Modeling Hawaiian Ecosystem Degradation due to Invasive Plants under Current and Future Climates

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Abstract

Occupation of native ecosystems by invasive plant species alters their structure and/or function. In Hawaii, a subset of introduced plants is regarded as extremely harmful due to competitive ability, ecosystem modification, and biogeochemical habitat degradation. By controlling this subset of highly invasive ecosystem modifiers, conservation managers could significantly reduce native ecosystem degradation. To assess the invasibility of vulnerable native ecosystems, we selected a proxy subset of invasive plants and developed robust ensemble species distribution models to define their respective potential distributions. The combinations of all species models using both binary and continuous habitat suitability projections resulted in estimates of species richness and diversity that were subsequently used to define an invasibility metric. The invasibility metric was defined from species distribution models with <0.7 niche overlap (Warrens I) and relatively discriminative distributions (Area Under the Curve >0.8; True Skill Statistic >0.75) as evaluated per species. Invasibility was further projected onto a 2100 Hawaii regional climate change scenario to assess the change in potential habitat degradation. The distribution defined by the invasibility metric delineates areas of known and potential invasibility under current climate conditions and, when projected into the future, estimates potential reductions in native ecosystem extent due to climate-driven invasive incursion. We have provided the code used to develop these metrics to facilitate their wider use (Code S1). This work will help determine the vulnerability of native-dominated ecosystems to the combined threats of climate change and invasive species, and thus help prioritize ecosystem and species management actions.

Introduction

Occupation of native ecosystems by ecosystem-modifying invasive plants (EMIP) has been linked to changes in native biodiversity [1,2], biogeochemical heterogeneity [3–5] and ecosystem services [2]. These invaders alter the structure and/or function of the native ecosystems through both habitat degradation, and the development of non-analog communities/ecosystems [2]. As detailed in Vitousek et al. [8] and Hughes et al. [9], EMIPs both singly and collectively, have the potential to overrun and fragment habitat previously characterized by unique and diverse endemic communities. Although some ecosystems are resilient[10,11], continuous degradation of habitat without remediation may alter these diverse native communities to a point beyond recovery.

Long-term climate change impacts may influence native ecosystem resilience as well as shift the distribution of EMIPs [12–15]. For instance, Willis et al. [12] demonstrated a dramatic difference in the response of invasive species to climate change, where invasive species were found to be far better at tracking seasonal temperature changes than native and non-native non-invasive species. In the absence of management, habitat degradation by EMIPs under climate change may occur through an increase in invasive species spread, which may increase EMIP diversity (due to a redistribution of ecosystem dominance brought about by climate change [16]), and/or an increase in EMIP density. Increases in EMIP diversity and density add pressures to native ecosystems [13,16], which in combination with a reduction in ecosystem resilience may lead to an expansion of degraded habitat and increasingly diminish endemic diversity [16–18]. Although there are biome- and scale-based differences in the resistance of native ecosystems to invasion [18–20], the overall trend of native contraction following EMIP incursion is consistent [21,22]. Therefore, understanding the realized and potential distribution of these EMIPs, especially in relation to climate change, is an important step in defining native ecosystem susceptibility and managing EMIP impact.

The term invasibility is commonly used to describe the susceptibility of native ecosystems to colonization and thus modification [23,24]. Metrics defining invasibility risk reflect habitat suitability in both invaded and unoccupied habitat. In order to understand consistent and continuous ecosystem degradation by these EMIPs under climate change a landscape level

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### Table 1. Hawaiian Ecosystem Modifying Invasive Plants (EMIP’s) selected for this analysis.

| Species Name                  | CommonName | Code | Family               | Established in Hawaii | Habitat (Wagner et al, [43]) | Habitat (Price et al, [42]) | Number of Records | RA | RA Score  |
|-------------------------------|------------|------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----|-----------|
| Clidemia hirta                | Koster’s curse | CliHir | Melastomataceae      | 1941 (72 years)       | Mesic to Wet Forest         | Mesic-Wet                  | 60                | High Risk | 20         |
| Falcataria moluccana          | Albizia    | FaMol | Fabaceae             | 1920 (93 years)       | Disturbed Mesic to Wet Areas | Mesic-Wet                  | 144               | High Risk | 16         |
| Hedychium gardnerianum        | Kahili ginger | HedGar | Zingiberaceae        | 1940 (73 years)       | Wet Forest                  | Wet                         | 218               | High Risk | 16         |
| Lantana camara                | Lantana    | LanCam | Verbenaceae          | 1858 (155 years)      | Mesic                        | Dry-Mesic                  | 302               | High Risk | 32         |
| Leucaena leucocephala         | Koa haole, eloa | LeuLeu | Fabaceae             | 1837 (176 years)      | Dry                          | Dry-Mesic                  | 502               | High Risk | 15         |
| Melinis minutiflora           | Molasses grass | MelMin | Poaceae             | 1910 (103 years)      | Dry to Mesic Areas           | Mesic-Wet                  | 298               | High Risk | 18         |
| Miconia calvescens            | Miconia    | MicCal | Melastomataceae      | ~1983 (30 years)      | Mesic-Wet                    | Mesic-Wet                  | 102,595           | High Risk | 14         |
| Morella faya                  | Firetree    | MorFay | Myricaceae           | 1926 (87 years)       | Mesic to Wet Forest          | Mesic-Wet                  | 968               | High Risk | 17         |
| Panicum maximum               | Guinea grass | PanMax | Poaceae             | 1871 (142 years)      | Dry                          | Dry-Mesic                  | 44                | High Risk | 17         |
| Passiflora tarsminana         | Banana poa | PasTar | Passifloraceae       | 1926 (87 years)       | Mesic Forests                | Dry-Mesic                  | 5857              | High Risk | 24         |
| Pennisetum clandestinum       | Kikuyu grass | PenCla | Poaceae             | 1923 (90 years)       | Dry to Mesic Forests         | Mesic                      | 135               | High Risk | 18         |
| Pennisetum setaceum           | Fountain grass | PenSet | Poaceae             | 1914 (99 years)       | Dry/Open Areas (e.g. Lava fields) | Dry                       | 317               | High Risk | 26         |
| Psidium cattleianum           | Strawberry guava | PsiCat | Myrtaceae           | 1825 (188 years)      | Mesic and Wet Forest         | Mesic                      | 540               | High Risk | 18         |
| Schinus terebinthifolius      | Christmas berry | SchTer | Anacardiaceae       | 1911 (102 years)      | Disturbed Mesic Forests      | Mesic                      | 916               | High Risk | 19         |
| Setaria palmiflora            | Palmgrass   | SetPal | Poaceae             | 1903 (110 years)      | Mesic to Wet Forest          | Dry-Mesic                  | 1059              | High Risk | 7**        |
| Sphaeropteris (syn: Cyathea) cooperi | Australian tree fern | SphCoo | Cyatheaceae       | 1950 (63 years)       | Wet Forest                   | Dry                        | 79                | High Risk | 8          |
| Ulex europaeus                | Gorse       | UleEur | Fabaceae            | 1914 (99 years)       | Mesic                        | Mesic                      | 473               | High Risk | 20         |

