



# Climate change vulnerability of the Earth's terrestrial protected areas

*Linking open Geo Data with free codes  
towards open-access products*

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Biogeography  
University of Bayreuth





# Structure



*Climate Change* Impact on **Global** PAs

*Climate Change* Impact on **European** PAs

*Climate Change* Impact on a **Mountain** PA


*Uniqueness* of **European** PAs






# *PAs & Climate Change*

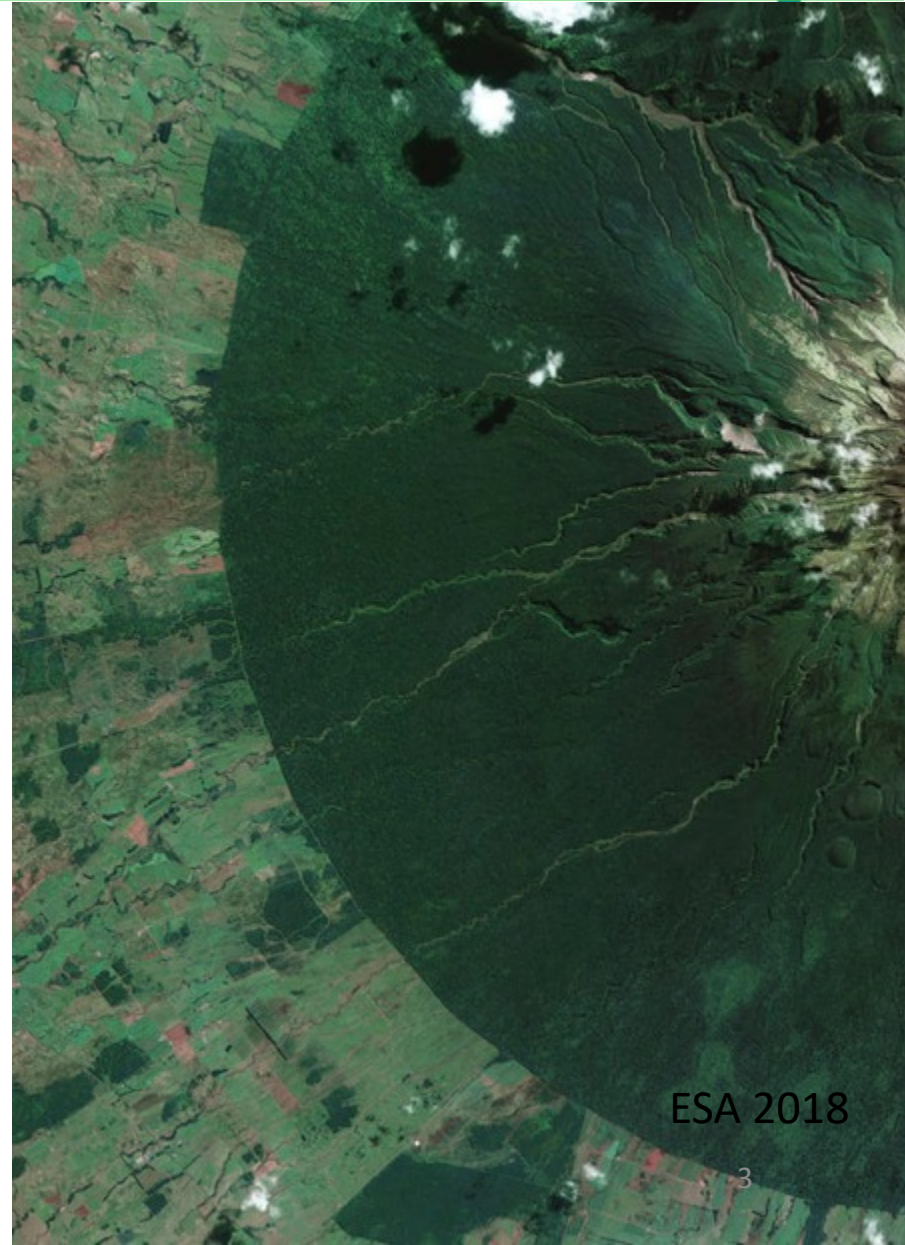


 Protected Areas are **spatially static refugia** for biodiversity with defined boundaries.

 Climate change is **altering habitats**, also **inside PAs**.



PAs **may** consequently **lose** biodiversity and conservation **value** under climate change.



ESA 2018



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# Current Paper





nature  
COMMUNICATIONS

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12603-w>

OPEN

## Predicted climate shifts within terrestrial protected areas worldwide

Samuel Hoffmann <sup>1\*</sup>, Severin D.H. Irl <sup>1,2,3</sup> & Carl Beierkuhnlein <sup>1,2,4</sup>

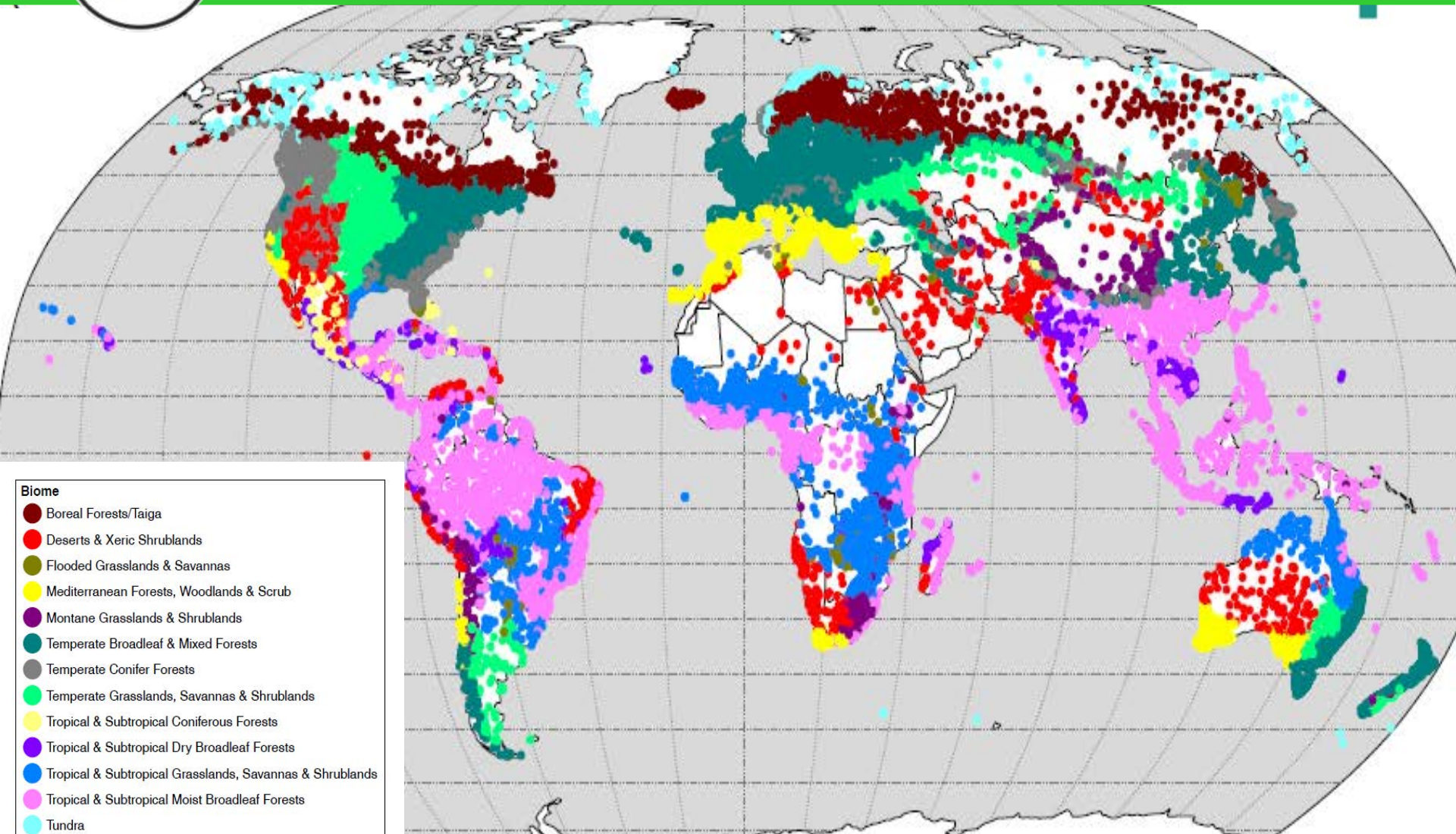


Hoffmann, Irl, Beierkuhnlein (2019) Predicted climate shifts within terrestrial protected areas worldwide. Nature Communications, **October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019**, doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12603-w





# PA's & Climate Change



Hoffmann, Irl, Beierkuhnlein (2019) Predicted climate shifts within terrestrial protected areas worldwide. Nature Communications, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019, doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12603-w





