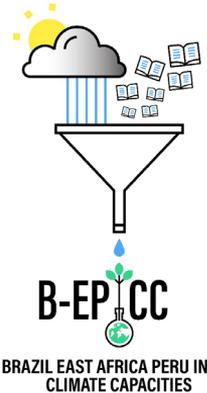


Modelling tropical forests and biodiversity in Peru and South America

Sarah Bereswill, Kirsten Thonicke, Boris Sakschewski,
Maik Billing, Werner von Bloh



Content

1. Background
2. Modeling capabilities at PIK Potsdam
 - 2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)
 - 2.2 Case study I: Forest resilience under climate change
 - 2.3 Case study II: Functional diversity along a climate gradient
 - 2.4 Case study III: Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation
3. Outlook on planned activities for B-EPICC Project in Peru
4. Discussion & Questions

1. Background – Forest and Biodiversity in Peru

Bosques

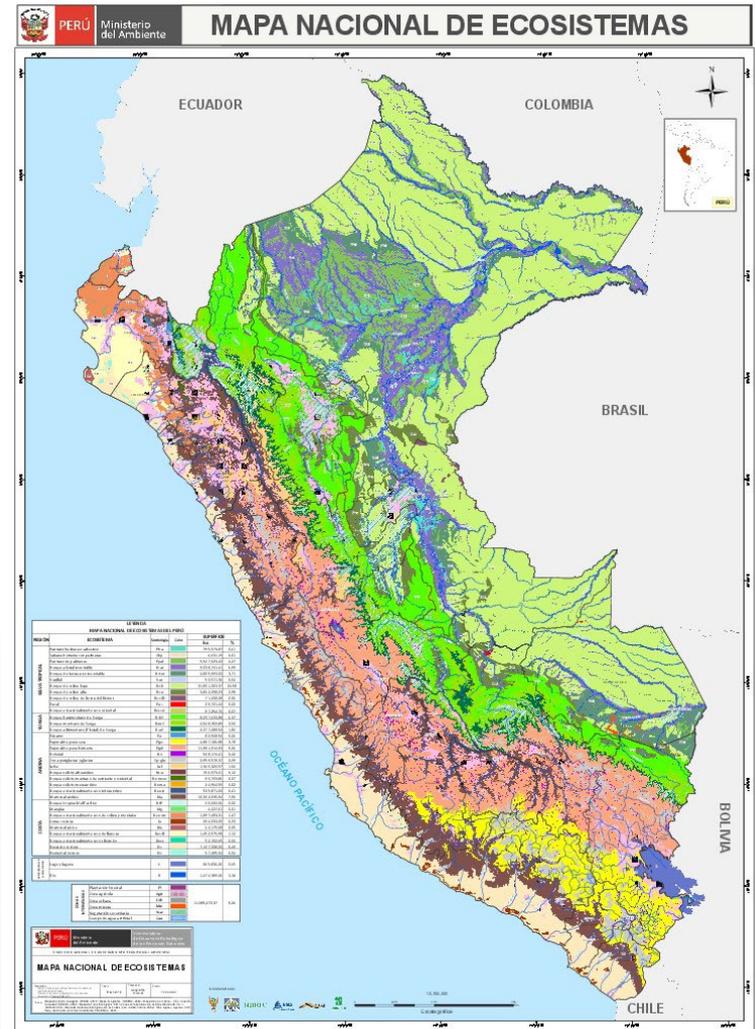
- More than 60% of the Peruvian territory is covered by forests, Peru has the second highest coverage of Amazonian forest in the world (FAO,2020; MINAM et al. 2015)
- Forest types ranging from wet lowland Amazonian over premontane to cloud forest ecosystems

Biodiversidad

- Peru one of the world's mega-diverse countries
- Global Biodiversity hotspot: Andean forest ecosystems



http://www.bosques.gob.pe/archivo/1455ad_perureinodebosques.pdf



1. Background – B-EPICC's workpackage on Forests & Biodiversity

Forest loss

- Deforestation and degradation
- Emissions
- Biodiversity loss

Climate change

- amplifies negative effect



Research questions

- Quantify contribution of forest recovery to ecosystem services (**carbon sequestration**)
- Address potential **recovery of biodiversity**
- Simulate forest recovery trajectories under the impact of **climate change**

Forest restoration & natural regrowth

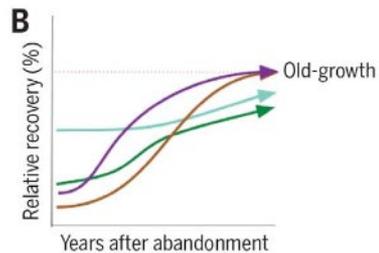


Important contribution of secondary forests for climate change mitigation (high C sequestration potential)

1. Background – Potential of secondary forests: C sink and biodiversity recovery

Key questions:

- Which forest attributes take how long to recover?
- Under which conditions?



Poorter et al., 2021

FOREST ECOLOGY

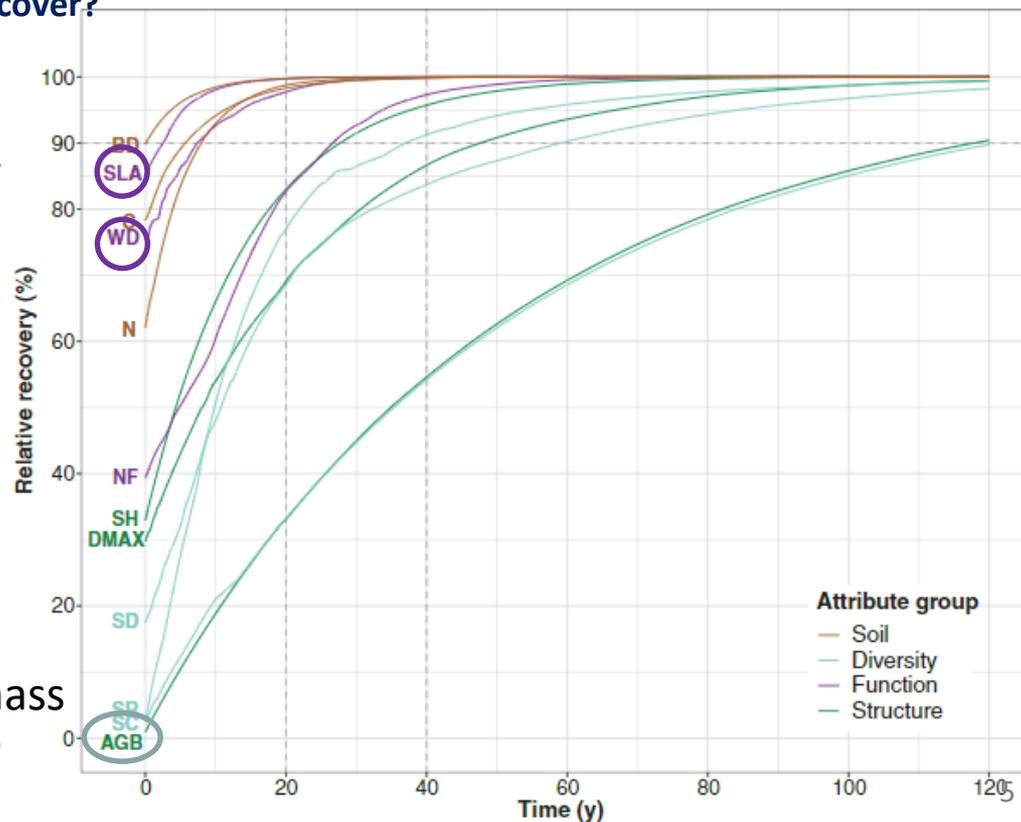
Multidimensional tropical forest recovery

Lourens Poorter^{1*}, Dylan Craven², Catarina C. Jakovac^{1,3}, Masha T. van der Sande³, Lucy Amissah⁴, Frans Bongers⁵, Robin L. Chazdon^{1,6}, Caroline E. Farrior⁷, Stephan Kambach⁸, Jorge A. Meave⁹, Rodrigo Muñoz¹⁰, Natalia Norden¹⁰, Nadja Rüger^{8,11,12}, Michiel van Breugel^{13,14,15}, Angélica María Almeyda Zambrano¹⁶, Bienvenu Amani¹⁷, José Luis Andrade¹⁸, Pedro H. S. Brancalion¹⁹, Eben N. Broadbent²⁰, Hubert de Foresta²¹, Daisy H. Dent^{12,22}, Géraldine Derroire²³, Saara J. DeWalt²⁴, Juan M. Dupuy¹⁸, Sandra M. Durán^{25,26}, Alfredo C. Fantini²⁷, Bryan Finegan²⁸, Alma Hernández-Jaramillo², José Luis Hernández-Stefanoni¹⁸, Peter Hietz³⁰, André B. Junqueira³¹, Justin Kassi N'dja³², ...



diversity

biomass



1. Background – Potential of secondary forests: C sink and biodiversity recovery

Key questions:

- Impact of previous land use history and disturbance level?
- Assumed recovery rates reliable vs. observations?



Original Research Article

Aboveground biomass in secondary montane forests in Peru: Slow carbon recovery in agroforestry legacies

Susan Aragón^{a,*}, Norma Salinas^a, Alex Nina-Quispe^a, Vicky Huaman Qquellon^a, Gloria Rayme Paucar^a, Wilfredo Huaman^a, Percy Chambi Porroa^a, Juliana C. Olarte^a, Rudi Cruz^a, Julia G. Muñoz^b, Carlos Salas Yupayccana^a, Tatiana E. Boza Espinoza^a, Richard Tito^a, Eric G. Cosio^a, Rosa Maria Roman-Cuesta^{c,d}

^a Institute for Nature, Earth and Energy (INTE) Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Av. Universitaria 1801, Lima 15088, Peru

^b Escuela de Biología, Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad del Cusco, Av. de la Cultura s/n, Cusco 08003, Peru

^c Department of Environmental Sciences, Laboratory of Geoinformation Science and Remote Sensing, University of Wageningen, P.O. Box 476700AA, Wageningen, The Netherlands

^d Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), P.O. Box 0113 BOCBD, Bogor 16000, Indonesia

Methods

- Forest plots in abandoned tea plantation compared to similar elevation primary forest
- 1780 masl in La Convención province, Cuzco Region, in southern Peru

Key results

- Even more than 30 years after abandonment, high presence of agroforestry legacy species
- Aboveground biomass was clearly lower (42-59 Mg ha⁻¹) vs. Based on standard IPCC growth rates for secondary montane forests (106 Mg ha⁻¹)

