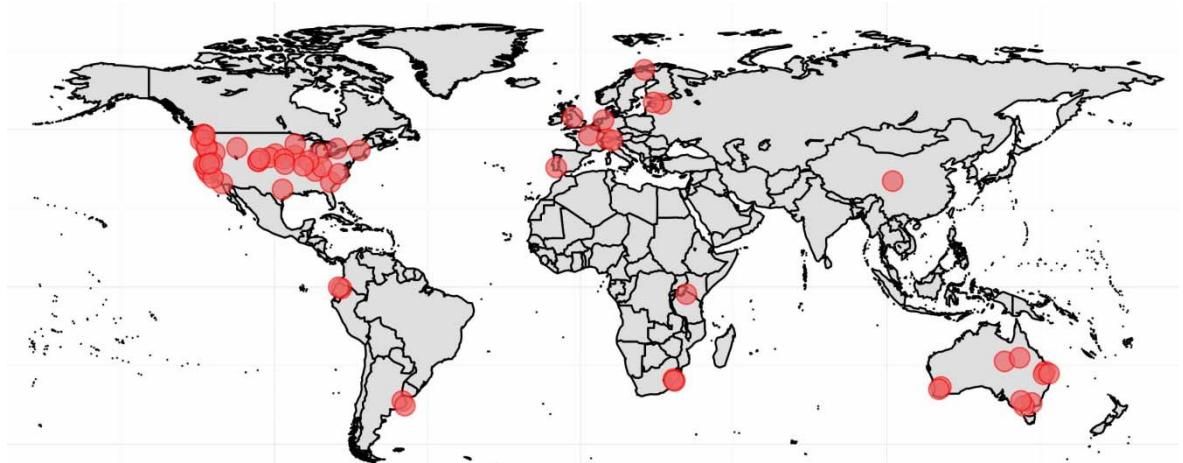


In the format provided by the authors and unedited.

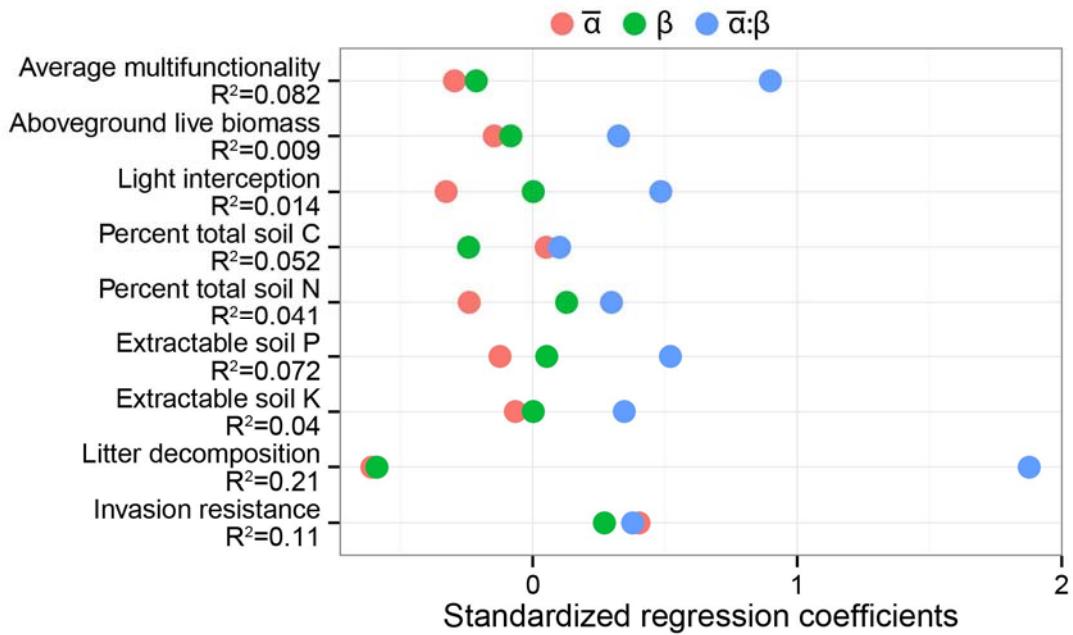
Local loss and spatial homogenization of plant diversity reduce ecosystem multifunctionality

