

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Global maps of soil temperature

Jonas J. Lembrechts¹  | Johan van den Hoogen²  | Juha Aalto^{3,4}  |
 Michael B. Ashcroft^{5,6}  | Pieter De Frenne⁷  | Julia Kemppinen⁸  |
 Martin Kopecky^{9,10}  | Miska Luoto⁴  | Ilya M. D. Maclean¹¹  |
 Thomas W. Crowther²  | Joseph J. Bailey¹²  | Stef Haesen¹³  | David H. Klings^{14,15}  |
 Pekka Niittynen⁴  | Brett R. Scheffers¹⁶  | Koenraad Van Meerbeek¹³  |
 Peter Aartsma¹⁷  | Otar Abdalaze¹⁸  | Mehdi Abedi¹⁹  | Rien Aerts²⁰  |
 Negar Ahmadian¹⁹  | Antje Ahrends²¹  | Juha M. Alatalo²²  |
 Jake M. Alexander²³  | Camille Nina Allonsius²⁴  | Jan Altman^{9,10}  |
 Christof Ammann²⁵  | Christian Andres²⁶  | Christopher Andrews²⁷  |
 Jonas Ardö²⁸  | Nicola Arriga²⁹  | Alberto Arzac³⁰  | Valeria Aschero^{31,32}  |
 Rafael L. Assis³³  | Jakob Johann Assmann^{34,35}  | Maaïke Y. Bader³⁶  |
 Khadijeh Bahalkeh¹⁹  | Peter Barančok³⁷  | Isabel C. Barrio³⁸  |
 Agustina Barros³²  | Matti Barthel²⁶  | Edmund W. Basham¹⁴  | Marijn Bauters³⁹  |
 Manuele Bazzichetto⁴⁰  | Luca Belelli Marchesini⁴¹  | Michael C. Bell⁴²  |
 Juan C. Benavides⁴³  | José Luis Benito Alonso⁴⁴  | Bernd J. Berauer^{45,46}  |
 Jarle W. Bjerke⁴⁷  | Robert G. Björk^{48,49}  | Mats P. Björkman^{48,49}  |
 Katrin Björnsdóttir⁵⁰  | Benjamin Blonder⁵¹  | Pascal Boeckx³⁹  | Julia Boike^{52,53}  |
 Stef Bokhorst²⁰  | Bárbara N. S. Brum⁵⁴  | Josef Brůna⁹  | Nina Buchmann²⁶  |
 Pauline Buysse⁵⁵  | José Luís Camargo⁵⁶  | Otávio C. Campoe⁵⁷  | Onur Candan⁵⁸  |
 Rafaella Canessa^{36,59}  | Nicoletta Cannone⁶⁰  | Michele Carbognani⁶¹  |
 Jofre Carnicer^{62,63}  | Angélica Casanova-Katny⁶⁴  | Simone Cesarz^{65,66}  |
 Bogdan Chojnicki⁶⁷  | Philippe Choler^{68,69}  | Steven L. Chown⁷⁰  |
 Edgar F. Cifuentes⁷¹  | Marek Čiliak⁷²  | Tamara Contador^{73,74}  | Peter Convey⁷⁵  |
 Elisabeth J. Cooper⁷⁶  | Edoardo Cremonese⁷⁷  | Salvatore R. Curasi⁷⁸  |
 Robin Curtis¹¹  | Maurizio Cutini⁷⁹  | C. Johan Dahlberg^{80,81}  | Gergana N. Daskalova⁸²  |
 Miguel Angel de Pablo⁸³  | Stefano Della Chiesa⁸⁴  | Jürgen Dengler^{65,85,86}  |
 Bart Deronde⁸⁷  | Patrice Descombes⁸⁸  | Valter Di Cecco⁸⁹  | Michele Di Musciano⁹⁰  |
 Jan Dick²⁷  | Romina D. Dimarco^{91,92}  | Jiri Dolezal^{9,93}  | Ellen Dorrepaal⁹⁴  |

Jonas J. Lembrechts and Johan van den Hoogen should be considered joint first author.

Ivan Nijs and Jonathan Lenoir should be considered joint senior author.

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Jiří Dušek⁹⁵ | Nico Eisenhauer^{65,66} | Lars Eklundh²⁸ | Todd E. Erickson^{96,97} |
Brigitta Erschbamer⁹⁸ | Werner Eugster²⁶ | Robert M. Ewers⁹⁹ |
Dan A. Exton¹⁰⁰ | Nicolas Fanin¹⁰¹ | Fatih Fazlioglu⁵⁸ | Iris Feigenwinter²⁶ |
Giuseppe Fenu¹⁰² | Olga Ferlian^{65,66} | M. Rosa Fernández Calzado¹⁰³ |
Eduardo Fernández-Pascual¹⁰⁴ | Manfred Finckh¹⁰⁵ | Rebecca Finger Higgins¹⁰⁶ |
T'ai G. W. Forte⁶¹ | Erika C. Freeman¹⁰⁷ | Esther R. Frei^{108,109,110} |
Eduardo Fuentes-Lillo^{111,1,112} | Rafael A. García^{111,113} | María B. García¹¹⁴ |
Charly Géron^{1,115} | Mana Gharun²⁶ | Dany Ghosn¹¹⁶ | Khatuna Gigauri¹¹⁷ |
Anne Gobin^{118,119} | Ignacio Goded²⁹ | Mathias Goeckede¹²⁰ |
Felix Gottschall^{65,66} | Keith Goulding¹²¹ | Sanne Govaert⁷ |
Bente Jessen Graae¹²² | Sarah Greenwood¹²³ | Caroline Greiser⁸⁰ |
Achim Grelle¹²⁴ | Benoit Guénard¹²⁵ | Mauro Guglielmin¹²⁶ |
Joannès Guillemot^{127,128} | Peter Haase^{129,130} | Sylvia Haider^{131,65} |
Aud H. Halbritter¹³² | Maroof Hamid¹³³ | Albin Hammerle¹³⁴ |
Arndt Hampe¹³⁵ | Siri V. Haugum^{132,136} | Lucia Hederová⁹ |
Bernard Heinesch¹³⁷ | Carole Helfter¹³⁸ | Daniel Hepenstrick¹³⁹ |
Maximiliane Herberich¹⁴⁰ | Mathias Herbst¹⁴¹ | Luise Hermanutz¹⁴² |
David S. Hik¹⁴³ | Raúl Hoffrén¹⁴⁴ | Jürgen Homeier^{145,146} | Lukas Hörtnagl²⁶ |
Toke T. Høye¹⁴⁷ | Filip Hrbacek¹⁴⁸ | Kristoffer Hylander⁸⁰ | Hiroki Iwata¹⁴⁹ |
Marcin Antoni Jackowicz-Korczynski^{150,28} | Hervé Jactel¹⁵¹ | Järvi Järveoja¹⁵² |
Szymon Jastrzębowski¹⁵³ | Anke Jentsch^{46,154} | Juan J. Jiménez¹⁵⁵ | Ingibjörg
S. Jónsdóttir¹⁵⁶ | Tommaso Jucker¹⁵⁷ | Alistair S. Jump¹⁵⁸ |
Radoslaw Juszczak⁶⁷ | Róbert Kanka³⁷ | Vít Kašpar^{9,159} | George Kazakis¹¹⁶ |
Julia Kelly¹⁶⁰ | Anzar A. Khuroo¹³³ | Leif Klemmedtsson⁴⁸ | Marcin Klisz¹⁵³ |
Natascha Kljun¹⁶⁰ | Alexander Knohl¹⁶¹ | Johannes Kobler¹⁶² | Jozef Kollár³⁷ |
Martyna M. Kotowska¹⁴⁶ | Bence Kovács¹⁶³ | Juergen Kreyling¹⁶⁴ |
Andrea Lamprecht¹⁶⁵ | Simone I. Lang¹⁶⁶ | Christian Larson¹⁶⁷ |
Keith Larson¹⁶⁸ | Kamil Laska^{148,169} | Gueric le Maire^{127,128} |
Rachel I. Leihy¹⁷⁰ | Luc Lens¹⁷¹ | Bengt Liljebladh⁴⁸ | Annalea Lohila^{172,173} |
Juan Lorite^{103,174} | Benjamin Loubet⁵⁵ | Joshua Lynn¹³² | Martin Macek⁹ |
Roy Mackenzie⁷³ | Enzo Magliulo¹⁷⁵ | Regine Maier²⁶ | Francesco Malfasi⁶⁰ |
František Mális¹⁷⁶ | Matěj Man⁹ | Giovanni Manca²⁹ | Antonio Manco¹⁷⁵ |
Tanguy Manise¹³⁷ | Paraskevi Manolaki^{177,178,179} | Felipe Marciniak⁵⁴ |
Radim Matula^{10,180} | Ana Clara Mazzolari³² | Sergiy Medinets^{181,182,183} |
Volodymyr Medinets¹⁸¹ | Camille Meeussen⁷ | Sonia Merinero⁸⁰ |
Rita de Cássia Guimarães Mesquita¹⁸⁴ | Katrin Meusburger¹⁸⁵ |
Filip J. R. Meysman¹⁸⁶ | Sean T. Michaletz¹⁸⁷ | Ann Milbau¹⁸⁸ |
Dmitry Moiseev¹⁸⁹ | Pavel Moiseev¹⁸⁹ | Andrea Mondoni¹⁹⁰ | Ruth Monfries²¹ |