Avg. Establishment: ~1908 (104 ± 41 years) SUM: 114,782 Avg. RA 18.8

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1. Habitat is described by a broad habitat descriptor defining the ecotype and year naturalized (or first collected) as inferred from [41,122].
2. The moistures index developed by Price et al. [42] defined species specific moisture types from collection data.
3. For ease of interpretation each species was coded using a representative six letter combination.
4. Risk Assessment (RA) scores and categories defined by Dahler et al. [19] and Pheloung et al. [41] accessed from: http://www.hear.org/pier/index.htm.
5. Based on estimates for Australia [41] accessed from: http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/australia/sepal-wra.htm.

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analysis is necessary. One such landscape based approach, species distribution modeling (SDM), has been used extensively to understand both single and multi-species (i.e. richness/diversity) distributions in both natural and invaded landscapes [25–27]. The multitude of SDM methodologies all have the ability (with varying accuracy) to both define and predict the theorized realized niche of an organism (based on biotic and abiotic variables), and project that habitat onto specific climate change scenarios [26,28,29]. By combining these niche estimates for multiple species, conservationists and ecologists can predict and project hotspots of native and non-native species richness and diversity [27,28,30,31]. These types of landscape-based predictive analyses offer a powerful tool to predict actual and potential habitat degradation in relation to non-native species invasion. Delineating non-native hotspots allows ecosystem managers to understand the distribution of currently invaded habitat, as well as recognize the invasive organisms’ potential distribution (i.e. invasibility) [30,32,33]. Recognizing the invader’s current and potential distributions will enable ecosystem managers and regulators to prioritize resources and identify native dominated habitat with a high likelihood of EMIP incursion [30,31].

Hawaii, an isolated archipelago extolled for the biodiversity of its endemic flora and fauna, also has the highest number of endangered species in the United States [34]. Of the 919 plants federally listed as threatened or endangered in the United States, approximately 400 (~43%) of them occur in Hawaii [35]. Many of the habitats these plants once flourished in are now dominated by highly invasive EMIPs [6,34], which dramatically alter community structure and ecosystem processes [36–38]. It has been estimated that of the ~8-10,000 plant taxa introduced to the Hawaiian islands only ~90 are regarded as extremely harmful due to competitive ability, ecosystem modification, and/or biogeochemical habitat degradation [39]. Given that non-native/invasive species that have become naturalised make up ~½ of all species in Hawaii [40], the small number of highly invasive EMIPs is somewhat surprising, and potentially encouraging, as controlling this small group of highly invasive ecosystem modifiers could significantly reduce native ecosystem degradation.

For this study, we compiled data for the top 17 Hawaii-based EMIPs, characterized their distributions and developed a novel metric attempting to describe overall invasibility within Hawaii. The distribution of each invasive plant species was modeled using an ensemble of SDM methodologies to project the distribution of actual and potential degraded habitat, and assess whether modeled EMIP richness and diversity can be used as a proxy of invasibility. We then estimated the current (2013) and future (~2100) distribution of invasibility (and its change over time) throughout Hawaii, and in relation to federally designated critical habitat for endemic Hawaiian organisms listed as threatened or endangered. By characterizing invasibility over a geographic landscape, a discriminative distribution of invasive species diversity and hotspots [30] was developed which can be used to explore island biogeographic relationships, and pro-actively manage current and future invasive incursion.

Materials and Methods

A. Invasive Species Occurrence Data

A set of 17 EMIPs were selected for this analysis based on high risk assessment scores estimated by Dahler et al. [19], Pheloung et al. [41] (Table 1), expert opinion of risk to native ecosystems and data availability. The distributions of these invasive plants encompass a broad range of regional characteristics as determined by a Hawaii specific moisture index [42] overlaid with collection localities and verified by Wagner et al. [43] (Table 1). A six letter acronym, using the first three letters of both the genus and species names, is used henceforth to code species names (Table 1).

A total of 114,782 location records for all EMIPs were collected across the main Hawaiian islands (Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, Lanai, Hawaii) by the Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island Invasive Species Councils, the United States National Park Service and the U. S. Geological Survey (see Fig. 1). The data included location information from both managed (complete or partial removal of the invasive plant) and unmanaged sites. All location records were used to define and project the SDMs because treated and untreated sites were both occupied by the species. The number of occurrences collected per species (Table 1) varied greatly because collections were dependent on the management priorities of the respective collecting organizations, thus, density or number of collections are not necessarily a correlate of invasive risk or degree of establishment.