# PA's & Climate Change



**137,432** terrestrial PAs

**20,658,583 km<sup>2</sup>**

**14%** of the global land area  
(incl. Antarctica)

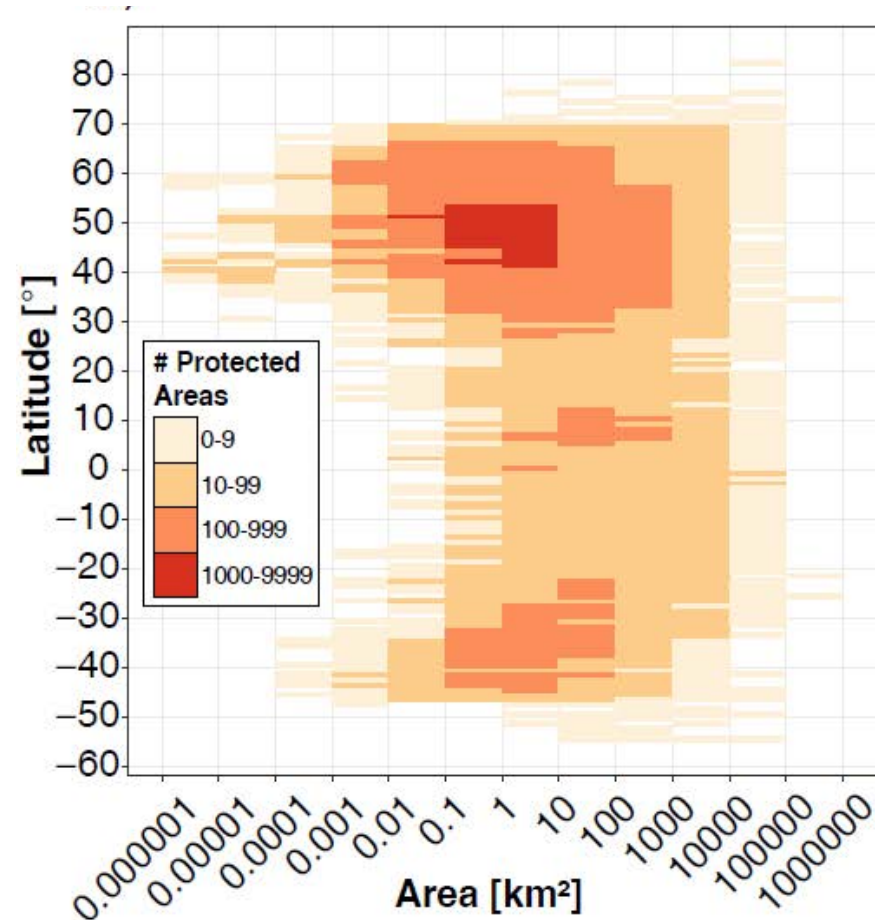
**99.9%** of global PA area

**26,038,594** terrestrial climate cells

Resolution **30 arc sec** (ca. 1 km)

**10 GCMs**

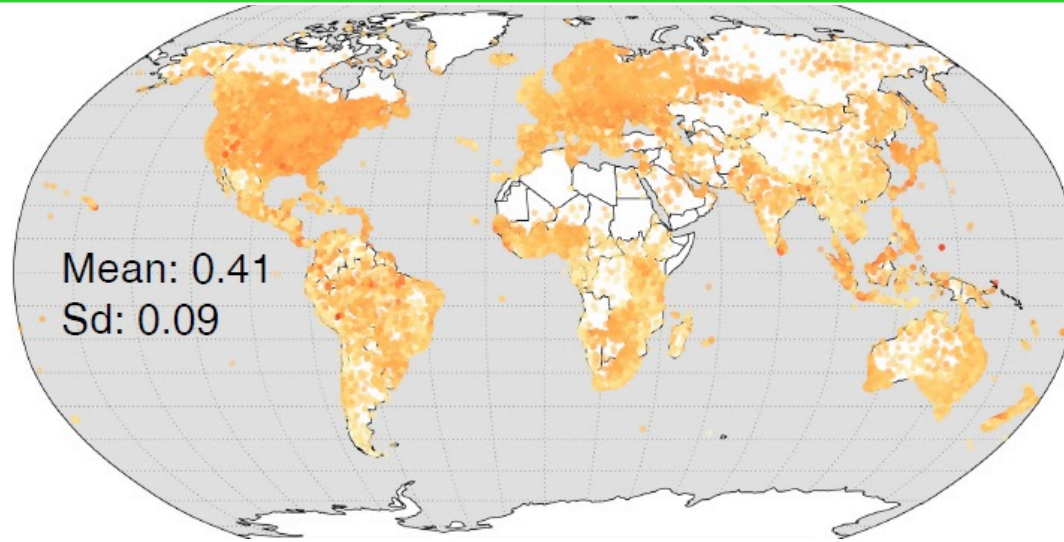
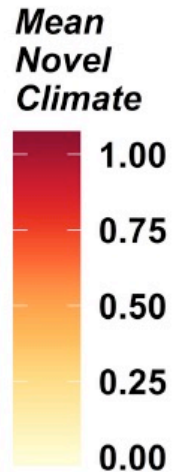
**4 Scenarios (RCPs)**



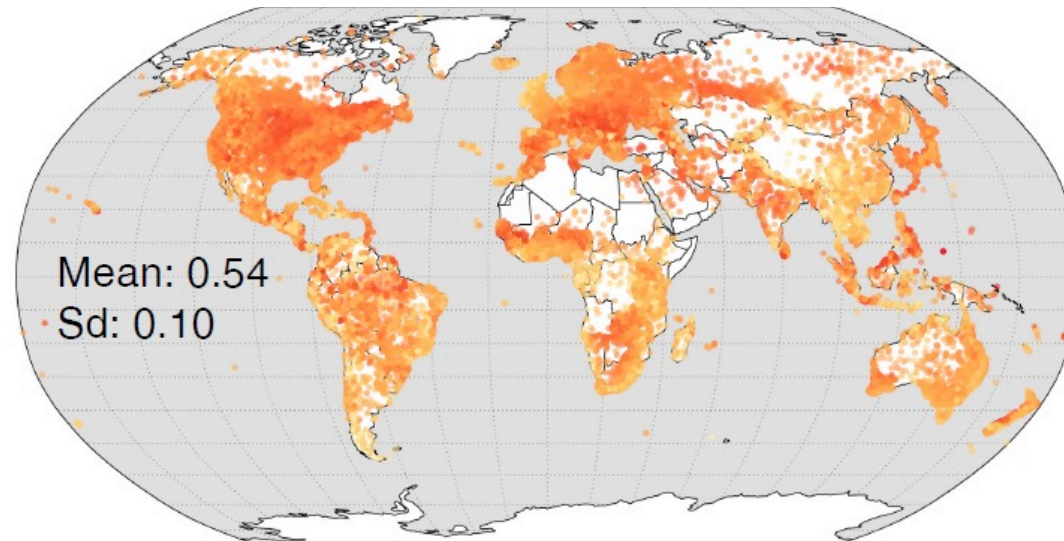
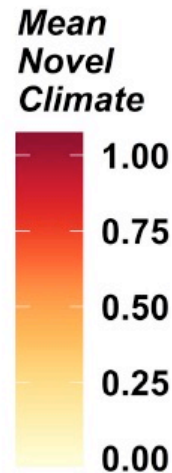




Novel climatic conditions **WITHIN** any PA



RCP 4.5



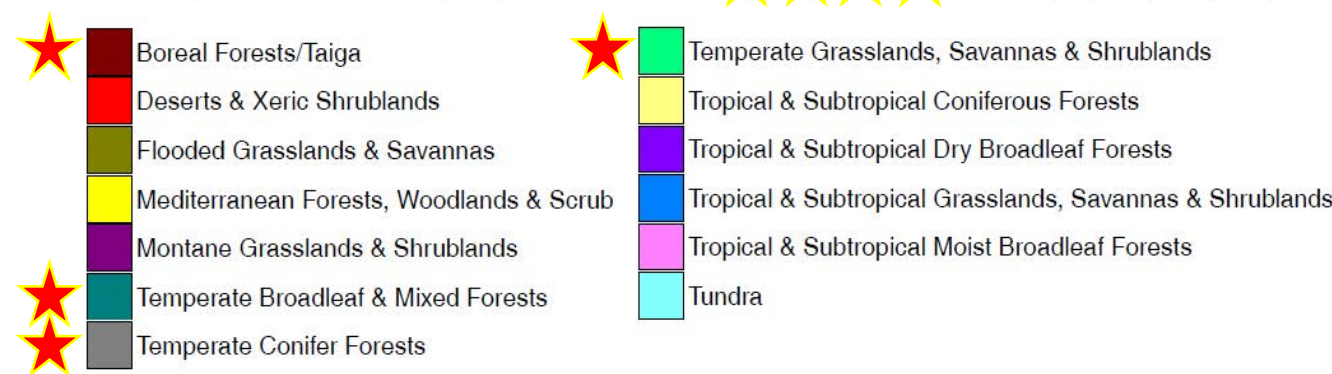
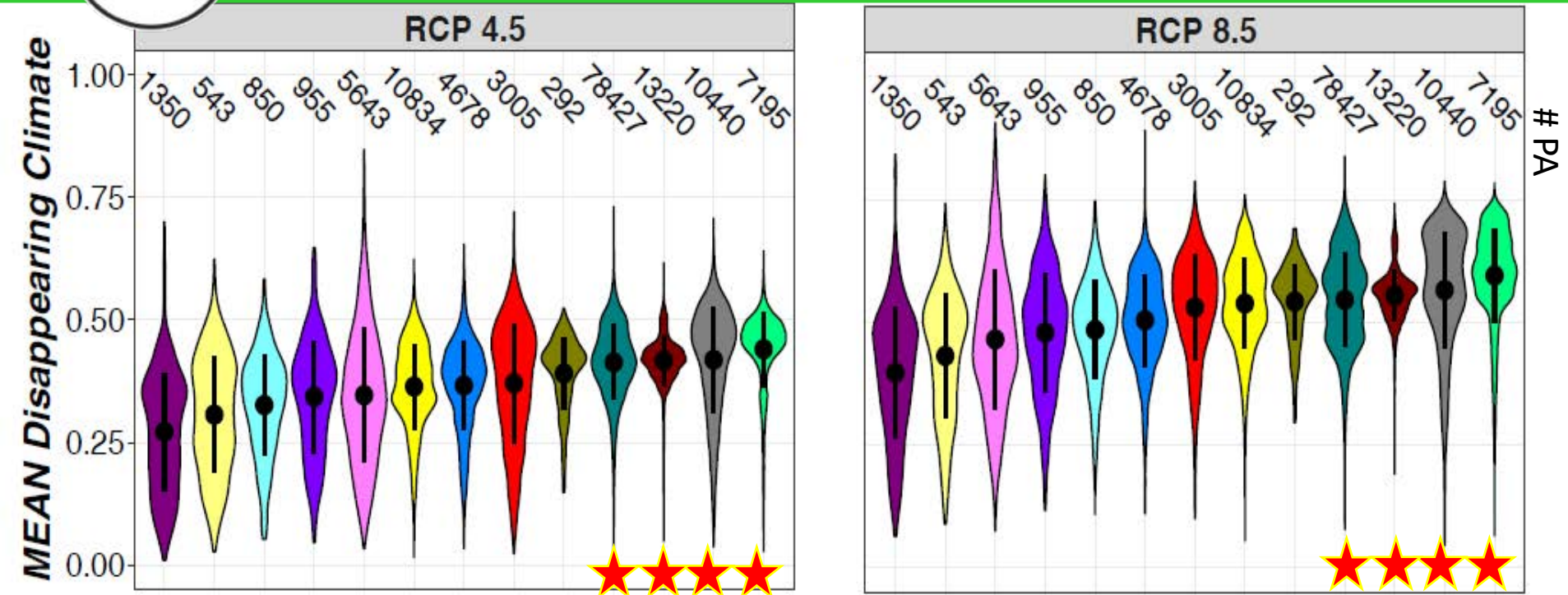
RCP 8.5

