German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig
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sDiv working group meeting summary

”sELDIG”

Feedback of applicants

We began the meeting with a brief overview of goals, followed by "speed dating" as a way for all participants to get to know each other in a more active and personal manner than having each person give a short presentation. I think it worked very well.

Early in the week, we had general discussion about how to classify existing diversity gradient hypotheses within the big group. We also had 7 group members (Hurlbert, Rangel, Pontarp, Etienne, Storch, Hartig, and Cabral) present summaries of existing (mostly) simulation models approaches and we weighed the pros and cons of various modeling decisions.

For the last three days we spent a lot of time meeting in subgroups. The modeling subgroup hammered out many of the specific implementation decisions for a new simulation model, while the framework subgroup spent time working on conceptual figures that best captured the key features of our new framework. We found this latter task surprisingly challenging, and spent more time than originally envisioned on it, but of course it was time well spent.

On the final day, we discussed the focus for a review paper targeted for TREE or Ecology Letters, and we also brainstormed additional "side" projects/papers. We laid out a plan for communication using Skype and GoogleDocs in the intervening months until our next working group meeting.

Overall, it felt as though we spent about 10-15% of our time doing presentations, 50% working in subgroups toward deliverables like the model outline and conceptual framework figures, and 40% brainstorming in the large group, or reviewing subgroup discussions with the broader group.

The facilities and logistics (aside from the projector) were great and the sDiv support staff were very helpful. We are looking forward to our next meeting!

Kommentiert [CK1]: We exchanged the projector ;-)

In the interim, we have been making progress outlining our review paper and are now starting to write it. We expect to have a draft by June. We are close to beginning to implement a preliminary simulation model and hope to have it running by June.

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