

“sAPROPOS Writing Retreat”

Six participants met in Cadiz (Spain) to discuss and write two manuscripts resulting from the sAPROPOS working group. The manuscripts were synthesis papers of the current state and future direction of plant and mammal demographic studies that link demographic rates such as survival, development, and reproduction to climate drivers.

During the retreat, participants focused on discussing the structure of the manuscripts and the design of the figures, particularly for the mammal synthesis paper. Each day, Maria Paniw (leading the mammal synthesis) and Aldo Compagnoni (Postdoc on sAPROPOS project; leading the plant synthesis) gave 10-minute presentations with updates on the progress made in writing each paper. By the end of the retreat, these discussions resulted in two finished manuscripts, which were sent to the remaining co-authors for feedback within two weeks. During the retreat, participants also discussed potential journals to submit the manuscripts to. The paper led by Paniw has been submitted to PNAS (still there), and the paper led by Compagnoni came back from Ecology Letters with constructive feedback that we are currently working on.

The retreat primarily focused on working towards generating final versions of the two manuscripts, and participants spent 70% working on outputs, 20% on brainstorming, and 10% on presenting intermediate results. The atmosphere was very collaborative and dynamic. The retreat ultimately inspired discussion about future working groups that would expand the syntheses to include more taxa (e.g., birds, reptiles).