sPlot 4th ordinary meeting: News & Updates

Gabriella Damasceno, in name of the sPlot Consortium

Election of Steering Committee 2025 - 2026

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- **Nomination phase:**
- **22 people** took part in the nomination
- **59 candidates** were nominated
- **13 accepted running**

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- **Voting phase:**
  - **127 people** voted
  - **590 votes** casted

Election of Steering Committee 2025 - 2026

Milan Chytrý	85
Helge Bruelheide	81
Francesco Maria Sabatini	67
Idoia Biurrun	57
Flavia Landucci	50
Valério de Patta Pillar	48
Alessandro Chiarucci	43
Glenda Mendieta-Leiva	36
Jürgen Dengler	33
Ute Jandt	28
Jian Zhang	25
Fernando Gonçalves	21
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- Thanks to Susan for her service as a SC member.

IV sPlot workshop

- 31 March – 02 April 2025

- Bring together vegetation scientists, statistical modelers and experts in remote sensing to advance sPlot

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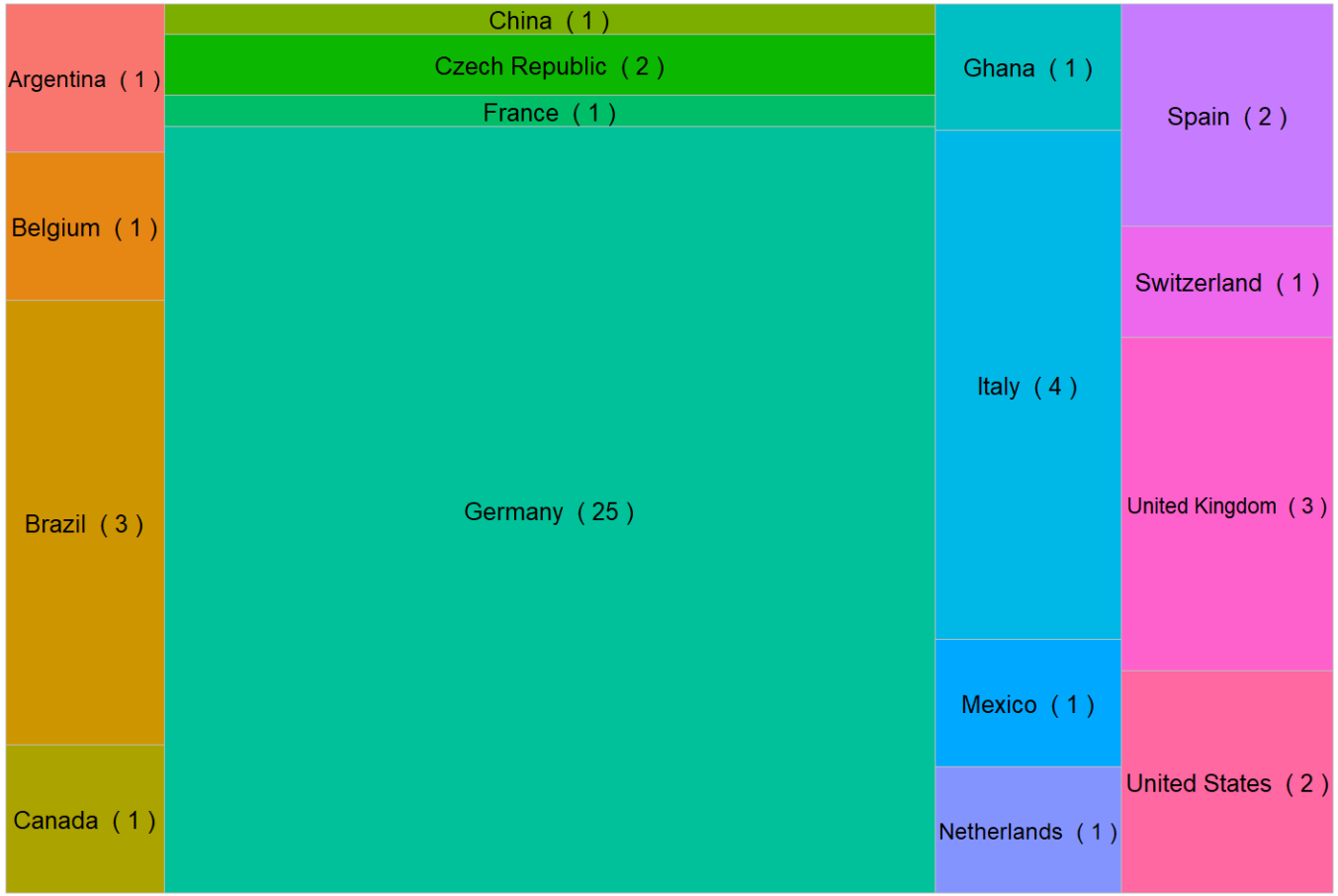
- Bring together vegetation scientists sensing to advance sPlot
- 50 participants from 16 countries
  - Germany (25) and Europe (40)
  - South America (4)
  - North America (3)
  - Africa (1)
  - Asia (1)