When using an SDM approach it is assumed that the species is in equilibrium with environmental covariates used to derive that distribution over the defined landscape [44]. Violating this equilibrium assumption produces a model that is constrained by the location of occurrences at the time of collection. Although many SDM methodologies are relatively robust to violations of environmental equilibrium, using data limited to the onset of invasion may skew the model prediction to a small subset of an invasive organism’s suitable habitat (increasing commission error). Some studies have attempted to circumvent non-equilibrium by using both natal and invaded habitat for invaded habitat projections [33,45], however this may also underestimate the potential range of the species within the novel habitat due to probable niche expansion [44,46–48]. In an attempt to address violations of equilibrium due to recent invasions, Vaclavik et al. [44] suggested that invasive habitat suitability projections should be conducted as the species tends closer to equilibrium. To address these concerns establishment dates for all species selected were reviewed to assess environmental equilibrium of the EMIPs in Hawaii (Table 1). Of all the species selected, the most extensively collected (and distributed) was also the most recently established (e.g. MicCal), Even while accounting for the more recent invasion of MicCal, the 17 invasive species selected for this study had an average establishment time of 104 years (SD ± 40 years). We feel that the selected species have had sufficient time to establish since introduction and are at or near equilibrium with the current environment.

B. Environmental Indices

A total of 24 continuous abiotic environmental indices, including 19 bioclimatic and 5 topographic variables, were initially considered for modeling (Fig. 2). These indices were defined for six of the main eight Hawaiian islands (Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, Lanai, and Hawaii). All current bioclimatic variables were defined from 250 meter(m) monthly average rainfall estimates developed by Giambelluca et al. [49] and 500 m scaled average monthly minimum and maximum temperature maps from the PRISM Climate Group [50,51]. As with all other analyses and modeling presented, we calculated bioclimatic variables using the R statistical environment [52]. The R package ‘dismo’ provided methods for bioclimatic variable generation based on rainfall and temperature data [53].

Topographic variables were derived from a 30 m Digital Elevation Model as upscaled from the 10 m National Elevation Dataset (NED) [54]. These topographic variables were calculated using the R statistical environment package ‘raster’ [55]. All topographic variables were assumed to be biologically significant
Correlations between all pairs of topographic and bioclimatic variables were estimated for the complete extent of the Hawaiian Islands at 250 m resolution using a Pearson correlation coefficient (Fig. 2). These correlations were analyzed in ‘raster’ and plotted using ‘corrplot’, a graphical correlation matrix plotting package in R [59]. Multi-collinearity [57] was minimized by selecting five bioclimatic and two topographic variables with low correlation coefficients (<0.63) that were biologically relevant for SDM analyses (Table 2). These contemporary projections were used to define the current (baseline) distribution of each organism as modeled from the compiled locality data (Fig. 1).

We derived future climate projections by adding the projected change between 1990–2010 and 2080–2100 climate simulations to the baseline (non-modeled) climate data dynamic downscaled climate projections developed from the Hawaiian regional climate model (3 km² spatial resolution) by the International Pacific Research Center [60]. The Hawaii regional climate model is based on the Weather Research and Forecasting model V3.3 and uses the Special Report: Emissions Scenarios A1B scenario [61] and the mean of multiple Coupled Model Inter-comparison Project 3 (commonly referred to as CMIP3) global circulation models to project future climate that best represent regional climate features such as the trade wind inversion.

C. Models

a. SDM Input and Settings. Three presence-only machine learning SDM methodologies were used to model the distribution of occurrence localities over geographic space, as defined by the seven abiotic covariates described above. The three methodologies MAXENT [62], Random Forest (RF) [63] and Gradient Boosting Model (GBM) [64] were selected based on their published predictive accuracy [65–68]. MAXENT is a popular SDM tool that uses the maximum entropy approach to model species distributions by comparing the projected distribution of occurrence localities, as projected over the environmental covariates, to a null distribution (as defined by pseudo-absences) of the covariates [69]. Random Forest is a tree learning methodology modified from the bootstrap aggregation approach that builds a consensus tree from the average of a large number of de-correlated classification trees [68]. A GBM is a powerful classification tree learning methodology that attempts to improve the predictive accuracy of decision trees through boosting. The GBM approach produces a predictive classification model built from an ensemble of weaker models using an additive expansion approach that builds successive classification trees in an a priori manner [68,70].
All analyses were run in R using the 'biomod2' package [71]. Biomod2 is a species distribution modeling platform developed for single and multi-species SDM in which multi-model ensemble modeling, calibration, forecasting and statistical analyses can be conducted iteratively.

All analyses were projected over six of the main Hawaiian islands (Fig. 1). Initial input data consisted of presence data per species, pseudo-absence data, and the abiotic climatic and topographic variables. Since presence-only species distribution modeling relies on a Boolean definition of presence rather than density, all overlapping presence points within a pre-specified grid cell, as defined by the abiotic variable raster files (i.e. 250 m × 250 m), were removed such that only a single presence point per grid cell was used.

Invasive species data collection by most (if not all) of the listed organizations mainly occur in areas of high conservation value. Given that all species modeled are of concern to each organization, overlapping collections of species occurred often. Using this inherent collection bias, in concert with the overlapping collection (or not) of multiple species, we selected pseudo-absences that would help remove the spatially auto-correlated collection bias towards high value conservation areas using the methodology of Phillips et al. [72]. Because occurrence data for every species modeled was collected in a relatively similar way and/or area by

Figure 2. Pearson correlation coefficient matrix comparing paired environmental covariates. Negative correlations are shaded red; positive correlations are shaded green. Strength of the correlation is indicated by dot size and red or green color saturation. High correlation between covariates is also indicated by the size of the colored oval delineating each comparison. The definition of each covariate (y-axis) and its coded counterpart (upper x-axis) are defined per comparison.
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| Table 2. The seven bioclimatic and topographic variables used for each species distribution model. |

| Code  | Covariate Definition                                      | \(^{2}\)Representative Publications |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bio1  | Average Annual Temperature                               | [15,26,123,124]                   |
| Bio2  | Mean Diurnal Range (Mean of monthly (max temp - min temp)) | [15,26]                           |
| Bio4  | Temperature Seasonality (standard deviation *100)         | [15,26,123]                       |
| Bio12 | Mean Monthly Annual Precipitation                        | [15,123–125]                      |
| Bio15 | Precipitation Seasonality (Coefficient of Variation)     | [15,123–125]                      |
| TRI   | Topographic Roughness Index                              | [50,126,127]                      |
| TRASP | Topographic Radiation Index                              | [56,128]                          |

\(^{1}\)The variable code used in the text.