Leonardo Montagnani¹⁹¹  | Mikel Moriana-Armendariz⁷⁶  |
 Umberto Morra di Cella¹⁹²  | Martin Mörsdorf¹⁹³  | Jonathan
 R. Mosedale¹⁹⁴  | Lena Muffler¹⁴⁶  | Miriam Muñoz-Rojas^{195,196}  |
 Jonathan A. Myers¹⁹⁷  | Isla H. Myers-Smith⁸²  | Laszlo Nagy¹⁹⁸ |
 Marianna Nardino¹⁹⁹  | Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis²⁰⁰  | Emily Newling²⁰¹ |
 Lena Nicklas⁹⁸  | Georg Niedrist²⁰²  | Armin Niessner²⁰³ | Mats B. Nilsson¹⁵²  |
 Signe Normand^{34,35}  | Marcelo D. Noretto^{204,205}  | Yann Nouvellon^{127,128}  |
 Martin A. Nuñez^{92,206}  | Romà Ogaya^{207,208}  | Jérôme Ogée¹⁰¹  |
 Joseph Okello^{39,209,210}  | Janusz Olejnik²¹¹  | Jørgen Eivind Olesen¹⁸²  |
 Øystein H. Opedal²¹²  | Simone Orsenigo¹⁹⁰  | Andrej Palaj³⁷  |
 Timo Pampuch²¹³  | Alexey V. Panov²¹⁴ | Meelis Pärtel²¹⁵  | Ada Pastor¹⁷⁸  |
 Aníbal Pauchard^{111,113}  | Harald Pauli¹⁶⁵  | Marian Pavelka⁹⁵  |
 William D. Pearse^{216,217}  | Matthias Peichl¹⁵²  | Loïc Pellissier^{218,219} |
 Rachel M. Penczykowski¹⁹⁷  | Josep Penuelas^{207,208}  | Matteo Petit Bon^{9,76,166}  |
 Alessandro Petraglia⁶¹  | Shyam S. Phartyal²²⁰  | Gareth K. Phoenix²²¹  |
 Casimiro Pio²²²  | Andrea Pitacco²²³  | Camille Pitteloud^{218,219}  |
 Roman Plichta¹⁸⁰  | Francesco Porro¹⁹⁰  | Miguel Portillo-Estrada¹  |
 Jérôme Poulénard²²⁴  | Rafael Poyatos^{63,225}  | Anatoly S. Prokushkin^{30,214}  |
 Radosław Puchalka^{226,227}  | Mihai Pușcaș^{228,229,230}  | Dajana Radujković¹  |
 Krystal Randall^{5,231}  | Amanda Ratier Backes^{65,131}  | Sabine Remmele²⁰³ |
 Wolfram Remmers²³² | David Renault^{40,233}  | Anita C. Risch²³⁴  |
 Christian Rixen^{108,109}  | Sharon A. Robinson^{5,231}  | Bjorn J. M. Robroek²³⁵  |
 Adrian V. Rocha²³⁶  | Christian Rossi^{237,238} | Graziano Rossi¹⁹⁰  |
 Olivier Roupsard^{239,240,241}  | Alexey V. Rubtsov³⁰  | Patrick Saccone¹⁶⁵  |
 Clotilde Sagot²⁴² | Jhonatan Sallo Bravo^{243,244}  | Cinthya C. Santos²⁴⁵  |
 Judith M. Sarneel²⁴⁶  | Tobias Scharnweber²¹³  | Jonas Schmeddes¹⁶⁴ |
 Marius Schmidt²⁴⁷  | Thomas Scholten²⁴⁸  | Max Schuchardt⁴⁶  |
 Naomi Schwartz²⁴⁹ | Tony Scott¹²¹  | Julia Seeber^{134,202}  |
 Ana Cristina Segalin de Andrade²⁴⁵ | Tim Seipel¹⁶⁷  | Philipp Semenchuk²⁵⁰  |
 Rebecca A. Senior²⁵¹  | Josep M. Serra-Diaz²⁵²  | Piotr Sewerniak²⁵³  |
 Ankit Shekhar²⁶  | Nikita V. Sidenko²¹⁴ | Lukas Siebicke¹⁶¹ |
 Laura Siegwart Collier^{142,254}  | Elizabeth Simpson²¹⁶  | David P. Siqueira²⁵⁵  |
 Zuzana Sitková²⁵⁶  | Johan Six²⁶  | Marko Smiljanic²¹³  | Stuart W. Smith^{122,257}  |
 Sarah Smith-Tripp²⁵⁸ | Ben Somers²⁵⁹  | Mia Vedel Sørensen¹²² |
 José João L. L. Souza²⁶⁰  | Bartolomeu Israel Souza²⁶¹  | Arildo Souza Dias^{245,262}  |
 Marko J. Spasojevic²⁶³  | James D. M. Speed²⁶⁴  | Fabien Spicher²⁶⁵  |
 Angela Stanisci²⁶⁶  | Klaus Steinbauer¹⁶⁵  | Rainer Steinbrecher²⁶⁷  |
 Michael Steinwandter²⁰²  | Michael Stemkovski²¹⁶  | Jörg G. Stephan²⁶⁸  |

Christian Stiegler¹⁶¹  | Stefan Stoll^{232,269}  | Martin Svátek¹⁸⁰  |
 Miroslav Svoboda¹⁰  | Torbern Tagesson^{28,270}  | Andrew J. Tanentzap¹⁰⁷  |
 Franziska Tanneberger²⁷¹  | Jean-Paul Theurillat^{272,273}  | Haydn J. D. Thomas⁸²  |
 Andrew D. Thomas²⁷⁴  | Katja Tielbörger⁵⁹ | Marcello Tomaselli⁶¹  |
 Urs Albert Treier^{34,35}  | Mario Trouillier²¹³  | Pavel Dan Turtureanu^{228,230,275}  |
 Rosamond Tutton²⁷⁶ | Vilna A. Tyystjärvi^{4,277}  | Masahito Ueyama²⁷⁸  |
 Karol Ujházy¹⁷⁶  | Mariana Ujházyová⁷²  | Domas Uogintas²⁷⁹  |
 Anastasiya V. Urban^{180,214} | Josef Urban^{30,180}  | Marek Urbaniak²¹¹  |
 Tudor-Mihai Ursu²⁸⁰  | Francesco Primo Vaccari²⁸¹  | Stijn Van de Vondel²⁸²  |
 Liesbeth van den Brink⁵⁹  | Maarten Van Geel²⁸³  | Vigdis Vandvik¹³²  |
 Pieter Vangansbeke⁷  | Andrej Varlagin²⁸⁴  | G. F. Veen²⁸⁵  |
 Elmar Veenendaal²⁸⁶  | Susanna E. Venn²⁸⁷  | Hans Verbeeck²⁸⁸  |
 Erik Verbruggen¹  | Frank G. A. Verheijen²⁸⁹  | Luis Villar²⁹⁰ | Luca Vitale²⁹¹  |
 Pascal Vittoz²⁹²  | Maria Vives-Inglá⁶³  | Jonathan von Oppen^{34,35}  |
 Josefine Walz¹⁶⁸  | Runxi Wang¹²⁵  | Yifeng Wang²⁷⁶  | Robert G. Way²⁷⁶  |
 Ronja E. M. Wedegärtner¹²²  | Robert Weigel¹⁴⁶  | Jan Wild^{9,159}  |
 Matthew Wilkinson⁴²  | Martin Wilmking²¹³  | Lisa Wingate¹⁰¹  |
 Manuela Winkler¹⁶⁵  | Sonja Wipf^{108,237}  | Georg Wohlfahrt¹³⁴  |
 Georgios Xenakis²⁹³  | Yan Yang²⁹⁴  | Zicheng Yu^{295,296}  | Kailiang Yu²⁹⁷  |
 Florian Zellweger¹¹⁰  | Jian Zhang²⁹⁸  | Zhaochen Zhang²⁹⁸ | Peng Zhao¹⁵²  |
 Klaudia Ziemblińska²¹¹  | Reiner Zimmermann^{203,299}  | Shengwei Zong³⁰⁰  |
 Viacheslav I. Zyryanov²¹⁴  | Ivan Nijs¹  | Jonathan Lenoir²⁶⁵ 

¹Research Group PLECO (Plants and Ecosystems), University of Antwerp, Wilrijk, Belgium

²Department of Environmental Systems Science, Institute of Integrative Biology, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

³Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland

⁴Department of Geosciences and Geography, University of Helsinki, Finland

⁵Centre for Sustainable Ecosystem Solutions, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

⁶Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia

⁷Forest & Nature Lab, Department of Environment, Ghent University, Melle-Gontrode, Belgium

⁸Geography Research Unit, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland

⁹Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Průhonice, Czech Republic

¹⁰Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Prague 6 - Suchbát, Czech Republic

¹¹Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, Penryn Campus, Penryn, UK

¹²Department of Geography, York St John University, York, UK

¹³Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

¹⁴School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

¹⁵Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, Maryland, USA

¹⁶Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

¹⁷Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health, University of South-Eastern Norway, Bø, Norway

¹⁸Alpine Ecosystems Research Program, Institute of Ecology, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

¹⁹Department of Range Management, Faculty of Natural Resources and Marine Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Noor, Iran

²⁰Department of Ecological Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

²¹Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

- ²²Environmental Science Center, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar
- ²³Department of Environmental Systems Science, Institute of Integrative Biology, ETH Zurich, Zürich, Switzerland
- ²⁴Research group ECOBE, University of Antwerp, Wilrijk, Belgium
- ²⁵Department of Agroecology and Environment, Agroscope Research Institute, Zürich, Switzerland
- ²⁶Department of Environmental Systems Science, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- ²⁷UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Penicuik, UK
- ²⁸Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- ²⁹European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra, Italy
- ³⁰Siberian Federal University, Krasnoyarsk, Russia
- ³¹Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina
- ³²Instituto Argentino de Nivología, Glaciología y Ciencias Ambientales (IANIGLA), CONICET, CCT-Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina
- ³³Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- ³⁴Center for Sustainable Landscapes Under Global Change, Department of Biology, Aarhus University, Aarhus C, Denmark
- ³⁵Center for Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World, Department of Biology, Aarhus University, Aarhus C, Denmark
- ³⁶Ecological Plant Geography, Faculty of Geography, University of Marburg, Marburg, Germany
- ³⁷Institute of Landscape Ecology Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia
- ³⁸Faculty of Environmental and Forest Sciences, Agricultural University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
- ³⁹Isotope Bioscience Laboratory - ISOFYS, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium
- ⁴⁰Université de Rennes, CNRS, EcoBio (Ecosystèmes, biodiversité, évolution) - UMR 6553, Rennes, France
- ⁴¹Department of Sustainable Agro-ecosystems and Bioresources, Research and Innovation Centre, Fondazione Edmund Mach, San Michele all'Adige, Italy
- ⁴²Forest Research, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, UK
- ⁴³Department of Ecology, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia
- ⁴⁴Jolube Consultor Botánico. C/Mariano R de Ledesma, Jaca, Huesca, Spain
- ⁴⁵Institute of Landscape and Plant Ecology, Department of Plant Ecology, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany
- ⁴⁶Disturbance Ecology, BayCEER, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany
- ⁴⁷Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, FRAM - High North Research Centre for Climate and the Environment, Tromsø, Norway
- ⁴⁸Department of Earth Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden
- ⁴⁹Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden
- ⁵⁰Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden
- ⁵¹Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA
- ⁵²Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research, Telegrafenberg A45, Potsdam, Germany
- ⁵³Geography Department, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany
- ⁵⁴Pós-Graduação em Ciências de Florestas Tropicais, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Brasil
- ⁵⁵UMR ECOSYS INRAE, Université Paris Saclay, AgroParisTech, France
- ⁵⁶Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, BDFFP, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Brazil
- ⁵⁷Department of Forest Sciences, Federal University of Lavras, Lavras, Brazil
- ⁵⁸Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Ordu University, Ordu, Turkey
- ⁵⁹Plant Ecology Group, Department of Evolution and Ecology, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
- ⁶⁰Department of Science and High Technology, Insubria University, Como, Italy
- ⁶¹Department of Chemistry, Life Sciences and Environmental Sustainability, University of Parma, Parma, Italy
- ⁶²Department of Evolutionary Biology, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Biodiversity Research Institute (IRBio), University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
- ⁶³CREAF, E08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Spain
- ⁶⁴Laboratorio de Ecofisiología Vegetal y Cambio Climático, Laboratorio de Ecofisiología Vegetal y Cambio Climático, Departamento de Ciencias Veterinarias y Salud Pública, Universidad Católica de Temuco, Campus Luis Rivas del Canto and Núcleo de Estudios Ambientales (NEA), Facultad de Recursos Naturales, Universidad Católica de Temuco, Temuco, Chile
- ⁶⁵German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
- ⁶⁶Institute of Biology, Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany
- ⁶⁷Laboratory of Bioclimatology, Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poznan, Poland
- ⁶⁸Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, LECA, Grenoble, France
- ⁶⁹Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, LTSER Zone Atelier Alpes, Grenoble, France
- ⁷⁰Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- ⁷¹Forest Ecology and Conservation Group, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
- ⁷²Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Technical University in Zvolen, Zvolen, Slovakia
- ⁷³Millennium Institute Biodiversity of Antarctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems (BASE), University Austral of Chile, Valdivia, Chile