1. Background – Potential of secondary forests: C sink and biodiversity recovery

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-22050-1>

OPEN

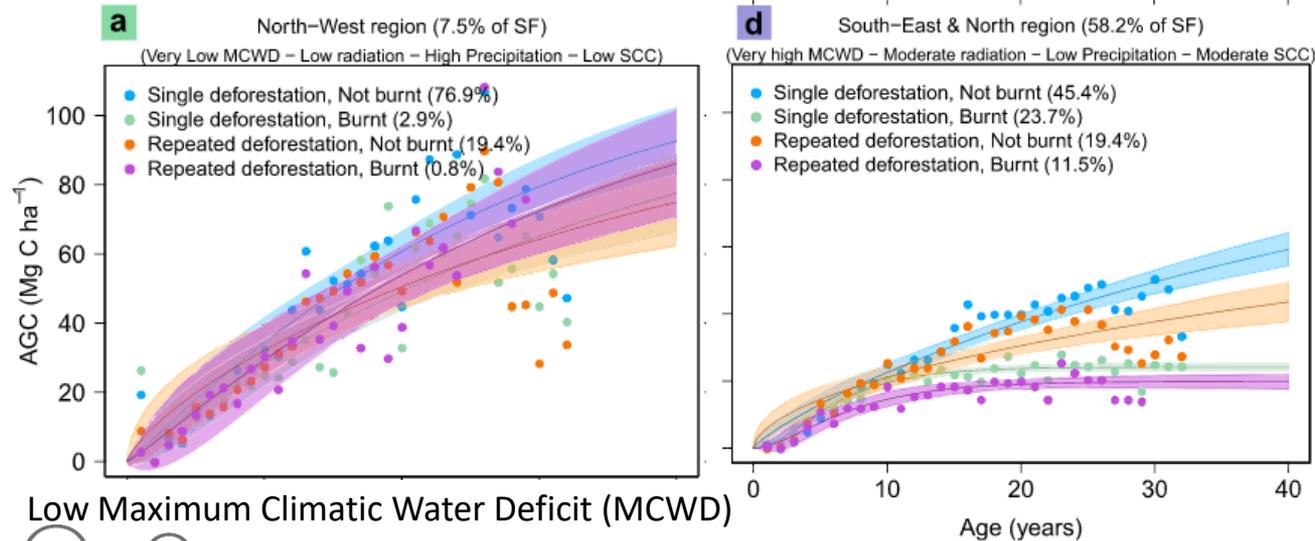


Large carbon sink potential of secondary forests in the Brazilian Amazon to mitigate climate change

Viola H. A. Heinrich¹, Ricardo Dalagnol², Henrique L. G. Cassol², Thais M. Rosan³, Catherine Torres de Almeida², Celso H. L. Silva Junior², Wesley A. Campanharo², Joanna I. House^{1,4}, Stephen Sitch³, Tristram C. Hales⁵, Marcos Adami⁶, Liana O. Anderson⁷ & Luiz E. O. C. Aragão^{2,3}

Climatic conditions and repeated disturbance may lower C sink potential of secondary forests

Heinrich et al., 2021



Single vs. Repeated deforestation, burnt or not burnt



High Maximum Climatic Water Deficit (MCWD)

2. Modeling capabilities at PIK

We apply DGVMs (Dynamic Global Vegetation Models) to understand how forest ecosystems evolve under different climate change and land-use scenarios.

2. Modeling capabilities at PIK LPJmL model

Tools @ PIK: Dynamic Global Vegetation Models

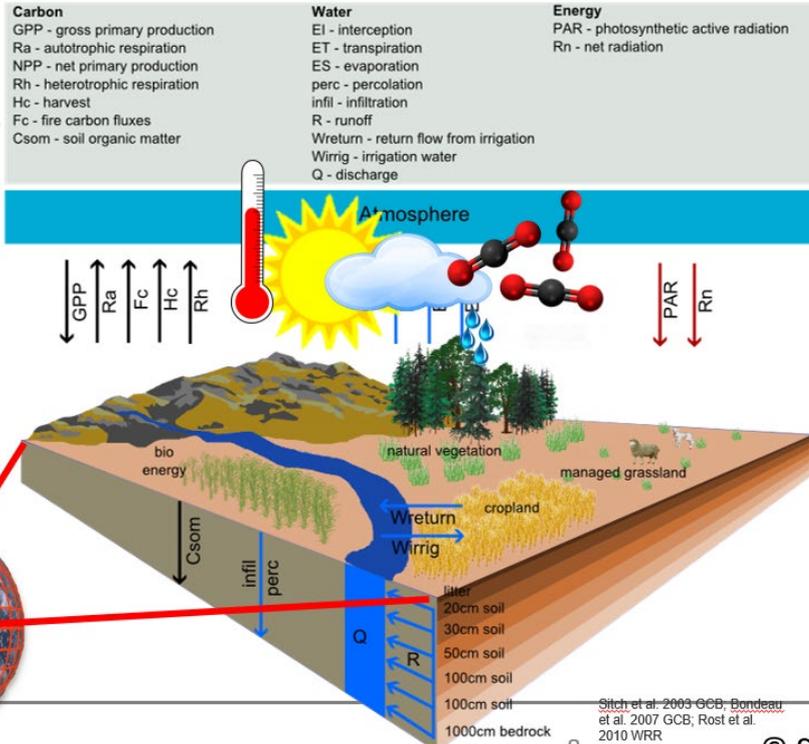
- LPJmL (Lund-Potsdam-Jena managed Land)

'big leaf approach': PFTs (plant functional types) cover part of grid cell
e.g. tropical broadleaved evergreen, needle-leaved boreal etc

LPJmL

Lund-
Potsdam-
Jena
managed
Land
Model

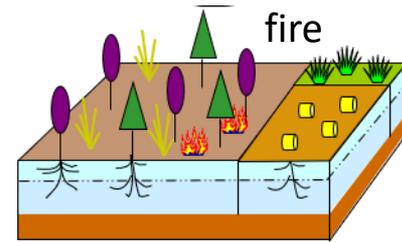
(LPJmL)



Sitch et al. 2003 GCB; Bondeau et al. 2007 GCB; Rost et al. 2010 WRR

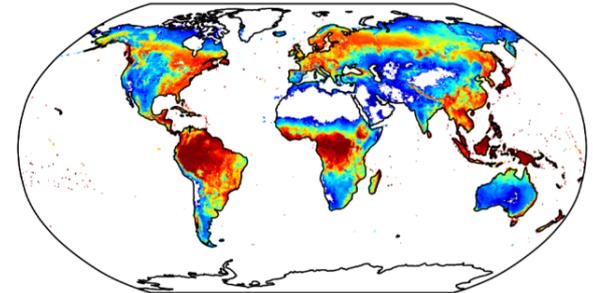
8

© Sakschewski



Gridzelle: 0.5° x 0.5°

Land-use
Crops
Irrigation



LPJmL4 vegetation carbon [kgC m⁻²]



Schaphoff et al., 2018

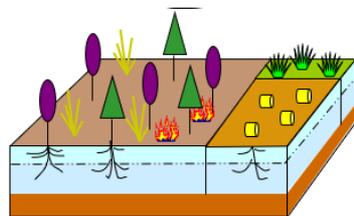
9

2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

Tools @ PIK: Dynamic Global Vegetation Models

- LPJmL (Lund-Potsdam-Jena managed Land)



Gridzelle: 0.5° x 0.5°

address diversity of forests



- LPJmL-FIT:**
LPJmL with Flexible Individual Traits



,big leaf approach': **PFTs (plant functional types)** cover part of grid cell
e.g. tropical broadleaved evergreen, needle-leaved boreal etc

Individual trees characterized by unique set of functional traits compete and form a forest community adapted to local climate and resources

2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

Leaf and stem economics spectra drive diversity of functional plant traits in a dynamic global vegetation model

BORIS SAKSCHEWSKI^{1,2}, WERNER VON BLOH^{1,2}, ALICE BOIT^{1,2}, ANJA RAMMIG^{1,2}, JENS KATTGE³, LOURENS POORTER⁴, JOSEP PEÑUELAS^{5,6} and KIRSTEN THONICKE^{1,2}
¹Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Telegraphenberg A31, Potsdam, 14473, Germany, ²Berlin-Brandenburg Institute of Advanced Biodiversity Research (BBIB), Berlin, 14195, Germany, ³Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, 07745, Germany, ⁴Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group, Wageningen University, PO Box 47, Wageningen, 6700AA, The Netherlands, ⁵Global Ecology Unit CREAM-CSIC-UAB, CSIC, Cerdanyola del Vallès, 08193 Catalonia, Spain, ⁶CREAF, Cerdanyola del Vallès, 08193 Catalonia, Spain

Dynamic Global Vegetation Models:
PFTs (plant functional types) with
fixed set of functional traits



- LPJmL-FIT incorporates empirical ranges of **five traits** of tropical trees extracted from the TRY global plant trait database
- specific leaf area (**SLA**), leaf longevity (**LL**), leaf nitrogen content (N_{area}), maximum carboxylation rate of Rubisco per leaf area ($v_{\text{cmax,area}}$), and wood density (**WD**).

2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

Incorporation of two ecological concepts to diversify functional traits



Wright *et al.* 2004

Published: 22 April 2004

The worldwide leaf economics spectrum

Ian J. Wright , Peter B. Reich, ... Rafael Villar  Show authors

Nature 428, 821–827 (2004) | [Cite this article](#)

42k Accesses | 5147 Citations | 61 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

The leaf traits are linked by empirically established trade-offs based on the **leaf economics spectrum (LES)** (Reich *et al.*, [1997](#), [1999](#); Wright *et al.*, [2004](#); Shipley *et al.*, [2006](#)) which describes a set of leaf trade-offs explaining worldwide leaf investment strategies



Chave *et al.* 2009



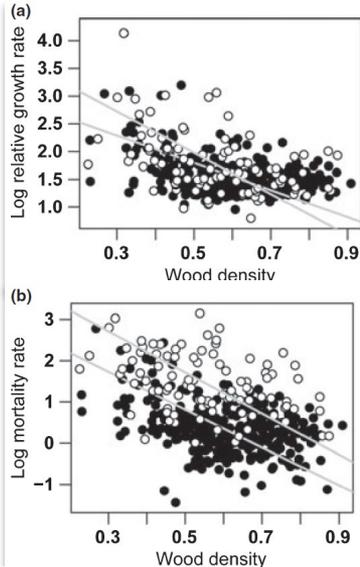
 Full Access

Towards a worldwide wood economics spectrum

Jerome Chave , David Coomes, Steven Jansen, Simon L. Lewis, Nathan G. Swenson, Amy E. Zanne

First published: 10 March 2009 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2009.01285.x> | Citations: 1,737

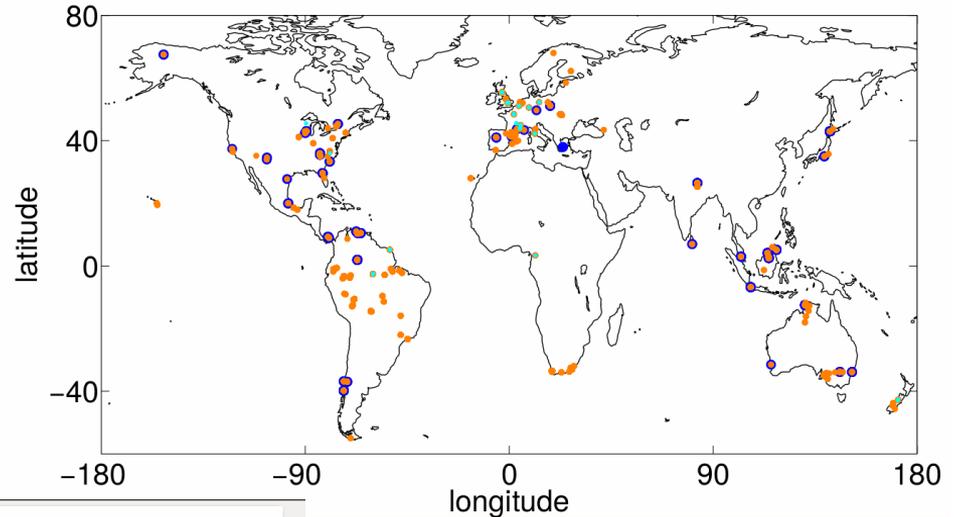
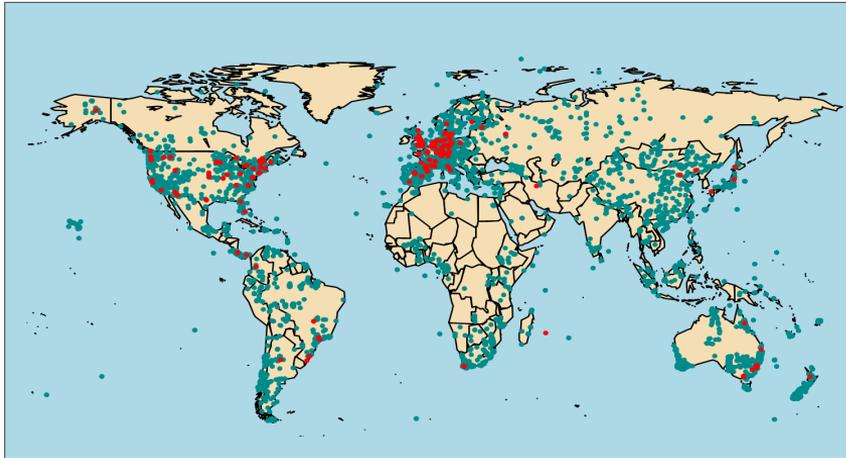
WD is linked to tree mortality following the idea of **the stem economics spectrum (SES)**, Baraloto *et al.*, [2010](#).