Hoffmann, Irl, Beierkuhnlein (2019) Predicted climate shifts within terrestrial protected areas worldwide. Nature Communications, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019, doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12603-w





# PAs & Climate Change



**Temperate and boreal PAs most affected in all scenarios!**

Hoffmann, Irl, Beierkuhnlein (2019) Predicted climate shifts within terrestrial protected areas worldwide. Nature Communications, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019, doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-12603-w







# *Global Protected Areas*



## **In a nutshell:**

- PAs in the **boreal and temperate biome** will be most affected.
- In the **boreal** biome this is due to the stronger **warming**.
- In the **temperate** biome this results from small PA **sizes** and intense **fragmentation** in between them.

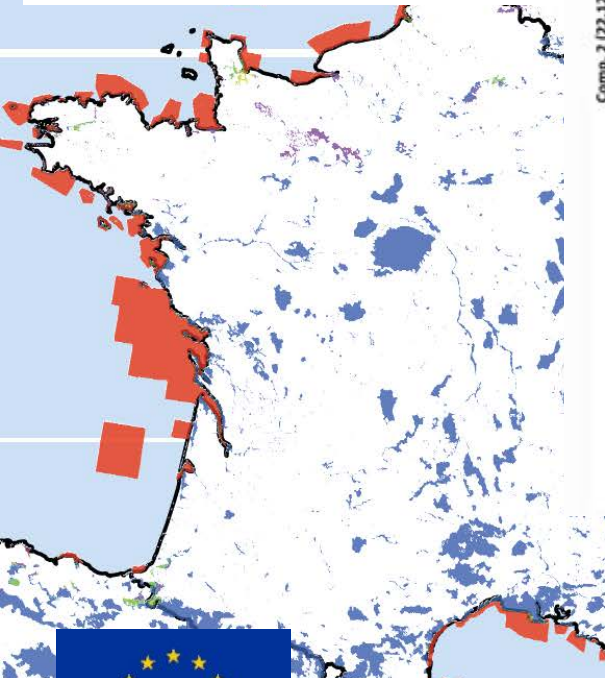
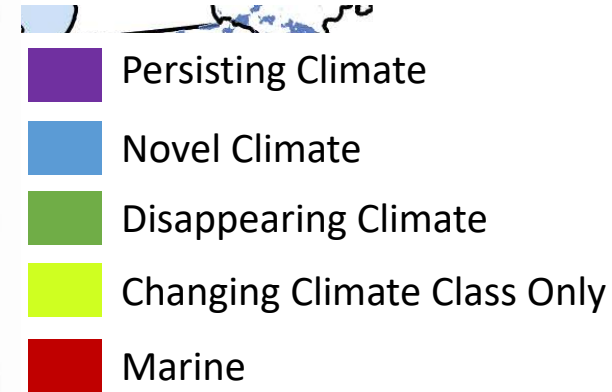
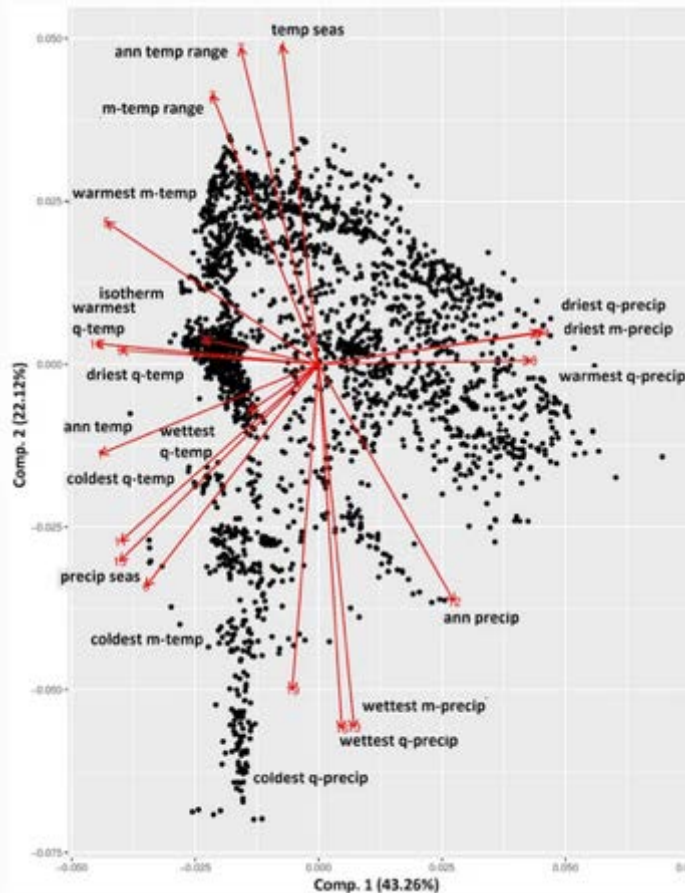




# European Protected Areas



Worldclim 30s resolution  
RCP 6.0  
2070  
BCC-CSM1-1  
PCA bin width: 2 units



Nila, Beierkuhnlein, Jaeschke, Hoffmann, Hossain (2019) Predicting the effectiveness of protected areas of Natura 2000 under climate change, *Ecological Processes*, **8**(13) doi:10.1186/s13717-019-0168-6



## **In a nutshell:**

- **Oceanic European PAs (West)** will be **less exposed** to climate change compared to continental regions (East)!
- **Uncertainty** about future climate is **biggest for continental PAs!**







