

sDiv working group meeting report

"sGUBIK"

Focal areas of discussion + main results/conclusions + open questions

We discussed the aims, overarching research questions, and expected deliverables of sGUBIK. We also discussed information on data sharing and authorship guidelines. Each proposed research question was workshopped in more detail, providing updates on datasets, preliminary data analyses and findings, and the next steps. As the meeting progressed, new analyses and findings (figures, stats, and tables) were developed and presented with substantial discusses around each.

Content of presentations

We had presentations during the first three days to introduce ourselves and recap of the overall goal of sGUBIK as well as the main questions we proposed.

General structure of the meeting

- Introductions – each participant gave a brief background about their expertise and expected role in the project. Icebreakers or casual conversations were incorporated to establish a comfortable atmosphere and encourage participation.
- Broad discussions around each research question - general, overarching conversation about each research question. Initial thoughts, brainstorming, and sharing different perspectives. We also had focused, detailed discussion around each research question regarding methodologies, potential challenges, and any pre-existing research that can guide the group.
- Form subgroups and breakout sessions - subgroups were created to address specific components of the research questions. This allowed smaller teams to work more intensively on their particular area, fostering collaboration and creativity.
- To capitalise on participant's full focus, time was allocated for data capturing and analyses – this allowed for new results, methodologies, challenges etc. to be presented and discussed.
- Subgroup report back sessions – sub-groups reconvened, and each group presented their findings, progress, and potential roadblocks to the larger group. This allowed for cross-pollination of ideas and ensured everyone is on the same page.

- Time allocated for emerging ideas - time was allocated for emerging ideas to allow for new insights to be incorporated into the research.
- Discussion around project leaders, next steps and timelines. We clarified leadership roles, assigned responsibilities, set timelines for different stages of the research, and discussed the subsequent steps.
- The meeting was a hybrid in-person and remote format, with most participants being present in the room and some participants joining online.

General research ideas, questions

Paper 1

Review paper on cities as sources of biological invasions for the journal Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics. The aim is to review the extent to which urban areas are sources of biological invasions and to evaluate which factors make urban areas vulnerable to species invasions. Relevant datasets: systematic review of the literature and relevant data captured in a database.

Next steps and deliverables: Finalise the AREES manuscript – expected submission date to the journal is 14 January 2024. Systematic review data capturing, analyses and write up to be completed by the end of 2023.

Paper 2

Data paper outlining global urban flora datasets. Relevant datasets: [GUBIC](#) (harmonized species datasets (containing more than 10,000 taxa, mostly plant lists, but also birds, insects and mammals) with non-native and native species in urban areas; Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Global Human Settlement Layer.

Next steps and deliverables: Finalise the data paper: merge GUBIC and GBIF species lists. Standardize species names, biogeographic status using GLoNAF, finalise metadata (identifying primary sources for GUBIC species lists where possible), species data validation by regional experts, taxonomic harmonization (quality control). Timeline: end of 2023

More project ideas were discussed but they are currently still in early stages.

General working atmosphere and feedback on sDiv support (what kind of support? How helpful was it?)

The support provided by sDiv was excellent. The workshop fostered a positive and collaborative environment, allowing for significant progress in our work.