IV sPlot workshop

- 17 contributed talks
- 22 sPlot projects
- 4 sessions:
  - Classification and mapping
  - Causes and consequences of biodiversity
  - Threats to biodiversity

IV sPlot workshop

- Break-out rooms - how to use sPlot for:
  - predict plant communities in areas where there is few or no data available
  - derive information about plant phenology Project #63
  - investigating biodiversity trends across time
  - validate and extrapolate results of local experiments on a global scale
  - tackle new challenges related to invasive species

IV sPlot workshop

- Two new approaches to be used:
  - socio-ecological aspects of biodiversity
  - multi-trophic interactions

- Thinking about time-series with MOTIVATE project
  - How can we obtain new time-series data for sPlot?
  - How to optimize the storage and use of ancillary data used for modelling
  - How to address socioeconomic topics, like the ways humans use

Overview of sPlot projects

As March 2025

sPlot projects

- 59 approved projects
  - 3 projects split into two parts
    - #08, #12, #18

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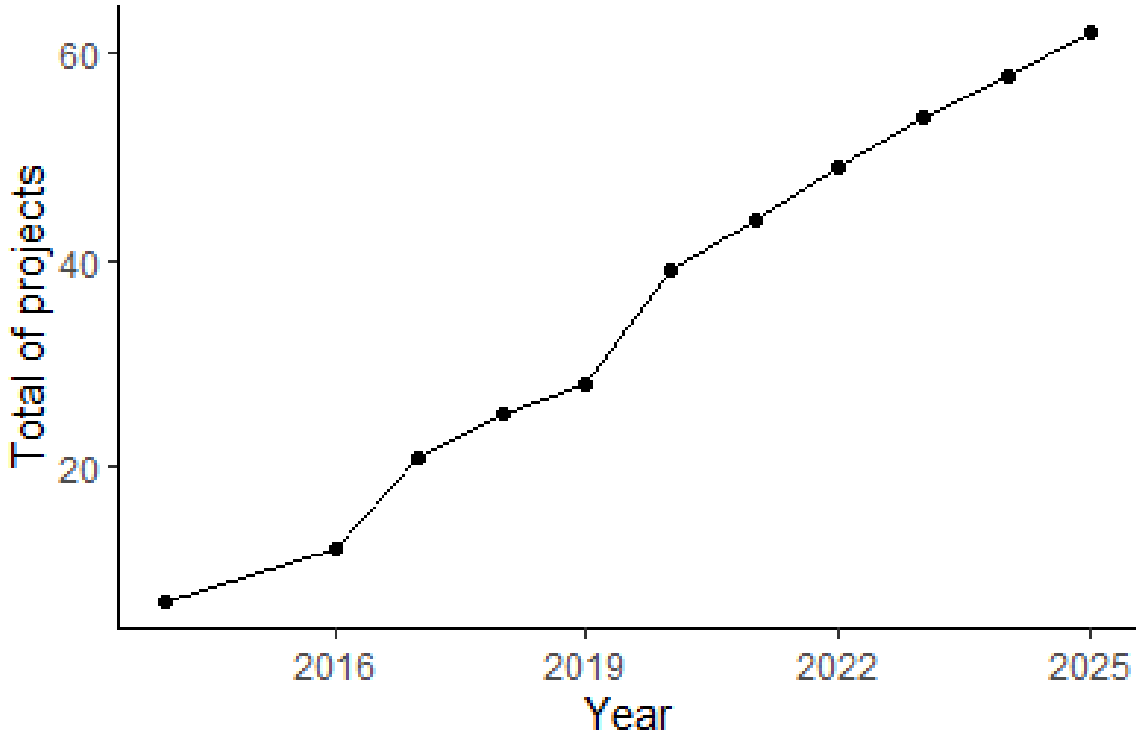