# La Palma Science School



La Palma Science School



*Carlina*  
*spec. nov.*







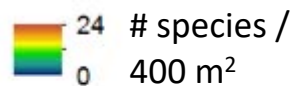
# La Palma




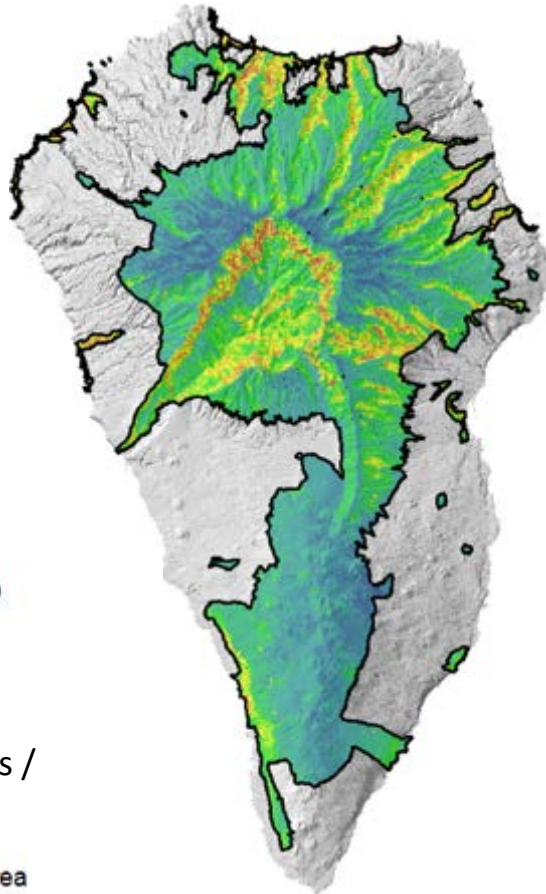
## Endemism

1500 in-situ  
data points

Archipelago  
endemic  
richness




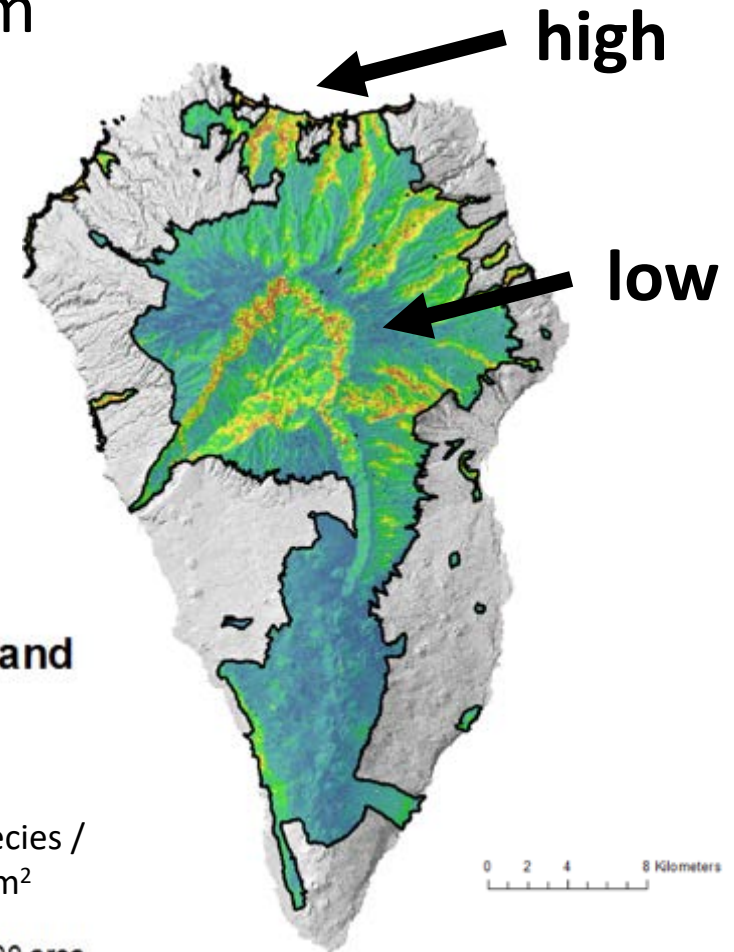
 Natura 2000 area



Single island  
endemic  
richness



 Natura 2000 area



Irl, Schweiger, Medina, Fernández-Palacios, Harter, Jentsch, Provenzale, Steinbauer, Beierkuhnlein (2017) An island view of endemic rarity – environmental drivers and consequences for nature conservation, *Diversity and Distributions*, **23**(10), 1132-1142.

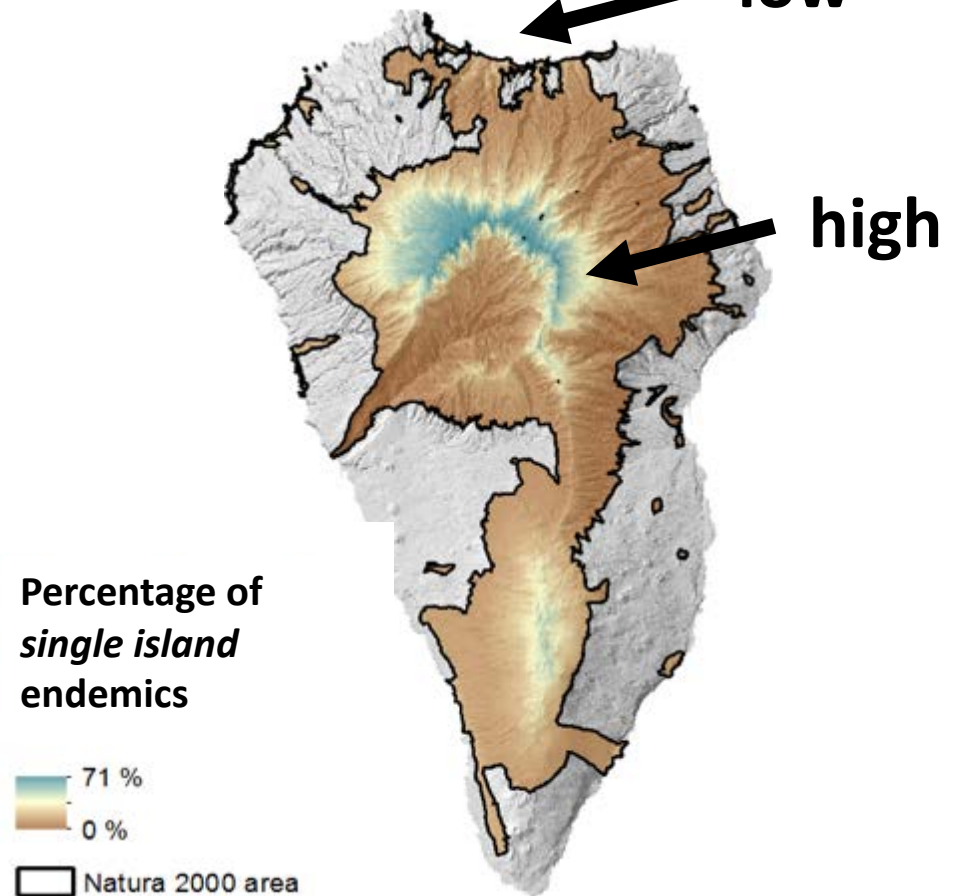
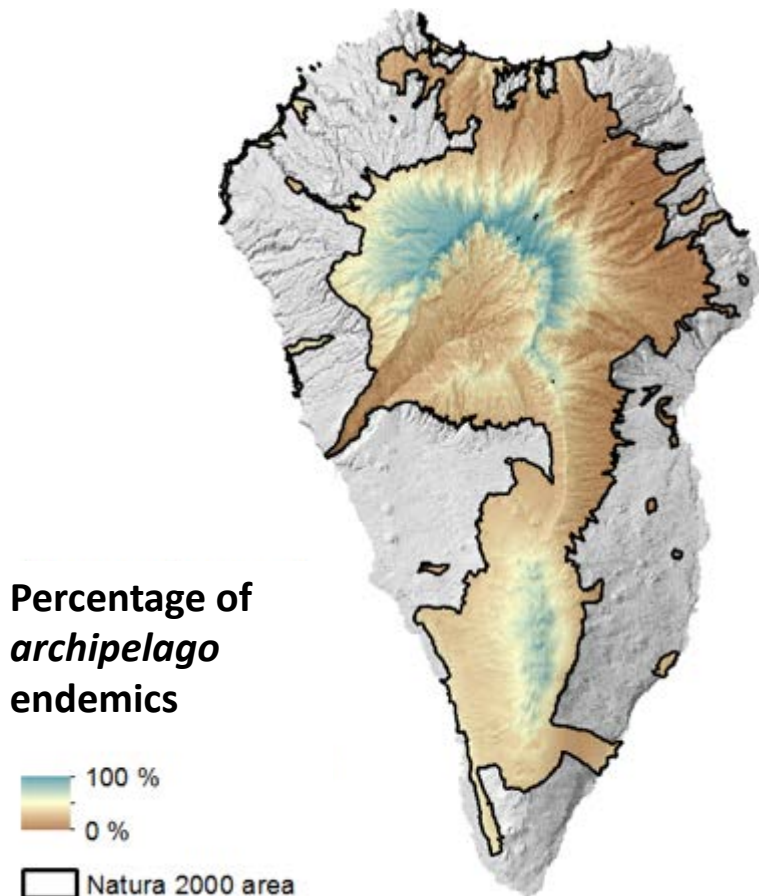




# La Palma



## Endemism



Irl, Schweiger, Medina, Fernández-Palacios, Harter, Jentsch, Provenzale, Steinbauer, Beierkuhnlein (2017) An island view of endemic rarity – environmental drivers and consequences for nature conservation, *Diversity and Distributions*, **23**(10), 1132-1142.



