

sDiv Workshop Summary "sUMMITDiv" 10. – 20.11.2014

Focal areas of discussion and workshop accomplishments

The first week of the workshop (including 15 participants) was centered around the following three main topics/issues:

1) Introduction and information on the various datasets that are available and merged within the sUMMITDiv consortium or should be added to the database

2) Introduction and discussions of ideas and possible studies/analyses to be done within this data framework, including:

- presentation of previous similar projects/results
- presentation/discussion of preliminary findings
- presentation of innovative research question and analysis ideas that match the data framework
- determination of 5 research fields/manuscripts to develop further over the coming months
- discussion on hypotheses, methods, format, statistical details etc. of the above topics
- discussion on further funding proposals and possible funding instruments that could be accessed

3) Discussion on and organization of formal issues, e.g.

- Data ownership and co-authorship rules
- Database organization and data access; data cleaning (species lists by taxonomy experts)
- Inclusion of members or the consortium (data owners) that were not present at workshop
- Inclusion of new members to the consortium (e.g. researchers providing data, methods, analyses, work time)
- Access to further climate and trait data
- Further meeting (Oct. 2015)

During the second week of the workshop (including 8 participants), most time was spent working on the five main topics to fine-tune the hypotheses, analysis plans, preliminary analyses, data needs, time lines etc., switching back and forth between small break-out groups and discussions within the whole group.

Content of presentations

- 1) General introduction (how this project developed, ideas and goals; Sonja Wipf)
- 2) Introduction to the various datasets: pan-European summit flora (Aino Kulonen), GLORIA

(Manu Winkler and Hari Pauli),
Climate Data (Signe Normand),
Plant traits (Christian Rixen)

3) Thoughts and preliminary
results on planned "Core
syntheses" as detailed in
proposal: Aino Kulonen, John-
Arvid Grytnes; Gerald Jurasinsky;
Manuel Steinbauer

4) Introduction and
suggestions for alternative studies
and/or other use of data (short
input presentations of each
participant)

5) Workshop seminar by
Sonja Wipf: Faster, higher, more?
– Vegetation change in high-
alpine regions over the past
century

Planned output

During the first week of the
workshop, we discussed and
drafted five topical fields for
manuscripts that we plan to
develop over the next year. During
the second week, we further
developed the content of these
manuscripts and the plan for the
necessary analyses, undertook
preliminary analyses and data
screening, and started to
assemble necessary further
datasets. The five topics (and lead
authors) are:

- Floristic change on
summits over the past century
(Wipf, Steinbauer et al)
- Homogenization
/heterogenization of floristic
composition on summits across
Europe (Jurasinski et al)

- Patterns and drivers of loss
vs. persistence of species on
summits (Kulonen et al)

- (Dis)equilibrium between
summit flora community response
and warming (Grytnes, Normand
et al)

- Functional community
change on summits (Haider,
Rixen et al)

Moreover, we discussed potential
funding proposals for new
research proposals to promote the
use of our new data framework
and of our expertise on long-term
ecological research within this
network. Although plans are still
vague, the likelihood that 2
different funding proposals will
emerge from our group during
2015 is high.

Balance between work on outputs, general brainstorming/ information exchange and participants presentations in %

Work on outputs: ~ 60%

Input presentations (points 3, 4
above) as a form of "prescribed
brainstorming": ~15%

Other general
brainstorming/information
exchange: ~ 25%

Presentations beyond
"brainstorming": ~5-10% (points
1, 2, 5)

Next steps

- Finalizing database
(species data, climate data, trait
data) -> nearly complete

- Information/integration of collaborators and data contributors (beyond those present in Leipzig) on recent activities (info mail& survey, establishing codes of conduct for co-authorship & funding proposals, data use & ownership), formation of steering committee -> documents under consultation by whole network
- Proceed analysis work and manuscript development on first three topics as planned during workshop -> started
- First manuscript draft out for comments in early 2015
- Develop 2-3 further manuscripts and 1-2 funding proposals during 2015 within our group
- 1(.5) day workshop after the "mountain of our future earth" conference in Perth (Scotland), 4.-8.10.2015 in planning phase

Further cooperation

In the coming weeks we will formalize the cooperation within the consortium members that own the dataset used under the SUMMITDiv acronym. Each team of data contributors owns their data and have given the OK to use it in a pan-European context, thus forming a relatively large and varied international group. We are in the process of forming a steering committee, have issued

for discussion suggestions for "code of conduct" for data use and co-authorships, and keep the group informed via regular news emails.

Within the constructive, pleasant and motivating atmosphere of our workshop, several close ties between participants research interest were discussed and identified, which will lead to fruitful collaborations also in the longer term.

The participation of Anne Björkmann (sTundra postdoc) moreover increased the ties of ours and the ShrubHub and ITEX networks, which also deal with plants and climate change in cold biomes.

General working atmosphere and feedback on sDiv support

The participants all agreed that our workshop was a success. We assembled a unique dataset, created a great diversity of ideas how to use it, and distilled preliminary analyses, drafts and work plans without getting immersed into technical and administrative detail discussions. Main factors that facilitated this success were the high motivation and commitment of the workshop participants, the provision of a brilliant child care service and the impeccable organization and background work of the sDiv team. Thank you very much!

Participants list

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