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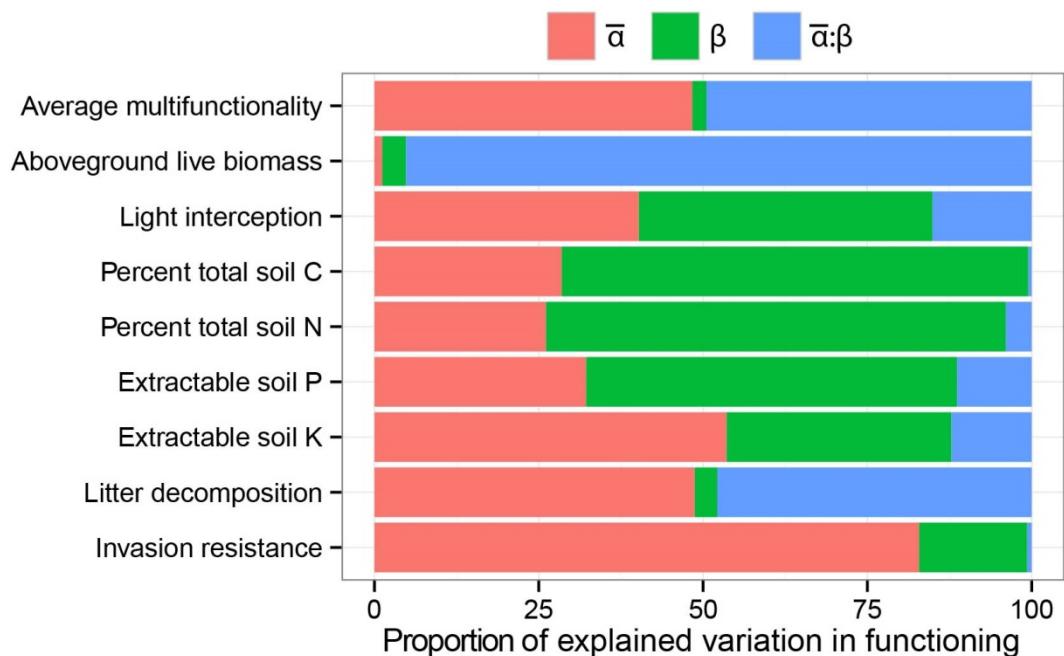
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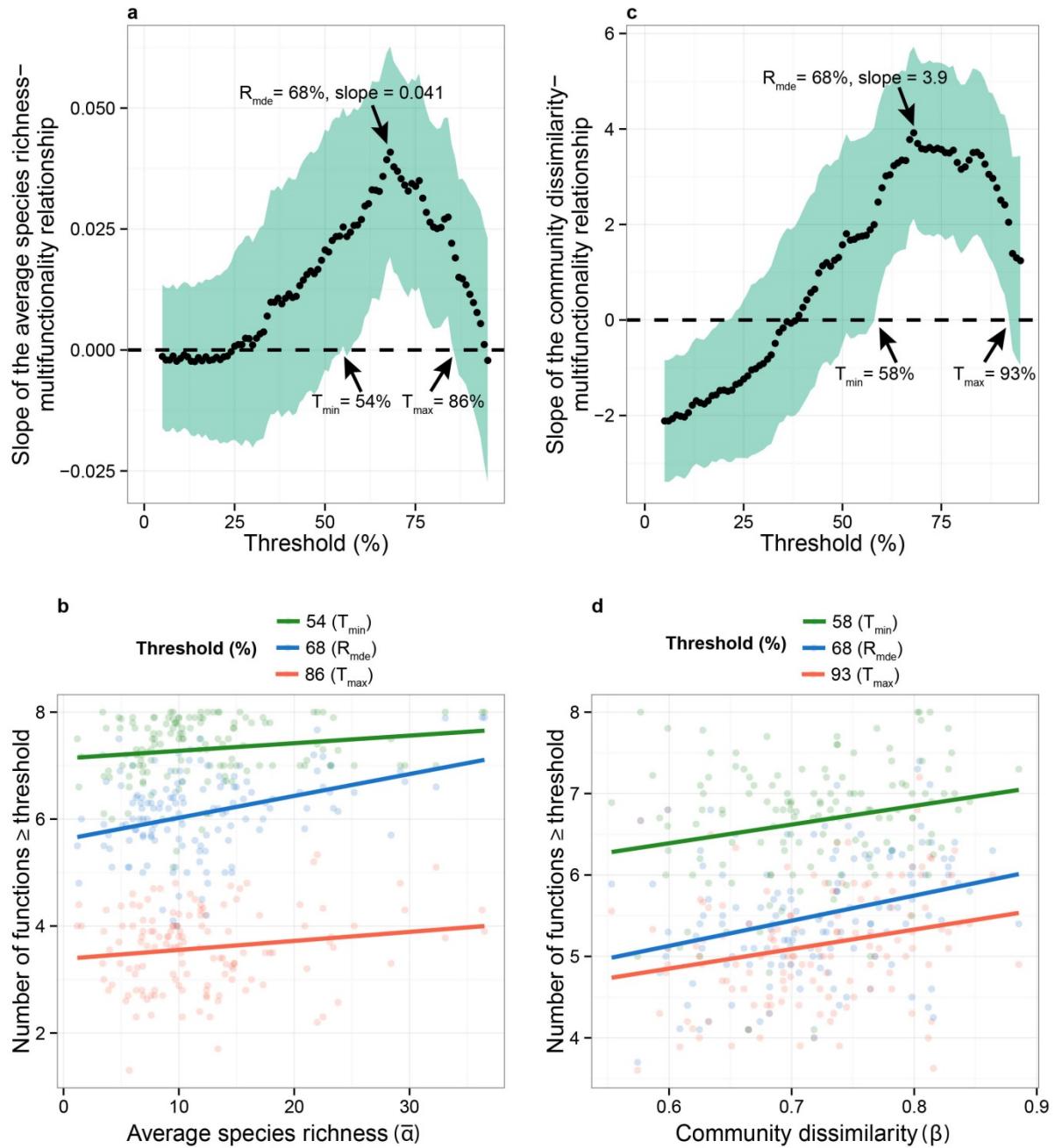
Supplementary Figure 1. Locations of the 65 Nutrient Network sites included in this study.



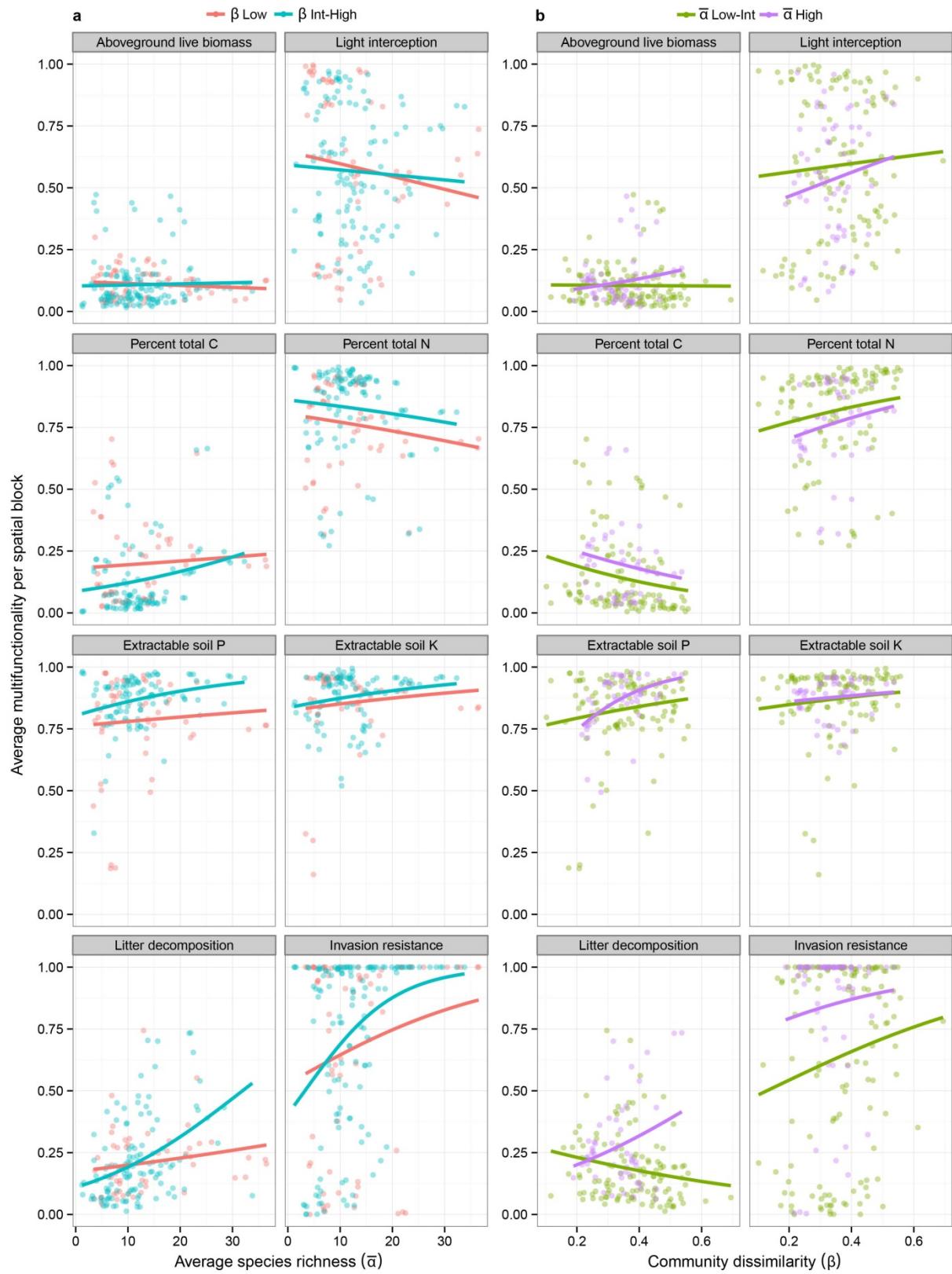
Supplementary Figure 2. Effect sizes of plant diversity on individual function and on the average multifunctionality. Standardized regression coefficients of local species richness ($\bar{\alpha}$), community dissimilarity (β) and their interaction ($\bar{\alpha}:\beta$) with each individual function and with the average multifunctionality. R^2 values are the proportion of variation explained by each regression.