\(^{2}\)Publications representative of the significance of the variables to plant distributions.
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each organization, the presences of all other species (while excluding the species being modeled) was used to define the pseudo-absence data, and thus define the collection background. This approach may help account for collection distributions not at equilibrium with the actual species distribution [73], although presence-only methodologies are relatively robust to violations of equilibrium especially for relatively well established invasive species [44,74]. As in the presence data, only a single point per grid cell was used to define the collection background (e.g. pseudo-absence defined background).

Many of the default settings, as specified for the specific modeling methodologies, were used and defined directly in ‘biomod2’. Initial modeling options were set such that the GBM and RF analyses used 100 trees with 5 cross validation folds, whereas the maximum number of iterations in MAXENT was set to 100. For each modeled species, we further specified 500 Markov Chain randomization evaluation runs for each modeling methodology, and used a 20/80 (test/train) data split such that 20% of the presence data was used for model evaluation and 80% was used to calibrate each model. A sensitivity equals specificity threshold, as recommended by Liu et al. [75], was used to infer locations of likely presence/absence for all binary model projections because these model projections were used to calculate estimates of EMIP diversity.

b. Ensemble Model. All three SDM modeling approaches were then combined using an ensemble model (EM) to assess model congruence, and improve model accuracy. All EMs were developed in ‘biomod2’ [71]. An evaluation metric quality threshold of 0.5 was used to define the minimum scores of each models Receiver Operating Characteristic/Area Under the Curve (AUC) value (see Model Validation Statistics). Values above 0.5 were used in the final ensemble. An AUC evaluation metric of 0.5 corresponds to a discriminatory power no better than random [71]. Because multiple uncertainty measures were used to help infer model utility and accuracy, we felt that this threshold was sufficient to develop an accurate EM.

For each individual species ensemble we report two ensemble modeling outputs; the weighted mean probability of occurrence and committee averaging. The weighted mean probability of occurrence is similar to a standard model mean in that they both define the mean prediction of all models developed for the analysis above the quality threshold evaluation metric. However, the weighted mean probability of occurrence metric weights each model according to the evaluation metric (the higher the metric the greater the weight given to the model). The committee averaging EM is both a predictive distribution model and a measure of uncertainty. It uses the thresholded binary prediction across all models to predict presence (1) or absence (0). Locations with numbers between 0 and 1 show a ratio of uncertainty in defining the EM presence/absence.

c. Model Validation Statistics and Variable Importance. Each model was also evaluated using two commonly used SDM validation indices; the AUC, and the True Skill Statistic (TSS). The AUC validation statistic is a commonly used threshold independent accuracy index that ranges from 0 to 1 (1 = highly accurate prediction). The AUC index defines the probability that an SDM will rank a presence locality higher than an absence (here a pseudo-absence) [76]. The TSS statistic ranges from −1 to +1 and tests the agreement between the expected and observed distribution, and whether that outcome would be predicted under chance alone [76,77]. A TSS value of +1 is considered perfect agreement between the observed and expected distributions, whereas a value <0 defines a model which has a predictive performance no better than random [76,77]. The TSS statistic is very closely related to Cohens Kappa statistic (KAPPA), in that it also ranges from −1 to +1 and defines accuracy in comparison to chance, but unlike KAPPA, TSS is not affected by prevalence [77]. As recommended by Franklin et al. [78] and Elith et al. [79] multiple test statistics were used to allow a more robust assessment of model performance and validate model responses.

To understand a variable’s relative importance to each model, species specific response plots and variable importance boxplots were developed per SDM in ‘biomod2’ using the methodologies of Elith et al. [80]. Response plots were developed for each variable that define the sensitivity of the prediction to variation in a single covariate while all other covariates were held constant. Using these plots allow inference into the models’ ecological sensibility and significance of each variable to the organisms distribution [80].

d. Niche Overlap. We used the niche overlap metric, I, [81] to calculate pairwise niche overlap between the developed models. We selected the I statistic as an appropriate overlap metric because it makes no biological assumptions regarding habitat use and thus is more appropriate for presence-only SDM analyses [81]. The I statistic sums pair-wise differences between two SDMs to quantify niche overlap on a 0 to 1 scale, where 0 indicates no niche overlap and 1 indicates complete overlap. Niche overlap was further analyzed using an Equivalency Test [81] to assess whether EMIP SDM overlap is significantly different from that of a model developed from a random subset of both sets of occurrence localities. The test is used to assess significance of I by comparing the I similarity metric to a one-tailed normalized null distribution as defined by a random subset of compiled species locality information [81,82]. As recommended by Warren et al. [81], the equivalency test was replicated 100 times.

e. Projected Diversity Indices. To identify sites with ecosytems suitable for many exotic species a compilation of 17 EMs (one per species) was used. This suite of EMs was used as an “invisibility index” (i.e. invisibility) because it highlights areas of both actual and potential habitat degradation due to invasive species habitat suitability.

To define invisibility we first rescaled all individual SDM EMs on a scale of 0 (lowest habitat suitability) to 1 (highest habitat suitability) using an approach similar to that of Mateo et al. [83]. The methodology was used for both current and future SDMs, and is an estimate of potential species richness (alpha diversity) [83]. Because these species richness measures are threshold independent (i.e. they don’t necessarily account for the probability of actual presence) they may overestimate richness and thus potential invasibility/degradation in certain areas [28,83]. We attempted to account for this by adapting the Shannon’s Diversity Index (H) to an SDM approach to derive a threshold dependent estimate of diversity, as well as assess important information regarding species rarity/commonness [84], Pineda et al. [28] used a similar threshold dependent approach to project species richness, but because they used a set of arbitrarily fixed thresholds to define presence, this likely increased omission and commission errors [29,75]. Since this approach uses a data driven threshold (i.e. equal sensitivity and specificity), it reduces the omission/commission errors associated with such methodologies [28,75]. The two major assumptions inherent to the application of H (and projected species richness) to an SDM approach are that habitat suitability is correlated with abundance, and that the thresholded Boolean presence/absence maps accurately define, and project, species presence.

