

MSCA-FECyT webinar

María Cruz Berrocal | Incipit-CSIC | 29 de mayo 2026

PacificPeopleForest

2025-2028 “History, Archaeology, and Botany of Pacific Islands: assessing the Impacts of Early European colonialism on Peoples and Forests (PacificPeopleForest)”, MSCA Doctoral Networks: HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 (101226735)

PacificPeopleForest: Rota (CNMI)

PacificPeopleForest aims to uncover the history, extent and chronology of the impacts of European colonialism in Pacific Islands (16-17th centuries), thereby focusing on native island populations, their settlement patterns, and associated changes in vegetation dynamics, as plants are key elements of Pacific ecosystems. By integrating historical, archaeological, and ecological disciplines and perspectives through an innovative interdisciplinary doctoral training programme, this project seeks to offer **empirically-based insights into the interplay between human populations and forest dynamics, before and after European contact**. Such insights are urgently needed to understand the process that has led to the current configuration of Pacific islands, especially in the current scenario of **biodiversity loss and climate change** in which coastal settlement and island ecosystems are highly vulnerable. Therefore, besides a new paradigm about the impacts of colonial contacts in settlement patterns and forest dynamics in Pacific islands, this project will provide understanding about the **resilience and adaptability of these ecosystems and their inhabitants** in the face of current social, demographic and environmental challenges.



Alaguan
August 2024



As Rosalía
July 2022


Origen de la solicitud

Cruz Berrocal Part B1 NAO

**ERC Consolidator Grant 2016
Research proposal [Part B1]**

Networks Across Oceania

Studying the impacts of the earliest European presence in the Western Pacific,
16th-17th centuries AD



NAO¹

Cover Page:
- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI): María Cruz Berrocal
- Name of the PI's host institution for the project: Universität Konstanz
- Proposal duration in months: 60



Proposal Template Part B

START PAGE

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Doctoral Networks (DN)
Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01

PART B

PacificPeopleForest

**History, Archaeology, and Botany of Pacific Islands:
assessing the Long-Term Impacts of Early European colonialism
on Peoples and Forests**

- Necesidad de gran interdisciplinariedad
- Doctorados para dar salida a un trabajo ya iniciado y los datos acumulados, y avanzar aspectos particulares de la investigación
- Énfasis en la formación
- Internacionalización del grupo de investigación

Por qué este consorcio

	WP1 History	WP2 Archaeology	WP3 Botany
<p>Hypothesis 1: European colonialism beginning in the 16th century triggered a demographic collapse that resulted in the abandonment of inland areas and the configuration of current settlement in the Pacific islands</p>	<p>DC1: Settlement, population and plants in the earliest documents in the Pacific</p>	<p>DC3: Settlement patterns and the archaeology of inland areas: towards an approach to study colonialism</p>	<p>DC5: Ethnobotanical study of archaeological sites, historic herbaria and interviews with the island peoples</p>
<p>Hypothesis 2: European colonialism beginning in the 16th century had two ecological consequences on Pacific islands: i) regrowth of the forest in the inland areas, ii) introduction of key plant species and changes in food production</p>	<p>DC2: Plant introductions in the Marianas from the early colonial times and onwards</p>	<p>DC4: Remote sensing approaches to study the relationship of vegetation and archaeological record</p>	<p>DC6: Genetic study to date and trace human-mediated plant introduction</p>

Cómo formar el consorcio

Arqueología



María Cruz Berrocal (Incipit, CSIC, Spain)

Botánica



Marta Domínguez Delmás
(Naturalis, Netherlands)

Historia



Angela Schottenhammer (KU Leuven, Belgium)



Cómo y por qué nuestros associated partners

Hypothesis 1: European colonialism beginning in the 16th century triggered a demographic collapse that resulted in the abandonment of inland areas and the configuration of current settlement in the Pacific islands

Hypothesis 2: European colonialism beginning in the 16th century had two ecological consequences on Pacific islands: i) regrowth of the forest in the inland areas, ii) introduction of key plant species and changes in food production

WP1 History	WP2 Archaeology	WP3 Botany
DC1: Settlement, population and plants in the earliest documents in the Pacific	DC3: Settlement patterns and the archaeology of inland areas: towards an approach to study colonialism	DC5: Ethnobotanical study of archaeological sites, historic herbaria and interviews with the island peoples
DC2: Plant introductions in the Marianas from the early colonial times and onwards	DC4: Remote sensing approaches to study the relationship of vegetation and archaeological record	DC6: Genetic study to date and trace human-mediated plant introduction



1. Definición de hipótesis
2. Definición de tesis doctorales
3. Definición de secondments para l+s estudiantes



desde

Redes personales & Contactos adhoc con expert+s relevantes

Cómo y por qué nuestros associated partners

- Tim Utteridge (Singapore Botanic Gardens)
- Patricia Murrieta (Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico)
- Carlos Madrid, David Atienza de Frutos (Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam)

- Henry Fandel (Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)
- James Manglona (Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Forestry section Rota)
- Mertie Kanie (Historic Preservation Office, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

Redes científicas

Agencias locales

Gestión del consorcio

- Consorcio pequeño
- Gestor de proyectos
- Reuniones regulares del Supervisory Board / Executive Board
- Establecer líneas básicas sobre cómo debería funcionar el consorcio, organizar el trabajo de campo, organizar la formación, mantener la agenda del proyecto
- Retos: manejo conjunto de los datos científicos. Creación de un Sistema de Información

Buscar partners / proyectos

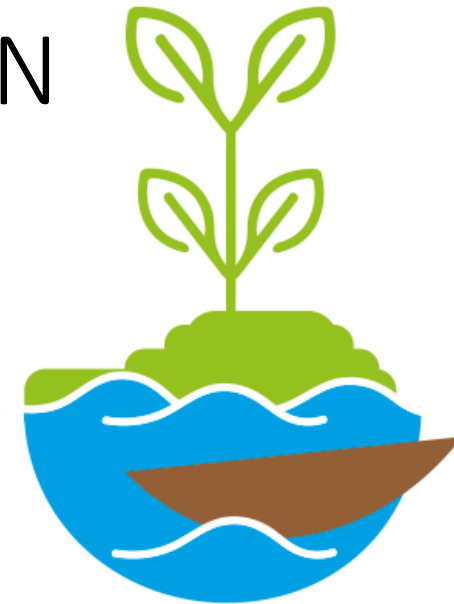
https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/partners-networking_en

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the European Commission website. On the left is the European Commission logo. On the right is a language selector set to 'EN' and a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Partners, networking'. The main heading is 'Partners, networking' in a large, dark blue font. Below the heading is a sub-heading: 'How to find partners and networks and access research facilities.' At the bottom of the page, there are three columns of links and descriptions:

Access to research infrastructure	European Partnerships in Horizon Europe	Find a project partner
Access to European Research Infrastructures European Commission laboratories	Types of partnership, proposals, contact details.	Information on project partnerships, including search services.

THANKS

FOR YOUR ATTENTION



PacificPeopleForest