

What the FUST is PacMAN?

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One million species are on the verge of extinction, and the introduction of non-indigenous species (NIS) to new environments is listed as one of the five key drivers impacting biodiversity according to the recent IPBES global assessment. Small Islands Developing States, SIDS (or better called large ocean states), are particularly vulnerable to such a risk. In addition to the climate and biodiversity crises, marine bioinvasions also pose a real risk for human health and livelihoods. The PacMAN project will develop a monitoring network and early warning decision support tools for SIDS, including a user-friendly dashboard indicating the presence of invasive species or risk of invasions to support local management. This will be achieved by training local scientists in field sampling, sample processing, DNA sequencing, and data management; establishing and operating national invasive species monitoring plans; building a bioinformatics pipeline to facilitate the processing of metabarcoding data; feeding the processed and quality controlled data into global data infrastructures; and analyzing and modelling these data to drive the decision support tool.