sPlot projects

- 59 approved projects
  - 3 projects split into two parts
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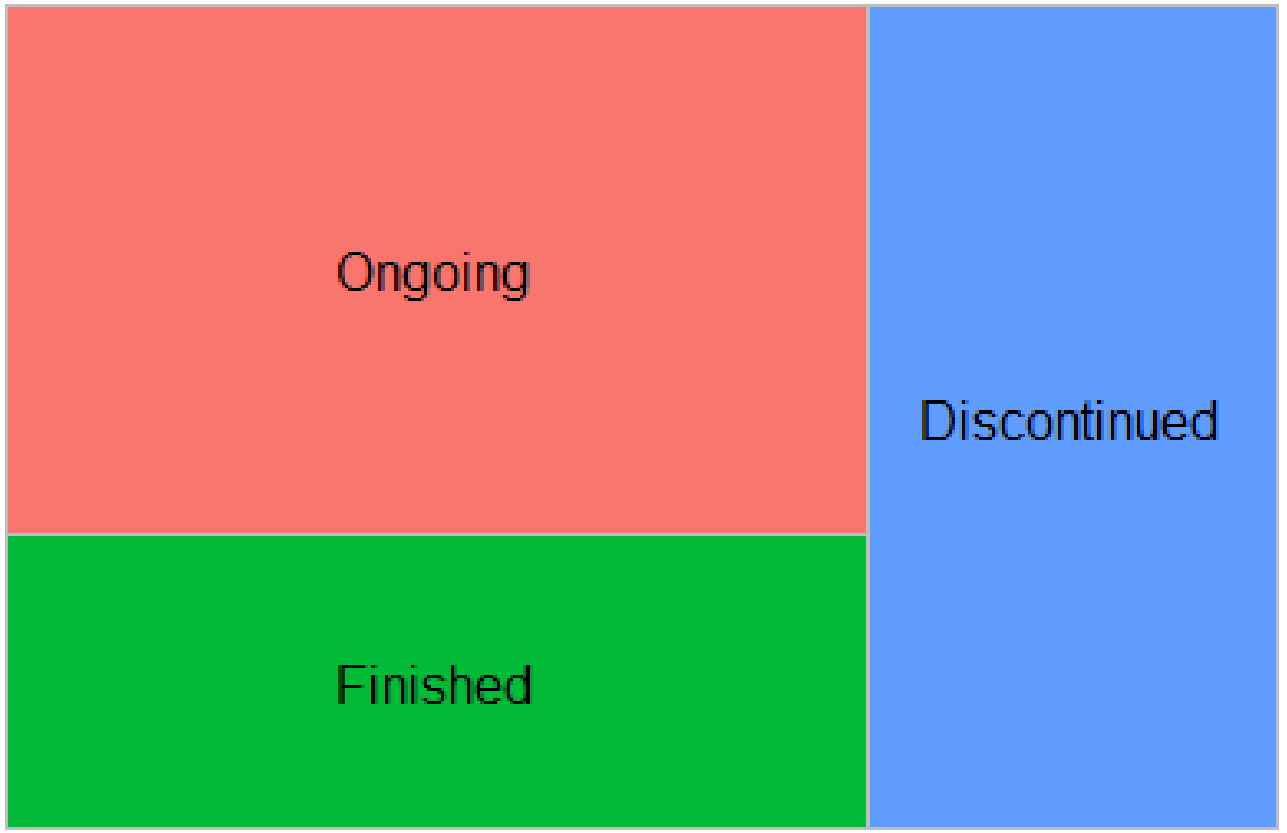
- March 2025:
  - 27 ongoing projects
  - 15 finished projects
  - 20 discontinued projects