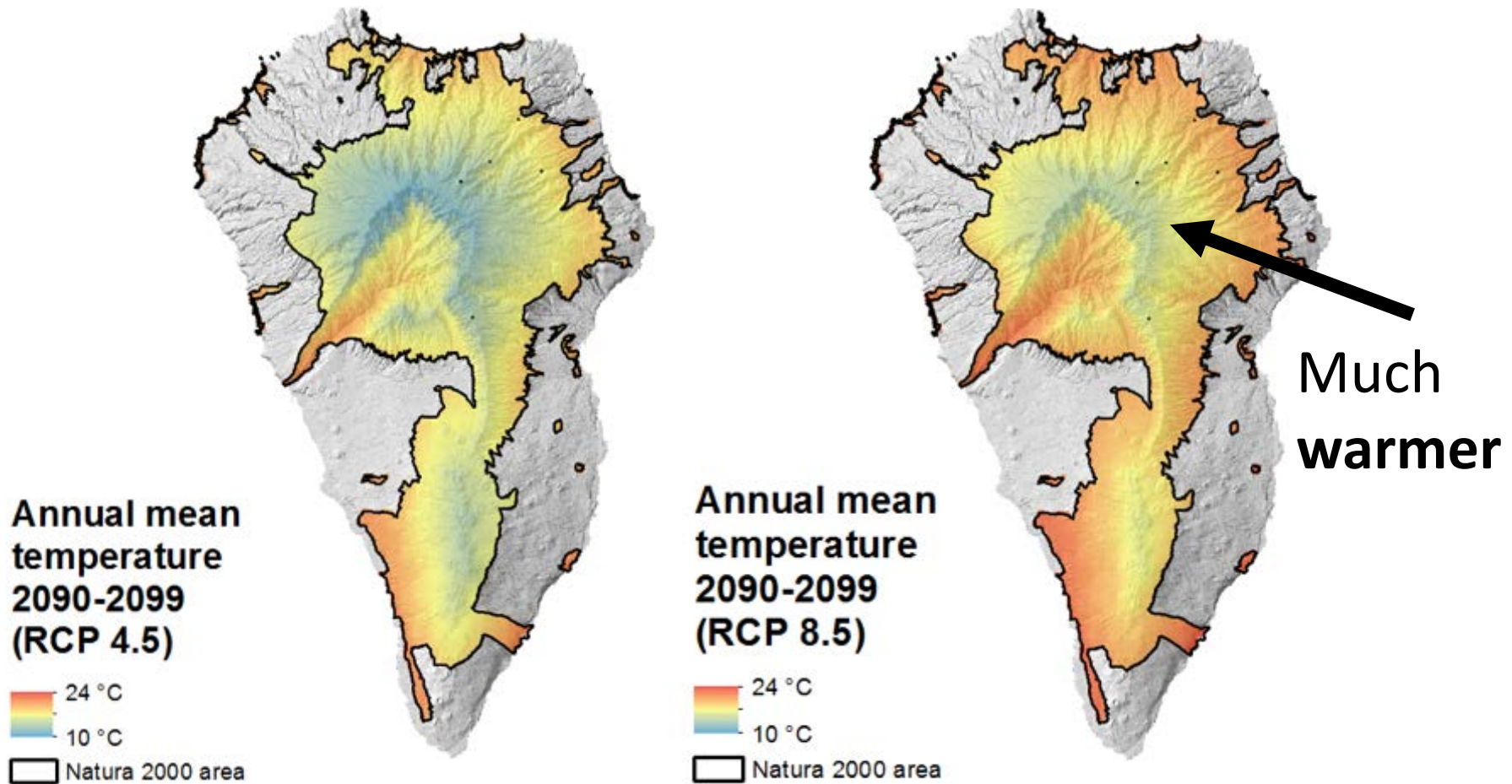




# La Palma



## Regional Climate Model



Irl, Schweiger, Medina, Fernández-Palacios, Harter, Jentsch, Provenzale, Steinbauer, Beierkuhnlein (2017) An island view of endemic rarity – environmental drivers and consequences for nature conservation, *Diversity and Distributions*, **23**(10), 1132-1142.

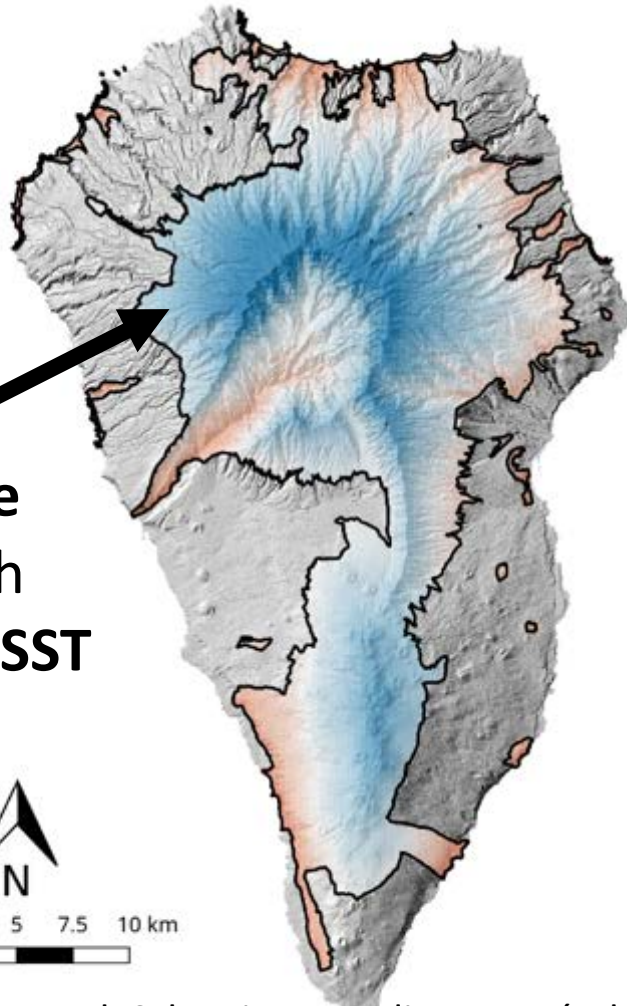
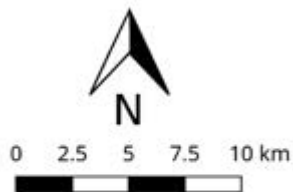




# La Palma



Much more precip. with increasing SST

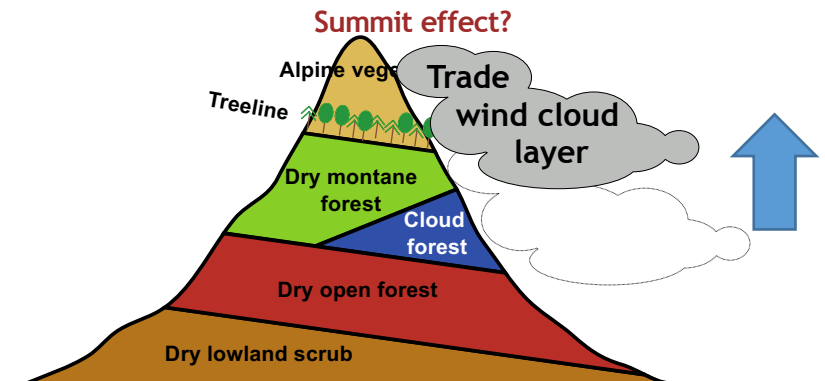


Annual precipitation difference between current climate and 2090-2099 (Ascending trade wind cloud layer)



**Precipitation Change**

**Higher clouds**



Irl, Schweiger, Medina, Fernández-Palacios, Harter, Jentsch, Provenzale, Steinbauer, Beierkuhnlein (2017) An island view of endemic rarity – environmental drivers and consequences for nature conservation, *Diversity and Distributions*, **23**(10), 1132-1142.



## **In a nutshell:**

- **High Mountain Island Ecosystems** are built up by **endemic species!**
- **High Mountain Ecosystems** will be most impacted by **warming and precipitation change!**
- **Unique ecosystems and their services can be lost!**

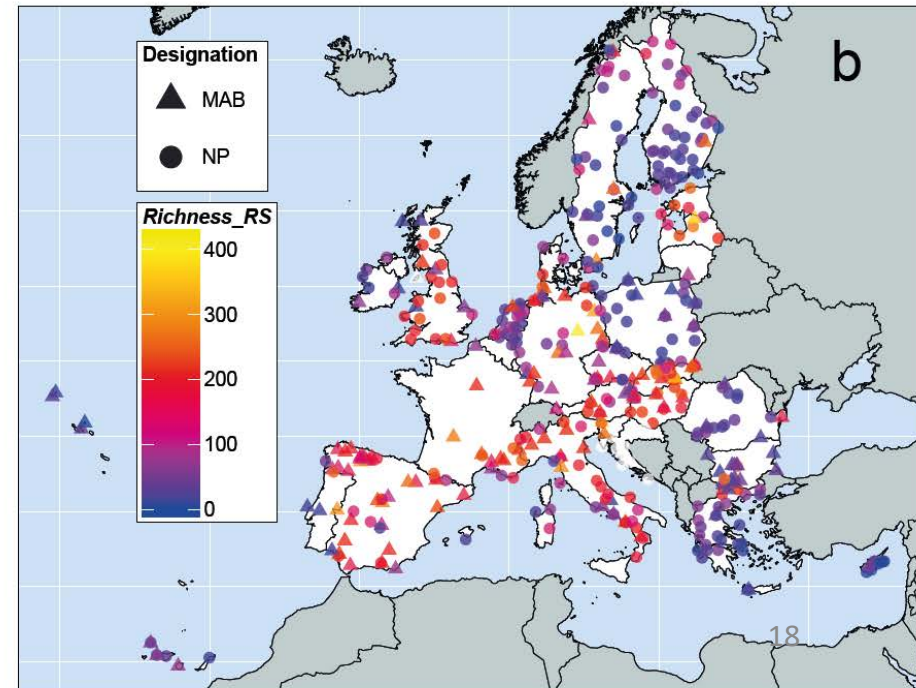
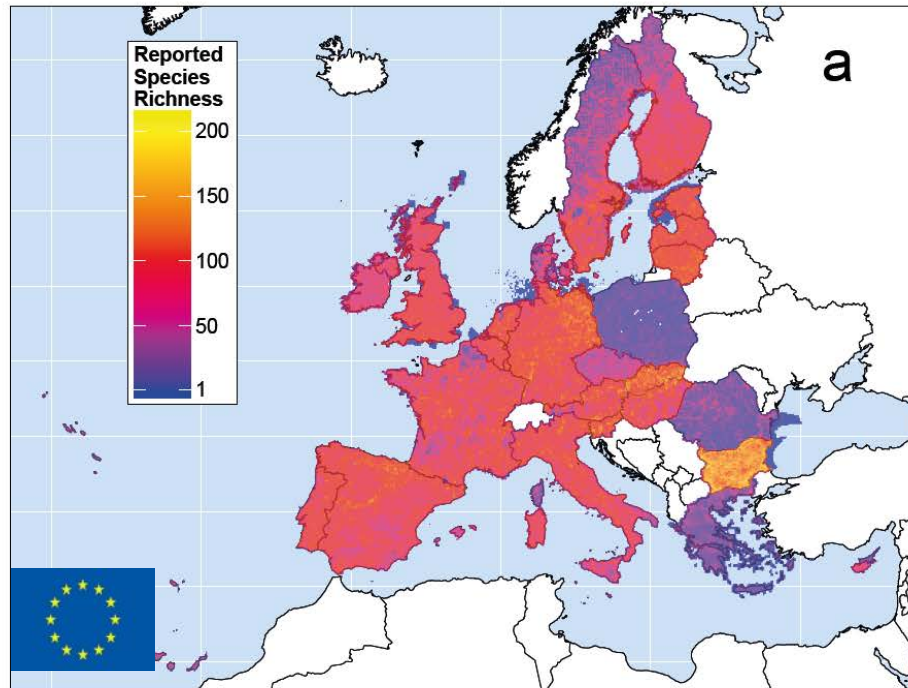






# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

## OPEN : Uniqueness of Protected Areas



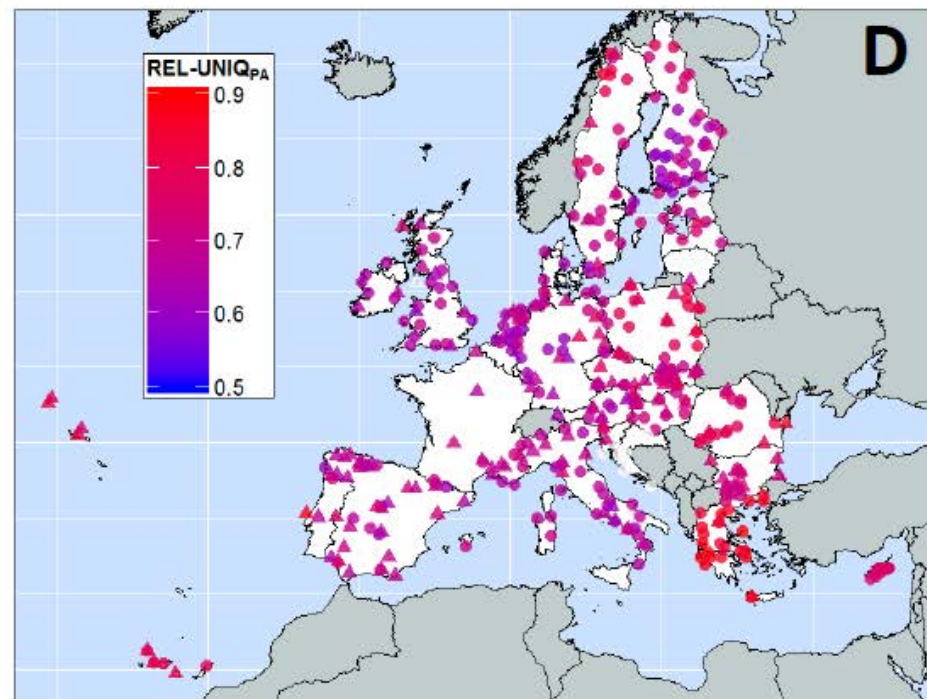
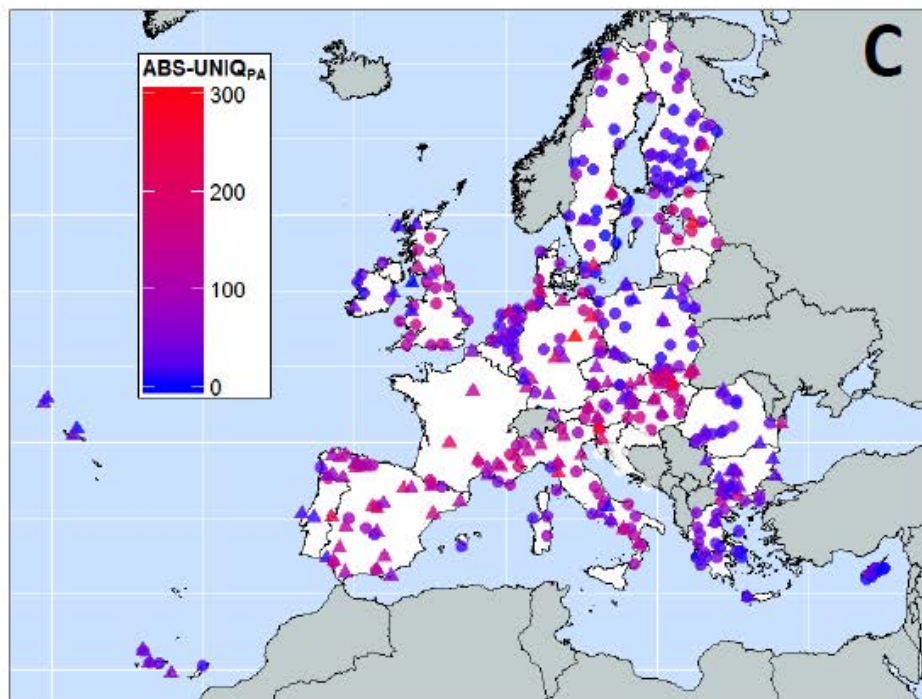
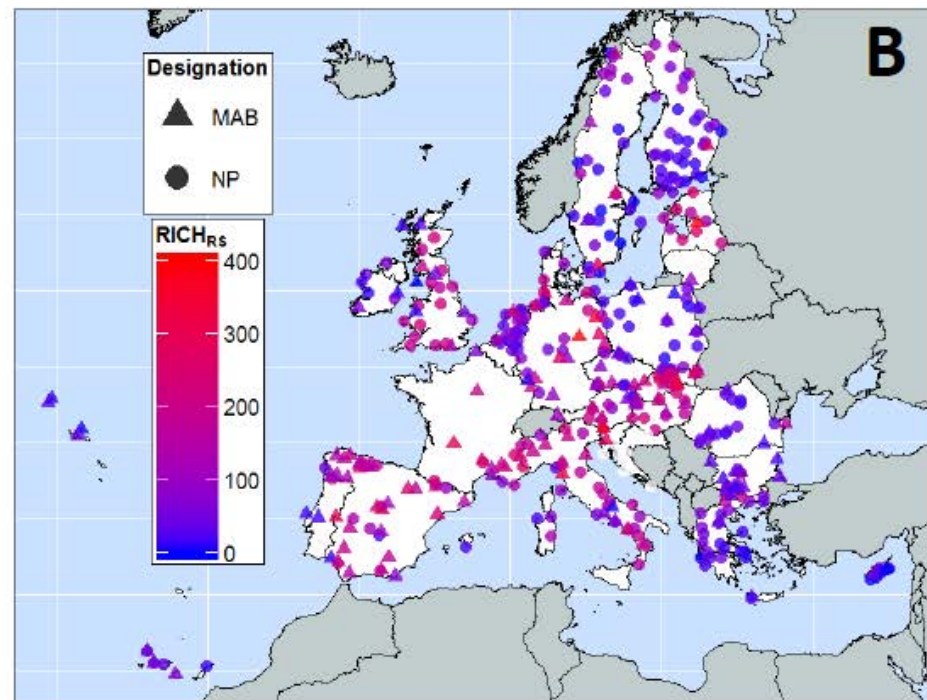
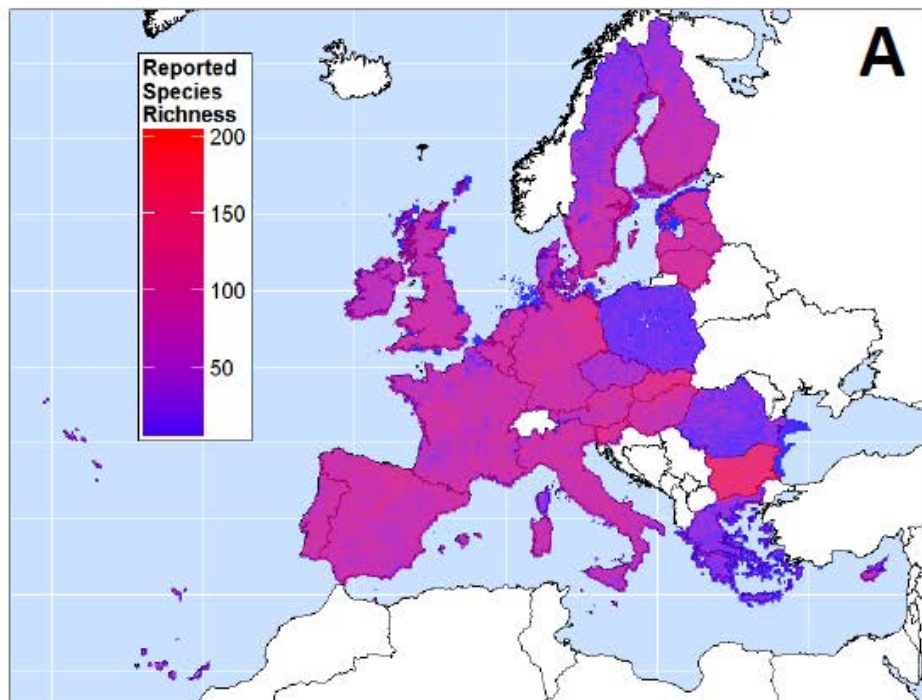