2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

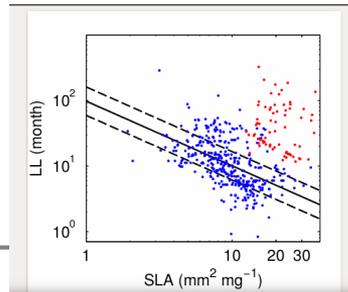
TRY database – filter for global entries for broadleaved-trees

Sakschewski et al., 2015



- Measurement sites
- Institutes

PhotosyntheticPathway
Respiration LeafArea NfixationCapacity
SLA RegenerationCapacity PlantLifespan
WoodDensity GrowthForm
PhenologyType LeafN
LeafP LeafLongevity PhotosyntheticCapacity
MaxPlantHeight SeedMass

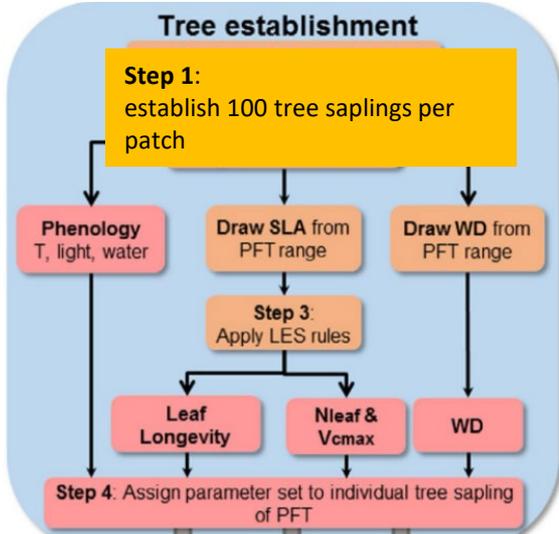


- Regression LL-SLA fit derived from TRY data
- ,trade-off': thin/soft leaves (high SLA) highly productive but shortlived; thicker leaves (low SLA) higher LL as more resistant to physical stress and herbivory

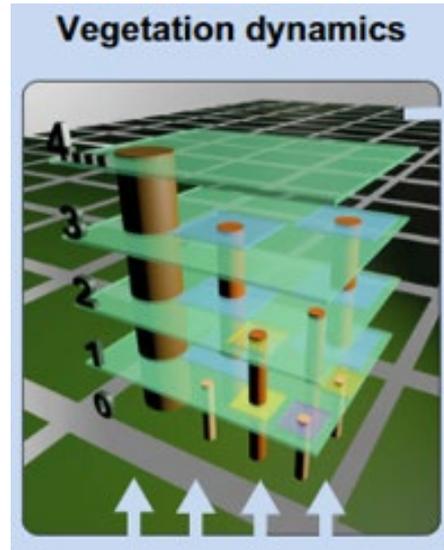
<https://www.try-db.org/TryWeb/Home.php>

2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

Functional Unit: Individual tree

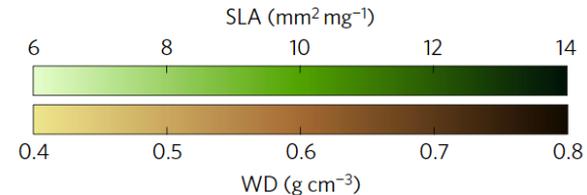


Saplings grow and compete for light and water resources



Light competition: reaching canopy layers

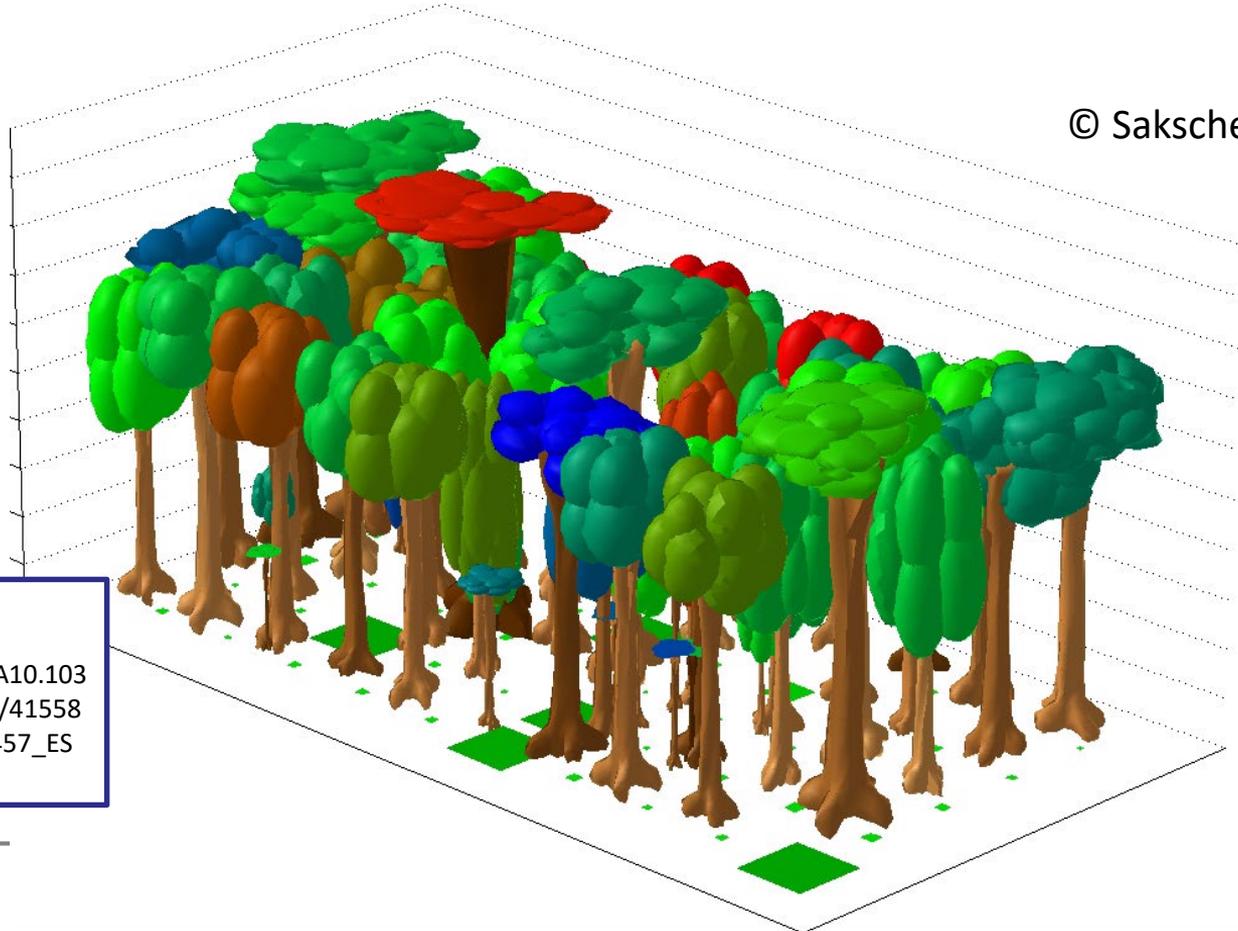
Established forest community with herbaceous understorey



- LPJmL-FIT establishes individual trees with a number of variable traits
- These traits range within their globally observed boundaries in natural ecosystems because their range are constrained by empirically derived trade-offs following the theory of LES and SES.



2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

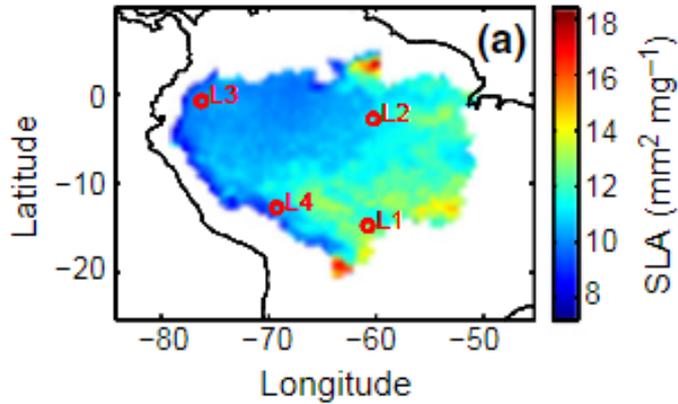


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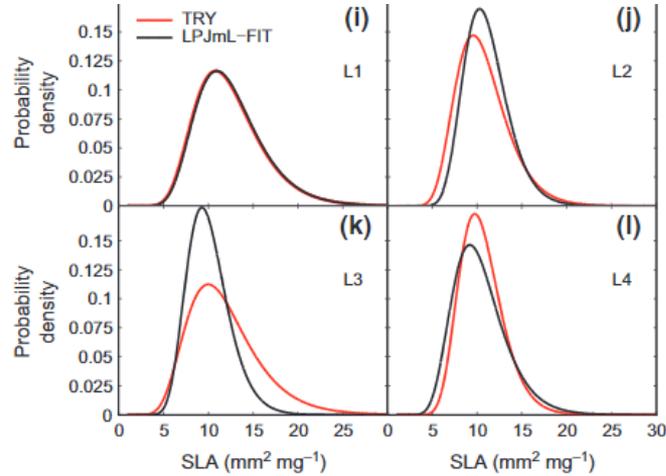
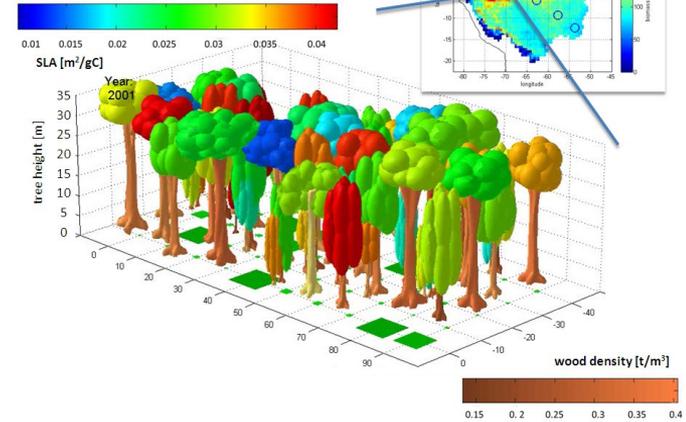
Watch animation at:
https://static-content.springer.com/esm/art%3A10.1038%2Fclimate3109/MediaObjects/41558_2016_BFclimate3109_MOESM457_ESM.mov