- ⁷⁴Cape Horn International Center (CHIC), Puerto Williams, Chile
- ⁷⁵British Antarctic Survey, NERC, High Cross, Cambridge, UK
- ⁷⁶Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, Faculty of Biosciences Fisheries and Economics, UiT-The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway
- ⁷⁷Climate Change Unit, Environmental Protection Agency of Aosta Valley, Italy
- ⁷⁸Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
- ⁷⁹Department of Science, University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy
- ⁸⁰Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences and Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
- ⁸¹The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, Gothenburg, Sweden
- ⁸²School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
- ⁸³Department of Geology, Geography and Environment, University of Alcalá, Madrid, Spain
- ⁸⁴Chair of Geoinformatics, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany
- ⁸⁵Vegetation Ecology, Institute of Natural Resource Sciences (IUNR), ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Wädenswil, Switzerland
- ⁸⁶Plant Ecology, Bayreuth Center of Ecology and Environmental Research (BayCEER), University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany
- ⁸⁷VITO-TAP, Mol, Belgium
- ⁸⁸Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland
- ⁸⁹Majella Seed Bank, Majella National Park, Colle Madonna, Lama dei Peligni, Italy
- ⁹⁰Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy
- ⁹¹Grupo de Ecología de Poblaciones de Insectos, IFAB (INTA - CONICET), Bariloche, Argentina
- ⁹²Department of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, USA
- ⁹³Faculty of Science, Department of Botany, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic
- ⁹⁴Climate Impacts Research Centre, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Umeå University, Abisko, Sweden
- ⁹⁵Global Change Research Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic
- ⁹⁶School of Biological Sciences, The University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia, Australia
- ⁹⁷Kings Park Science, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Kings Park, Australia
- ⁹⁸Department of Botany, Faculty of Biology, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria
- ⁹⁹Imperial College London, Ascot, UK
- ¹⁰⁰Operation Wallacea, Lincolnshire, UK
- ¹⁰¹INRAE, Bordeaux Sciences Agro, UMR 1391 ISPA, Villenave d'Ornon, France
- ¹⁰²Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy
- ¹⁰³Department of Botany, University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- ¹⁰⁴IMIB - Biodiversity Research Institute, University of Oviedo, Mieres, Spain
- ¹⁰⁵Institute for Plant Science and Microbiology, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
- ¹⁰⁶Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA
- ¹⁰⁷Ecosystems and Global Change Group, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
- ¹⁰⁸WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, Davos Dorf, Switzerland
- ¹⁰⁹Climate Change, Extremes and Natural Hazards in Alpine Regions Research Center CERC, Davos Dorf, Switzerland
- ¹¹⁰Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland
- ¹¹¹Laboratorio de Invasiones Biológicas (LIB), Facultad de Ciencias Forestales, Universidad de Concepción, Concepción, Chile
- ¹¹²School of Education and Social Sciences, Adventist University of Chile, Chile
- ¹¹³Instituto de Ecología y Biodiversidad (IEB), Santiago, Chile
- ¹¹⁴Pyrenean Institute of Ecology (CSIC), Zaragoza, Spain
- ¹¹⁵Biodiversity and Landscape, TERRA Research Centre, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège, Gembloux, Belgium
- ¹¹⁶Department of Geo-information in Environmental Management, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Chania, Greece
- ¹¹⁷Department of Environmental Management and Policy, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, Tbilisi, Georgia
- ¹¹⁸Flemish Institute for Technological Research, Mol, Belgium
- ¹¹⁹Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Faculty of BioScience Engineering, KULeuven, Belgium
- ¹²⁰Department of Biogeochemical Signals, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany
- ¹²¹Sustainable Agricultural Sciences Department, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK
- ¹²²Department of Biology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
- ¹²³Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
- ¹²⁴Department of Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
- ¹²⁵School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China
- ¹²⁶Department of Theoretical and Applied Sciences, Insubria University, Varese, Italy

- ¹²⁷CIRAD, UMR Eco&Sols, Montpellier, France
- ¹²⁸Eco&Sols, Univ Montpellier, CIRAD, INRAE, IRD, Montpellier SupAgro, Montpellier, France
- ¹²⁹Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum Frankfurt, Gelnhausen, Germany
- ¹³⁰Faculty of Biology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany
- ¹³¹Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), Germany
- ¹³²Department of Biological Sciences and Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
- ¹³³Centre for Biodiversity and Taxonomy, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, India
- ¹³⁴Department of Ecology, University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria
- ¹³⁵INRAE, Univ. Bordeaux, BIOGECO, Cestas, France
- ¹³⁶The Heathland Centre, Alver, Norway
- ¹³⁷TERRA Teaching and Research Center, Faculty of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liege, Gembloux, Belgium
- ¹³⁸UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Penicuik, UK
- ¹³⁹Vegetation Ecology, Institute of Natural Resource Sciences, ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Grüental, Switzerland
- ¹⁴⁰Institute for Botany, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Vienna, Austria
- ¹⁴¹Centre for Agrometeorological Research (ZAMF), German Meteorological Service (DWD), Braunschweig, Germany
- ¹⁴²Dept of Biology, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada
- ¹⁴³Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
- ¹⁴⁴Department of Geography, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain
- ¹⁴⁵Faculty of Resource Management, HAWK University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Göttingen, Germany
- ¹⁴⁶Plant Ecology, Albrecht-von-Haller-Institute for Plant Sciences, Georg-August University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany
- ¹⁴⁷Department of Ecoscience and Arctic Research Centre, Aarhus University, Rønde, Denmark
- ¹⁴⁸Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
- ¹⁴⁹Department of Environmental Science, Shinshu University, Matsumoto, Japan
- ¹⁵⁰Department of Ecoscience and Arctic Research Centre, Aarhus University, Roskilde, Denmark
- ¹⁵¹INRAE, University of Bordeaux, BIOGECO, Cestas, France
- ¹⁵²Department of Forest Ecology and Management, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden
- ¹⁵³Department of Silviculture and Forest Tree Genetics, Forest Research Institute, Raszyn, Poland
- ¹⁵⁴Bayreuth Center of Ecology and Environmental Research, Bayreuth, Germany
- ¹⁵⁵ARAID/IPE-CSIC, Pyrenean Institute of Ecology, Avda. Llano de la Victoria, Spain
- ¹⁵⁶Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland
- ¹⁵⁷School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
- ¹⁵⁸Biological and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Stirling, Scotland
- ¹⁵⁹Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Prague 6 - Suchbát, Czech Republic
- ¹⁶⁰Centre for Environmental and Climate Science, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- ¹⁶¹Bioclimatology, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany
- ¹⁶²Environment Agency Austria, Vienna, Austria
- ¹⁶³Centre for Ecological Research, Institute of Ecology and Botany, Vácrátót, Hungary
- ¹⁶⁴Experimental Plant Ecology, Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, University of Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany
- ¹⁶⁵GLORIA Coordination, Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) & Department of Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Research, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
- ¹⁶⁶Department of Arctic Biology, The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway
- ¹⁶⁷Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA
- ¹⁶⁸Climate Impacts Research Centre, Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Umeå University, Abisko, Sweden
- ¹⁶⁹Centre for Polar Ecology, Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic
- ¹⁷⁰School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- ¹⁷¹Terrestrial Ecology Unit, Department of Biology, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium
- ¹⁷²Finnish Meteorological Institute, Climate System Research, Helsinki, Finland
- ¹⁷³INAR Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research/Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Helsinki, Finland
- ¹⁷⁴Interuniversity Institute for Earth System Research, University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- ¹⁷⁵CNR Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Systems in the Mediterranean, Portici (Napoli), Italy
- ¹⁷⁶Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen, Zvolen, Slovakia
- ¹⁷⁷School of Pure & Applied Sciences, Environmental Conservation and Management Programme, Open University of Cyprus, Latsia, Cyprus
- ¹⁷⁸Department of Biology, Aarhus University, Aarhus C, Denmark

- ¹⁷⁹Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, AIAS Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 6B, Aarhus, Denmark
- ¹⁸⁰Department of Forest Botany, Dendrology and Geobiocoenology, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno, Brno, Czech Republic
- ¹⁸¹Regional Centre for Integrated Environmental Monitoring, Odesa National I.I. Mechnikov University, Odesa, Ukraine
- ¹⁸²Department of Agroecology, Aarhus University, Tjele, Denmark
- ¹⁸³NGO New Energy, Kharkiv, Ukraine
- ¹⁸⁴Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, Coordenação de Dinâmica Ambiental, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Brazil
- ¹⁸⁵Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Birmensdorf, Switzerland
- ¹⁸⁶Department of Biology, University of Antwerp, Wilrijk, Belgium
- ¹⁸⁷Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- ¹⁸⁸Department of Environment, Province of Antwerp, Antwerpen, Belgium
- ¹⁸⁹Institute of Plant and Animal Ecology of Ural Division of Russian Academy of Science, Ekaterinburg, Russia
- ¹⁹⁰Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy
- ¹⁹¹Faculty of Science and Technology, Free University of Bolzano, Bolzano, Italy
- ¹⁹²Climate Change Unit, Environmental Protection Agency of Aosta Valley, Saint-Christophe, Italy
- ¹⁹³Chair of Geobotany, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
- ¹⁹⁴Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, Penryn Campus, Cornwall, UK
- ¹⁹⁵Centre for Ecosystem Science, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- ¹⁹⁶Department of Plant Biology and Ecology, University of Seville, Seville, Spain
- ¹⁹⁷Department of Biology, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, USA
- ¹⁹⁸Department of Animal Biology, Institute of Biology, University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil
- ¹⁹⁹CNR Institute of BioEconomy, Bologna, Italy
- ²⁰⁰National Wildlife Research Centre, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- ²⁰¹School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, Burwood, Victoria, Australia
- ²⁰²Institute for Alpine Environment, Eurac Research, Bozen/Bolzano, Italy
- ²⁰³Institute of Biology, Department of Molecular Botany, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany
- ²⁰⁴Instituto de Matemática Aplicada San Luis, IMASL, CONICET and Universidad Nacional de San Luis, San Luis, Argentina
- ²⁰⁵Cátedra de Climatología Agrícola (FCA-UNER), Entre Ríos, Argentina
- ²⁰⁶Grupo de Ecología de Invasiones, INIBIOMA, CONICET/ Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Bariloche, Argentina
- ²⁰⁷CSIC, Global Ecology Unit CREAM- CSIC-UAB, Bellaterra, Spain
- ²⁰⁸CREAF, Spain
- ²⁰⁹Mountains of the Moon University, Fort Portal, Uganda
- ²¹⁰National Agricultural Research Organisation, Mbarara Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Mbarara, Uganda
- ²¹¹Laboratory of Meteorology, Department of Construction and Geoenvironment, Faculty of Environmental Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poznan, Poland
- ²¹²Department of Biology, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- ²¹³Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, University Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany
- ²¹⁴V.N. Sukachev Institute of Forest SB RAS, Krasnoyarsk, Russia
- ²¹⁵Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia
- ²¹⁶Department of Biology and Ecology Center, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA
- ²¹⁷Department of Life Sciences, Imperial College, Ascot, Berkshire, UK
- ²¹⁸Landscape Ecology, Institute of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Department of Environmental Systems Science, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland
- ²¹⁹Unit of Land Change Science, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland
- ²²⁰School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University, Rajgir, India
- ²²¹School of Biosciences, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
- ²²²CESAM & Department of Environment, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
- ²²³Department of Agronomy, Food, Natural resources, Animals and Environment - University of Padua, Legnaro, Italy
- ²²⁴Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, EDYTEM, Chambéry, France
- ²²⁵Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
- ²²⁶Department of Ecology and Biogeography, Faculty of Biological and Veterinary Sciences, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland
- ²²⁷Centre for Climate Change Research, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland
- ²²⁸A. Borza Botanic Garden, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- ²²⁹Faculty of Biology and Geology, Department of Taxonomy and Ecology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- ²³⁰E. G. Racoviță Institute, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