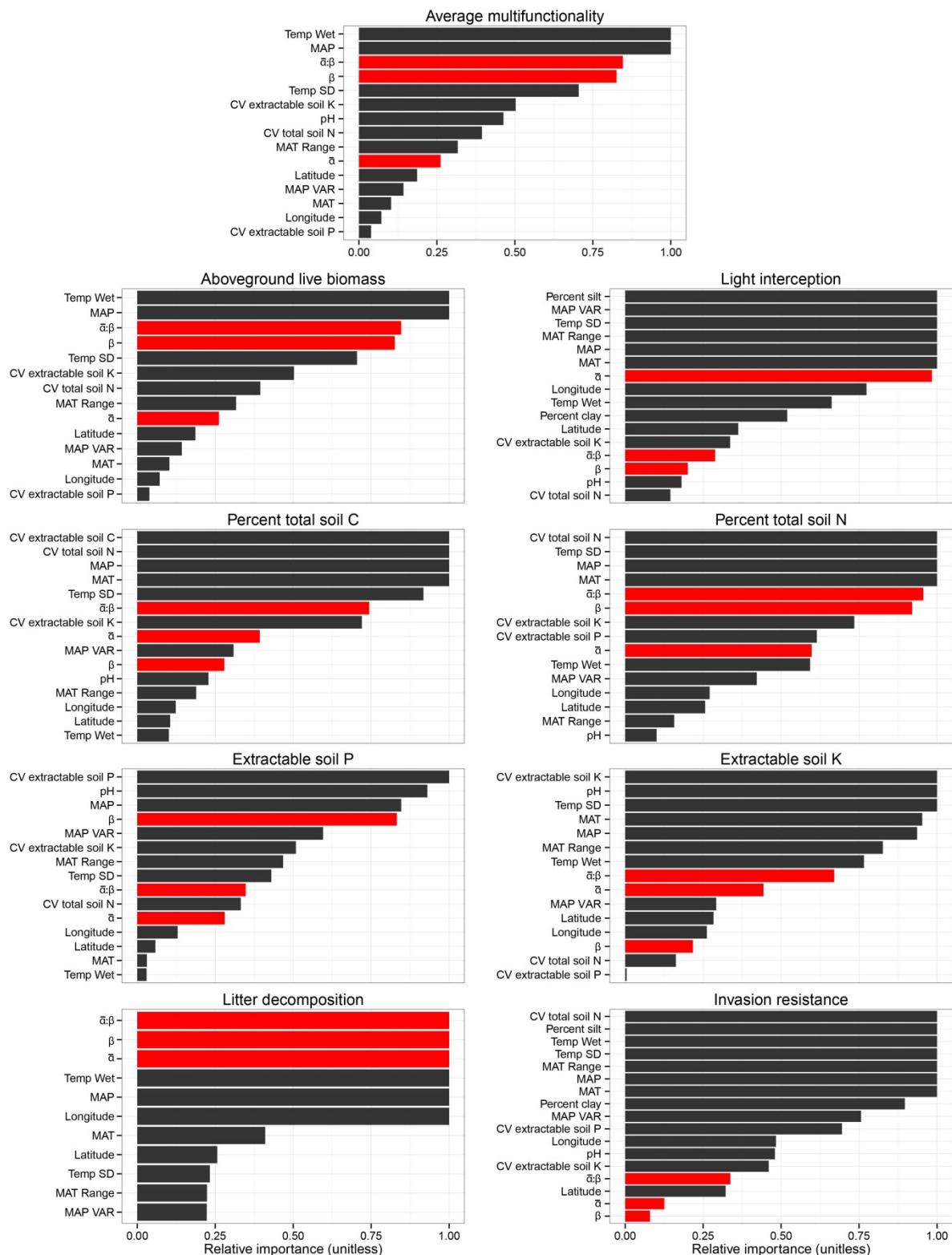
Supplementary Figure 3. Relative contribution of plant diversity to individual function and to the average multifunctionality.
 Percentage of variance explained by local species richness ($\bar{\alpha}$), community dissimilarity (β) and their interaction ($\bar{\alpha}:\beta$) on each individual function and on the average multifunctionality. The proportion of variance explained is based on R^2 values for each regression shown in Extended Data Figure 2.



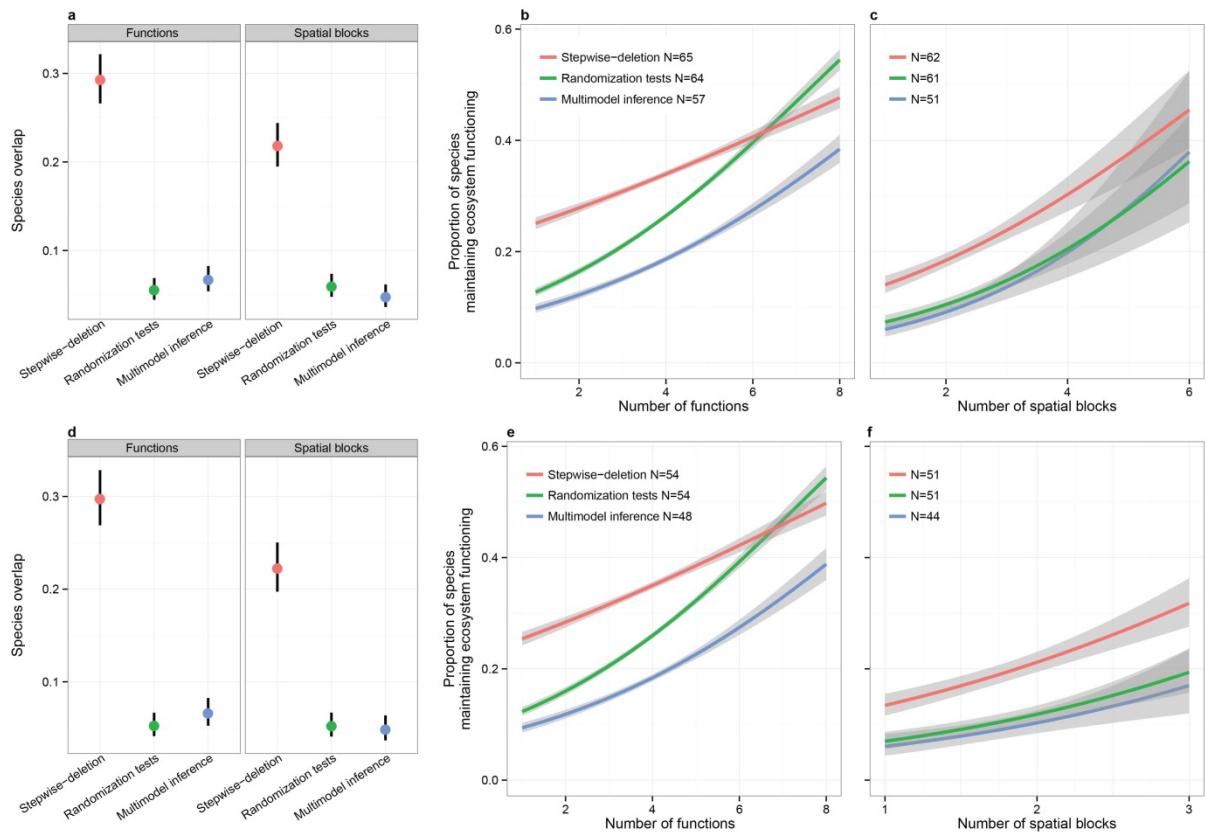
Supplementary Figure 4. Relationships between plant diversity and multiple-threshold multifunctionality after accounting for environmental variables. **a** and **b**, $\bar{\alpha}$ diversity; **c** and **d**, β diversity. Points in **a** and **c** are the slopes of the diversity-multifunctionality relationships for a range of threshold values ranging from 5 to 95% of maximum for each function. The shaded green area in **a** and **c** represents the 95% confidence intervals around the slopes such that diversity effect on multifunctionality is significant when the intervals do not overlap the zero line. Lines in **b** and **d** are the slopes shown in **a** and **c** for the minimum threshold above which (T_{min}) and maximum threshold below which (T_{max}) multifunctionality is associated with diversity, and for the realized maximum diversity effect (R_{mde}) where the slope of the diversity-multifunctionality relationship is steepest.