To develop this threshold-dependent measure (i.e. H) we first needed to estimate the abundance of each organism (i) relative to the total abundance of i organisms as estimated over the same geographic region; in H this estimate is defined as pi, [84]. To
estimate $H$ for an SDM we first transformed the Boolean estimate of species presence ($B$) for each species so that all undefined pixel values were replaced with 0 to allow raster multiplication and define only areas predicted to have species present. We then multiplied $B$ by the scaled suitability model for each species ($s$) all of which were divided by the sum of the product of all species $s$ multiplied by $B$. These were defined per species to create the $H$ parameter ($p$) (equation 1). To define $H$, all $p$ raster layers needed to again be reclassified such that all 0 s were undefined, this allowed for summation of probabilities over only species present in a certain location. The $H$ equation, as adapted from Colwell [84], was then applied (equation 2).

$$p_i = (B_i \times s_i)/(\sum_{i=1}^{n} s_i)$$

$$H = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \ln(p_i)$$

The Shannon Evenness Index ($E$) was also calculated. The $E$ standardizes abundance of species across the geographic range of the organisms and thus allows for a better comparison between communities/pixels [85]. The $E$ was adapted to an SDM approach by calculating the total number of species ($S$) to be representative of the total number of species across the extent of the analysis. The summation of $B_i$ for all organisms was used to calculate $S$ (equation 3), which was subsequently applied to the calculation of $E$ adapted from Burton et al. [86] (equation 4).

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} B_i$$

$$E = \frac{H}{\ln(S)}$$

The change in $E$, or Evenness Delta ($\Delta$), was then defined by subtracting the future from the current invasive species diversity/evenness estimates. This $\Delta$ analysis rescales the output on a $-1$ to $+1$ scale, where $-1$ is defined as areas of current, highly suitable, invasive habitat without any future invasive suitability, and $+1$ is defined as areas of the greatest invasive suitability change between the current and future SDM compilations.

A measure of potential habitat degradation, the Additive Invasibility Index (AII) was then developed by removing all negative scores from the $\Delta$ analysis and adding only areas that have an increase in habitat suitability (as defined by $\Delta$ scores $>0$), to the baseline $E$. This analysis assumes that actually or potentially invaded/degraded habitat is unlikely to revert to non-degraded habitat. In defining invasibility using a set of species that have evolved in relatively dissimilar habitat (Table 1), we expected the overall invasive area to approximate one.

Following the development of the AII, a jackknife test was conducted to assess the degree of information each EMIP species adds to the AII. The metric is essentially a measure of area increase per species defined by assessing the significant difference of each location in the EMIPs SDM as compared to the overall AII distribution.

f. Defining the Invasibility of Hawaii’s Critical Habitat. We overlaid each SDM and invasibility metric with all proposed and designated critical habitat (essentially the compilation of all non-overlapping habitat in [87–102]), to assess the utility of the invasibility metrics as well as to apply these metrics onto areas of conservation concern. Critical habitat is a federal management unit that identifies areas essential for the survival and recovery of 416 endemic Hawaiian threatened and endangered species, including plants, birds and invertebrates. The polygons defined for the species were compiled into a single critical habitat metric because the EMIPs defined here have the potential to significantly alter native habitat, and thus are relevant to all species dependent on that habitat. Vulnerability of individual species/guilds was not defined within this analysis. Only polygons associated with critical habitat, as defined within the extent of the main Hawaii islands (extent shown in Fig. 1), were used to develop the critical habitat metric analyzed here. The overall area (in km$^2$) of both the baseline and future SDMs/invasibility (and their respective $\Delta$) was assessed for the main Hawaiian islands and critical habitat.

The proportion of habitat defined by the projected invasibility indices, and SDMs, was also defined for the main Hawaiian islands, and within critical habitat. To define the proportional habitat per EMIP SDM/invasibility metric, the thresholded area of each was divided by the overall land area assessed for the State of Hawaii (16,677 km$^2$) and within Hawaii’s critical habitat (3,000 km$^2$).

g. Google Earth .kmz output. Using the R package ‘plotKML’ [103] all species models and invasibility metrics were output in the .kmz format such that they can be interactively accessed and viewed in Google Earth. Individual species response plots and variable importance boxplots are plotted within each species .kmz to allow for interactive assessments of each SDM. The continuous thresholded SDM projections, and the baseline and future committee averaging metrics are plotted to help understand the projection variance within the projections. A separate .kmz file was also created to interactively present each overall invasibility metric for each species, as well as an average committee averaging depiction defined over all species. An outline of habitats was also overlaid with each SDM/Invasibility metric within each .kmz file to assess invasive suitability structure within each polygon.

D. Caveats and Modeling Limitations

a. Model Projections and Collections. In this analysis climate space is not only determined by the niche preference of each organism, but also by the distribution and extent of the collection regime. This collection regime was mostly determined by organizations that emphasize collection of invasive species data within areas of conservation concern. Although we attempted to account for this collection bias by using similarly collected background points, species location collection constraints may still be biasing the results in a number of ways. First, there were sometimes clear differences between the expert defined [43] and point derived [42] habitat types, especially for SphCo or PasTar (Table 1). For these species this discrepancy may be because point locations were within dry climate regions and growing in localities that are anthropogenically modified to favor these species. Second, records for some species were highly unevenly distributed among islands. For example, despite SphCo occurring on all major islands, most records were from Maui, Molokai, and Lanai, while Oahu and Kauai had none. By having records concentrated in the center of the archipelago, most values were in the mid-domain for variables that varied subtly (but consistently) from one end of the
archipelago to the other (particularly Bio2 and Bio4, which relate to temperature seasonality). The result is a set SDMs with high suitability scores on those islands where records occur, and a poor ability to project to other islands. Finally, because establishment dates may vary according to the island in which they have invaded, the individual EMIP analyses may only define a subset of the available habitat due to non-equilibrium on other islands. However, $E$ and $AII$ should account for some of the variance in EMIP collections because the individual SDMs are compiled into a single metric, and the distributions are still broadly applicable to invasibility.