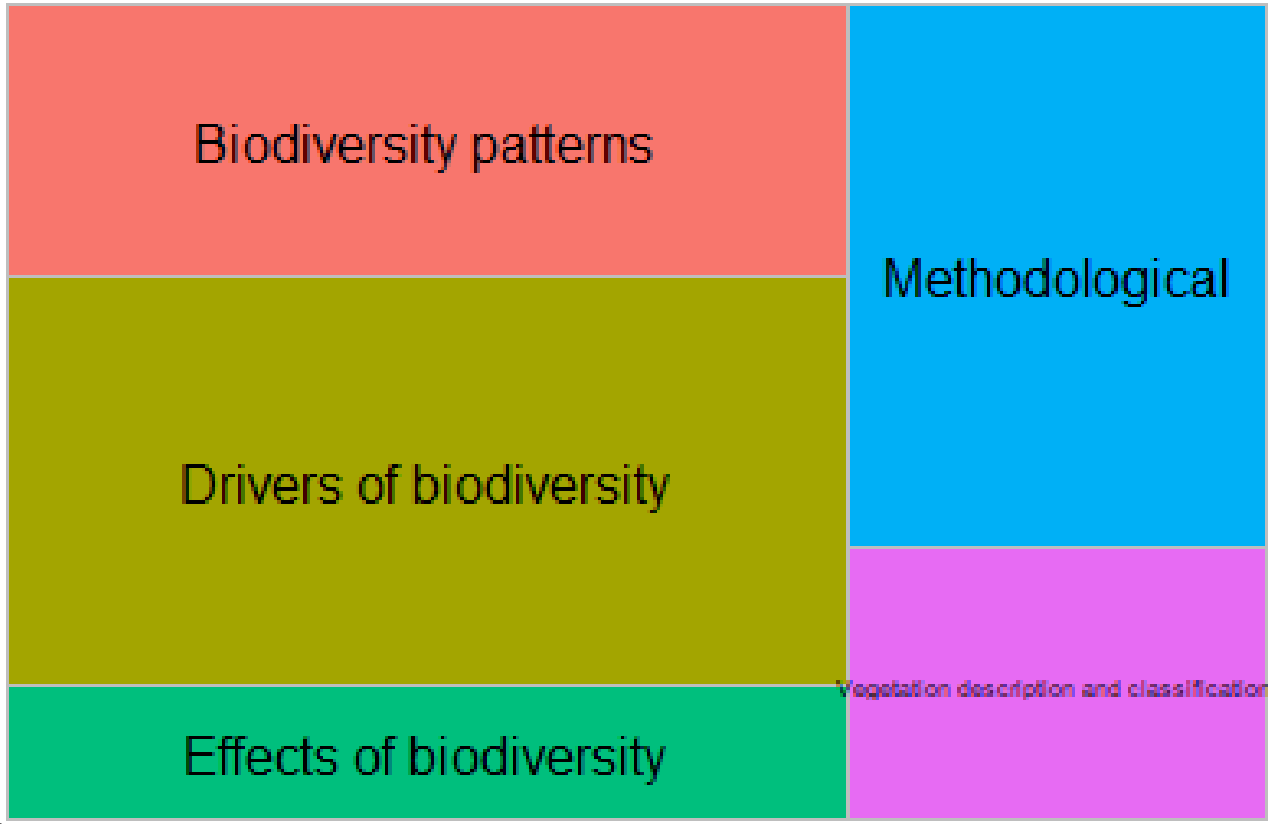


Ongoing projects

- Drivers of biodiversity
- Biodiversity patterns
- Methodological papers
- Effects of biodiversity
- Vegetation description & classification

Ongoing projects

- Drivers of biodiversity: 9
- Biodiversity patterns: 6
- Methodological papers: 6
- Effects of biodiversity: 3
- Vegetation description & classification: 3