2.1 The LPJmL-FIT model (flexible individual traits)

Validation of modeled vs. Observed trait distributions



LPJmL-FIT



Sakschewski et al., 2015

2.2 Case study I: Resilience of forests to climate change

2.2 Case study I: Resilience of forests to climate change

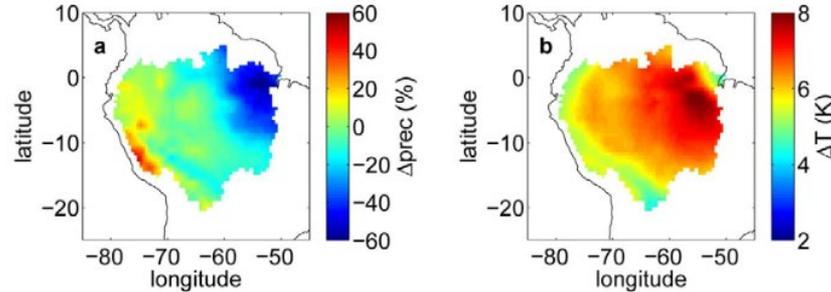
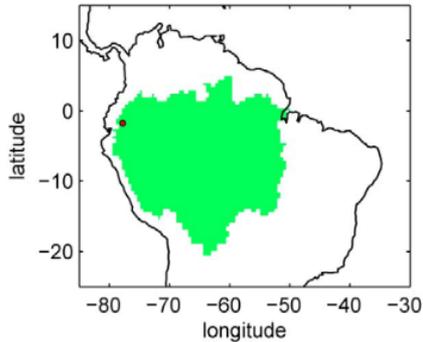
LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 29 AUGUST 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE3109

nature
climate change

Resilience of Amazon forests emerges from plant trait diversity

Boris Sakschewski^{1,2*}, Werner von Bloh^{1,2}, Alice Boit^{1,2}, Lourens Poorter³, Marielos Peña-Claros³, Jens Heinke^{1,2}, Jasmin Joshi⁴ and Kirsten Thonicke^{1,2}

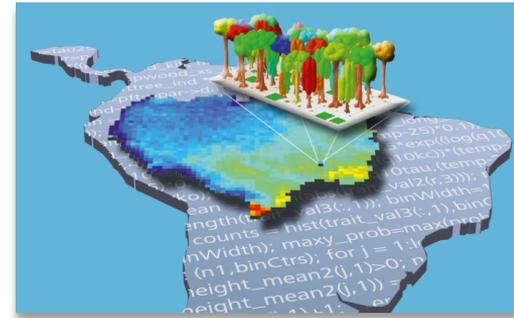


Climate input: Strong CC scenario (RCP 8.5)

400ha of forest simulated in Ecuador



Sakschewski *et al.* 2016
Nature Clim. Change



Biodiversity as an
'insurance' for the
resilience of forests
under climate change?

2.2 Case study I: Resilience of forests to climate change

2 PFTs: 'tropical broadleaved evergreen tree' and 'tropical broadleaved rain-green tree' (fixed trait values)

- Low-diversity model (individual trees)
- Standard model (average individuals)

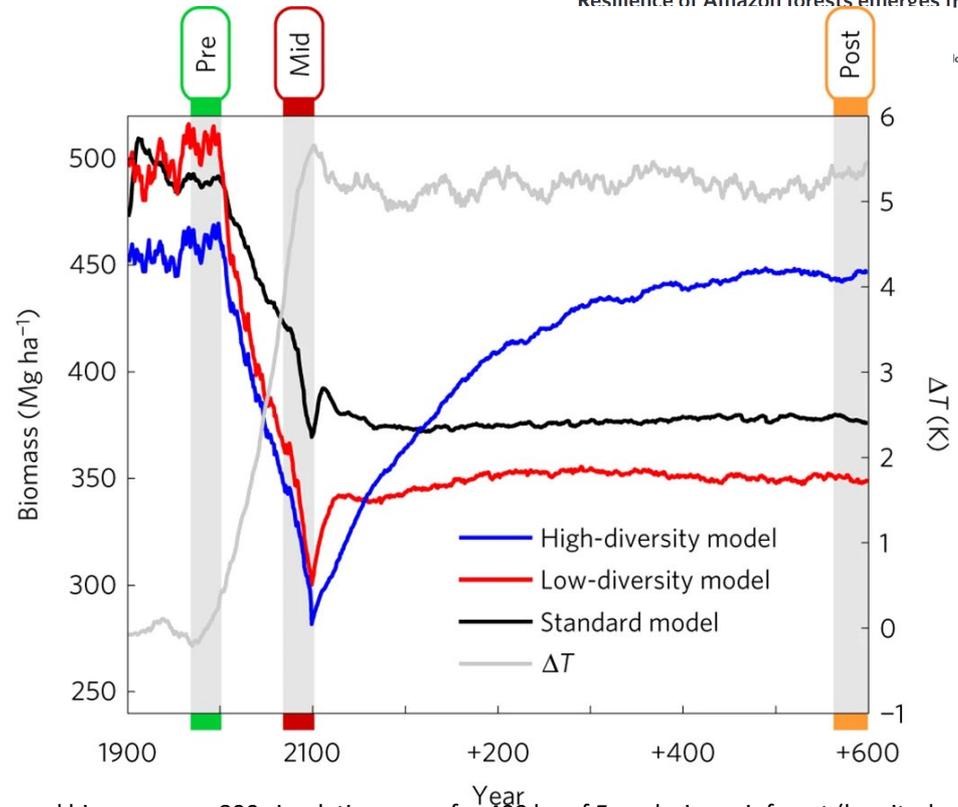
Vs. Individual trees with randomly assigned different trait combinations →

- High-diversity model

Plant trait	min	max
SLA ($\text{mm}^2 \text{mg}^{-1}$)	2.28	31.85
LL (month)	1.70	91.60
N_{area} (g m^{-2})	0.96	4.30
$V_{\text{cmax,area25}^\circ}$ ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)	30.47	101.88
WD (g cm^{-3})	0.14	1.30

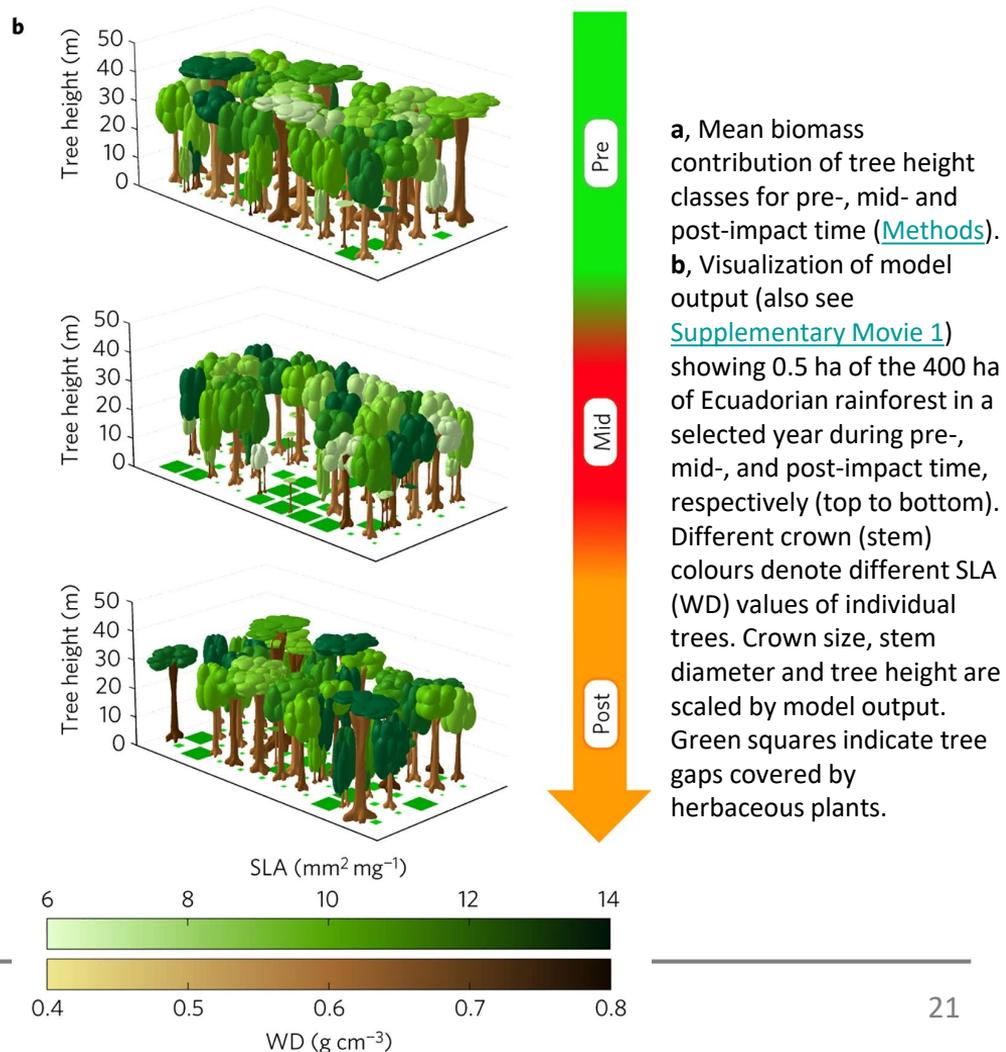
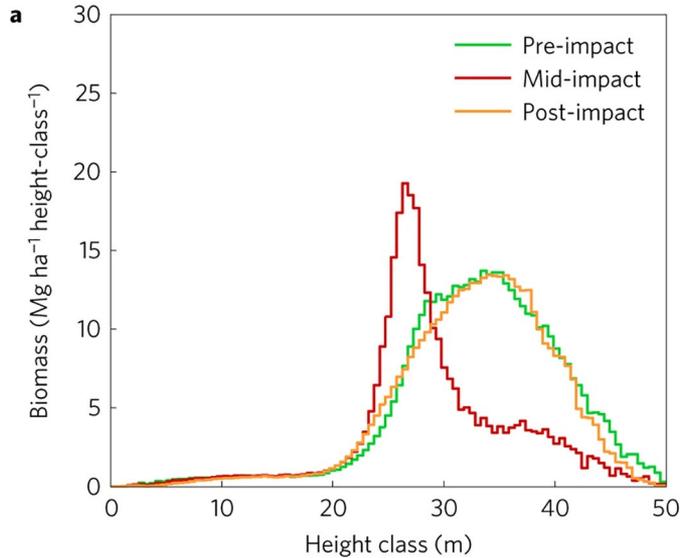
Resilience of Amazon forests emerges from plant

los Peña-Claros⁷,



Annual biomass over 800 simulation years for 400 ha of Ecuadorian rainforest (Longitude: 77.75° W; latitude: 1.25° S, [Supplementary Fig. 10](#)) from three different versions of the vegetation model LPJmL under a severe climate change scenario (RCP 8.5 HadGEM2). ΔT: annual temperature difference to the mean temperature of pre-impact time (1971–2000) in K.