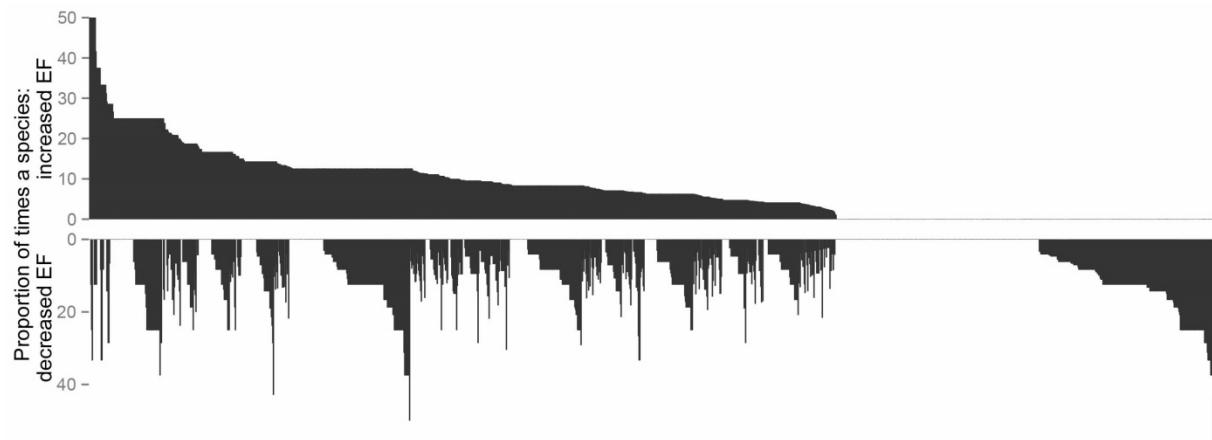
Supplementary Figure 5. Relationships of plant diversity with each individual function. **a**, average number of species per plot within spatial blocks ($\bar{\alpha}$ diversity); **b**, dissimilarity in species composition among plots within spatial blocks (β diversity). Red lines indicate the fits at low (Low) diversity and blue lines at intermediate to high diversity (Int-High).



Supplementary Figure 6. Relative importance of $\bar{\alpha}$, β diversity, their interaction ($\bar{\alpha}\beta$) (red bars) and other key environmental predictors (black bars) on individual function and on the average multifunctionality. The size of the bars represents the importance of a variable relative to the other variables in the same model. Temp Wet: Mean temperature during the wettest four months ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), MAP VAR: Coefficient of variation of precipitation, MAT Range: Mean annual range in temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), MAT: Mean annual temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), Temp SD: Standard deviation in temperature, MAP: Mean annual precipitation (mm), CV: coefficient of variation.



Supplementary Figure 7. Analyses using presence-absence instead of species abundances (a-c) or only sites with three or fewer spatial blocks (d-f). Mean overlap values \pm 95% CI between sets of species maintaining ecosystem functioning a & d. Higher proportion of species maintained ecosystem functioning when more functions b & e, or when a wider range of spatial blocks c & f, were independently considered. N denotes the number of sites included in each approach.



Supplementary Figure 8. Proportion of times a species significantly increased or decreased ecosystem functioning (EF). Study species (1633) are ordered from those that promoted EF most frequently (left) to those that promoted EF least frequently (right). About two third of the species studied (1082) increased EF at least once and about one fifth of the species (295) never influenced EF.

Supplementary Table 1. Additional information on the 65 Nutrient Network study sites.