Publications

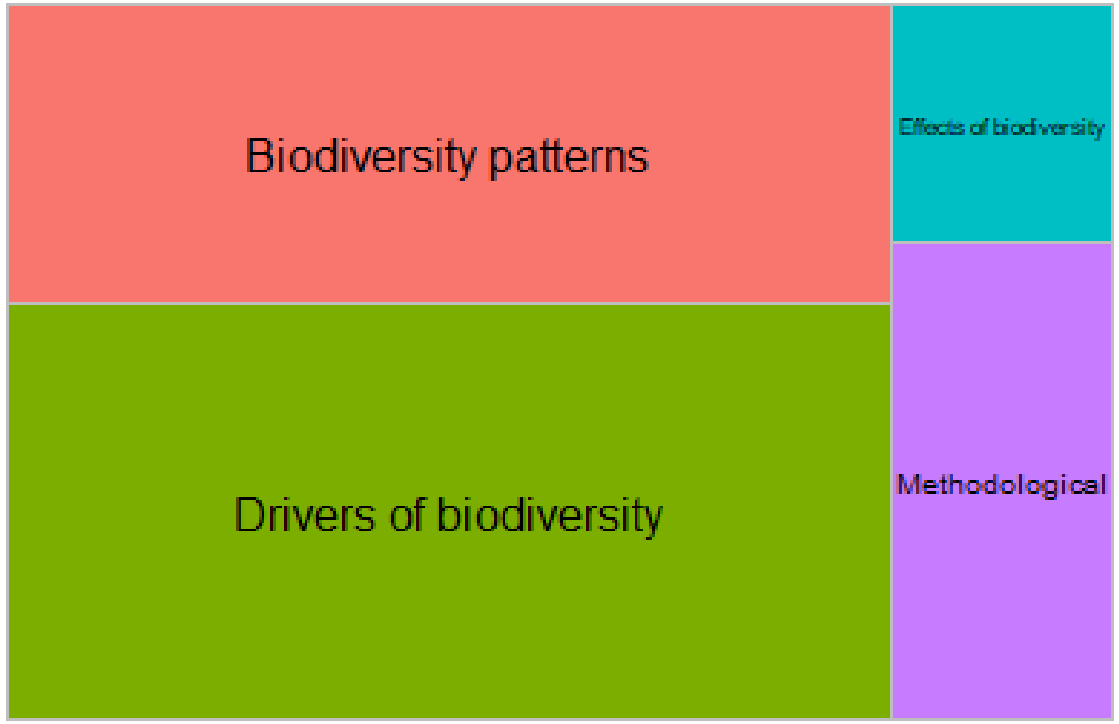
Publications

- 15 papers published

- From 14 projects
  - Project #18 with 2 papers

- Total citations: **1024**
  - As by February 2025

- Drivers of biodiversity: 7
- Biodiversity patterns: 5
- Methodological: 2
- Effects of biodiversity: 1