2.2 Case study I: Resilience of forests to climate change



LETTERS

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 29 AUGUST 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE3109

nature
climate change

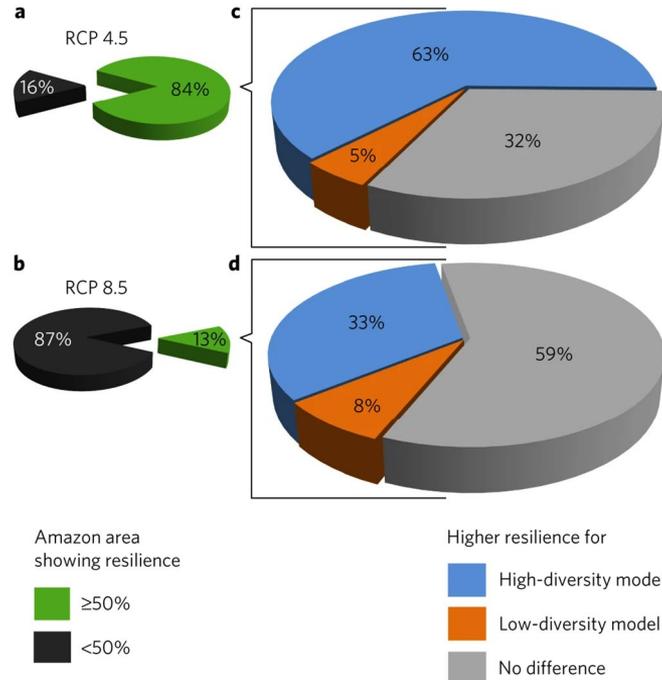
Resilience of Amazon forests emerges from plant trait diversity

Boris Sakschewski^{1,2*}, Werner von Bloh^{1,2}, Alice Boit^{1,2}, Lourens Poorter³, Marielos Peña-Claros³, Jens Heinke^{1,2}, Jasmin Joshi⁴ and Kirsten Thonicke^{1,2}

2.2 Case study I: Resilience of forests to climate change

Resilience of Amazon forests emerges from plant trait diversity

Boris Sakschewski^{1,2*}, Werner von Bloh^{1,2}, Alice Boit^{1,2}, Lourens Poorter³, Marielos Peña-Claros³, Jens Heinke^{1,2}, Jasmin Joshi⁴ and Kirsten Thonicke^{1,2}



high-diversity model is always more resilient, even though the positive contribution of plant trait diversity to biomass resilience is **limited by climate change intensity**

2.3 Case study II: Functional diversity of forests along a climate gradient

2.3 Case study II: Functional diversity of forests along a climate gradient LPJmL-FIT model adapted for Europe

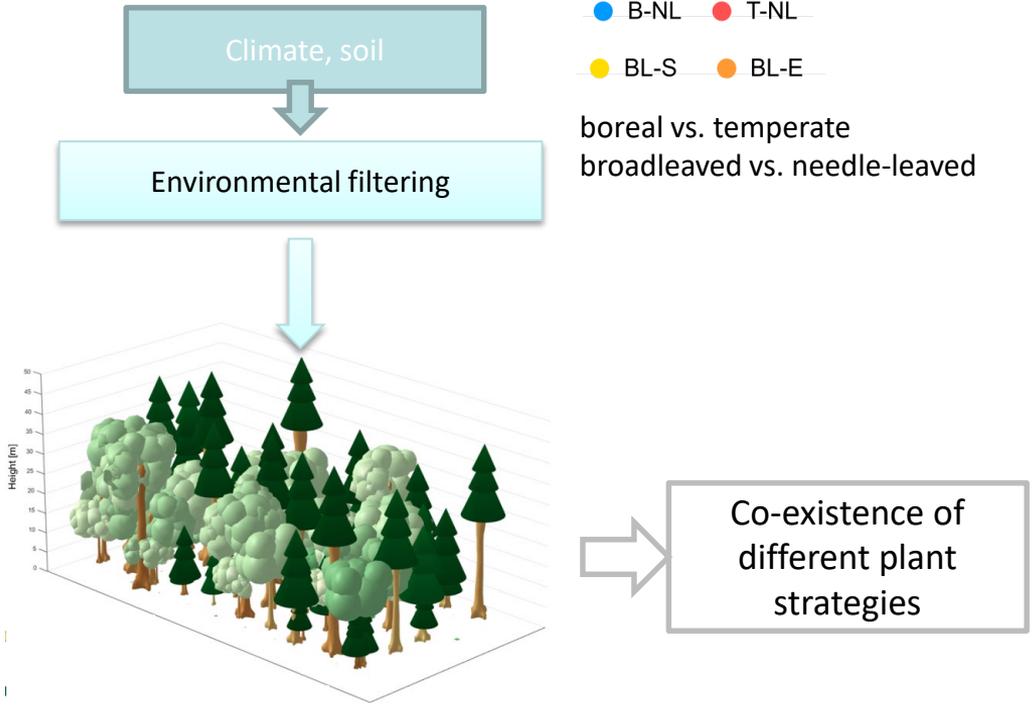
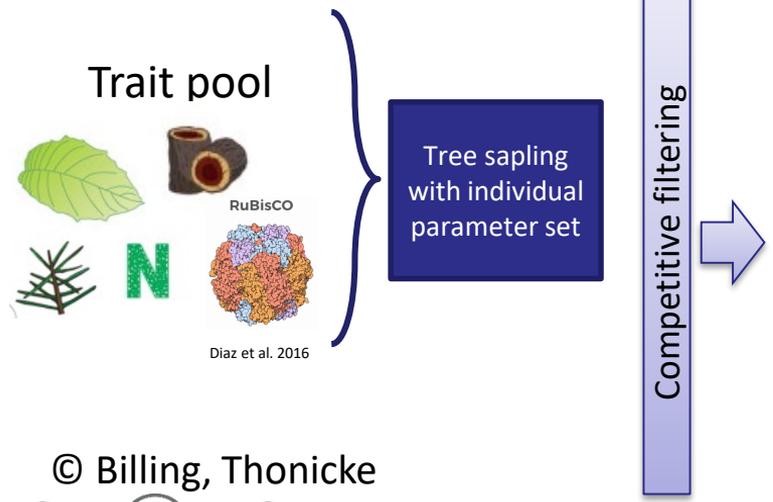
Received: 6 May 2019 | Revised: 5 December 2019 | Accepted: 12 December 2019
 DOI: 10.1111/jbi.13809

RESEARCH PAPER



Simulating functional diversity of European natural forests along climatic gradients

Kirsten Thonicke¹ | Maik Billing^{1,2} | Werner von Bloh¹ | Boris Sakschewski¹ |
 Ülo Niinemets³ | Josep Peñuelas^{4,5} | J. Hans C. Cornelissen⁶ | Yusuke Onoda⁷ |
 Peter van Bodegom⁸ | Michael E. Schaepman⁹ | Fabian D. Schneider¹⁰ | Ariane Walz²



2.3 Case study II: Functional diversity of forests along a climate gradient

Received: 6 May 2019 | Revised: 5 December 2019 | Accepted: 12 December 2019

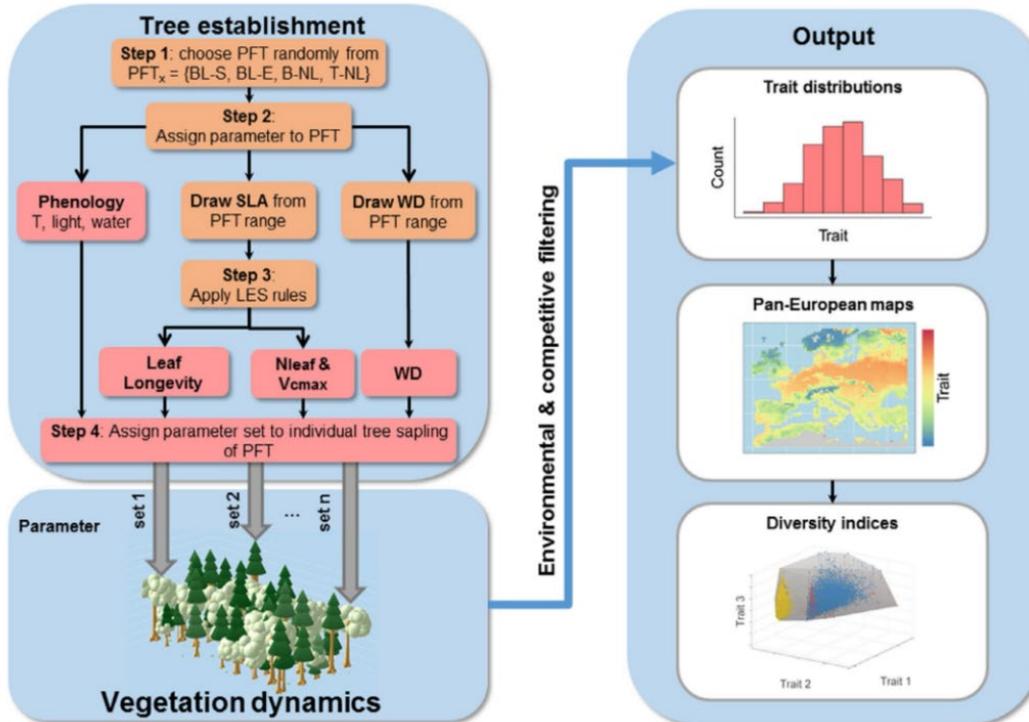
DOI: 10.1111/jbi.13809

RESEARCH PAPER

Journal of
Biogeography

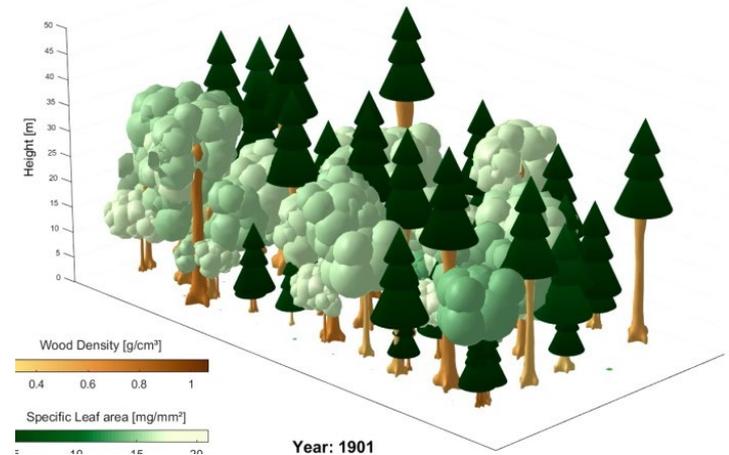
WILEY

Simulating functional diversity of European natural forests along climatic gradients



LPJmL-FIT model
adapted for Europe

boreal vs. temperate
broadleaved vs. needle-leaved



Thonicke, Billing et al., J Biogeogr 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.13809>

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2.3 Case study II: Functional diversity of forests along a climate gradient

Received: 6 May 2019 | Revised: 5 December 2019 | Accepted: 12 December 2019

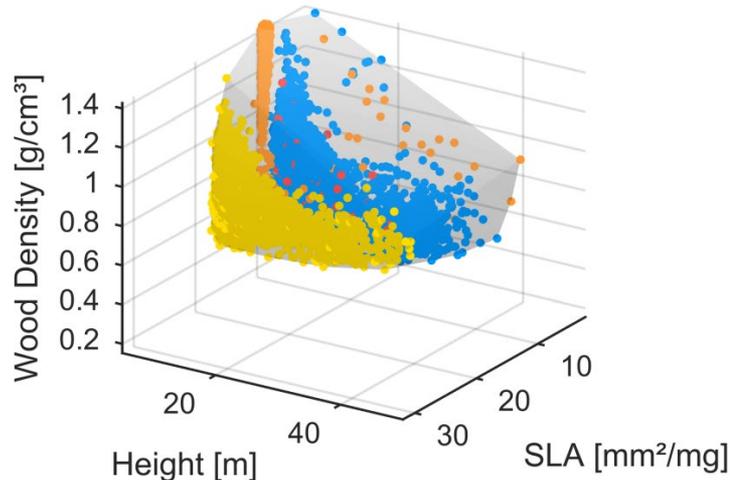
DOI: 10.1111/jbi.13809

RESEARCH PAPER

Journal of
Biogeography WILEY

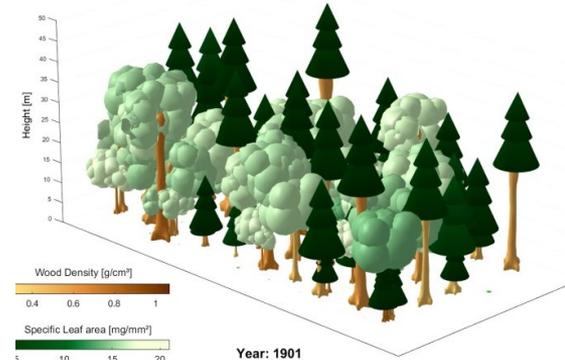
Simulating functional diversity of European natural forests along climatic gradients