- ²³¹Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia
- ²³²University of Applied Sciences Trier, Environmental Campus Birkenfeld, Birkenfeld, Germany
- ²³³Institut Universitaire de France, Paris, France
- ²³⁴Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland
- ²³⁵Aquatic Ecology and Environmental Biology, Radboud Institute for Environmental and Biological Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- ²³⁶Department of Biological Sciences and the Environmental Change Initiative, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
- ²³⁷Swiss National Park, Chastè Planta-Wildenberg, Zerne, Switzerland
- ²³⁸Remote Sensing Laboratories, Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- ²³⁹CIRAD, UMR Eco&Sols, Dakar, Senegal
- ²⁴⁰Eco&Sols, Univ Montpellier, CIRAD, INRAE, IRD, Institut Agro, Montpellier, France
- ²⁴¹LMI IESOL, Centre IRD-ISRA de Bel Air, Dakar, Senegal
- ²⁴²Parc national des Ecrins - Domaine de Charance, France
- ²⁴³Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco, Cusco, Perú
- ²⁴⁴Centro de Investigación de la Biodiversidad Wilhelm L. Johannsen, Cusco, Perú
- ²⁴⁵Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, PDBFF, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Brazil
- ²⁴⁶Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden
- ²⁴⁷Institute of Bio- and Geosciences (IBG-3): Agrosphere, Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Jülich, Germany
- ²⁴⁸Chair of Soil Science and Geomorphology, Department of Geosciences, University of Tuebingen, Tuebingen, Germany
- ²⁴⁹Department of Geography, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- ²⁵⁰Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research, Vienna, Austria
- ²⁵¹Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
- ²⁵²Université de Lorraine, AgroParisTech, INRAE, Nancy, France
- ²⁵³Department of Soil Science and Landscape Management, Faculty of Earth Sciences and Spatial Management, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland
- ²⁵⁴Terra Nova National Park, Parks Canada Agency, Glovertown, Newfoundland, Canada
- ²⁵⁵Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- ²⁵⁶National Forest Centre, Forest Research Institute Zvolen, Zvolen, Slovakia
- ²⁵⁷Department of Physical Geography, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
- ²⁵⁸Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- ²⁵⁹Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Leuven, Belgium
- ²⁶⁰Soil Science Department, Federal University of Viçosa, Viçosa-MG, Brazil
- ²⁶¹Departamento de Geociências. Cidade Universitária, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa - PB, Brasil
- ²⁶²Department of Physical Geography, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- ²⁶³Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, University of California Riverside, Riverside, California, USA
- ²⁶⁴Department of Natural History, NTNU University Museum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
- ²⁶⁵UMR 7058 CNRS 'Ecologie et Dynamique des Systèmes Anthropisés' (EDYSAN), Univ. de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens, France
- ²⁶⁶EnvixLab, Dipartimento di Bioscienze e Territorio, Università degli Studi del Molise, Termoli, Italy
- ²⁶⁷Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research (IMK), Department of Atmospheric Environmental Research (IFU), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
- ²⁶⁸Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU Swedish Species Information Centre, Uppsala, Sweden
- ²⁶⁹Faculty for Biology, University Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany
- ²⁷⁰Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- ²⁷¹Experimental Plant Ecology, Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, University of Greifswald, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre, Greifswald, Germany
- ²⁷²Foundation J.-M. Aubert, Champex-Lac, Switzerland
- ²⁷³Département de Botanique et Biologie végétale, Université de Genève, Chambésy, Switzerland
- ²⁷⁴Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK
- ²⁷⁵Center for Systematic Biology, Biodiversity and Bioresources - 3B, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- ²⁷⁶Northern Environmental Geoscience Laboratory, Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- ²⁷⁷Finnish Meteorological Inst, Helsinki, Finland
- ²⁷⁸Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Osaka Prefecture University, Japan
- ²⁷⁹Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania
- ²⁸⁰Institute of Biological Research Cluj-Napoca, National Institute of Research and Development for Biological Sciences, Bucharest, Romania

²⁸¹CNR Institute for BioEconomy, Firenze, Italy

²⁸²The Ecosystem Management Research Group (ECOBE), University of Antwerp, Wilrijk (Antwerpen), Belgium

²⁸³Plant Conservation and Population Biology, Department of Biology, KU Leuven, Heverlee, Belgium

²⁸⁴A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

²⁸⁵Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Wageningen, the Netherlands

²⁸⁶Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation Group, Wageningen University, Wageningen, the Netherlands

²⁸⁷Centre for Integrative Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, Burwood, Victoria, Australia

²⁸⁸CAVElab - Computational and Applied Vegetation Ecology, Department of Environment, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

²⁸⁹Earth Surface Processes Team, Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM), Department of Environment and Planning, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal

²⁹⁰Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, IPE-CSIC. Av. Llano de la Victoria, Jaca (Huesca), Spain

²⁹¹CNR - Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Systems in the Mediterranean, Portici, Italy

²⁹²Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics, Faculty of Geosciences and Environment, University of Lausanne, Géopolis, Switzerland

²⁹³Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Roslin, UK

²⁹⁴Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chengdu, P.R. China

²⁹⁵MOE Key Laboratory of Geographical Processes and Ecological Security in Changbai Mountains, School of Geographical Sciences, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China

²⁹⁶Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA

²⁹⁷High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University, New Jersey, USA

²⁹⁸Zhejiang Tiantong Forest Ecosystem National Observation and Research Station, School of Ecological and Environmental Sciences, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

²⁹⁹Ecological-Botanical Gardens, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany

³⁰⁰Key Laboratory of Geographical Processes and Ecological Security in Changbai Mountains, Ministry of Education, School of Geographical Sciences, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China

Correspondence

Jonas J. Lembrechts, Research Group PLECO (Plants and Ecosystems), University of Antwerp, 2610 Wilrijk, Belgium.
Email: jonas.lembrechts@uantwerpen.be

Jonathan Lenoir, UMR 7058 CNRS 'Ecologie et Dynamique des Systèmes Anthropisés' (EDYSAN), Univ. de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens, France.
Email: jonathan.lenoir@u-picardie.fr

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Abstract

Research in global change ecology relies heavily on global climatic grids derived from estimates of air temperature in open areas at around 2 m above the ground. These climatic grids do not reflect conditions below vegetation canopies and near the ground surface, where critical ecosystem functions occur and most terrestrial species reside. Here, we provide global maps of soil temperature and bioclimatic variables at a 1-km² resolution for 0–5 and 5–15 cm soil depth. These maps were created by calculating the difference (i.e. offset) between in situ soil temperature measurements, based on time series from over 1200 1-km² pixels (summarized from 8519 unique temperature sensors) across all the world's major terrestrial biomes, and coarse-grained air temperature estimates from ERA5-Land (an atmospheric reanalysis by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts). We show that mean annual soil temperature differs markedly from the corresponding gridded air temperature, by up to 10°C (mean = 3.0 ± 2.1°C), with substantial variation across biomes and seasons. Over the year, soils in cold and/or dry biomes are substantially warmer (+3.6 ± 2.3°C) than gridded air temperature, whereas soils in warm and humid environments are on average slightly cooler (−0.7 ± 2.3°C). The observed substantial and biome-specific offsets emphasize that the projected impacts of climate and climate change on near-surface biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are inaccurately assessed when air rather than soil temperature is used, especially in cold environments. The global soil-related

bioclimatic variables provided here are an important step forward for any application in ecology and related disciplines. Nevertheless, we highlight the need to fill remaining geographic gaps by collecting more in situ measurements of microclimate conditions to further enhance the spatiotemporal resolution of global soil temperature products for ecological applications.

KEYWORDS

bioclimatic variables, global maps, microclimate, near-surface temperatures, soil-dwelling organisms, soil temperature, temperature offset, weather stations

1 | INTRODUCTION

With the rapidly increasing availability of big data on species distributions, functional traits and ecosystem functioning (Bond-Lamberty & Thomson, 2018; Bruelheide et al., 2018; Kattge et al., 2019; Kissling et al., 2018; Lenoir et al., 2020), we can now study biodiversity and ecosystem responses to global changes in unprecedented detail (Antão et al., 2020; van den Hoogen et al., 2019; Senior et al., 2019; Steidinger et al., 2019). However, despite this increasing availability of ecological data, most spatially explicit studies of ecological, biophysical and biogeochemical processes still have to rely on the same global gridded temperature data (Du et al., 2020; van den Hoogen et al., 2019; Soudzilovskaia et al., 2015). Thus far, these global gridded products are based on measurements from standard meteorological stations that record free-air temperature inside well-ventilated protective shields placed up to 2 m above-ground in open, shade-free habitats, where abiotic conditions may differ substantially from those actually experienced by most organisms (Lembrechts et al., 2020; World Meteorological Organization, 2008).

Ecological patterns and processes often relate more directly to below-canopy soil temperature rather than to well-ventilated air temperature inside a weather station. Near-surface, rather than air, temperature better predicts ecosystem functions like biogeochemical cycling (e.g. organic matter decomposition, soil respiration and other aspects of the global carbon balance) (Davis et al., 2020; Gottschall et al., 2019; Hursh et al., 2017; Jian et al., 2021; Perera-Castro et al., 2020; Pleim & Gilliam, 2009; Portillo-Estrada et al., 2016; Schimel et al., 2004). Similarly, the use of soil temperature in correlative analyses or predictive models may improve predictions of climate impacts on organismal physiology and behaviour, as well as on population and community dynamics and species distributions (Ashcroft et al., 2008; Berner et al., 2020; Kearney et al., 2009; Körner & Paulsen, 2004; Opedal et al., 2015; Scherrer et al., 2011; Schimel et al., 2004; Zellweger et al., 2020). Given the key role of soil-related processes for both above-ground and below-ground parts of the ecosystem and their feedbacks to the atmosphere (Crowther et al., 2016), adequate soil temperature data are critical for a broad range of fields of study, such as ecology, biogeography, biogeochemistry, agronomy,

soil science and climate system dynamics. Nevertheless, existing global soil temperature products such as those from ERA5-Land (Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2019), with a resolution of 0.08×0.08 degrees ($\approx 9 \times 9$ km at the equator) remain too coarse for most ecological applications.