b. Critical Habitat Comparisons. The critical habitat described here has been designated through a formal rulemaking procedure under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [87–102] and cannot be modified without additional formal rulemaking. Thus, critical habitat does not directly account for projected changes in habitat degradation. Because these designations are semi-permanent, the comparison is valid in a theoretical sense; however, the future interactions are purely hypothetical. We attempt to account for this lack of predictive ability in critical habitat designation by using an overall invasibility metric (the $AII$) that adds both baseline and future invasibility projections together. This metric predicts habitat degradation and projects invasive incursion. By overlaying the $AII$ with critical habitat we attempt to account for how competitor movement and habitat degradation may affect Hawaii’s critical habitat, and thus identify areas that will likely recede due indirectly (i.e. through competitive interaction) to climate change. We are currently working on a more expansive analysis of the impact of climate change on listed plant habitats. This work will help to evaluate the future efficacy of currently designated critical habitat.

Results

All EMIPs selected to define the invasibility index had a mean risk assessment score of 18.8 and establishment time circa 1908, (Table 1) indicating that on average they are in the high risk category [19], and likely close to environmental equilibrium [44]. The AUC and TSS evaluation statistics (Fig. 3) were indicative of highly descriptive models (AUC>0.8, TSS>0.5) per modeling approach (GBM, MAXENT, RF). Response plots (Fig. 4) developed per modeling approach, per EMIP, indicated how the response of the developed SDM varied across each environmental covariate. Multiple, EMIP SDMs differed in the manner in which each environmental covariate was used (Fig. 4), but this discrepancy is to be expected given the modeling methods employed [79]. Species-specific responses to each environmental covariate and variable importance boxplots (for all covariates) are further visualized in Files S1–S17.

The niche overlap metric Warrens $I$ is shown in Fig. 5. Most species were found to significantly differ from a distribution developed using a random subset of their compiled points (Fig. 5). Of the 122 multi-species overlap comparisons, only eight were found to be relatively equivalent (p>0.05) (see cross-out comparisons in Fig. 5) and none were found to significantly differ with an overlap value $>0.7$.

The six different metrics developed to help model invasibility are shown in Fig. 6. The uncorrected $H$ for both baseline and future projections (Fig. 6A–B) shows estimates of the invasive species diversity per site. The $\Delta E$ (Fig. 6E) illustrates areas of both increased and decreased EMIP suitability, but this decrease in projected invasive diversity probably does not correlate to a decrease in habitat degradation/invasibility. Figure 6F is a compilation of both the current and future projected invasive diversity indices compiled into a single metric. These metrics defining invasibility, as well as a compiled species committee averaging metric for both baseline and future projections, can be interactively visualized in File S18. The SDMs and both invasibility metrics ($E$ and $AII$) predict an increase of invasion into Hawaii’s upper elevation areas (Fig. 6A–F and Files S1–S18).

The results of the jackknife assessment indicated that four species (MicCal, PsiCat, LeuLen and MorFit) added the greatest amount of novel information (additive area), with MicCal accounting for ~30% of the novel additive area in the $AII$ (Fig. 7). While these four species may add the most area to the $AII$, the addition of all other species adds to the projected intra-area diversity defined within the $AII$, therefore we did not subset the $AII$ to only account for the density and diversity of these four species.

The actual and proportional area of each EMIP SDM and invasibility metric within Hawaii and Hawaii’s critical habitat are defined in Table 3. Table 3 shows areas of the thresholded suitability metrics and, as such, variance of suitability (a correlate of density variance) may vary throughout the defined metric. This is relevant for the $AII$, where the proportional habitat defined within Hawaii, and within Hawaii’s critical habitat, is almost completely overlapping (~0.97 for critical habitat/Hawaii vs. $AII$). The $E$ metric showed an overall decrease in habitat area for Hawaii and Hawaii’s critical habitat (~76.52 km$^2$ and ~16.70 km$^2$ respectively) indicating that in the future some of the EMIP SDMs may lose some novel suitable habitat. This is true for MorFay, PasMax, PasSet and SetPal, and is consistent between the overall defined area in Hawaii and Hawaii’s critical habitat (see A Area in Table 3). Although there is some loss in overall invaded habitat, this loss proves minor (~1%). The SDM defined for PasTar is descriptive of the greatest amount of suitable habitat throughout Hawaii and Hawaii’s critical habitat (Table 3), whereas MicCal, the organism that described the greatest amount of novel habitat added to the $AII$, is only the second most widely projected EMIP (Table 3 and Fig. 7).

Discussion

By identifying, analyzing and combining the geographic distribution of a set of highly invasive ecosystem altering species we have developed an invasibility index that describes potential habitat degradation and models invasive distribution/incursion through time. With these indices ($E$ and $AII$), we have identified potential habitat degradation within management areas essential to the conservation of threatened and endangered species across the Hawaiian archipelago, as well as described the development of a metric that may be useful elsewhere. We have found that although the modeled distribution of the EMIPs may recede or expand by end of century, the area of the $AII$ and $E$ affecting areas designated as critical habitat is similar for both current and future scenarios (Table 3). Although the $E$ and $AII$ indicate that area changes are modest, there are substantial projected differences between the current and future scenarios within critical habitat. The actual landscape area available for occupation by these 17 invasive species increases by ~11% in 2100 (Table 3, $AII$ minus the baseline $E$), due to climate change. For critical habitat this increase is about 12% (critical habitat $AII$ minus the critical habitat baseline $E$). In fact, invasibility is predicted to increase in Hawaii’s upper elevation areas (Fig. 6A–F and Files S1–S18), a zone where most of Hawaii’s native species already have been relegated [39]. It is notable that critical habitat has already been designated for many of these upper elevation ecosystems (see Files S1–S18), so remediation of invasive species within, and at the boundaries of, these habitats will be critical in the coming decades.
Figure 3. Boxplots representing the variability in each model validation metric (AUC and TSS). Boxplots are shown for each modeling approach used (GBM, Maxent and RF) and compiled for all 500 replicates. The AUC statistic ranges from 0 to 1, where 0.5 characterizes a model no better than that defined for a random distribution of presence points. The TSS validation metric ranges from $-1$ to 1, where a model with a score of 0 is no better than random. Notches within each boxplot delineate the 95% probability distribution.