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Peter van Bodegom⁸ | Michael E. Schaepman⁹ | Fabian D. Schneider¹⁰ | Ariane Walz²



● B-NL ● T-NL ● BL-S ● BL-E

Functional Diversity

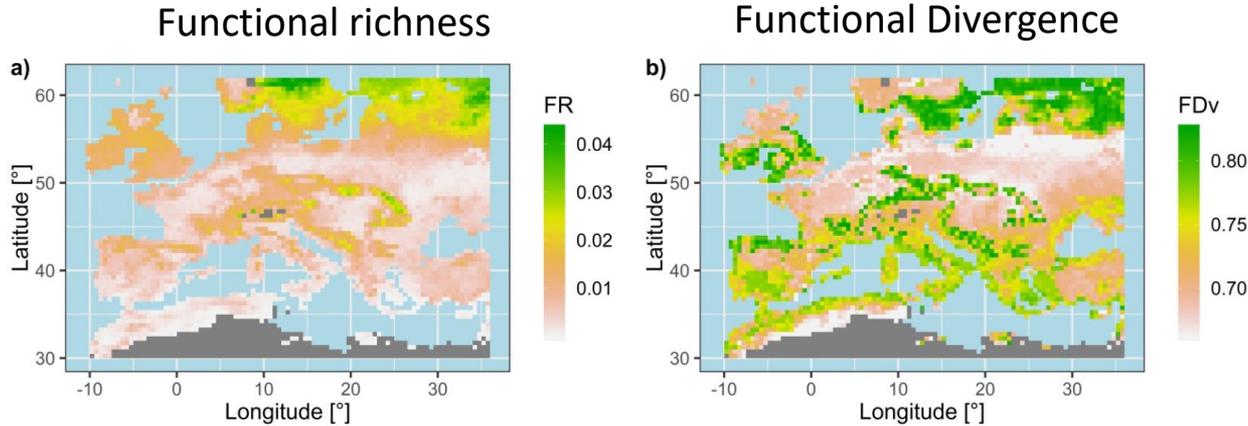


- 3D trait space – each tree is one point
- High functional richness means that in the ecosystem a broad range of niches is occupied
- It can be an indicator of resilience of ecosystems to disturbance

Thonicke, Billing et al., J Biogeogr 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.13809>

© Billing, Thonicke

2.3 Case study II: Functional diversity of forests along a climate gradient



Functional Richness:
Span of occupied niches
size of potentially available,
environmental niches

Functional Divergence:
Degree of *niche differentiation*
High Divergence -> high
competitive exclusion

In megadiverse
ecosystems, **functional
diversity** is an important
measure

2.4 Case Study III: Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation

2.4 Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation

- DGVMs **oversimplify** representation of belowground dynamics (root growth, distribution, water uptake, nutrient dynamics)

BEFORE:

- LPJmL4.0: fixed root biomass distribution with depth and fixed rooting depth for all trees and tree saplings!
- Limits the access of trees to water

Sakschewski et al., 2021 Improved root growth and biomass distribution in LPJmL model

PFT	β_{root}
TrBE	0.962
TrBR	0.961
TeNE	0.976
TeBE	0.964
TeBS	0.966
BoNE	0.943
BoBS	0.943
BoNS	0.943
TrH	0.972
TeH	0.943
PoH	0.943

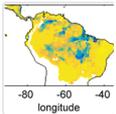
Biogeosciences, 18, 4091–4116, 2021
<https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-18-4091-2021>
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Research article

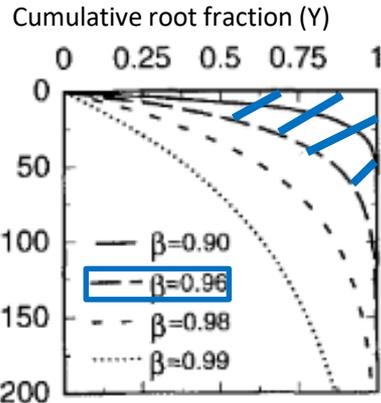
Variable tree rooting strategies are key for modelling the distribution, productivity and evapotranspiration of tropical evergreen forests

Boris Sakschewski¹, Werner von Bloh¹, Markus Drüke^{1,2}, Anna Amelia Sörensson^{3,4}, Romina Ruscica^{3,4}, Fanny Langerwisch⁵, Maik Billing¹, Sarah Bereswill⁶, Marina Hirota^{7,8}, Rafael Silva Oliveira⁹, Jens Heinke¹, and Kirsten Thonicke¹



12 Jul 2021

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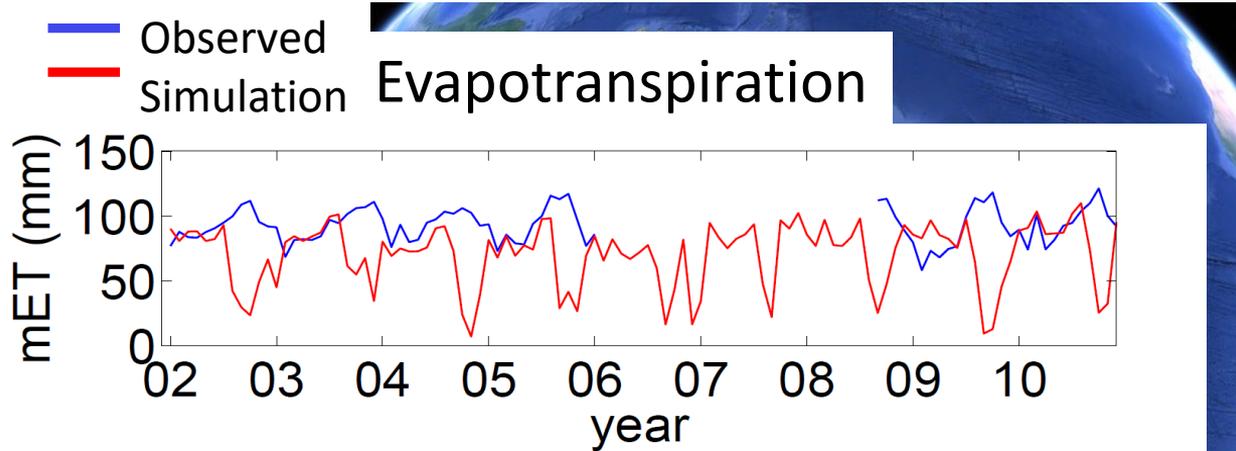
Jackson et al 1996



<https://bg.copernicus.org/articles/18/4091/2021/bg-18-4091-2021-discussion.html>

2.4 Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation

The problem with the 'fixed roots' approach



Santarém, Brazil
Up to 4 months with $P < 100$ mm

Trees have water access during dry season



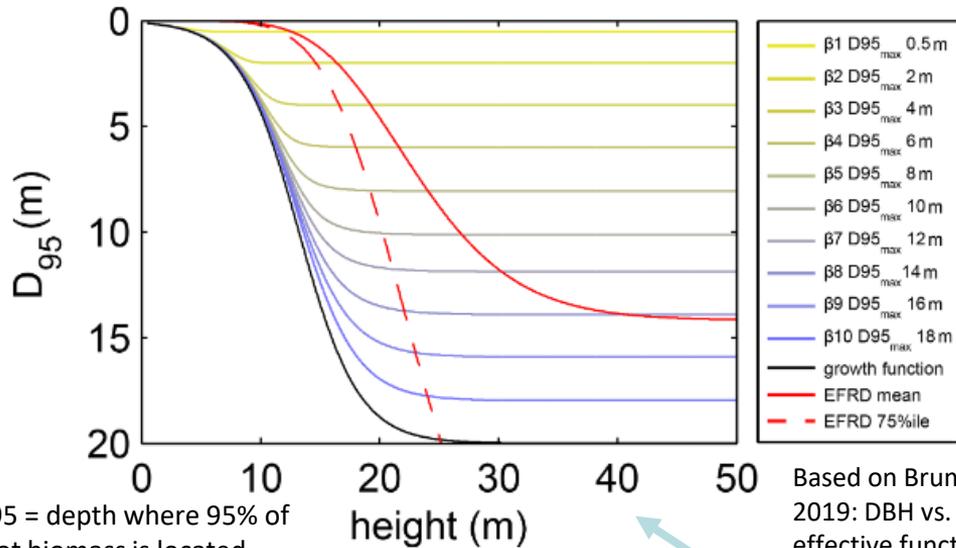
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Photo: Boris S.

2.4 Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation

NEW: logistic growth function: root systems grows with tree height

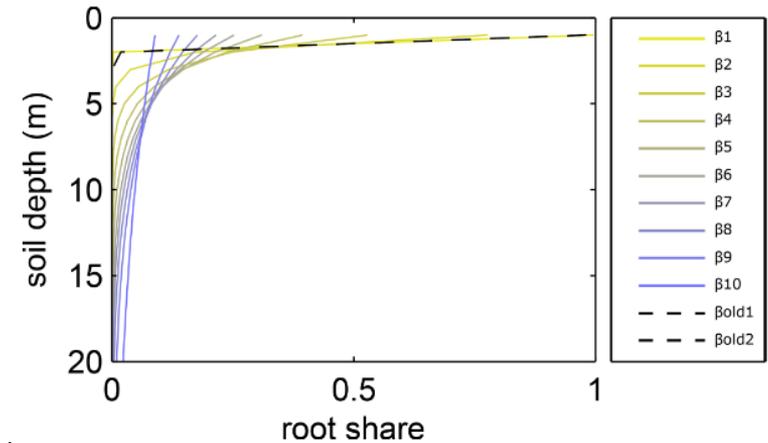


D_{95} = depth where 95% of root biomass is located

Figure A2. Relation between tree height and rooting depth in LPJmL4.0-VR. Black line: implemented general growth function of rooting depth (Eq. A5). Lines with colour scale from yellow to blue: growth functions of rooting depth for each of the 10 sub-PFTs (Sect. 2.2.3). Here temporal rooting depth is expressed as D_{95} and eventually reaches D_{95_max} (Eq. A3). Solid red line: mean effective functional rooting depth over tree height (EFRD) adapted from Brum et al. (2019) using Eq. (A5). Dashed red line: respective 75th-percentile EFRD over tree height adapted from Brum et al. (2019). Please also see Supplementary Video 1 for a visualization of root growth and development of below-ground carbon pools over time available at http://www.pik-potsdam.de/~borissa/LPJmL4_VR/Supplementary_Video_1.pptx.

$$D = \frac{S}{1 + e^{-kSh} \cdot \left(\frac{S}{D_0} - 1\right)},$$

NEW: introduce various possible root biomass distributions (β parameter)– competition for water



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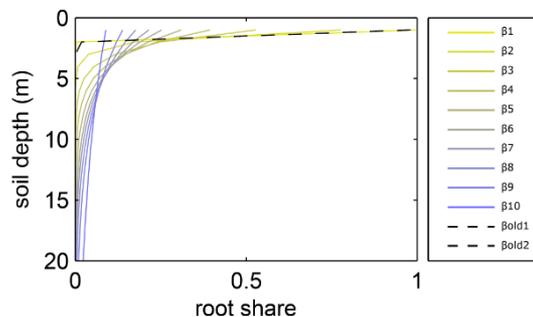
Hydrological niche segregation defines forest structure and drought tolerance strategies in a seasonal Amazon forest

Mauro Brum  Matthew A. Vadeboncoeur, Valeriy Ivanov, Heidi Asbjornsen, Scott Saleska, Luciana F. Alves, Deliane Penha, Jadson D. Dias, Luiz E. O. C. Aragão, Fernanda Barros, Paulo Bittencourt, Luciano Pereira, Rafael S. Oliveira ... [See fewer authors](#)