The direction and magnitude of the difference or *offset* between *in situ* soil temperature and coarse-gridded air temperature products result from a combination of two factors: (i) the (vertical) microclimatic difference between air and soil temperature and (ii) the (horizontal) mesoclimatic difference between air temperature in flat, cleared areas (i.e. where meteorological stations are located) and air temperature within different vegetation types (e.g. below a dense canopy of trees) or topographies (e.g. within a ravine or on a ridge) (De Frenne et al., 2021; Lembrechts et al., 2020). In essence, the offset is thus the combination of both the vertical and horizontal differences that result from factors affecting the energy budget at the Earth's surface, principally radiative energy: the ground absorbs radiative energy, which is transferred to the air by convective heat exchange, evaporation and spatial variation in net radiation, and lower convective conductance near the Earth's surface results in horizontal and vertical variation in temperature (Geiger, 1950; Richardson, 1922). Both these vertical and horizontal differences in temperature vary significantly across the globe and in time as a result of environmental conditions affecting the radiation budget (e.g. as a result of topographic orientation, canopy cover or surface albedo), convective heat exchange and evaporation (e.g. foliage density, variation in the degree of wind shear caused by surface friction) and the capacity for the soil to store and conduct heat (e.g. water content and soil structure and texture) (De Frenne et al., 2019; Geiger, 1950; Way & Lewkowicz, 2018; Zhang et al., 2008).

Although the physics of soil temperatures have long been well understood (Geiger, 1950; Richardson, 1922), the creation of high-resolution global gridded soil temperature products has not been feasible before, partially due to the absence of detailed global *in situ* soil temperature measurements (Lembrechts et al., 2020; Lembrechts & Lenoir, 2019). Recently, however, the call for microclimate temperature data representative of *in situ* conditions (i.e. microhabitat) as experienced by organisms living close to the ground surface or in the soil has become more urgent (Bramer et al., 2018). In this paper, we address this issue by generating

global gridded maps of below-canopy and near-surface soil temperature at 1-km² resolution (in line with most existing global air temperature products). These maps are more representative of the habitat conditions as experienced by organisms living under vegetation canopies, in the topsoil or near the soil surface. They were created using the abovementioned offset between gridded air temperature data and in situ soil temperature measurements. We expect these soil temperature maps to be substantially more representative of actual microclimatic conditions than existing products as they capture relevant near-surface and belowground abiotic conditions where ecosystem functions and processes operate (Bramer et al., 2018; Daly, 2006; Körner & Hiltbrunner, 2018). Indeed, the offset between free-air (macroclimate) and soil (microclimate) temperature, and between cleared areas and other habitats, can easily reach up to $\pm 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ annually, even at the 1-km² spatial resolution used here (Lembrechts et al., 2019; Wild et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2018).

To create the global gridded soil temperature maps introduced above, we used over 8500 time series of soil temperature measured in situ across the world's major terrestrial biomes, which are compiled and stored in the SoilTemp database (Lembrechts et al., 2020) (Figure 1a, Figure S1) and averaged into 1200 (or 1000 for the second soil layer) unique 1-km² pixels. First, to illustrate the magnitude of the studied effect, we visualized the global and biome-specific patterns in the mean annual offset between in situ soil temperature (0–5 cm and 5–15 cm depth) and coarse-scale interpolated air temperature from ERA5-Land using the average within 1 × 1 km grid cells. Hereafter, we refer to this difference between soil temperature and air temperature as the *temperature offset* (or *offset*), sensu (De Frenne et al., 2021); elsewhere called the *surface offset* (Smith & Riseborough, 1996, 2002). Secondly, we used a machine learning approach with 31 environmental predictor variables (including macroclimate, soil, topography, reflectance, vegetation and anthropogenic variables) to model the spatial variation in monthly temperature offsets at a 1 × 1 km resolution for all continents except Antarctica (as not covered by many of the used predictor variable layers). Using these offsets, we then calculated relevant soil-related bioclimatic variables (SBIO), mirroring the existing global bioclimatic variables for air temperature. Finally, we compared the modelled mean annual temperature (SBIO1, topsoil layer) with a similar product based on monthly ERA5L topsoil (0–7 cm) temperature with a spatial resolution of 0.08 × 0.08 degrees ($\approx 9 \times 9$ km at the equator).

2 | METHODS

2.1 | Data acquisition

Analyses are based on SoilTemp, a global database of microclimate time series (Lembrechts et al., 2020). We compiled soil temperature measurements from 9362 unique sensors (mean duration 2.9 years, median duration 1.0 year, ranging from 1 month to 41 years) from

60 countries, using both published and unpublished data sources (Figure 1, Figure S1). Each sensor corresponds to one independent time series.

We used time series spanning a minimum of 1 month, with a temporal resolution of 4 h or less. Sensors of any type were included (Table S1), as long as they measured in situ. Sensors in experimentally manipulated plots, that is, plots in which microclimate has been manipulated, such as in open top chambers, were excluded. Most data (>90%) came from low-cost rugged microclimate loggers such as iButtons (Maxim Integrated, USA) or TMS4-sensors (Wild et al., 2019), with measurement errors of around 0.5–1°C (note that we are using degree Celsius over Kelvin throughout, for ease of understanding), while in a minority of cases sensors with higher meteorological specifications such as industrial or scientific-grade thermocouples and thermistors (measurement errors of less than 0.5°C) were used. Contributing data sets mostly consisted of short-term regional networks of microclimate measurements, yet also included a set (<5%) of soil temperature sensors from long-term research networks equipped with weather stations (e.g. Pastorello et al., 2017). By combining these two types of data, a much higher spatial density of sensors and broader distribution of microhabitats could be obtained than by using weather station data only.

About 68% of sensors were deployed between 2010 and 2020 and 93% between 2000 and 2020; we, thus, focus on the latter period in our analyses. Additionally, given the relatively short time frame covered by most individual sensors and thus the lack of spatially unbiased long-term time series, we were not able to test for systematic differences in the temperature offset between old and recent data sets, and thus we did not correct for this in our models. We strongly urge future studies to assess such temporal dynamics in the offset once long-term microclimate data have become sufficient and more available.

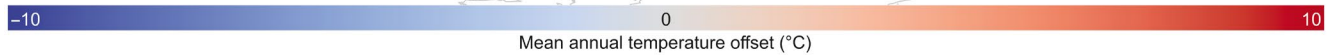
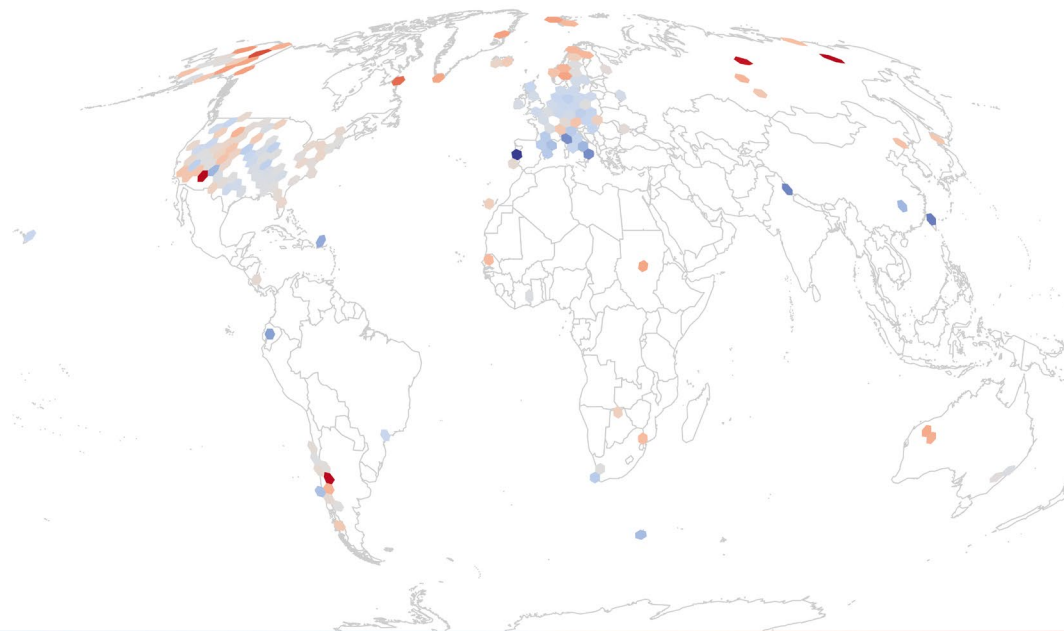
For each of the individual 9362 time series, we calculated monthly mean, minimum (5% percentile of all monthly values) and maximum (95% percentile) temperature, after checking all time series for plausibility and erroneous data. These monthly values, while perhaps not fully intercomparable between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere, are those that have traditionally been used to calculate bioclimatic variables (Fick & Hijmans, 2017). Months with more than 1 day of missing data, either at the beginning or end of the measurement period, or due to logger malfunctioning during measurement, were excluded, resulting in a final subset of 380,676 months of soil temperature time series that were used for further analyses. For each sensor with more than 12 months of data, we calculated moving averages of annual mean temperature, using each consecutive month as a starting month and calculating the mean temperature including the next 11 months. We used these moving averages to make maximal use of the full temporal extent covered by each sensor because each time series spanned a different time period, often including parts of calendar years only.

The selected data set contained sensors installed strictly belowground, measuring temperature at depths between 0 and 200 cm

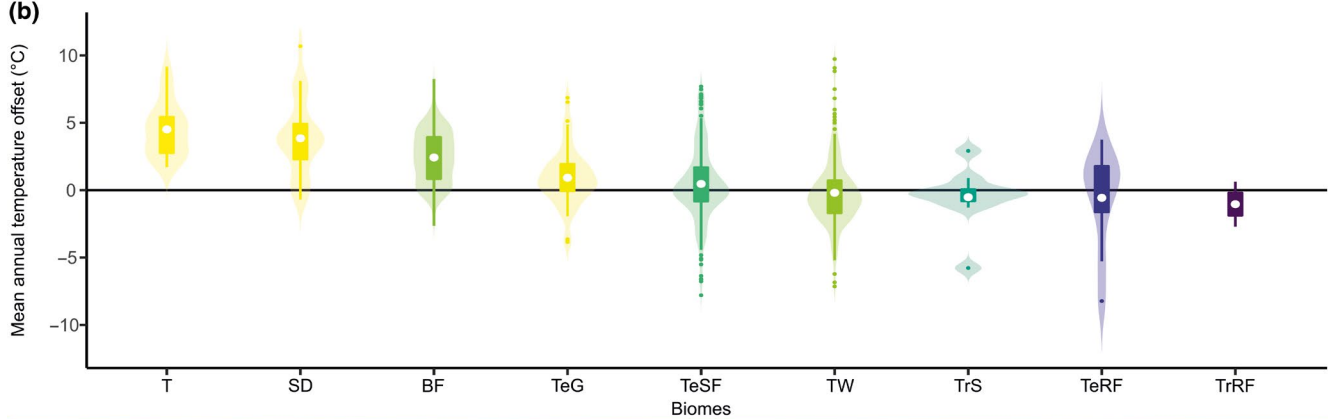
below the ground surface. Sensors recording several measurements at the same site but located at different (vertical) depths were included separately (the 9362 unique sensors thus came from 7251 unique loggers).