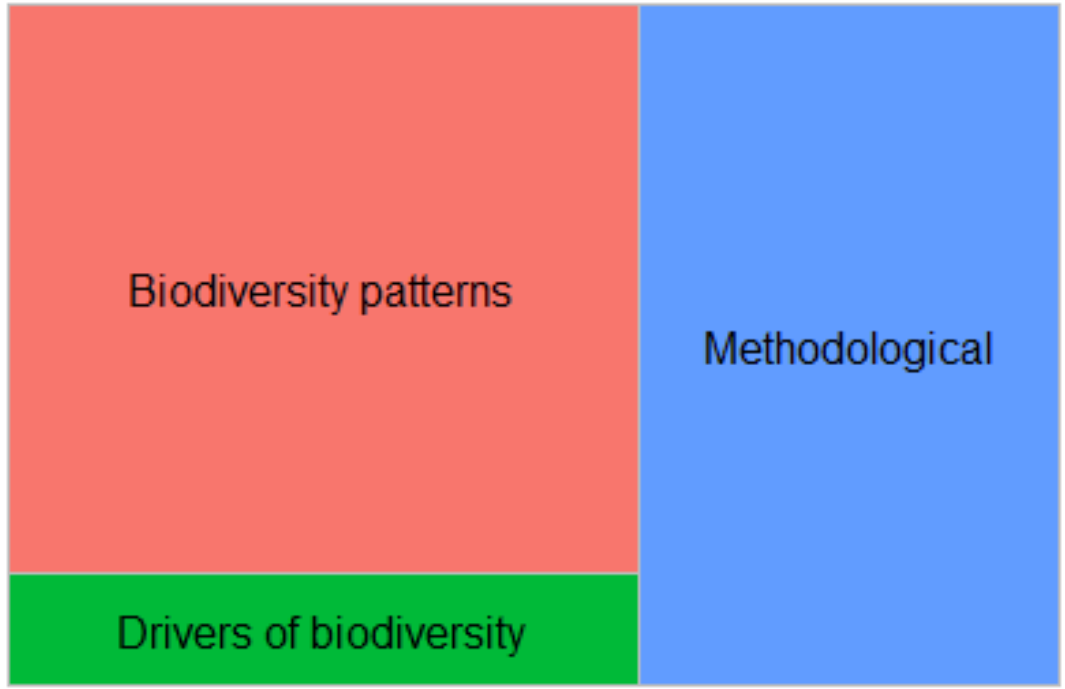


Discontinued projects

Discontinued projects

- 20 projects

- Biodiversity patterns: 10
- Methodological approaches: 8
- Drivers of biodiversity: 2



Update of sPlot projects

Since July 2024

New projects – since July 2024

New projects

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- **#59**: The role of microclimate in the relationship between overstory and understory vegetation in global forest communites. Georg Hähn, University of Bologna (Italy)

New projects

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- **#64:** Understanding local alien plant invasions worldwide caused by land-use and climate change. Daijun Liu, University of Vienna (Austria)

Finished projects – since July 2024

Finished projects

- **#46:** Comparison of the global distribution of functional and phylogenetic diversity in plant communities

nature ecology & evolution

Article

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-024-02589-0

Global decoupling of functional and phylogenetic diversity in plant communities

Received: 9 January 2024

Accepted: 24 October 2024

Published online: 03 December 2024

Check for updates

A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper

Plant communities are composed of species that differ both in functional traits and evolutionary histories. As species' functional traits partly result from their individual evolutionary history, we expect the functional diversity of communities to increase with increasing phylogenetic diversity. This expectation has only been tested at local scales and generally for

Finished projects

- **#34:** Life cycle assessment methodology for assessing land use impacts on functional plant diversity

Global Ecology and Biogeography

WILEY

Global Ecology and Biogeography | A Journal of Macroecology

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Land-Use Impacts on Plant Functional Diversity Throughout Europe

Francesca Rosa[1] | Peter M. van Bodegom[2] | Stefanie Hellweg[1] | Stephan Pfister[1] | Idoia Biurrun[3] | Steffen Boch[4] | Milan Chytrý[5] | Renata Ćušterevska[6] | Michele Dalle Fratte[7] | Gabriella Damasceno[8,9] | Emmanuel Garbolino[10] | Jonathan Lenoir[11] | Wim A. Ozinga[12] | Josep Penuelas[13,14] | Francesco Maria Sabatini[15,16] | Franziska Schrodt[17] | Domas Uogintas[18] | Chaeho Byun[19] | Jiri Dolezal[20,21] | Tetiana Dziuba[22] | Bruno Hérault[23,24] | Irene Martín-Forés[25] | Ülo Niinemets[26] | Gwendolyn Peyre[27] | Laura Scherer[2]

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- **#53:** Mapping global trait distributions by combining citizen science data and Earth observation satellites
  - Led by Daniel Lusk and Teja Kattenborn

Projects about to be finished

- Damasceno et al. – sPlot 4.0

1 sPlot 4.0: filling the spatiotemporal gaps

2

3 **Running title:** Updated version of sPlot with time-series data

4

5 *Gabriella Damasceno*[1,2,*] (https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5103-484X)

6 *Georg Hähn*[3] (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3733-1498)

7 *Francesco Sabatini*[3,4] (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7202-7697)

8 Stephan Hennekens[4] (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1221-0323)

9 [ALL SPLOT MEMBERS]

10 *Helge Bruelheide*[2,1] (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3135-0356)