2.4 Flexible root growth scheme I

10 different β parameters describe fine root biomass distribution with depth

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Research article

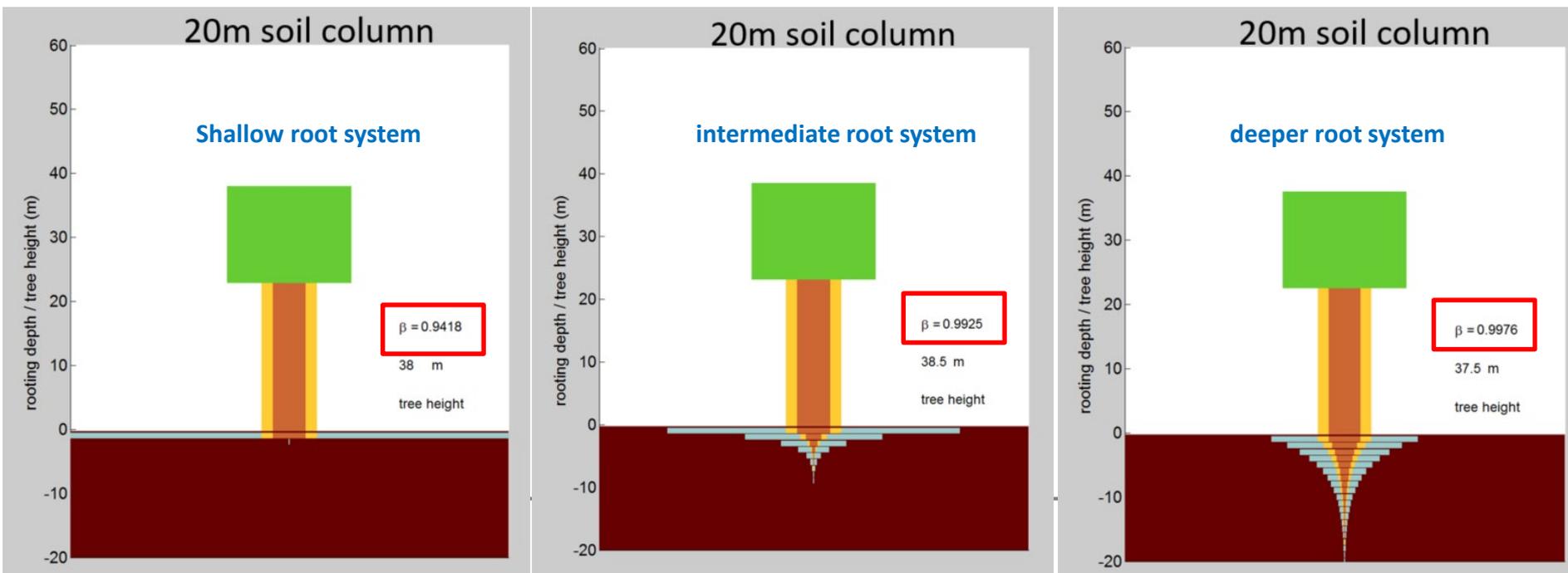
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Variable tree rooting strategies are key for modelling the distribution, productivity and evapotranspiration of tropical evergreen forests



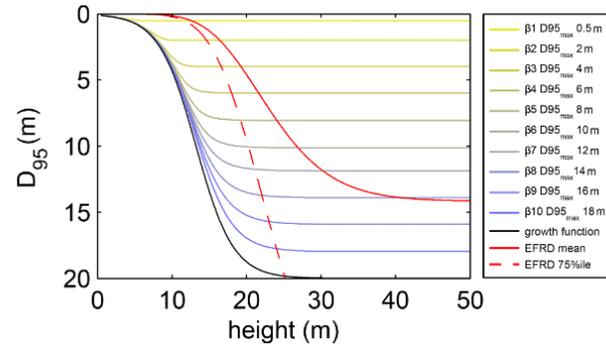
Boris Sakschewski¹, Werner von Bloh¹, Markus Drüke^{1,2}, Anna Amelia Sjöström^{3,4}, Romina Russica^{1,4}, Fanny Langerweisch^{1,5}, Maik Billing¹, Sarah Bereswill¹, Marina Hirota^{1,5}, Rafael Silva Oliveira^{1,5}, Jena Heinke¹, and Kirsten Thonicke¹



2.4 Flexible root growth scheme II

Depth of root system grows with increasing tree height (logistic function), root biomass distribution depends on β parameter

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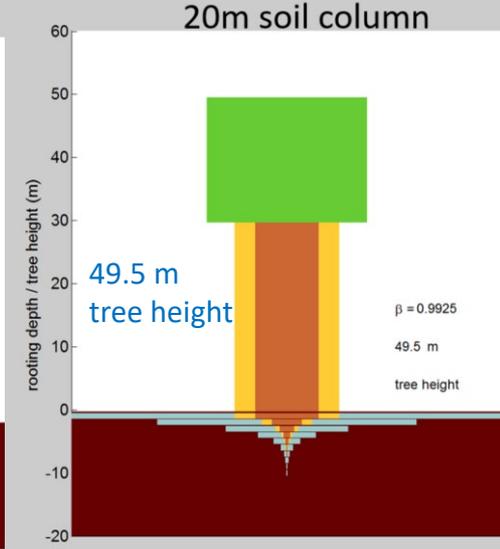
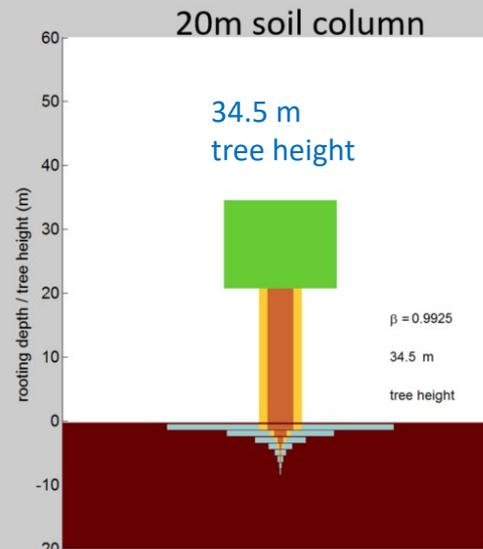
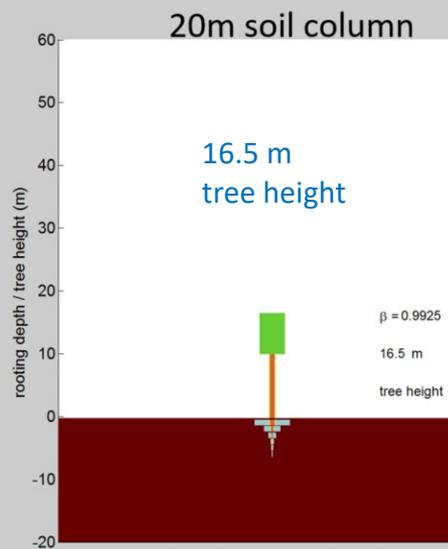
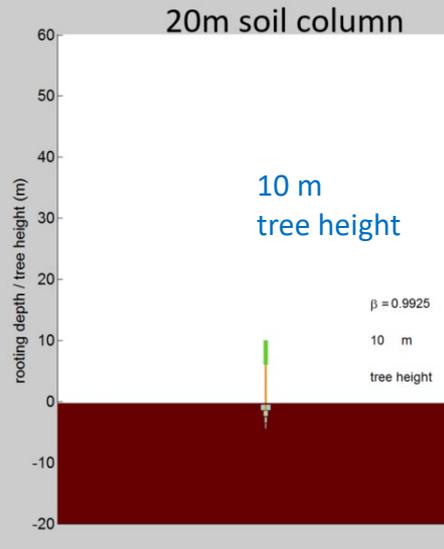
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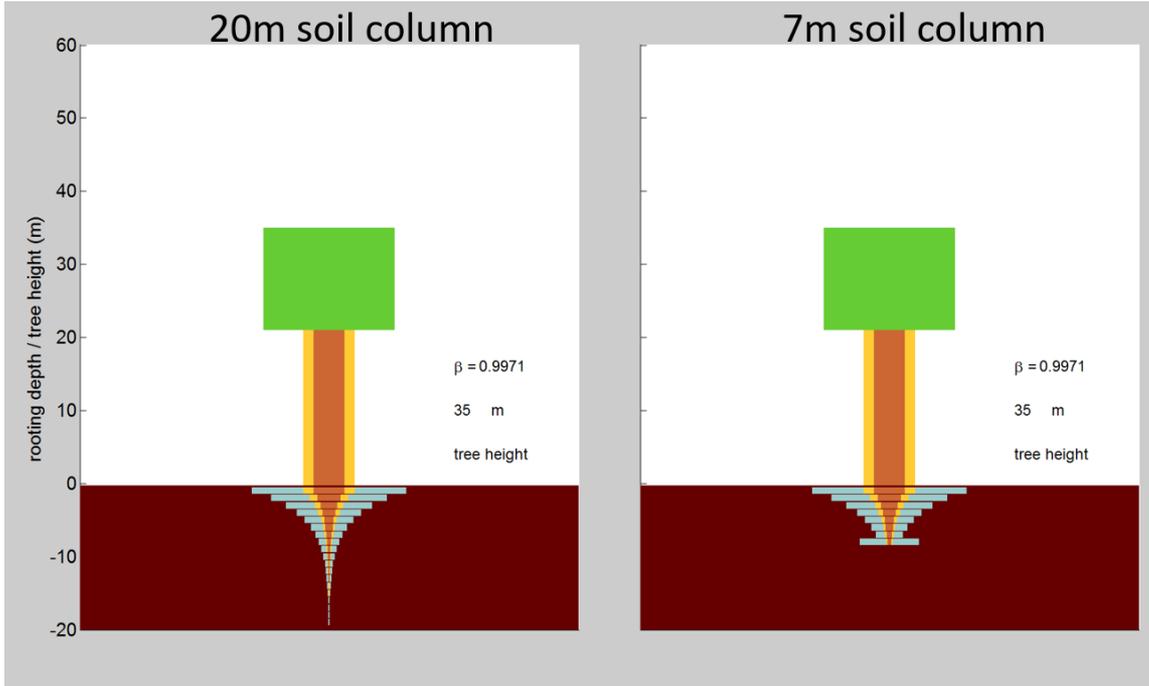
Variable tree rooting strategies are key for modelling the distribution, productivity and evapotranspiration of tropical evergreen forests



Boris Sakschewski¹, Werner von Bloh¹, Markus Dribe^{1,2}, Anna Amelia Sjöström^{3,4}, Romina Ruscica^{5,6}, Fanny Langerwisch¹, Maik Billing⁷, Sarah Bereswill⁸, Marina Hirota⁹, Rafael Silva Oliveira¹⁰, Jens Heinke¹, and Kirsten Thonicke¹¹



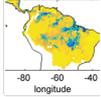
2.4 Flexible root growth scheme III



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Variable tree rooting strategies are key for modelling the distribution, productivity and evapotranspiration of tropical evergreen forests



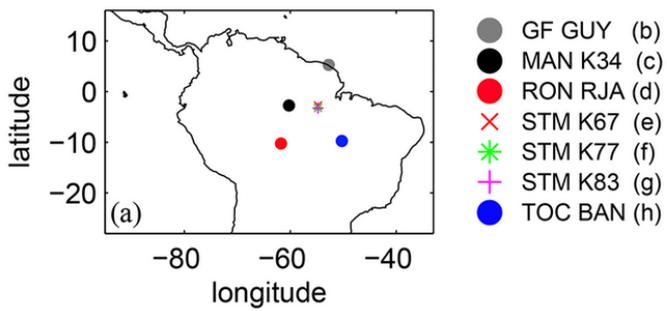
Boris Sakschewski¹, Werner von Bloh¹, Markus Drüke^{1,2}, Anna Amelia Sörensson^{3,4}, Romina Ruscica^{3,4}, Fanny Langerwisch⁵, Maik Billing¹, Sarah Bereswill⁶, Marina Hirota^{7,8}, Rafael Silva Oliveira⁹, Jens Heinke¹, and Kirsten Thonicke¹