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The invasibility shift modeled here is consistent with other work characterizing the migration of native and invasive species in Hawaii and elsewhere [17,84,104–107]. However, our results show that latitudinal migration to maintain climatic equilibria under climate change, such as that found in North America [108,109] and Australia, [32,33,48], will likely not affect Hawaii’s native or invasive species given its limited latitudinal variation. In Hawaii, under increasing temperatures, plant species need to migrate to upper elevation habitat to find temperature equivalent zones that encompass increasingly smaller areas [7].

Although the area most species occupied increased in size when projected into the future (Table 3), four species decreased in area within both Hawaii and the areas within Hawaii designated as critical habitat. Of these, two highly invasive plants occupying upper elevation wet forest habitats [110–113], MorFay and SetPal, had the most drastic decreases in suitable acreage between current and future projections. These organisms seem to occupy the limits of the wet forest climatic regime, therefore, as similar climate space migrates to upper elevations the projected range of the organisms will likely contract, much like that of native species [114]. These results seem to contradict that of Yelenick and D’Antonio [111], where it was shown that the nitrogen fixing MorFay more easily invades low nitrogen, invasive grass (MelMin) dominated habitat, and does so more readily than Acacia koa (Fabaceae). Their work...
Warrens I Niche Overlap Metrics for all Invasive Species

![Diagram of Warrens I Niche Overlap Metrics](image)

Figure 5. Warrens I niche overlap metric per EMIP. The upper diagonal shows the variation in niche overlap using circle size and color (low overlap is shaded green; high overlap is shaded red; extent of overlap is indicated by dot size and red or green color saturation). The lower diagonal gives the actual overlap metric as colored by the scaling graphic. EMIP species names are here represented by both the complete scientific Latin name (y-axis) and its coded counterpart (upper x-axis) as defined in Table 1. All insignificant (p > 0.05) niche overlap metrics, as derived from a niche equivalency test, are indicated with an "X".

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contends that MorFay will expand its distribution in the absence of competition with MelMin and climate change [111]. Although seemingly contradictory, their scenario is still likely given that, by design, the models defined here are projections of invasive habitat suitability and thus project habitat outside of currently invaded areas. So, although future climatic suitability of habitat may contract, expansion may continue as resource competition (e.g. between MelMin and MorFay) [111] becomes greater.

In the Endangered Species Act of 1973 critical habitat is defined as a geographic area that has physical and biological characteristics needed to support viable populations of the species and that is considered to be essential to the survival of the species for which it was designated. Designated critical habitat receives protection from Federal actions that would adversely modify it. Divergence of these biotic and administrative features of critical habitat occurs once biotic and abiotic threats modify these ecosystems to a point where the critical habitat can no longer support viable populations of the endangered or threatened species for which it was designated. Because these formal habitat designations do not account for projected changes in habitat degradation there are limitations to their use in recovering endangered or threatened species [115], especially in regards to whether in the future that designation was meant to protect. Critical habitat designations that have not taken climate change effects into account will need to be reassessed and possibly revised as climate change progresses; a complex and time consuming process [116–118]. New designations of critical habitat that incorporate climate change impacts into the designation process will enhance the usefulness of critical habitat under future climate change conditions and will minimize future resource expenditures on this administrative process. The metrics developed here can aid in evaluating the current and future value of critical habitat, and in directing resources to managing those invasive species that will result in the greatest protection of habitat that is critical to the long term survival and recovery of endangered and threatened species. As outlined by Peters and Darling [115] evaluating the potential for habitat degradation in any type of native sanctuary is critical to successfully adapting management strategies to climate change.

Understanding projected habitat changes (through climate change or invasive incursion) is especially pertinent to native dominated Wet and Mesic zones on Maui and Hawaii islands, where high elevation areas above current critical habitat may serve as future critical habitat under continued warming. However, this upslope shift will likely be determined by changes to the height and frequency of the trade wind inversion [105,119] that caps cloud
heights typically below 2000 meters and leads to an abrupt shift from wet/mesic habitats to dry/arid mountain tops. Whether the habitat recedes or migrates, resource competition with invasive species will likely persist at the habitats’ periphery and potentially spread to the interior if facilitated by biotic or abiotic factors. This will be especially apparent in dry forests; a habitat type regulated

Figure 6. Baseline and Future invasibility metrics defining the invasive species diversity per site. The projected current and future diversity ($H$) and species evenness metrics ($E$) (A–D) are shown. The change ($\Delta$) in evenness ($\Delta E = \text{Future} \ E - \text{Baseline} \ E$), shows areas of both increased (red) and decreased (green) projected invasibility over time (E). The Additive Invasibility Index (AII) (F) is the compiled Baseline and Future $E$. Both single species models and compiled graphic (Invasibility) outputs can be interactively viewed in Files S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S11, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18.
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more by anthropogenic mediated interactions (habitat destruction/fragmentation, invasion, and degradation) than by climate [120]. As such, the invasibility index developed here may help in evaluating habitats that migrate to climatically equivalent areas, but will still face continued environmental stress from invasive competition and incursion.

Given the focus of collecting species location data within areas of high conservation value, our results bear the greatest relevance to similar areas across the archipelago. As such, we recommend that end users constrain the metrics by areas of high conservation value. Although in this research we have focused on the overlap of invasibility with critical habitat, there are other areas of conservation concern such as federal and state refuge/park land, national forests and private land conservancies, all of which have easily accessible layers in Google Earth that can be overlaid with the metrics defined here. The addition of these interactive layers increases the utility of these invasive SDM metrics to conservation managers by helping to spatially refine invasive species management.