# Uniqueness

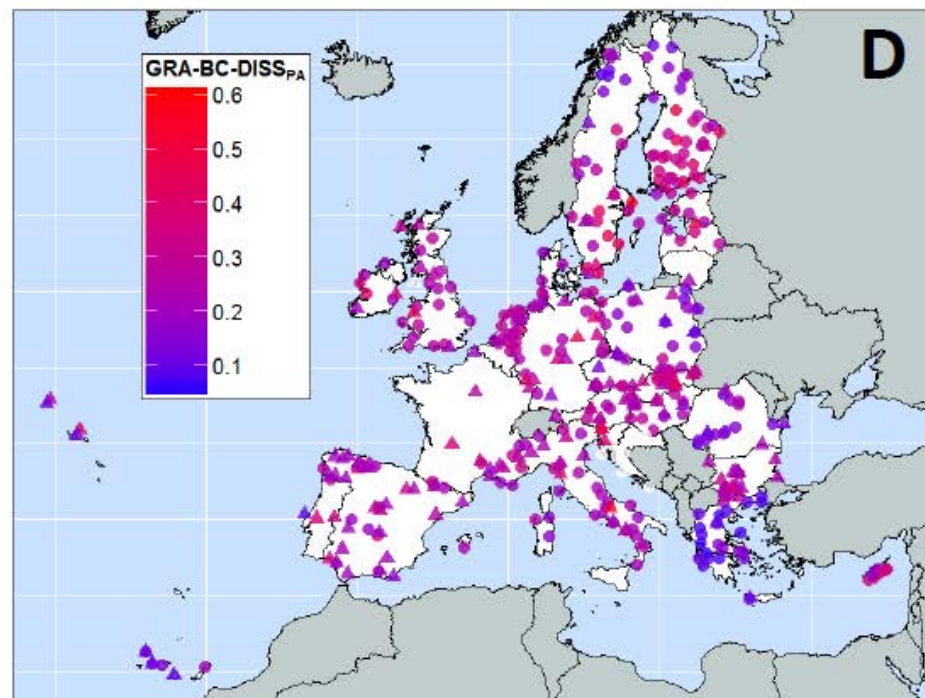
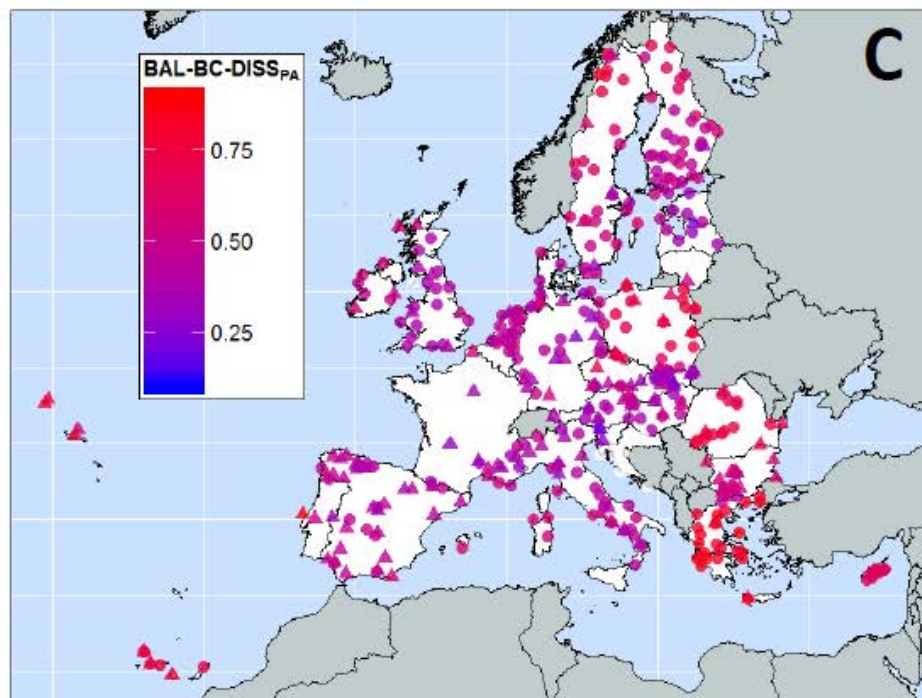
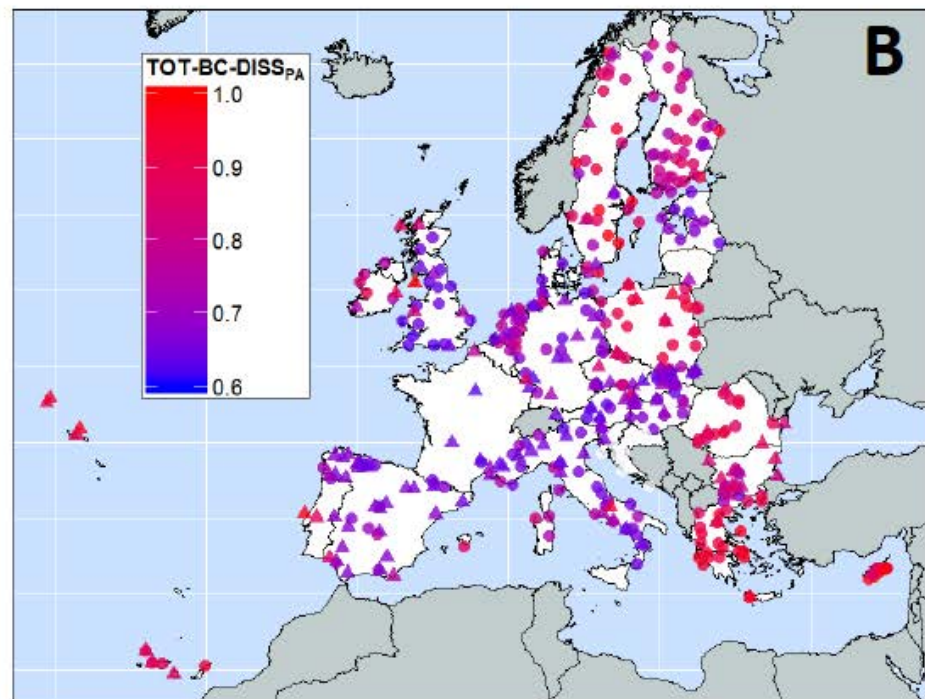
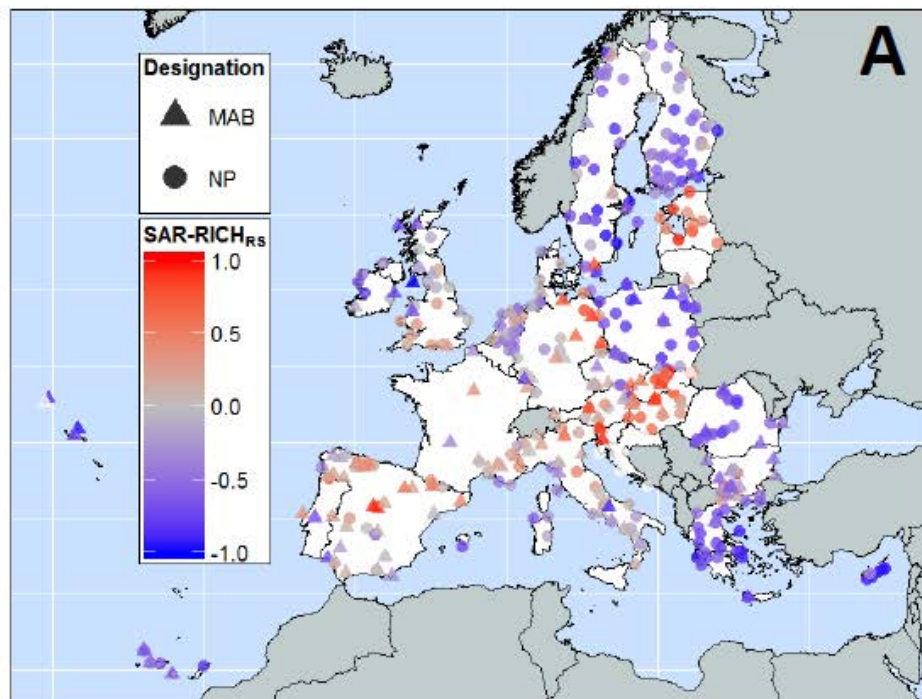