11

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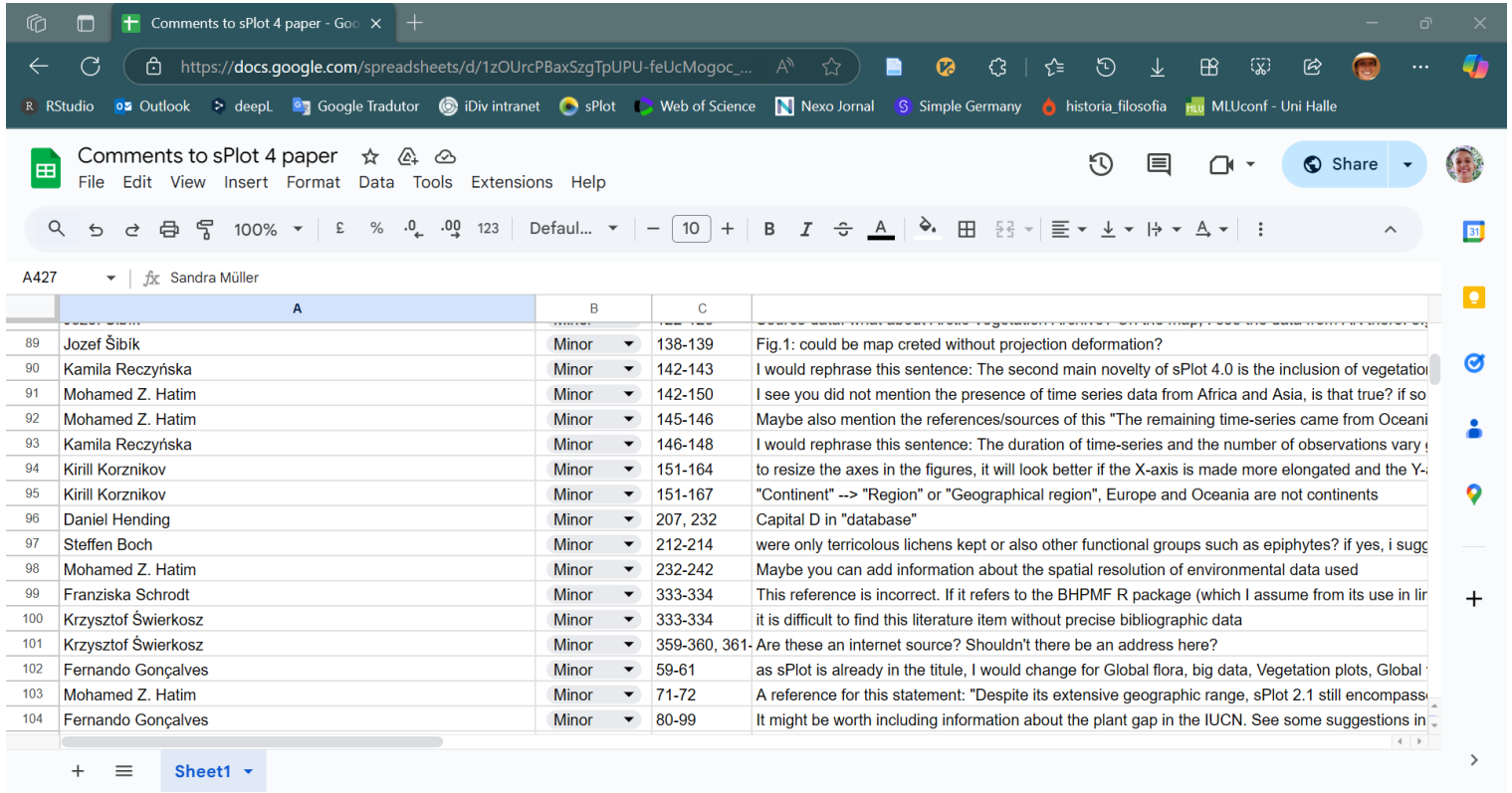
- Sent for review in March

Thank you for your comments!