| Site | Continent | Country | Habitat | Elevation | Latitude | Longitude | Year | Number of block | Number of functions | Functions measured | Land use history | Number of plot per block 1,2,3,4,5,6 | PIs |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| amcamp.us | North America | USA | mesic grassland | 41 | 48.5 | -123.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Jonathan D. Bakker, Janneke Hille Ris Lambers |
| anti.ec | South America | Ecuador | alpine grassland | 4400 | -0.5 | -78.2 | 2013 | 5 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | 10,10,10,10,10,0 | Selene Baez |
| azi.cn | Asia | China | alpine grassland | 3500 | 33.7 | 101.9 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Chengjin Chu |
| barta.us | North America | USA | mixedgrass prairie | 767 | 42.2 | -99.7 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | David Wedin |
| bldr.us | North America | USA | shortgrass prairie | 1633 | 40.0 | -105.2 | 2008 | 2 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Managed | 10,10,0,0,0,0 | Brett Melbourne, Kendi Davies |
| bnch.us | North America | USA | montane grassland | 1318 | 44.3 | -122.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Eric Seabloom, Elizabeth Borer |
| bogong.au | Australia | Australia | alpine grassland | 1760 | -36.9 | 147.3 | 2009 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | John Morgan, Joslin L. Moore |
| bttr.us | North America | USA | montane grassland | 1500 | 44.3 | -122.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Eric Seabloom, Elizabeth Borer |
| bunya.au | Australia | Australia | grassland | 0 | -26.9 | 151.6 | 2013 | 3 | 7 | AGB C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Jennifer Firn |
| burrawan.au | Australia | Australia | semiarid grassland | 425 | -27.7 | 151.1 | 2008 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Jennifer Firn, Yvonne M. Buckley |
| cbgb.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 275 | 41.8 | -93.4 | 2009 | 6 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Burned Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,8,8,8 | W. Stanley Harpole, Lori A. Biederman |
| cdr.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 270 | 45.4 | -93.2 | 2007 | 5 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,10,10,0 | Elizabeth Borer, W. Stanley Harpole, Adam Kay, Eric Seabloom |
| cdpt.us | North America | USA | shortgrass prairie | 965 | 41.2 | -101.6 | 2007 | 6 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,10,10,10 | Johannes M. H. Knops |
| cereep.fr | Europe | France | old field | 83 | 48.3 | 2.7 | 2012 | 3 | 5 | AGB C N P K | Managed Grazed Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Amandine Hansart, Beatriz Decendiere |
| chilcas.ar | South America | Argentina | mesic grassland | 15 | -36.3 | -58.3 | 2013 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Enrique Chaneton, Laura Yahdian |
| comp.pt | Europe | Portugal | annual grassland | 200 | 38.0 | -8.0 | 2012 | 3 | 7 | AGB PAR C N P K IR | Managed Grazed Anthropogenic | 10,11,10,0,0,0 | Maria Caldeira, Miguel Bugalho |
| cowi.ca | North America | Canada | old field | 50 | 48.5 | -123.4 | 2007 | 3 | 7 | AGB C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Andrew MacDougall |
| derr.au | Australia | Australia | semiarid grassland | 38 | -37.8 | 144.8 | 2007 | 3 | 3 | AGB PAR IR | Managed Burned | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | John Morgan |
| doane.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 418 | 40.7 | -96.9 | 2012 | 6 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | Managed Burned Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,10,10,10 | Ramesh Laungani |
| elliot.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 200 | 32.9 | -117.1 | 2008 | 3 | 6 | PAR C N P K IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Elsa Cleland |
| elva.ee | Europe | Estonia | semiarid grassland | 64 | 58.3 | 26.4 | 2012 | 1 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | 10,0,0,0,0,0 | Meelis Pärtel, Aveliina Helm |
| ethass.au | Australia | Australia | desert grassland | 104 | -23.6 | 138.4 | 2013 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Managed Grazed | 10,9,9,0,0,0 | Glenda Wardle |
| frue.ch | Europe | Switzerland | pasture | 995 | 47.1 | 8.5 | 2008 | 3 | 7 | AGB PAR C N P K IR | Managed Grazed Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Andy Hector, Yann Hautier |
| gilb.za | Africa | South Africa | montane grassland | 1748 | -29.3 | 30.3 | 2010 | 3 | 7 | AGB PAR C N P K IR | Managed Burned | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Peter D. Wragg |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|------|-------|--------|------|---|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| glac.us | North America | USA | mesic grassland | 33 | 46.9 | -123.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Janneke Hille Ris Lambers, Jonathan D. Bakker |
| hall.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 194 | 36.9 | -86.7 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Managed | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Rebecca L. McCulley |
| hart.us | North America | USA | shrub steppe | 1508 | 42.7 | -119.5 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Nicole M. DeCrappeo, David Pyke |
| hast.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 750 | 36.2 | -121.6 | 2007 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Elizabeth Borer, Eric Seabloom |
| hnvr.us | North America | USA | old field | 271 | 43.4 | -72.1 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Anthropogenic | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Elizabeth M. Volkovich, Kathryn L. Cottingham |
| hopl.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 598 | 39.0 | -123.1 | 2007 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 9,9,9,0,0,0 | Elizabeth Borer, Eric Seabloom |
| jasp.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 120 | 37.4 | -122.2 | 2007 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Elsa Cleland |
| kbs.us | North America | USA | old field | 288 | 42.4 | -85.4 | 2013 | 5 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,10,10,0 | Lars Brudvig |
| kilp.fi | Europe | Finland | tundra grassland | 700 | 69.1 | 20.8 | 2013 | 4 | 2 | AGB LD | Grazed | | 10,10,10,10,0,0 | Anu Eskelinen, Risto Virtanen |
| kiny.au | Australia | Australia | semiarid grassland | 90 | -36.2 | 143.8 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | John Morgan |
| kirik.ee | Europe | Estonia | calcareous grassland | 8 | 58.7 | 23.8 | 2012 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Aveliina Helm, Meelis Pärtel |
| koffler.ca | North America | Canada | pasture | 301 | 44.0 | -79.5 | 2010 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | Managed | | 12,12,12,0,0,0 | Marc Cadotte, Robin Marushia, Arthur Weiss |
| konz.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 440 | 39.1 | -96.6 | 2007 | 3 | 3 | AGB PAR IR | Managed Burned | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Melinda Smith, Kimberly J. La Pierre |
| lancaster.uk | Europe | UK | mesic grassland | 180 | 54.0 | -2.6 | 2008 | 3 | 7 | AGB C N P K LD IR | Managed Grazed | | 10,8,8,0,0,0 | Carly Stevens |
| lead.us | North America | USA | salt marsh | 2 | 46.6 | -124.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | John G. Lambrinos |
| look.us | North America | USA | montane grassland | 1500 | 44.2 | -122.1 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Eric Seabloom, Elizabeth Borer |
| marc.ar | South America | Argentina | grassland | 6 | -37.7 | -57.4 | 2011 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Juan Alberti, Pedro Daleo |
| mcla.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 642 | 38.9 | -122.4 | 2007 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Eric Seabloom, W. Stanley Harpole, Elizabeth Borer |
| mitch.au | Australia | Australia | semiarid grassland | 242 | -22.5 | 143.3 | 2013 | 1 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,0,0,0,0,0 | Jennifer Firn |
| mtca.au | Australia | Australia | savanna | 285 | -31.8 | 117.6 | 2008 | 4 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | | | 10,10,10,10,0,0 | Suzanne M Prober |
| niwo.us | North America | USA | alpine grassland | 3050 | 40.0 | -105.4 | 2007 | 4 | 3 | AGB LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | William Bowman, Timothy Seastedt |
| pape.de | Europe | Germany | old field | 1 | 53.1 | 7.5 | 2007 | 1 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Anthropogenic | | 10,0,0,0,0,0 | Helmut Hillebrand |
| pich.ec | South America | Ecuador | alpine grassland | 4200 | -0.1 | -79.0 | 2013 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Selene Baez |
| ping.au | Australia | Australia | old field | 338 | -32.5 | 117.0 | 2013 | 3 | 4 | AGB PAR LD IR | Managed Grazed Anthropogenic | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Jodi Price, Rachel Standish |
| pinj.au | Australia | Australia | pasture | 38 | -27.5 | 152.9 | 2013 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Grazed Anthropogenic | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | John Dwyer, Yvonne M. Buckley |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------|-------|--------|------|---|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| sage.us | North America | USA | montane grassland | 1920 | 39.4 | -120.2 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Daniel S. Gruner, Louie Yang |
| sava.us | North America | USA | savanna | 71 | 33.3 | -81.7 | 2007 | 2 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,0,0,0,0 | Ellen I. Damschen, Lars Brudvig, John L. Orrock |
| sedg.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 550 | 34.7 | -120.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Elizabeth Borer, Eric Seabloom, Carla M D'Antonio, W. Stanley Harpole |
| sereng.tz | Africa | Tanzania | savanna | 1536 | -2.3 | 34.5 | 2008 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | T. Michael Anderson |
| sgs.us | North America | USA | shortgrass prairie | 1650 | 40.8 | -104.8 | 2007 | 3 | 7 | AGB PAR C N P K IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Cynthia S. Brown, Dana M. Blumenthal, Julia A. Klein |
| shps.us | North America | USA | shrub steppe | 910 | 44.2 | -112.2 | 2007 | 4 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Managed Grazed | 10,10,10,10,0,0 | Peter Adler |
| sier.us | North America | USA | annual grassland | 197 | 39.2 | -121.3 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Elizabeth Borer, W. Stanley Harpole, Eric Seabloom |
| smith.us | North America | USA | mesic grassland | 62 | 48.2 | -122.6 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Jonathan D. Bakker |
| spin.us | North America | USA | pasture | 271 | 38.1 | -84.5 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Managed Grazed Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Rebecca L. McCulley |
| summ.za | Africa | South Africa | mesic grassland | 679 | -29.8 | 30.7 | 2010 | 3 | 7 | AGB PAR C N P K IR | Managed Burned | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Peter D. Wragg |
| temple.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 184 | 31.0 | -97.3 | 2007 | 3 | 7 | AGB PAR C N P K IR | | 8,10,8,0,0,0 | Philip A Fay |
| trel.us | North America | USA | tallgrass prairie | 200 | 40.1 | -88.8 | 2008 | 3 | 6 | PAR C N P K IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Andrew Leakey, Xiaohui Feng |
| tyso.us | North America | USA | old field | 169 | 38.5 | -90.6 | 2007 | 4 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,10,0,0 | John L. Orrock, Tiffany Knight, Ellen I. Damschen |
| ukul.za | Africa | South Africa | mesic grassland | 843 | -29.7 | 30.4 | 2009 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Managed Burned | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Kevin P Kirkman, Nicole Hagenah, Michelle Tedder |
| unc.us | North America | USA | old field | 141 | 36.0 | -79.0 | 2007 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | Anthropogenic | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Justin Wright, Charles Mitchell |
| valm.ch | Europe | Switzerland | alpine grassland | 2320 | 46.6 | 10.4 | 2008 | 3 | 8 | AGB PAR C N P K LD IR | | 10,10,10,0,0,0 | Martin Schuetz, Anita C. Risch |

