

sDiv writing retreat summary

"sUMMITDiv", 4.-7.12.2017

Thank you very much for inviting us for a writing retreat at sDiv Leipzig.

Within the sUMMITDiv working group, we had elaborated five primary publication goals during the 2014 workshop. One manuscript is currently preliminarily accepted with Nature (definitive acceptance after mostly formal revisions pending); two manuscripts had been part of the PhD thesis of Aino Kulonen, the first author of these manuscripts; two further manuscript projects were in a preliminary draft status. We met in a group of eight people with the goal to finalize two and significantly advance at least one further paper manuscript.

The three manuscripts were:

- 1) Warming driven changes in functional composition of alpine summit flora across Europe (Ms 1)
- 2) Global warming increases local disappearance of plant species on European mountain summits (Ms 2)
- 3) Homogenisation of European summit floras (Ms 3)

Participants arrived with the content of the existing manuscripts fresh in their minds. In an introductory session, the content, storyline and gaps of each of the manuscripts and was presented. Following this, we systematically gauged the potential of each manuscript for as high as possible target journals. We came to the conclusion that the least developed of the manuscripts (Ms 2) had the highest potential for a high-tier journal, but needed major restructuring of the storyline and the format, as well as additional analyses. The second-highest potential was identified in Ms 1, and the lowest for Ms 3. Thus, this introductory session completely turned our former priority list (Ms2 > Ms3 > Ms1) around, with a main focus on Ms 2 and 1, and a minor focus on Ms 3.

Most of the remaining 3.5 days the group split in two to three sub-groups to work on the three manuscripts. We entirely restructured Ms 2 and identified ways to address minor gaps in the reasoning of Ms 1, which both needed additional analyses that were performed by A. Kulonen and A. Bjorkman. We then agreed on a new story line and re-wrote Ms 2, recycling only minor parts of the previous version. Meanwhile, the text of Ms 1 was sharpened. This left Ms 2 almost ready for a round of comments from co-authors after the writing retreat. The first round by a few hand-picked co-authors has been achieved since, and suggestions are currently integrated by A. Kulonen. In the case of Ms 1, approx. two additional work days by the main author are required before comments by co-authors.

Ms 3 was not entirely neglected. A first draft with all parts present was achieved, but the results and discussion section still need major polishing

before sending it out to the larger group of co-authors. Additionally, a subgroup discussed the next steps of the last of our manuscript projects, which is currently in the state of data analysis and story building for 1-2h.

Before parting, the group had a discussion on future projects, with the result to ask for funding for postdoc and/or PhD projects from national science institutions in at least 2 countries.

In total, I estimate the workshop to having been 5% individual presentations of ms-related issues, 30% ms-related targeted discussions and problem-solving, 5% discussions on future projects, and 60% hands-on work on data and text.

We did not achieve our minimum goal of submitting one paper after the workshop (after a round with all co-authors). The reason is that we decided to go for a higher-hanging goals (papers to higher-tier journals) rather than to finish them quickly. This was partly inspired by the success of some of the earlier outputs (of sUMMITDiv and sTundra) with highest-tier journals. Going for quality rather than quantity was therefore a result of the group discussion and an integral outcome of the workshop.

The next steps are:

- final implementation of changes for Ms 1 and 2 by A. Kulonen, S. Wipf, S. Hayder, A. Bjorkman with further input from the sUMMITDiv core group
- further work on Ms 3 by G. Jurasinski, supported by the core group
- further work on Ms 4 by J.-A. Grytnes with support from the core group
- all Ms need to go through a round of comments by the numerous scientists that contributed to the database, which are invited to contribute to the manuscript and become co-authors, and need to agree on submission.

Like always, we highly value the great support of the sDiv team. The iDiv/sDiv teams were very busy during the days we spent in Leipzig, yet, there is always a very productive and inspiring atmosphere in the building, and the team is great. Thank you very much!

Sonja Wipf and the sUMMITDiv core writing group