- **Reported Species Richness** per 10 km by 10 km grid cell
- **$RICH_{RS}$**  - Reported Species Richness per PA
- **$ABS-UNIQ_{PA}$**  - Absolute Uniqueness (richness and rarity)
- **$REL-UNIQ_{PA}$**  - Relative Uniqueness (rarity)
- **$SAR-REL-RICH_{PA}$**  - Species richness relative to PA area, i.e. considering Species-PA Area-Relationship
- **$TOT-BC-DISS_{PA}$**  - Mean pairwise Total Bray Curtis dissimilarity of one PA to all other PAs (Baselga 2013)
- **$BAL-BC-RICH_{PA}$**  - Mean pairwise Balanced Bray Curtis dissimilarity of one PA to all other PAs (i.e. turnover, Baselga 2013)
- **$GRA-BC-DISS_{PA}$**  - Mean pairwise Gradient Bray Curtis dissimilarity of one PA to all other PAs (i.e. nestedness, Baselga 2013)
- **$TOT-UNIQ_{PA}$**  - Total Uniqueness is sum of scaled  $ABS-UNIQ_{PA}$ ,  $REL-UNIQ_{PA}$ ,  $SAR-REL-RICH_{PA}$ , and  $TOT-BC-DISS_{PA}$ )



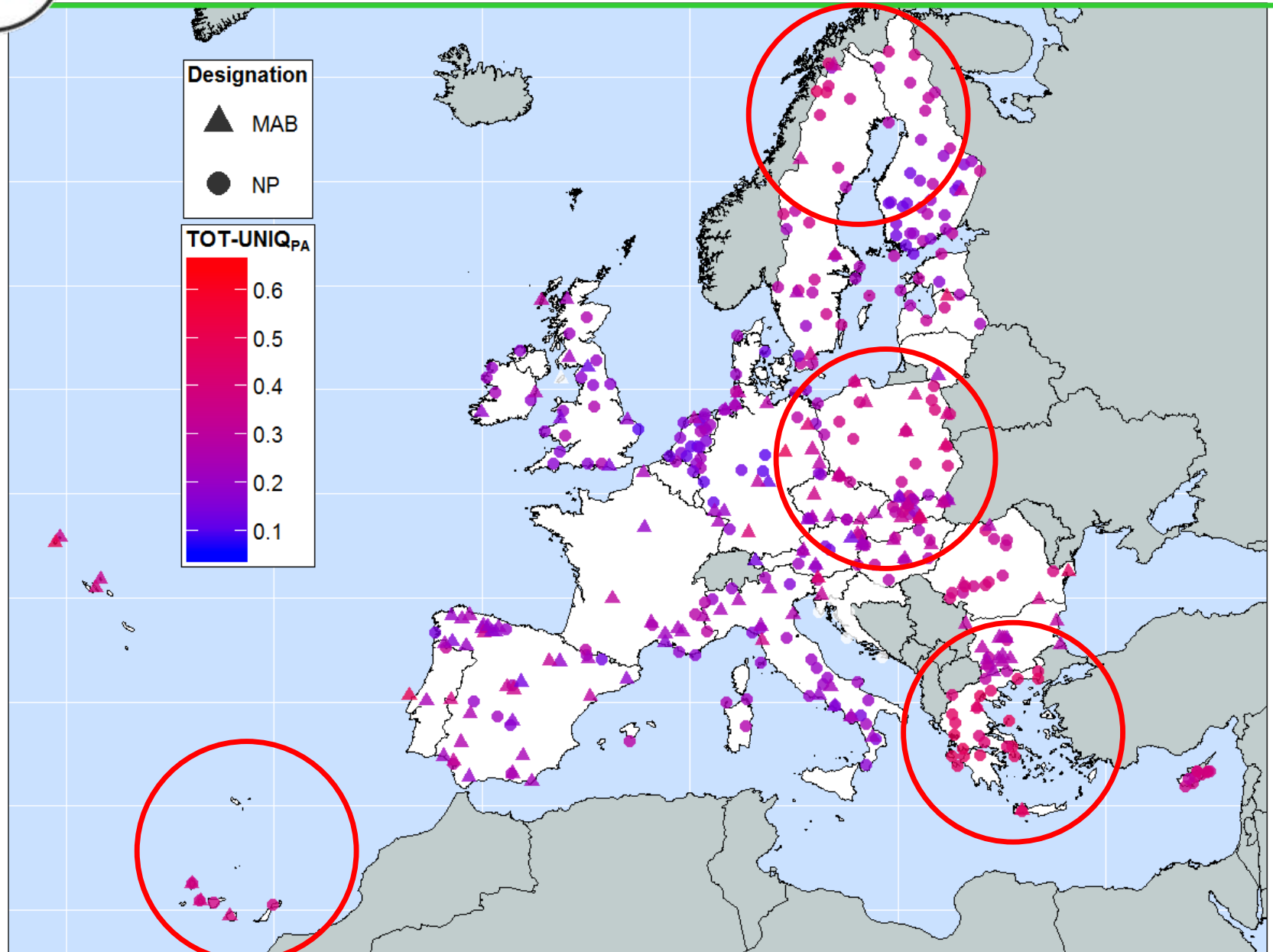








# Uniqueness





# *Uniqueness*



## **In a nutshell:**

- **Uniqueness in European National Parks and Biosphere Reserves that is based on reported species (Habitats Directive, EEA) is not correlated with species richness but with particular ecosystems and landscapes.**



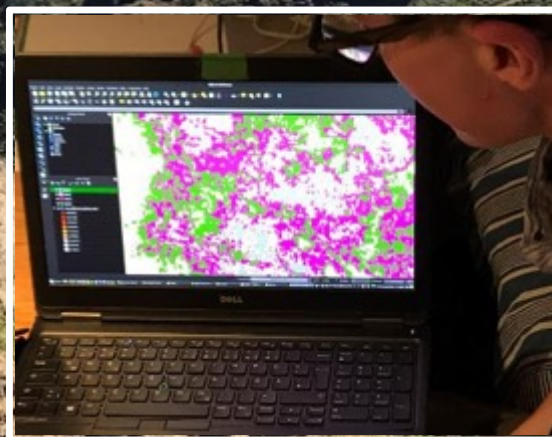




# La Palma



Capacity Building  
and forming a  
community of  
practice







Biodivers Conserv (2014) 23:2273–2287  
DOI 10.1007/s10531-014-0722-6

Diversity 2012, 4, 59–73; doi:10.3390/d4010059

OPEN ACCESS

diversity

ISSN 1424-2818

www.mdpi.com/journal/diversity

ORIGINAL PAPER

## The Hitchhiker's guide to island endemism: biodiversity and endemic perennial plant species in roadside and surrounding vegetation

Severin D. H. Irl · Manuel J. Steinbauer · Lilith Epperlein · David E. V. Harter · Anke Jentsch · Susanne Pätz · Christian Wohlfart · Carl Beierkuhnlein

Article

## Mosses Like It Rough—Growth Form Specific Responses of Mosses, Herbaceous and Woody Plants to Micro-Relief Heterogeneity

Benjamin F. Leutner<sup>1,2</sup>, Manuel J. Steinbauer<sup>1,\*</sup>, Carina M. Müller<sup>1</sup>, Andrea J. Fröh<sup>1</sup>, Severin Irl<sup>1,3</sup>, Anke Jentsch<sup>3</sup> and Carl Beierkuhnlein<sup>1</sup>

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© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2014

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Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research, Vol. 46, No. 4, 2014, pp. 1–11

Burned and devoured introduced herbivores, and the endemic flora of the high-elevation system on La Palma, Canary Islands

Severin D. H. Irl\*  
Manuel J. Steinbauer†  
Jana Messinger‡  
Gesche Blume-Werry§  
Ángel Palomares-Martínez#  
Carl Beierkuhnlein¶ and  
Anke Jentsch\*

### Abstract

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Disturbance regimes (e.g., introduced herbivores and fire) are among the major drivers of degradation in island ecosystems. High elevation ecosystems (HEEs) on islands might be especially vulnerable to these disturbances due to high endemism. Here, data from an 11-year enclosure experiment in the HEE of La Palma (Canary Islands) are presented where mammalian herbivores have been introduced. We investigate the combined effect of herbivory and fire on total species richness, seedling richness, and seedling establishment on the whole system and a subset of highly endangered species (target species). Total species richness, seedling species richness, and seedling establishment decreased with herbivory. Five out of eight target species were exclusively found inside the enclosures indicating the negative impact of introduced herbivores on endemic high elevation flora. Target species were generally affected more negatively by introduced herbivores and were subject to significantly higher browsing pressure, probably owing to their lack of defense strategies. A natural wildfire that occurred six years before data sampling substantially increased total species richness and seedling richness in both herbivory enclosure and reference conditions. We conclude that species composition of the HEE has been severely affected by the introduction of non-native herbivores, even though fire seems to have a positive effect on this system.

Journal of Vegetation Science  
A community ecology

Original Article

## An 11-yr enclosure experiment in a high-elevation island ecosystem: introduced herbivore impact on shrub species richness, seedling recruitment and population dynamics

Severin David Howard Irl<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Manuel Jonas Steinbauer<sup>2</sup>, Wolfgang Babel<sup>3</sup>, Carl Beierkuhnlein<sup>2</sup>, Gesche Blume-Werry<sup>2</sup>, Jana Messinger<sup>2</sup>, Ángel Palomares Martínez<sup>4</sup>, Stefan Strohmeier<sup>5</sup> and Anke Jentsch<sup>1</sup>

Issue

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BASED ON STUDENT PROJECTS FROM LA PALMA SCIENCE SCHOOL



*Thanks*