Sensors were grouped in different soil depth categories (0–5, 5–15, 15–30, 30–60, 60–100, 100–200 cm, Table S2) to incorporate the effects of soil temperature dampening associated with vertical stratification. We limited our analyses to the topsoil (0–5 cm) and the second

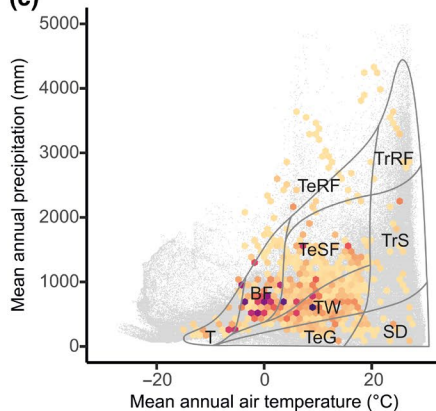
(a)



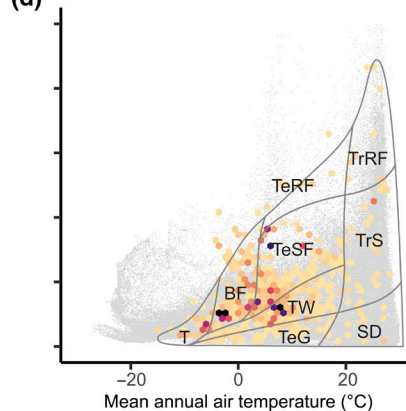
(b)



(c)



(d)



T	Tundra
SD	Subtropical Desert
BF	Boreal Forest
TeG	Temperate Grassland
TeSF	Temperate Seasonal Forest
TW	Temperate Woodland
TrS	Tropical Savanna
TeRF	Temperate Rainforest
TrRF	Tropical Rainforest

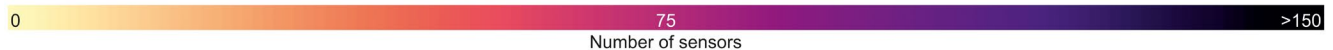


FIGURE 1 Temperature offsets between soil and air temperature differed significantly among biomes. (a) Distribution of in situ measurement locations across the globe, coloured by the mean annual temperature offset (in °C) between in situ measured soil temperature (topsoil, 0–5 cm depth) and gridded air temperature (ERA5-Land). Offsets were averaged per hexagon, each with a size of approximately 70,000 km². Mollweide projection. (b) Mean annual temperature offsets per Whittaker biome (adapted from Whittaker 1970, based on geographic location of sensors averaged at 1 km²; 0–5 cm depth), ordered by mean temperature offset and coloured by mean annual precipitation. (c–d) Distribution of sensors in 2D climate space for the topsoil (c, 0–5 cm depth, $N = 4530$) and the second layer (d, 5–15 cm depth, $N = 3989$). Colours of hexagons indicate the number of sensors at each climatic location, with a resolution of 1.2°C (x-axis) and 100 mm (y-axis). Grey dots in the background represent the global variation in climatic space (obtained by sampling 1,000,000 random locations from the CHELSA world maps). Overlay with grey lines depicts a delineation of Whittaker biomes

soil layer (5–15 cm), as we currently lack sufficient global coverage to make accurate models at deeper soil depths (8519 time series, about 91%, came from the two upper depth layers). Due to uncertainty in the identification of these soil depths between studies (e.g. due to litter layers), no finer categorization is used.

We tested for potential bias in temporal resolution (i.e. measurement interval) by calculating mean, minimum and maximum temperature for a selection of 2000 months for data measured every 15 min, and the same data aggregated to 30, 60, 90, 120 and 240 min. Monthly mean, minimum and maximum temperature calculated with any of the aggregated data sets differed on average less than 0.2°C from the ones with the highest temporal resolution. We were, thus, confident that pooling data with different temporal resolutions of 4 h or finer would not significantly affect our results.

2.2 | Temperature offset calculation

For each monthly value at each sensor location (see Table S3 for number of data points per month), we extracted the corresponding monthly means of the 2 m air temperature from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather (ECMWF) Forecast's 5th reanalysis (ERA5) (from 1979 to 1981) and ERA5-Land from 1981 to 2020 (Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2019), hereafter called ERA5L. The latter data set models the global climate with a spatial resolution of 0.08 × 0.08 degrees (≈9 × 9 km at the equator) with an hourly resolution, converted into monthly means using daily means for the whole month. Similarly, monthly minima and maxima were obtained from TerraClimate (Abatzoglou et al., 2018) for the period 2000 to 2020 at a 0.04 × 0.04 degrees (≈4 × 4 km at the equator) resolution. Monthly means for TerraClimate were not available, and we therefore estimated them by averaging the monthly minima and maxima. Finally, we also obtained monthly mean temperatures from CHELSA (Karger et al., 2017a, 2017b) for the period 2000 to 2013 at a 30 × 30 arc second (≈1 × 1 km at the equator) resolution. In our modelling exercises (see section 2.5 *Modelling* below), we opted to use the mean temperature offsets as calculated based on ERA5L rather than on CHELSA. While CHELSA's higher spatial resolution is definitely an advantage, its time period (stopping in 2013) insufficiently overlapped with the time period covered by our in situ measurements (2000–2020), soil temperature offsets based on the CHELSA data set were only used for comparative purposes. We used TerraClimate to model offsets in monthly minimum and maximum temperature.

We calculated moving annual averages of the gridded air temperature data in the same way as for soil temperature. These were used to create annual temperature offset values following the same approach as above.

The offset between the in situ measured soil temperature in the SoilTemp database and the 2 m free-air temperature obtained from the air-temperature grids (ERA5L, TerraClimate and CHELSA, hereafter called 'gridded air temperature') was calculated by subtracting the monthly or annual mean air temperature from the monthly or annual mean soil temperature. Positive offset values indicate a measured soil temperature higher than gridded air temperature, whereas negative offset values represent cooler soils. Similarly, monthly minimum and maximum air temperature were subtracted from minimum and maximum soil temperature, respectively. Monthly minima and maxima of the soil temperature were calculated as, respectively, the 5% lowest and highest instantaneous measurement in that month, to correct for outliers, which can be especially pronounced at the soil surface (Speak et al., 2020). As a result, patterns in minima and maxima are more conservative estimates than if we had used the absolute lowest and highest values.

Importantly, the temperature offset calculated here is a result of three key groups of drivers: (1) height effects (2 m versus 0–15 cm below the soil surface); (2) environmental or habitat effects (e.g. spatial variability in vegetation, snow or topography); and (3) spatial scale effects (resolution of gridded air temperature) (Lembrechts et al., 2020). We investigated the potential role of scale effects by comparing gridded air temperature data sources with different resolutions (ERA5L, TerraClimate and CHELSA, see below; Figures S2–S3). Height effects and environmental effects are, however, not disentangled here, as the offset we propose incorporates both the difference between air and soil temperature (vertically), as well as the difference between free-air macroclimate and in situ microclimate (horizontally) in one measure (Lembrechts et al., 2020). While it can be argued that it would be better to treat both vertical and horizontal effects separately, this would require a similar database of coupled in situ air and soil temperature measurements, which is not yet available. Using in situ measured air temperature could also solve spatial mismatches (i.e. spatially averaged air temperature represents the whole 1 to 81 km² pixel, depending on pixel size, not only the exact location of the sensor). However, coupled air and soil temperature measurements are not only rare, but the air temperature measurements also have large measurement errors, especially in open habitats (Maclean et al., 2021). These errors can be up to several degrees in open habitats when using non-standardized sensors, loggers and shielding (Holden et al., 2013; Maclean et al., 2021;

Terando et al., 2017). Hence, using in situ measured air temperature without correcting for these measurement errors would be misleading.

2.3 | Global and biome-level analyses

For the purpose of visualization, annual offsets were first averaged in hexagons with a resolution of approximately 70,000 km², using the *dggridR*-package (version 2.0.4) in R (Barnes et al., 2017) (Figure 1). Next, we plotted mean, minimum and maximum annual soil temperature as a function of corresponding gridded air temperature from ERA5L, TerraClimate and CHELSA and used generalized additive models (GAMs, package *mgcv* 1.8-31; Wood, 2012) to visualize deviations from the 1:1-line (i.e. temperature offsets deviating from zero, Figures S4–S5).

All annual and monthly values within each soil depth category and falling within the same 1-km² pixel were aggregated as a mean, resulting in a total of c. 1200 unique pixels at 0–5 cm, and c. 1000 unique pixels at 5–15 cm each month, across the globe (Tables S3–S5). This averaging includes summarizing the data over space, that is, multiple sensors within the same 1-km² pixel, and time, that is, data from multi-year time series from a certain sensor, to reduce spatial and temporal autocorrelation and sampling bias. We assigned these 1-km² averages to the corresponding Whittaker biome of their georeferenced location, using the package *plotbiomes* (version 0.0.0.9901) in R (Figure 1c,d, Tables S4–S5 (Stefan & Levin, 2018)). We ranked biomes based on their offset and compared this with the mean annual precipitation in each biome (Figure 1b). This was done separately for each air temperature data source (ERA5L, TerraClimate and CHELSA), soil depth (0–5 cm, 5–15 cm) and time frame (ERA5L 1979–2020, 2000–2020), as well as for the offset between monthly minimum and maximum soil temperature and the minimum and maximum gridded air temperature from TerraClimate. Our analyses showed that patterns were robust to variation in spatial resolution, sensor depth, climate interpolation method and temporal scale (Figures S2–S5).

2.4 | Acquisition of global predictor variables

To create spatial predictive models of the offset between in situ soil temperature and gridded air temperature, we first sampled a stack of global map layers at each of the logger locations within the data set. These layers included long-term macroclimatic conditions, soil texture and physiochemical information, vegetation, radiation and topographic indices as well as anthropogenic variables. Details of all layers, including descriptions, units and source information, are described in Supplementary Data S1. In short, information about soil texture, structure and physiochemical properties was obtained from SoilGrids (version 1 [Hengl et al., 2017]), limited to the upper soil layer (top 5 cm). Long-term averages of macroclimatic conditions (i.e. monthly mean, maximum and minimum temperature, monthly precipitation) was obtained from CHELSA (version 2017 [Karger et al., 2017a]), which includes climate data averaged across 1979–2013, and from WorldClim (version 2 [Fick & Hijmans, 2017]). Monthly

snow probability is based on a pixel-wise frequency of snow occurrence (snow cover >10%) in MODIS daily snow cover products (MOD10A1 & MYD10A1 [Hall et al., 2002]) in 2001–2019. Spectral vegetation indices (i.e. averaged MODIS NDVI product MYD13Q1) and surface reflectance data (i.e. MODIS MCD43A4) were obtained from the Google Earth Engine Data Catalog (developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets) and averaged from 2015 to 2019. Landcover and topographic information were obtained from EarthEnv (Amatulli et al., 2018). Aridity index (AI) and potential evapotranspiration layers were obtained from CGIAR (Zomer et al., 2008). Anthropogenic information (population density) was obtained from the EU JRC (ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_pop2019.php). Aboveground biomass data were obtained from GlobBiomass (Santoro, 2018). RESOLVE ecoregion classifications were used to categorize sampling locations into biomes (Dinerstein et al., 2017). With this set of predictor variables, we included information on all different categories of drivers of soil temperature. An important variable that had to be excluded was snow depth, due to the lack of a relevant 1-km² resolution global product. The final set of predictor variables included 24 'static' variables and eight monthly layers (i.e. maximum, mean, and minimum temperature, precipitation, cloud cover, solar radiation, water vapour pressure and snow cover). As cloud cover estimates were not available for high-latitude regions in the Northern Hemisphere in January and December due to a lack of daylight, we excluded cloud cover as an explanatory variable for these months (i.e. 'EarthEnvCloudCover_MODCF_monthlymean_XX', with XX representing the months in two-digit form Supplementary Data S1).

