

yDiv Project Plan

This document is filled out by the yDiv doctoral researcher who sends it to the PhD Advisory Committee (PAC) and yDiv coordinator at least one week prior to the **kick-off meeting** (i.e. the first meeting of the PAC). The kick-off meeting is organised by the doctoral researcher within three months of joining yDiv. During the kick-off meeting, all sections of this form are discussed and developed together with the PAC team. A revised, final version is approved by the doctoral researcher and the PAC team following the meeting, and submitted to yDiv coordination within one month from the meeting.

German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig

Deutscher Platz 5e
04103 Leipzig
Germany

Phone: +49 341 9733126

info@idiv.de
www.idiv.de/ydiv

Date of kick-off meeting

1) Project title

2) Project starting date *Start of contract or funding*

3) Overall aim of the project *This should contain a few sentences addressing the “knowledge gap” and describing the overall purpose of the project (i.e. the big picture)*

4) Specific hypotheses to be tested / Questions to be addressed *Here the major aim can be subdivided into testable hypotheses or specific questions that will be addressed in the research. Try to frame these so that no matter what results you get from the work they will be of interest and can lead to distinct publications.*

5) Links to the main questions of iDiv

Explain briefly which of the main research questions / areas of iDiv your work is primarily linked to:

1. *Biodiversity Patterns: How can we reliably quantify the state and change of biodiversity across space and time in response to natural and anthropogenic drivers?*
2. *Biodiversity Processes: What are the evolutionary and ecological processes generating and maintaining biodiversity?*
3. *Biodiversity functions: What is the role of biodiversity in regulating ecosystem functioning and provisioning of services to humanity?*
4. *Biodiversity and Society: How can biodiversity be integrated in the management of our planet's resources and how can we safeguard biodiversity?*

iDiv is a research centre of the DFG.

iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 92 (1) of the Act on Academic Freedom in Higher Education in Saxony (“Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz, SächsHSFG”). It is run together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ. The following non-university research institutions are involved as cooperation partners: the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry (MPI BGC), the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (MPI CE), the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), the Leibniz Institute DSMZ–German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG).

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6) **Approaches to be used (theory–experimental approach–synthesis)** *Describe the methods and approaches that will be used, including description of any laboratory or field experiments/observations, statistical analyses, modelling approaches, and data-mining from the literature.*

7) **Expected significance of the results** *No matter what results come out of your project, they should make a significant contribution to the field. What is it going to be? What new insights will be gained?*

8) **Possible risks** *What are the possible risks in your projects and what are the strategies to avoid/cope with them.*

9) **Networking and collaborations** *Are there options of direct collaboration with other projects (iDiv or external), and if so in what way (e.g. joint publications, methodological, combination of experiments & modelling)?*

10) **Publication plan for the project** *Here, you should explain how you structure your project and how you divide the work in to separate manuscripts or chapters. Also think for some options where you intend to publish your work.*

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