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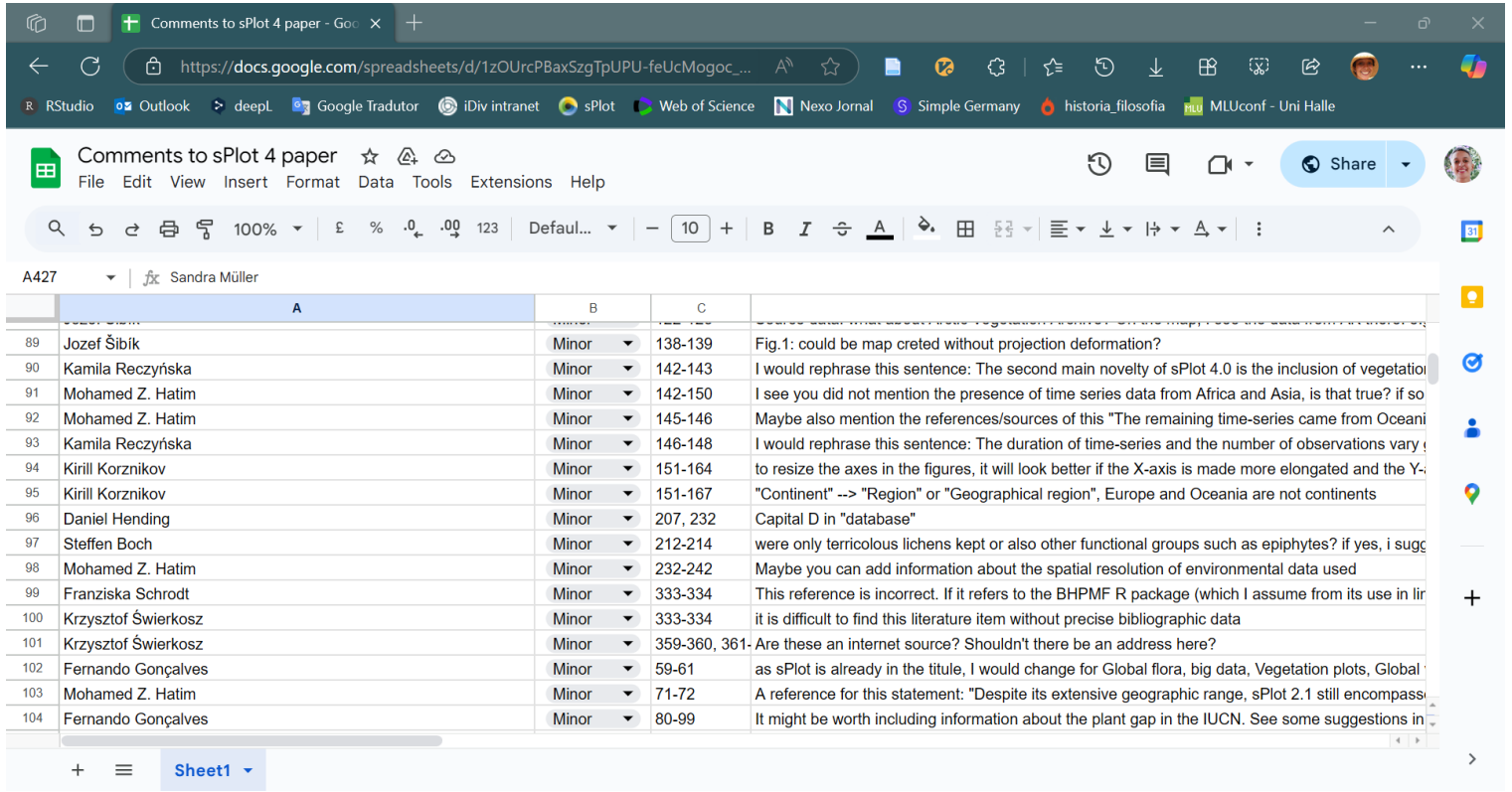
On hold: sPlot 4.1!



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- Updated taxonomic backbone

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- Updated taxonomic backbone
- Being build since May - almost finished!
- To be released August/September

To-do list

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- Work on partnerships with data aggregators

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- Enhance the usage of sPlot as a tool for science-based global policies, like the IPBES platform

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- sPlotOpen 2: Plots balanced by vegetation types
- sPlotOpenR – Check poster P1-B 20

Thank you for your collaboration!


www.idiv.de/en/splot


@sPlot-iDiv


gabriella.damasceno@idiv.de