AGB: Aboveground live biomass , PAR: Percentage of photosynthetically active radiation intercepted at ground level, C: Percent of soil carbon, N: Percent total nitrogen (nitrate ammonium), P: Soil extractable phosphorus, K: Soil extractable potassium, LD: Litter decomposition, IR: Invasion resistance

Supplementary Table 2. Correlation matrix between each pair of eight standardized functions.

| | Aboveground live biomass | Light interception | Percent total C | Percent total N | Extractable soil P | Extractable soil K | Litter decomposition |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Light interception | 0.29*** | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Percent total C | 0.05 | 0.10*** | | | | | |
| Percent total N | 0.07** | 0.11*** | -0.96*** | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Extractable soil P | 0.20*** | 0.30*** | 0.01 | 0.04 | --- | --- | --- |
| Extractable soil K | 0.08** | -0.02 | -0.01 | 0.02 | 0.25*** | --- | --- |
| Litter decomposition | 0.06* | -0.26*** | 0.02 | -0.01 | -0.14*** | 0.02 | --- |
| Invasion resistance | 0.01 | -0.11*** | 0.10*** | 0.05 | -0.25*** | 0.14*** | 0.05 |

Significance levels of Pearson's correlation coefficients: ***P < 0.001, **P < 0.01, *P < 0.05. Significant Pearson's correlation coefficients are shown in bold.

Supplementary Table 3. Relationships of plant diversity with each individual function. Coefficients of the relationships of the average number of species per plot within spatial blocks (α diversity) and dissimilarity in species composition among plots within spatial blocks (β diversity) with each individual functions. The effects report the value of the intercept and slope of the fits at low (Low) diversity for α diversity and at low to intermediate (Low-Int) diversity for (β diversity) as well as the differences (in italics) between the intermediate to high diversity (Int-High) and low diversity for α diversity and between the high (High) diversity and low to intermediate diversity for β diversity.