Once bedrock layer is reached, new root biomass is allocated to last soil layer until tree reaches its final height

3.4 Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation

FLUXNET sites used for ET and NPP validation

Site name	Short name	Country	LPJmL coordinate	
			latitude	longitude
Ecotone Bananal Island (BR-Ban)	TOC_BAN	Brazil	-9.75	-50.25
Manaus-ZF2 K34/BR-Ma2	MAN_K34	Brazil	-2.75	-60.25
Santarem-Km67-Primary Forest/BR-Sa1	STM_K67	Brazil	-2.75	-54.75
Santarem-Km77-Pasture/BR-Sa2	STM_K77	Brazil	-3.25	-54.75
Santarem-Km83-Logged Forest/BR-Sa3	STM_K83	Brazil	-3.25	-54.75
Rond.-Rebio Jaru Ji Parana-Tower B/BR-Ji3	RON_RJA	Brazil	-10.25	-61.75
Guyaflux	GF_GUY	French Guiana	5.25	-52.75

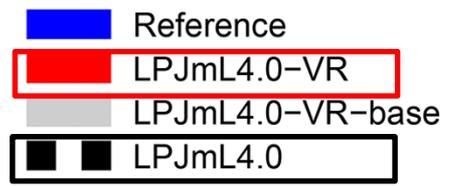
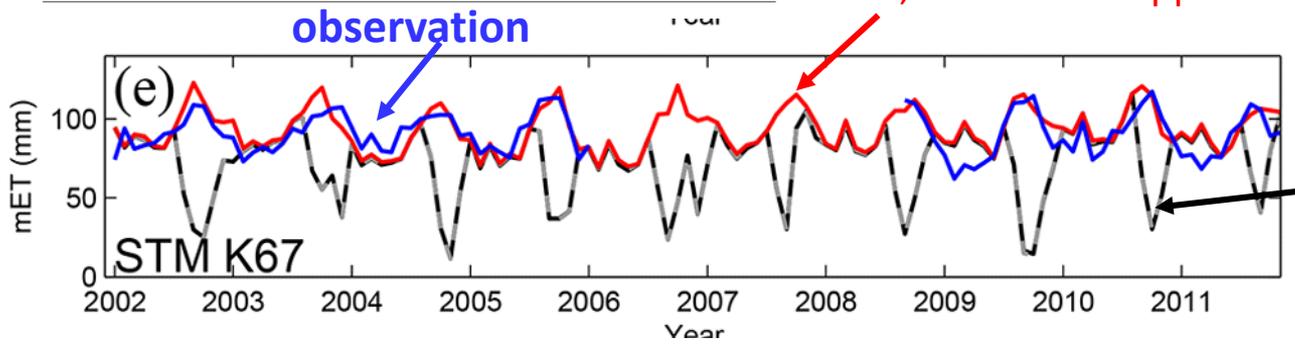


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Research article

Variable tree rooting strategies are key for modelling the distribution, productivity and evapotranspiration of tropical evergreen forests

Boris Sakshchevski¹, Werner von Bloh¹, Markus Drake^{1,2}, Anna Amelia Sörensson^{1,4}, Romina Rusica^{1,5}, Fanny Lang¹, Malte Billing¹, Sarah Strosser¹, Marina Hironaka^{1,6}, Rafael Silva Oliveira^{1,7}, Jens Wehler¹, and Kristin Thonicke^{1,8}

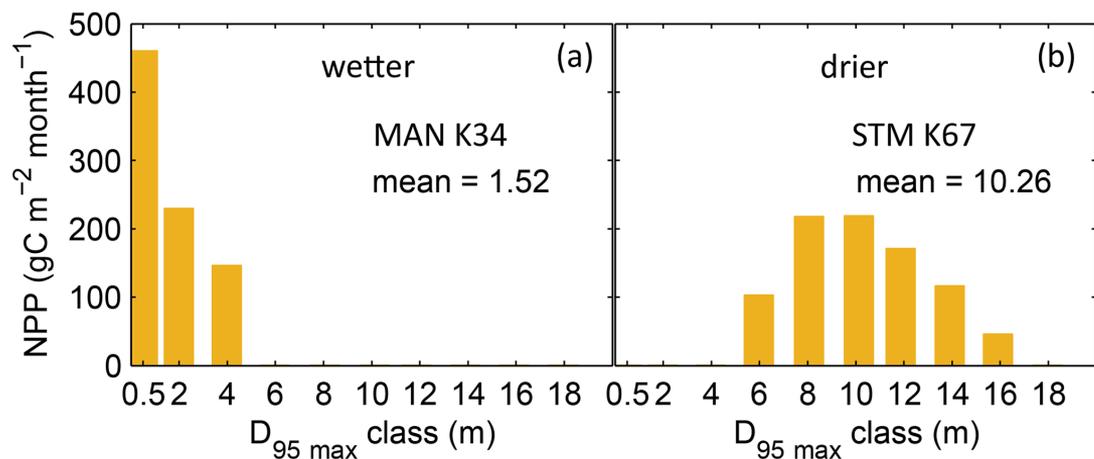


old, fixed root approach

Trees in LPJmL can now sustain ET during the dry season as they can access water from deeper soil layers



2.4 Flexible rooting schemes improve evapotranspiration simulation



Manaus:
 mean annual precipitation: 2609 mm
 Mean MCWD: -222 mm
 Sub-PFT with $D_{95 \text{ max}} = 0.5\text{m}$ contributes
 most to overall NPP
NPP-weighted $D_{95 \text{ max}} = 1.52 \text{ m}$

Santarém:
 mean annual precipitation: 2144 mm
 Mean MCWD: -465 mm
 Sub-PFT with $D_{95 \text{ max}} = 10\text{m}$ contributes
 most to overall NPP
NPP-weighted $D_{95 \text{ max}} = 10.26 \text{ m}$

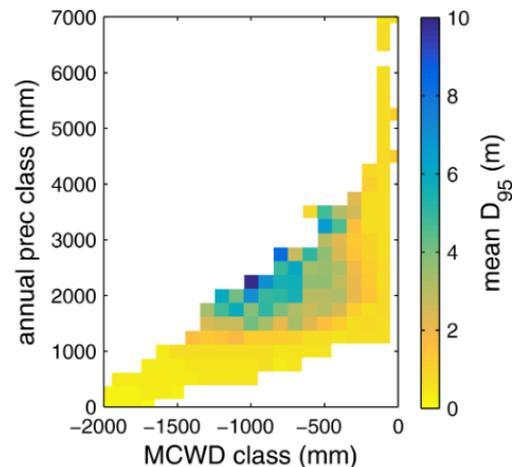


Figure B5. Mean rooting depth depicted as mean $\overline{D_{95}}$ over classes of MCWD and annual precipitation sums. Class step size for precipitation was set to 250 mm, and class size for MCWD was set to 50 mm. Regions with high amounts of annual rainfall and lower seasonality exclusively favour shallow-rooted forests (low $\overline{D_{95}}$). $\overline{D_{95}}$ increases with decreasing MCWD (increasing seasonal drought stress) and decreasing sums of annual precipitation. Below 1200 mm of annual rainfall or -1100 mm of MCWD, $\overline{D_{95}}$ sharply decreases again. Note this figure does not consider soil depth. The colour-scale maximum is set to 10 m.



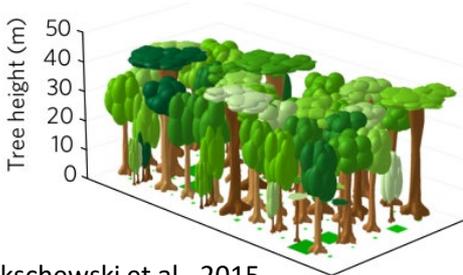
3. Outlook on planned activities for B-EPICC Project in Peru

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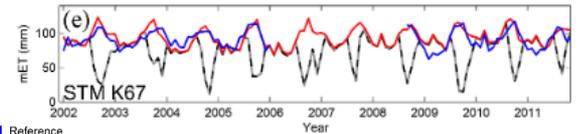
Research questions

- Quantify contribution of forest recovery to ecosystem services (C storage, local evapotranspiration)
- Address potential recovery of biodiversity
- Climate change impact on forest recovery

LPJmL-FIT:
LPJmL with Flexible Individual Traits

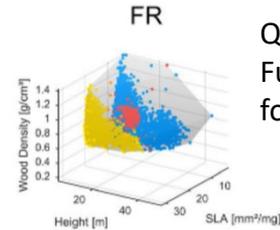


Flexible tree root growth improved ET simulation



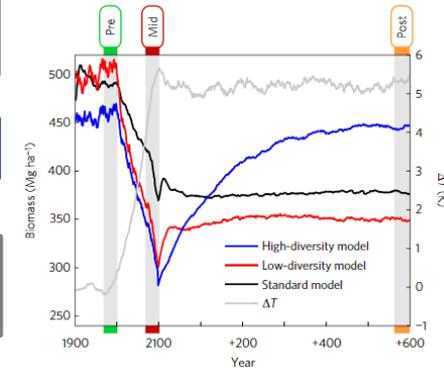
Reference
 LPJmL4.0-VR
 LPJmL4.0-VR-base
 LPJmL4.0

Sakschewski et al., 2021



Quantifying Biodiversity:
Functional richness of the forest community

Thonicke et al., 2020



Diverse forests more resilient to climate change

Sakschewski et al., 2016

Sakschewski et al., 2021: Variable tree rooting strategies are key for modelling the distribution, productivity and evapotranspiration of tropical evergreen forests.

<https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-18-4091-2021>

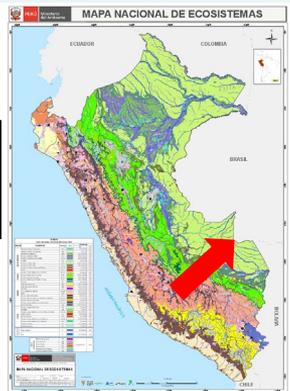
Sakschewski et al., 2016: Resilience of Amazon forests emerges from plant trait diversity. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3109>

4. Outlook on planned activities for B-EPICC Project in Peru

Workpackage I: Validation of LPJmL-FIT in Peru

- Initialize LPJmL-FIT for selected forest sites in Peru
- Study sites along climate and elevation gradient
- Validation: Biomass, functional traits (SLA, WD, height), ET and NPP measurements, root distribution
- Cloud forests
- Current climate

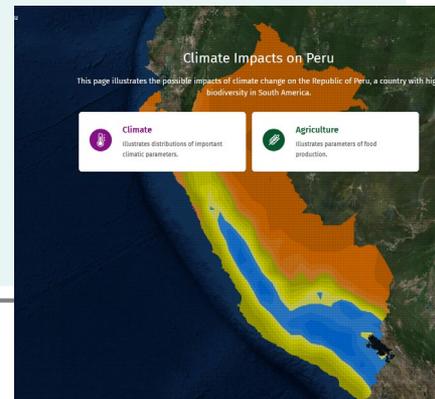
collaboration with PUCP (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)



Workpackage II: Modeling the potential of Perus secondary forests for climate change mitigation and biodiversity recovery

- Apply adapted LPJmL-FIT across Peru
- Set-up trajectories of forest recovery
- Consider land-use history
- Transient runs under future climate change scenarios

collaboration with institutions in Peru



4. Discussion & Questions

sarah.bereswill@pik-potsdam.de

<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/members/bereswil>