A broad-scale systematic sampling effort for all species would ultimately improve the individual EMIP SDM predictions and projections [72,121]. Although the projections would improve with increased survey effort, the resulting models may still underrepresent future distributions due to (as yet undocumented) EMIP tolerance to non-analog climate space. By developing an iterative modeling approach within the R statistical environment we have created a toolset that will allow us to re-project the SDMs with increasing accuracy as more data becomes available from surveys and analysis of species climate tolerance. So, while we have analyzed a single future climate scenario, our models can be expanded to include multiple emission scenarios and different time steps to explore a range of possible outcomes. With the future

Figure 7. Jackknife validation of the EMIPs significance as compared to the invasibility metric. The y-axis defines, on a 0 to 1 scale, the number of significantly different pixels as compared to the total invasibility area metric. This metric estimates the proportion of novel habitat defined per species.
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Table 3. The actual and proportional area of each thresholded species distribution model and projected Invasibility metric within Hawaii and in Hawaii’s critical habitat.

| Model   | Overall Area (km$^2$) | Area in Critical Habitat (km$^2$)$^4$ | Prop. To HI$^{2,3}$ | Prop. To CH$^{2,3}$ |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|         | Baseline (B)          | Future (2100) (F)                   | Future Area Rank    | Δ (F-B)$^1$        | Baseline Future (2100) |
|         |                       |                                     |                     |                    |
|         |                       |                                     |                     |                    |
| Baseline | 51146.3              | 6309.72                             | 1                   | 1195.09            | 0.31                  | 0.22                  |
| Futur e  | 509.41               | 3542.27                             | 2                   | 3032.86            | 0.03                  | 0.10                  |
| LanCam  | 2010.76              | 3003.88                             | 3                   | 993.11             | 0.12                  | 0.11                  |
| PsiCat  | 1901.38              | 2454.60                             | 4                   | 553.23             | 0.11                  | 0.16                  |
| PenCla  | 2063.50              | 2391.00                             | 5                   | 327.50             | 0.12                  | 0.11                  |
| MicCal  | 2084.09              | 2137.24                             | 6                   | 53.16              | 0.12                  | 0.14                  |
| MelMin  | 1049.23              | 1737.33                             | 8                   | 688.10             | 0.06                  | 0.10                  |
| SphCoo  | 425.97               | 1241.47                             | 9                   | 815.50             | 0.03                  | 0.07                  |
| SchiTer | 959.42               | 1176.02                             | 10                  | 216.60             | 0.06                  | 0.07                  |
| LeuLeu  | 727.21               | 1046.33                             | 11                  | 319.12             | 0.04                  | 0.02                  |
| FalMol  | 470.24               | 804.67                              | 12                  | 334.43             | 0.03                  | 0.02                  |
| UleEur  | 164.40               | 724.52                              | 15                  | 560.13             | 0.01                  | 0.04                  |
| CliHir  | 189.85               | 515.16                              | 14                  | 325.31             | 0.01                  | 0.04                  |
| PanMax$^5$ | 263.71               | 248.04                              | 15                  | -15.67             | 0.02                  | 0.01                  |
| MorFay$^6$ | 402.49               | 23.64                               | 16                  | -378.65            | 0.02                  | 0.05                  |
| SetPal$^6$ | 297.74               | 0.26                                | 17                  | -297.48            | 0.02                  | 0.05                  |
| Shannon’s Evenness (E) | 14301.61              | 14225.09                            | -                   | -76.52             | 0.86                  | 0.85                  |
| Additive Invasibility Index (AII) | 16138.70              | 2910.76                             |                     | 0.97                | 0.97                  |

1The change (Δ) in area from baseline to future projections.
2 Defines the proportion of suitable habitat falling within Hawaii and Hawaii’s critical habitat.
3 Area of Hawaii calculated as 16,677 km$^2$.
4 Critical Habitat areas calculated to be 3,000 km$^2$.
5 Habitat Modifying Invasive Plants (EMIPs) bolded and italicized indicated a reduction in habitat between the baseline and future scenarios.

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releases of such climatic datasets we plan to update our analyses accordingly. The code used to define the models and model outputs can be found in the supplementary materials (Code S1).

In summary, we have developed a reproducible methodology to identify species and areas of conservation concern in Hawaii, a region characterized by both high endemic biodiversity and invasive pressure. The resulting models are novel in that they are the first ensemble of multiple EMIs to geographically delineate, and rigorously quantify, invasibility in Hawaii. Given Hawaii’s extraordinarily high endemic biodiversity [39] and quantity of endangered species [34,35], delineating and projecting areas of increased invasive pressure on native resources is of paramount importance.

Supporting Information

Code S1 R code used for the analyses presented in this manuscript. (ZIP)

File S1 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Clidemia hirta as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S2 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Falcataria moluccana as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S3 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Hedyrhium gardnerianum as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S4 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Lantana camara as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S5 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Leucaena leucocephala as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S6 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Melinis clandestinum as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S7 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Miconia calvescens as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S8 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Morella faya as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S9 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Panicum maximum as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S10 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Passiflora taminiana as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S11 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Pennisetum clandestinum as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S12 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Pennisetum setaceum as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S13 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Psidium cattleianum as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S14 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Schinus terebinthifolius as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S15 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Setaria palmifolia as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S16 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Sphaerocarpus opteris cooperi as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S17 Baseline and Future Species Distribution Ensemble Model (SDM EM) and associated validation metrics for Ulex europaeus as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

File S18 Baseline and Future invasibility indices \(AII, I, \) and \(E\) and associated validation metrics for all invasive species modeled in this study, as depicted in a Google Earth .kmz file. (ZIP)

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Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: LBF AEV FAA SEM. Analyzed the data: AEV FAA LBF. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: SEM JDJ SOG GAR JPP. Wrote the paper: AEV FAA LBF.
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