All variable map layers were reprojected and resampled to a unified pixel grid in EPSG:4326 (WGS84) at 30 arc-sec resolution ($\approx 1 \times 1$ km at the equator). Areas covered by permanent snow or ice (e.g. the Greenland ice cap or glaciated mountain ranges, identified using SoilGrids) were excluded from the analyses. Antarctic sampling points were excluded from the modelling data set owing to the limited coverage of several covariate layers in the region.

2.5 | Modelling

To generate global maps of monthly temperature offsets (Figure 2), we trained Random Forest (RF) models for each month, using the temperature offsets as the response variables and the global variable layers as predictors (Breiman, 2001; Hengl et al., 2018). We used a geospatial RF modelling pipeline as developed by van den Hoogen et al. (2021). RF models are machine learning models that combine many classification trees using randomized subsets of the data, with each tree iteratively dividing data into groups of most closely related data points (Hengl et al., 2018). They are particularly valuable here due to their capacity to uncover nonlinear relationships (e.g. due to increased decoupling of soil from air temperature in colder and thus snow-covered areas) and their ability to capture complex interactions among covariates (e.g. between snow and vegetation cover) (Olden et al., 2008). Furthermore, they may currently have advantages over mechanistic microclimate models for global modelling (Maclean &

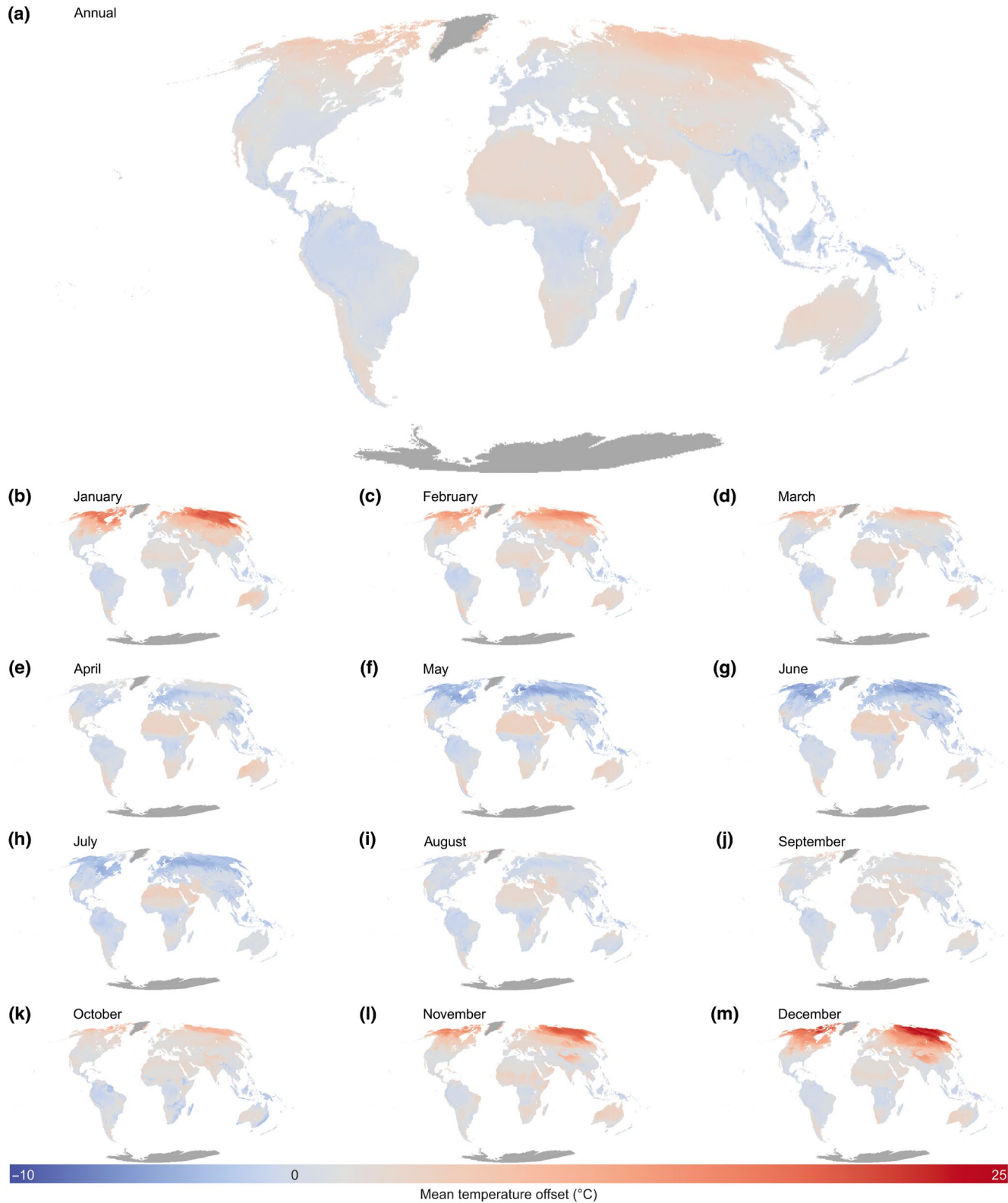


FIGURE 2 Global modelled temperature offsets between soil and air temperature show strong spatiotemporal variation across months. Modelled annual (a) and monthly (b–m) temperature offset (in °C) between in situ measured soil temperature (topsoil, 0–5 cm) and gridded air temperature. Positive (red) values indicate soils that are warmer than the air. Dark grey represents regions outside the modelling area

Klinges, 2021), as the latter require highly detailed physical input parameters for calibration, and current computational barriers preclude global assessments at a 1 km² resolution and over multiple decades.

Nevertheless, we urge future endeavours to compare and potentially improve our results with estimates based on such mechanistic models.

We performed a grid search procedure to tune the RF models across a range of 52 hyperparameter settings (variables per split: 2–14, minimum leaf population: 2–5, in all combinations adding up to 52 models, each time with 250 trees). During this procedure, we assessed each of the 52 model's performance using *k*-fold cross-validation (*k* = 10; folds assigned randomly, stratified per biome). The models' mean and standard deviation values were the basis for choosing the best of all evaluated models. This procedure was repeated for each month separately for the two soil depth layers (0–5 cm, 5–15 cm), for offsets in mean, minimum and maximum temperature. The importance of predictor variables was assessed using the variable importance and ordered by mean variable importance across all models. This variable importance adds up the decreases in the impurity criterion (i.e. the measure on which the local optimal condition is chosen) at each split of a node for each individual variable over all trees in the forest (van den Hoogen et al., 2021).

2.6 | Soil bioclimatic variables

The resulting global maps of the annual and monthly offsets between mean, minimum and maximum soil and air temperature were used to calculate relevant bioclimatic variables following the definition used in CHELSA, BIOCLIM, ANUCLIM and WorldClim (Booth et al., 2014; Fick & Hijmans, 2017; Karger et al., 2017a; Xu & Hutchinson, 2011) (Table 1, Figures 3–4). First, we calculated monthly soil mean, maximum and minimum temperature by adding monthly temperature offsets to the respective CHELSA monthly mean, maximum and minimum temperature (Karger et al., 2017a). Next, we used these soil temperature layers to compute 11 soil bioclimatic layers (SBIO, Table 1) (O'Donnell & Ignizio, 2012). Wettest and driest quarters were identified for each pixel based on CHELSA's monthly values.

2.7 | Model uncertainty

To assess the uncertainty in the monthly models, we performed a stratified bootstrapping procedure, with total size of the bootstrap

samples equal to the original training data (van den Hoogen et al., 2021). Using biomes as a stratification category, we ensured the samples included in each of the bootstrap training collections were proportionally representative of each biome's total area. Next, we trained RF models (with the same hyperparameters as selected during the grid-search procedure) using each of 100 bootstrap iterations. Each of these trained RF models was then used to classify the predictor layer stack, to generate per-pixel 95% confidence intervals and standard deviation for the modelled monthly offsets (Figure 5a, Figure S6a). The mean R^2 value of the RF models for the monthly mean temperature offset was 0.70 (from 0.64 to 0.78) at 0–5 cm and 0.76 (0.63–0.85) at 5 to 15 cm across all 12 monthly models. Mean RMSE of the models was 2.20°C (1.94–2.51°C) at 0–5 cm, and 2.06°C (1.67–2.35°C) at 5–15 cm.

Importantly, model uncertainty as reported in Figure 5a and Figure S6a comes on top of existing uncertainties in (1) in situ soil temperature measurements and (2) the ERA5L macroclimate models as used in our models. However, both of those are usually under 1°C (Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2019; Wild et al., 2019).

To assess the spatial extent of extrapolation, which is necessary due to the incomplete global coverage of the training data, we first performed a principal component analysis (PCA) on the full environmental space covered by the monthly training data, including all explanatory variables as used in the models, and then transformed the composite image into the same principal components' (PC) spaces as of the sampled data (van den Hoogen et al., 2019). Next, we created convex hulls for each of the bivariate combinations from the first 10 to 12 PCs, covering at least 90% of the sample space variation, with the number of PCs depending on the month. Using the coordinates of these convex hulls, we assessed whether each pixel fell within or outside each of these convex hulls and calculated the percentage of bivariate combinations for which this was the case (Figure 5b, Figure S6b). This process was repeated for each month and for each of the two soil depths separately.

