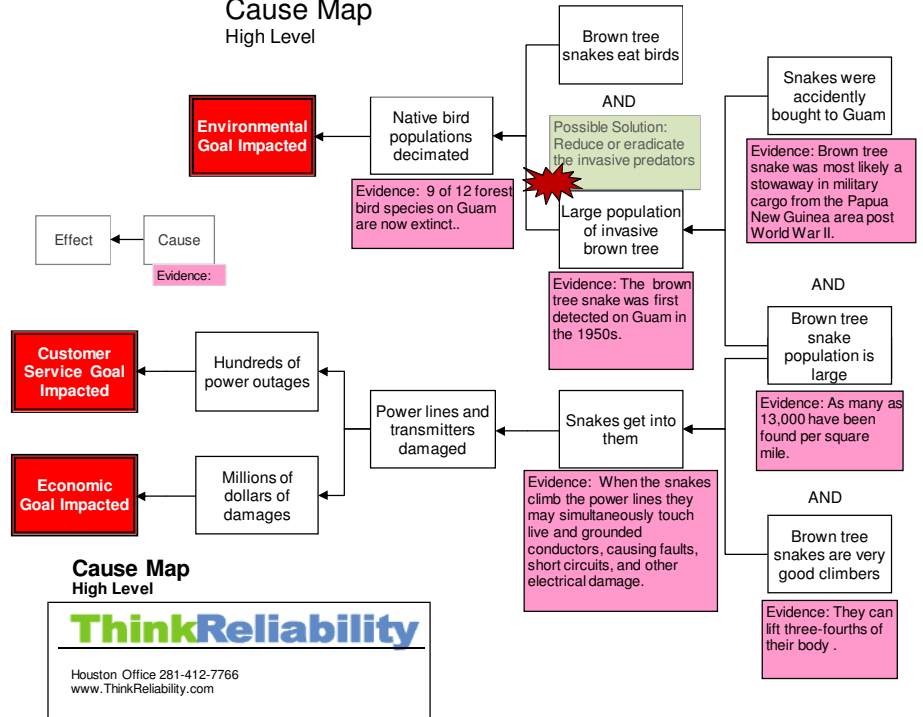


The red squares mark the two locations being target with the dead mice drops. Map from US Agriculture report.

There are an estimated 2 million brown tree snakes on Guam so the 2,000 poisoned mice will only impact a very small percentage of the population, but scientists hope that the information they learn from this drop will help them plan larger mice drops in the future. This is the fourth and largest dead mice drop so far and cost 8 million dollars. Some of the mice were embedded with data-transmitting radios for this drop which will allow scientists to better gauge the effectiveness of this technique.

There have been a number of different things tried over the years: snake traps, snake-sniffing dogs and snake-hunting inspectors have all been used, but the snakes have completely over un the island. As farfetched as it sounds, parachuting dead mice seems to be the most promising solution at present.

Cause Map High Level



Outline

What	Problem(s)	Power outages, decimation of native bird population
When	Date	Ongoing
	Differences	Invasive species (brown tree snake) present
Where	Physical Location	Guam
Impact to the Goals	Environmental	Native bird population decimated
	Customer Service	Hundreds of power outages
	Economic	Millions of dollars of damages

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