| Alpha | | | | Beta | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| | Effect | 2.5% | 97.5% | | Effect | 2.5% | 97.5% |
| Aboveground live biomass | | | | Aboveground live biomass | | | |
| Intercept Low | -1.98 | -3.59 | -0.53 | Intercept Low-Int | -2.11 | -4.19 | -0.26 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | -0.19 | -2.07 | 1.77 | <i>Intercept High</i> | -0.60 | -4.74 | 3.36 |
| Slope Low | -0.01 | -0.12 | 0.08 | Slope Low-Int | -0.09 | -5.20 | 5.00 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.01 | -0.11 | 0.15 | <i>Slope High</i> | 2.16 | -9.29 | 13.38 |
| Light interception | | | | Light interception | | | |
| Intercept Low | 0.60 | -0.35 | 1.60 | Intercept Low-Int | 0.11 | -1.11 | 1.34 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | -0.23 | -1.48 | 1.01 | <i>Intercept High</i> | -0.64 | -3.43 | 2.09 |
| Slope Low | -0.02 | -0.09 | 0.04 | Slope Low-Int | 0.71 | -2.52 | 3.97 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.01 | -0.07 | 0.10 | <i>Slope High</i> | 1.23 | -6.50 | 9.18 |
| Percent total soil C | | | | Percent total soil C | | | |
| Intercept Low | -1.51 | -2.82 | -0.30 | Intercept Low-Int | -0.97 | -2.83 | 0.76 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | -0.83 | -2.63 | 0.95 | <i>Intercept High</i> | 0.28 | -3.45 | 4.02 |
| Slope Low | 0.01 | -0.09 | 0.09 | Slope Low-Int | -2.42 | -7.60 | 2.59 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.03 | -0.09 | 0.15 | <i>Slope High</i> | 0.32 | -10.92 | 10.93 |
| Percent total soil N | | | | Percent total soil N | | | |
| Intercept Low | 1.41 | 0.27 | 2.64 | Intercept Low-Int | 0.82 | -0.76 | 2.51 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | 0.41 | -1.23 | 2.05 | <i>Intercept High</i> | -0.41 | -3.91 | 3.08 |
| Slope Low | -0.02 | -0.10 | 0.06 | Slope Low-Int | 1.94 | -2.58 | 6.57 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.00 | -0.11 | 0.11 | <i>Slope High</i> | 0.31 | -9.57 | 10.78 |
| Extractable soil P | | | | Extractable soil P | | | |
| Intercept Low | 1.16 | -0.05 | 2.41 | Intercept Low-Int | 1.02 | -0.60 | 2.77 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | 0.25 | -1.51 | 2.01 | <i>Intercept High</i> | -1.16 | -5.47 | 3.02 |
| Slope Low | 0.01 | -0.07 | 0.11 | Slope Low-Int | 1.59 | -3.05 | 6.32 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.03 | -0.11 | 0.17 | <i>Slope High</i> | 4.43 | -7.69 | 18.34 |
| Extractable soil K | | | | Extractable soil K | | | |
| Intercept Low | 1.54 | 0.12 | 3.03 | Intercept Low-Int | 1.46 | -0.34 | 3.45 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | 0.08 | -1.87 | 2.03 | <i>Intercept High</i> | 0.14 | -4.22 | 4.63 |
| Slope Low | 0.02 | -0.07 | 0.15 | Slope Low-Int | 1.29 | -3.94 | 6.58 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.01 | -0.15 | 0.16 | <i>Slope High</i> | -0.21 | -12.57 | 13.10 |
| Litter decomposition | | | | Litter decomposition | | | |
| Intercept Low | -1.56 | -2.90 | -0.36 | Intercept Low-Int | -0.87 | -2.55 | 0.72 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | -0.53 | -2.12 | 1.10 | <i>Intercept High</i> | -1.13 | -4.48 | 2.06 |
| Slope Low | 0.02 | -0.06 | 0.09 | Slope Low-Int | -1.67 | -6.00 | 2.57 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.05 | -0.05 | 0.15 | <i>Slope High</i> | 4.76 | -4.25 | 14.00 |
| Invasion resistance | | | | Invasion resistance | | | |
| Intercept Low | 0.11 | -0.89 | 1.09 | Intercept Low-Int | -0.31 | -1.50 | 0.86 |
| <i>Intercept Int-High</i> | -0.49 | -1.82 | 0.83 | <i>Intercept High</i> | 1.09 | -2.33 | 4.54 |
| Slope Low | 0.05 | -0.02 | 0.13 | Slope Low-Int | 2.42 | -0.69 | 5.64 |
| <i>Slope Int-High</i> | 0.07 | -0.04 | 0.17 | <i>Slope High</i> | 0.40 | -9.44 | 10.95 |

Supplementary Table 4. Coefficients of the best and most parsimonious model following multi-model inference evaluating the influence of $\bar{\alpha}$, β diversity, their interaction ($\bar{\alpha}:\beta$) and other key environmental predictors on each individual function and on the average multifunctionality. Details as for Extended Data Figure 6.

| | Estimate | Std.Error | z values | Pr(> z) |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------------|
| Average multifunctionality | | | | |
| MAP | 0.00005 | 0.00001 | 4.937 | <0.001 |
| Temp SD | 0.00065 | 0.00021 | 3.046 | 0.003 |
| Temp Wet | 0.00356 | 0.00071 | 5.027 | <0.001 |
| CV extractable soil K | -0.00010 | 0.00008 | -1.209 | 0.229 |
| β | -0.14940 | 0.06165 | -2.423 | 0.017 |
| $\bar{\alpha}:\beta$ | 0.01200 | 0.00228 | 5.272 | <0.001 |
| Aboveground live biomass | | | | |
| MAT | -0.00805 | 0.00149 | -5.406 | <0.001 |
| MAP | 0.00005 | 0.00001 | 5.076 | <0.001 |
| Temp SD | -0.00217 | 0.00025 | -8.642 | <0.001 |
| MAP VAR | -0.00082 | 0.00023 | -3.624 | <0.001 |
| Temp Wet | 0.00591 | 0.00101 | 5.835 | <0.001 |
| $\bar{\alpha}$ | -0.00184 | 0.00074 | -2.484 | 0.014 |
| Light interception | | | | |
| Longitude | -0.00105 | 0.00025 | -4.190 | <0.001 |
| MAT | 0.02001 | 0.00637 | 3.139 | 0.002 |
| MAP | 0.00030 | 0.00005 | 6.268 | <0.001 |
| MAT Range | -0.04705 | 0.00937 | -5.022 | <0.001 |
| Temp SD | 0.01901 | 0.00357 | 5.323 | <0.001 |
| MAP VAR | 0.00380 | 0.00107 | 3.567 | 0.001 |
| Temp Wet | 0.00772 | 0.00398 | 1.942 | 0.055 |
| Percent silt | 0.00698 | 0.00126 | 5.535 | <0.001 |
| $\bar{\alpha}$ | 0.01014 | 0.00324 | 3.127 | 0.002 |
| Percent total soil C | | | | |
| MAT | -0.01383 | 0.00216 | -6.397 | <0.001 |
| MAP | 0.00009 | 0.00002 | 4.571 | <0.001 |
| Temp SD | -0.00304 | 0.00045 | -6.739 | <0.001 |
| CV total soil N | -0.00031 | 0.00011 | -2.972 | 0.003 |
| CV extractable soil C | 0.00037 | 0.00011 | 3.435 | 0.001 |
| CV extractable soil K | 0.00029 | 0.00015 | 1.940 | 0.054 |
| $\bar{\alpha}:\beta$ | -0.00956 | 0.00378 | -2.529 | 0.013 |
| Percent total soil N | | | | |
| MAT | 0.02022 | 0.00236 | 8.555 | <0.001 |
| MAP | -0.00012 | 0.00002 | -5.604 | <0.001 |
| Temp SD | 0.00410 | 0.00051 | 8.057 | <0.001 |
| CV total soil N | 0.00035 | 0.00011 | 3.255 | 0.001 |
| CV extractable soil P | -0.00037 | 0.00011 | -3.337 | 0.001 |
| CV extractable soil K | -0.00029 | 0.00015 | -1.889 | 0.061 |
| $\bar{\alpha}$ | -0.00998 | 0.00507 | -1.968 | 0.051 |
| β | -0.58260 | 0.19040 | -3.060 | 0.003 |
| $\bar{\alpha}:\beta$ | 0.04576 | 0.01497 | 3.057 | 0.003 |
| Extractable soil P | | | | |
| MAP | -0.00005 | 0.00002 | -2.210 | 0.029 |
| MAP VAR | 0.00091 | 0.00045 | 2.019 | 0.045 |
| pH | -0.03255 | 0.01620 | -2.009 | 0.046 |
| CV total soil N | -0.00017 | 0.00011 | -1.569 | 0.119 |
| CV extractable soil P | 0.00070 | 0.00011 | 6.238 | <0.001 |
| β | 0.35150 | 0.10390 | 3.383 | 0.001 |
| Extractable soil K | | | | |
| MAT | 0.00810 | 0.00297 | 2.727 | 0.007 |
| MAP | -0.00005 | 0.00002 | -2.544 | 0.012 |
| MAT Range | -0.00804 | 0.00361 | -2.230 | 0.027 |
| Temp SD | 0.00466 | 0.00135 | 3.444 | 0.001 |
| Temp Wet | -0.00377 | 0.00174 | -2.172 | 0.031 |
| pH | -0.06885 | 0.01394 | -4.939 | <0.001 |
| CV extractable soil K | 0.00055 | 0.00014 | 4.101 | <0.001 |
| $\bar{\alpha}:\beta$ | 0.01299 | 0.00354 | 3.669 | <0.001 |
| Litter decomposition | | | | |
| Longitude | 0.00079 | 0.00011 | 7.336 | <0.001 |
| MAP | -0.00010 | 0.00002 | -4.999 | <0.001 |
| Temp Wet | -0.00393 | 0.00136 | -2.892 | 0.004 |
| $\bar{\alpha}$ | -0.03017 | 0.00466 | -6.469 | <0.001 |
| β | -0.98680 | 0.17060 | -5.785 | <0.001 |
| $\bar{\alpha}:\beta$ | 0.10910 | 0.01380 | 7.908 | <0.001 |
| Invasion resistance | | | | |
| MAT | -0.07650 | 0.00852 | -8.975 | <0.001 |
| MAP | 0.00049 | 0.00006 | 7.685 | <0.001 |
| MAT Range | 0.07299 | 0.01103 | 6.615 | <0.001 |
| Temp SD | -0.02972 | 0.00408 | -7.288 | <0.001 |
| MAP VAR | -0.00299 | 0.00130 | -2.296 | 0.024 |
| Temp Wet | 0.03533 | 0.00500 | 7.066 | <0.001 |
| Percent silt | -0.00548 | 0.00179 | -3.067 | 0.003 |
| Percent clay | 0.00711 | 0.00289 | 2.459 | 0.015 |
| CV total soil N | 0.00082 | 0.00029 | 2.873 | 0.005 |
| CV extractable soil P | 0.00062 | 0.00027 | 2.311 | 0.023 |

