

## iDiv sabbatical project report

### “Climate change impacts on dryland soil biodiversity and associated ecosystem functions from local to global scales”

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**Scientific hosts:** Prof Nico Eisenhauer

#### Feedback:

- What were your objectives for your sabbatical and what progress did you make?

My sabbatical aimed to synthesize data from the literature, existing databases and from multiple global field surveys led by my research group to explore how dryland ecosystems respond to major global change drivers (changes in biodiversity, climate and grazing pressure), and to learn from and start collaborating with the hosting group. These objectives were fully achieved, as this synthesis has been derived in two main articles published in a top multidisciplinary journal and the different collaborations that I have established with the hosting group have led to multiple articles and joint projects.

- How did being at iDiv help you achieve your objectives?

Being in a scientifically stimulating environment such as iDiv, as well as in a beautiful city such as Leipzig, helped a lot to polish my ideas and to stay focused to achieve the objectives of my sabbatical stay. The discussions, meetings and collaborations with my host and his group also were fundamental to achieve these objectives.

- Other notable accomplishments, outcomes, collaborations while at iDiv?

I could highlight as major outcomes the multiple publications derived from my stay, both directly related to the objectives of my sabbatical (the two most important have been published in *Science*) and those arising from collaborations with the hosting group (multiple articles in journals such as *Science*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Climate Change* and *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, to name some of them). Beyond the publications, perhaps the most important outcome is to have established a new partnership with Nico Eisenhauer and his group for future joint projects and publications, which I envision will be a long-term collaboration. And most importantly, a collaboration that has been as productive

- How was the living and working environment?

Leipzig is a beautiful and family-friendly city to live in and my family and I enjoyed our stay a lot. As a runner I really appreciated the possibility to have large green areas to run (such as the Clara-Zetkin-Park) and the public transportation is really good. The working environment was also excellent; the group of Dr. Eisenhauer is a welcoming and healthy working environment, something that I appreciate a lot, and iDiv is a really stimulating place for doing science. There is always something interesting going on here (working group, seminars...) and there are multiple opportunities to meet with and learn from the work of colleagues from different fields/backgrounds.

- Advice for future fellows?

To make the most of your stay by regularly attending the multiple seminars, presenting your work in a seminar, and by talking with iDiv colleagues both from your hosting group and from other groups. And don't forget to enjoy all the good things Leipzig and the surroundings have to offer. A sabbatical is a time not only to work on a given project but also to think about and develop new ideas and projects, and iDiv and Leipzig are perfect places for doing so.