Supplementary Table 5. Relationship between plant diversity and average multifunctionality across environmental gradients.

Coefficients of the relationships between the slopes of relationships of $\bar{\alpha}$ and β diversity with average multifunctionality as response variable and each environmental variable as explanatory variables.

| Variable | $\bar{\alpha}$ diversity | | | | β diversity | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Slope | Std.Error | t values | Pr(> t) | Slope | Std.Error | t values | Pr(> t) |
| Latitude | 609.80 | 4653.32 | 0.13 | 0.90 | -129.63 | 109.90 | -1.18 | 0.24 |
| Longitude | 17251.98 | 13366.51 | 1.29 | 0.20 | 99.73 | 323.06 | 0.31 | 0.76 |
| MAT | 356.45 | 831.38 | 0.43 | 0.67 | 6.34 | 19.86 | 0.32 | 0.75 |
| MAP | -63.01 | 1074.25 | -0.06 | 0.95 | -8.19 | 25.63 | -0.32 | 0.75 |
| MAT RANGE | 96.35 | 403.28 | 0.24 | 0.81 | -5.05 | 9.61 | -0.53 | 0.60 |
| Temp SD | 4540.13 | 3708.58 | 1.22 | 0.23 | -249.05 | 83.91 | -2.97 | <0.01 |
| MAP VAR | 863.74 | 3508.30 | 0.25 | 0.81 | 74.33 | 83.27 | 0.89 | 0.38 |
| Temp Wet | 1565.12 | 1122.72 | 1.39 | 0.17 | -44.82 | 26.62 | -1.68 | 0.10 |
| pH | -77.46 | 73.19 | -1.06 | 0.29 | 0.40 | 1.97 | 0.21 | 0.84 |
| Percent silt | 1344.43 | 1530.71 | 0.88 | 0.38 | 92.60 | 41.25 | 2.24 | 0.03 |
| Percent clay | 1441.03 | 1088.88 | 1.32 | 0.19 | 84.23 | 29.08 | 2.90 | <0.01 |
| Bulk density | 33.77 | 35.39 | 0.95 | 0.34 | 0.06 | 1.17 | 0.05 | 0.96 |
| CV total soil N | -178.75 | 123.38 | -1.45 | 0.15 | -6.81 | 3.28 | -2.07 | 0.04 |
| CV extractable soil P | 49.61 | 110.34 | 0.45 | 0.65 | 1.36 | 2.96 | 0.46 | 0.65 |
| CV extractable soil K | -85.68 | 94.68 | -0.90 | 0.37 | -3.94 | 2.53 | -1.56 | 0.12 |

Supplementary Table 6. Author contribution matrix.

| Co-author | Developed and framed research question(s) | Analyzed data | Contributed to data analyses | Wrote the paper | Contributed to paper writing | Site level coordinator | Nutrient Network coordinators | Acknowledgements |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Yann Hautier | x | x | | x | | x | | |
| Forest Isbell | x | x | | x | | | | |
| Elizabeth Borer | | | x | | x | x | x | |
| Eric W Seabloom | | | x | | x | x | x | |
| W Stanley Harpole | | | | | x | x | x | |
| Eric M. Lind | | | | | x | | x | |
| Andrew S MacDougall | | | | | x | x | | |
| Carly J. Stevens | | | | | x | x | | |
| Peter B. Adler | | | | | x | x | | |
| Juan Alberti | | | | | x | x | | |
| Jonathan D. Bakker | | | x | | x | x | | |
| Lars Brudvig | | | | | x | x | | This is KBS contribution # 2004 |
| Yvonne M. Buckley | | | | | x | x | | |
| Marc W. Cadotte | | | | | x | x | | |
| Maria C Caldeira | | | | | x | x | | |
| Enrique J. Chaneton | | | | | x | x | | |
| Chengjin Chu | | | | | x | x | | |
| Pedro Daleo | | | | | x | x | | |
| Christopher R Dickman | | | | | x | x | | The Ethabuka site is supported by the Long Term Ecological Research Network, part of Australia's Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network |
| John M. Dwyer | | | | | x | x | | |
| Anu Eskelinen | | | | | x | x | | |
| Philip A. Fay | | | | | x | x | | |
| Jennifer Firm | | | | | x | x | | |
| Nicole Hagenah | | | | | x | x | | |
| Helmut Hillebrand | | | | | x | x | | |
| Oscar Iribarne | | | | | x | x | | |
| Kevin P. Kirkman | | | | | x | x | | |
| Johannes M H Knops | | | | | x | x | | |
| Kimberly La Pierre | | | x | | x | x | | The Konza Prairie site was supported by the Konza Prairie LTER and the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies. The Saline Experimental Range site was supported by the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies. |
| Rebecca L. McCulley | | | | | x | x | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| John W. Morgan | | | | x | x | | | |
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| Suzanne M Prober | | | | x | x | | | The Mt Caroline experimental site was supported by the Great Western Woodlands Supersite, part of Australia's Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network |
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| Martin Schuetz | | | | x | x | | | |
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| Andy Hector | x | x | x | | x | | | |