These uncertainty maps are important because one should be careful with extrapolation beyond the range of conditions covered by the environmental variables included in the original calibration data set, especially in the case of non-linear patterns such as modelled here. The maps are provided as spatial masks to

Bioclimatic variable	Meaning
SBIO1	annual mean temperature
SBIO2	mean diurnal range (mean of monthly (max temp - min temp))
SBIO3	isothermality (SBIO2/SBIO7) (×100)
SBIO4	temperature seasonality (standard deviation ×100)
SBIO5	max temperature of warmest month
SBIO6	min temperature of coldest month
SBIO7	temperature annual range (SBIO5-SBIO6)
SBIO8	mean temperature of wettest quarter
SBIO9	mean temperature of driest quarter
SBIO10	mean temperature of warmest quarter
SBIO11	mean temperature of coldest quarter

TABLE 1 Overview of soil bioclimatic variables as calculated in this study

(a) Annual mean temperature, SBIO1

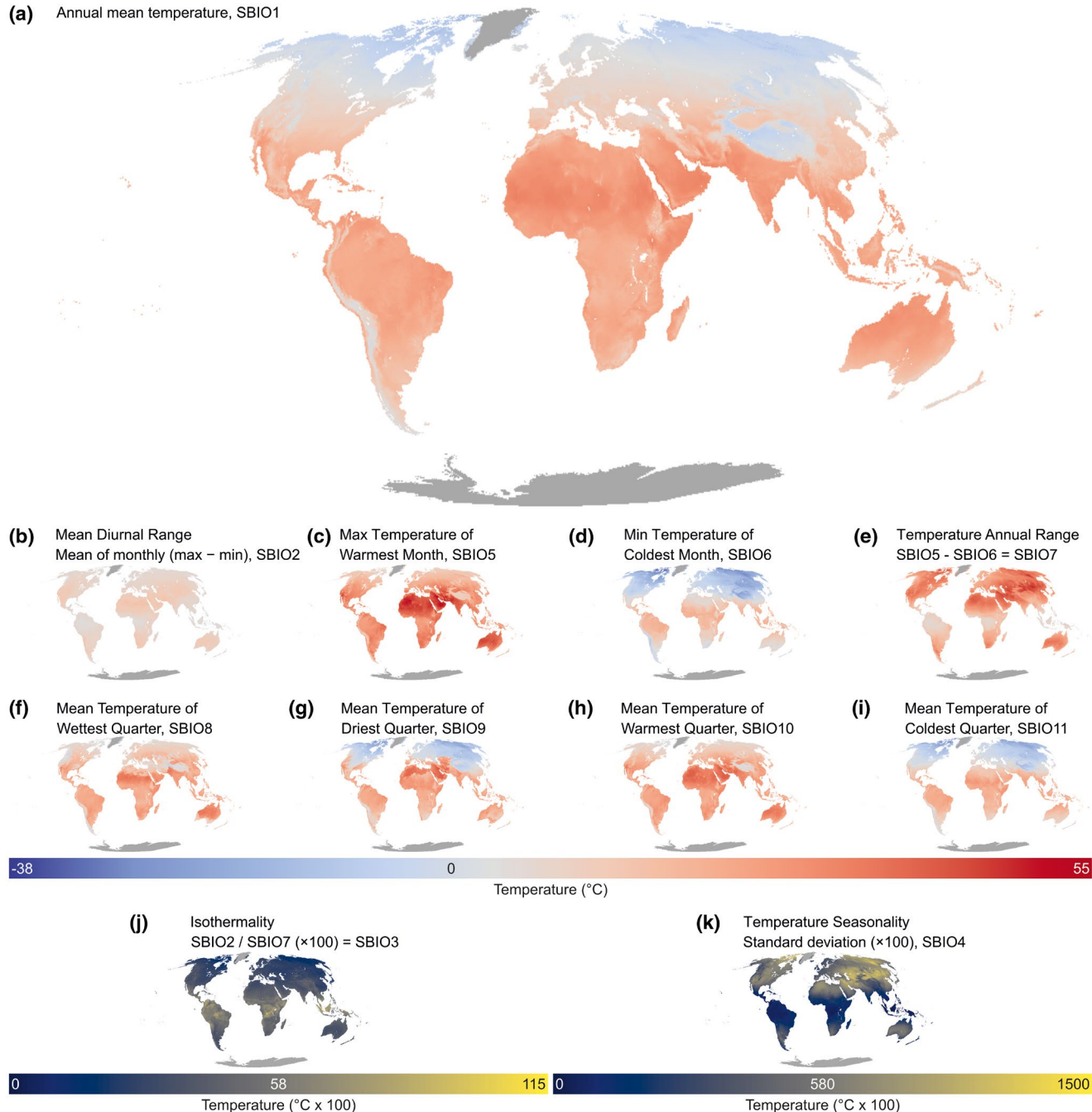
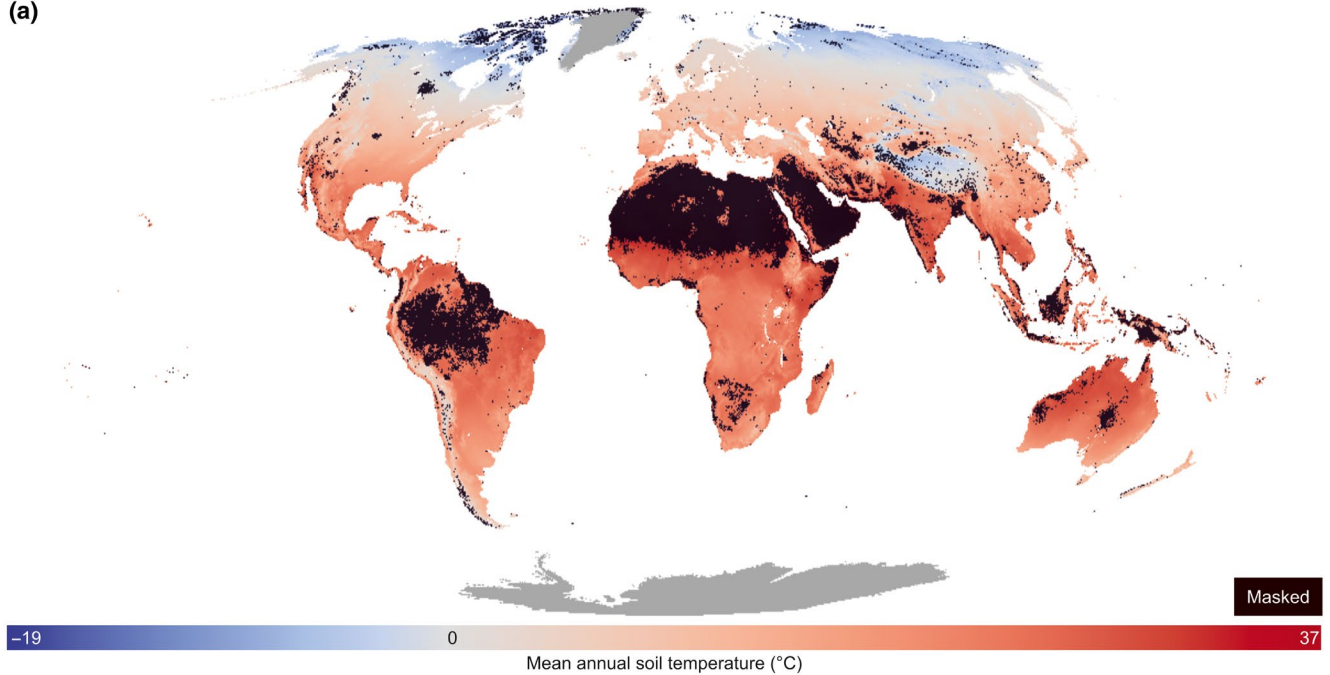


FIGURE 3 Soil bioclimatic variables. Global maps of bioclimatic variables for topsoil (0–5 cm depth) climate, calculated using the maps of the monthly offsets between soil and air temperature (see Figure 2), and the bioclimatic variables for air temperature from CHELSA

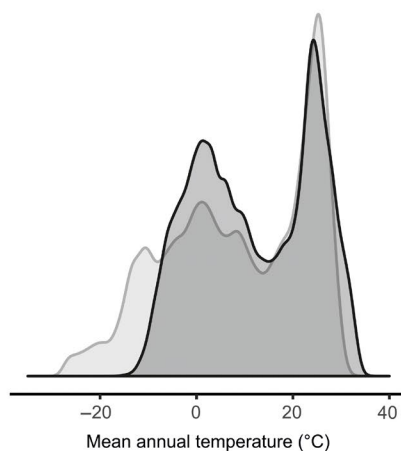
remove or reduce the weighting of the pixels for which predictions are beyond the range of values covered by the models during calibration. To assess this further, we used a spatial leave-one-out cross-validation analysis to test for spatial autocorrelation in the data set (Figure S7) (van den Hoogen et al., 2021). This approach trains a model for each sample in the data set on all remaining samples, excluding data points that fall within an increasingly large buffer around that focal sample. Results show lowest confidence for May to September at 5–15 cm, likely driven by uneven global coverage of data points.

Finally, we compared the modelled mean annual temperature (SBIO1, topsoil layer) with a similar product based on monthly ERA5L topsoil (0–7 cm) temperature with a spatial resolution of 0.08×0.08 degrees ($\approx 9 \times 9$ km at the equator, Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2019). The corresponding SBIO1 based on ERA5L was calculated using the means of the monthly averages for each month over the period 1981 to 2016, and averaging these 12 monthly values into one annual product. We then visualized spatial differences between SBIO1 and ERA5, as well as differences across the macroclimatic gradient, to identify mismatches between both data sets.

(a)



(b)



(c)

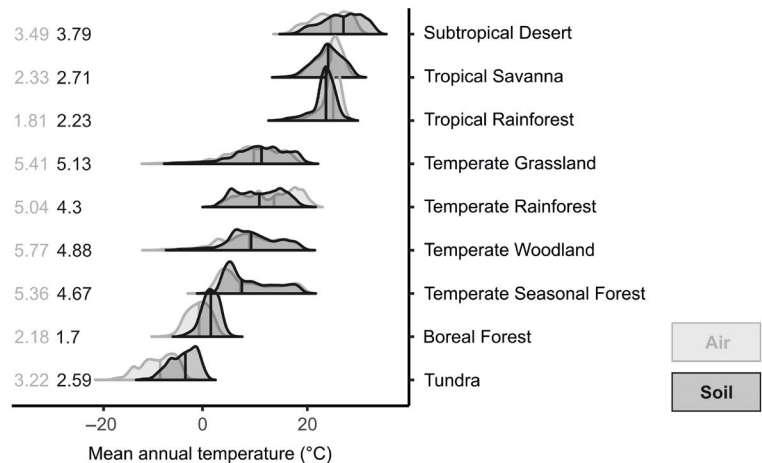


FIGURE 4 Mean annual soil temperature shows significantly lower spatial variability than air temperature. (a) Global map of mean annual topsoil temperature (SBIO1, 0–5 cm depth, in °C), created by adding the monthly offset between soil and air temperature for the period 2000–2020 (Figure 2) to the monthly air temperature from CHELSA. A black mask is used to exclude regions where our models are extrapolating (i.e. interpolation values in Figure 5 are <0.9, 18% of pixels). Dark grey represents regions outside the modelling area. (b–c) Density plots of mean annual soil temperature across the globe (b) and for each Whittaker biome separately (c) for SBIO1 (dark grey, soil temperature), compared with BIO1 from CHELSA (light grey, air temperature), created by extracting 1,000,000 random points from the 1-km² gridded bioclimatic products. The numbers in (c) represent the standard deviations of air temperature (light grey) and soil temperature (dark grey). Biomes are ordered according to the median annual soil temperature values (vertical black line) from the highest temperature (subtropical desert) to the lowest (tundra)

All geospatial modelling was performed using the Python API in Google Earth Engine (Gorelick et al., 2017). The R statistical software, version 4.0.2 (R Core Team, 2020), was used for data visualizations. All maps were plotted using the Mollweide projection, which preserves relative areas, to avoid large distortions at high latitudes.

2.8 | Sources of uncertainty

The temporal mismatch between the period covered by CHELSA (1979–2013) and our in situ measurements (2000–2020) prevented us from

directly using CHELSA climate to calculate the temperature offsets used in our models. This temporal mismatch might affect the offsets calculated here because the relationship between temperature offset and macroclimate will change through time as the climate warms. Similarly, inter-annual differences in offsets due to specific weather conditions cannot be implemented in the used approach. However, we are confident that, at the relatively coarse spatial (1 km²) and temporal (monthly averages) resolution we are working at, our results are sufficiently robust to withstand these temporal issues, given that we found high consistency in offset patterns between the different time frames and air temperature data sets examined (Figures S2–S5). Nevertheless, we strongly urge future research to disentangle

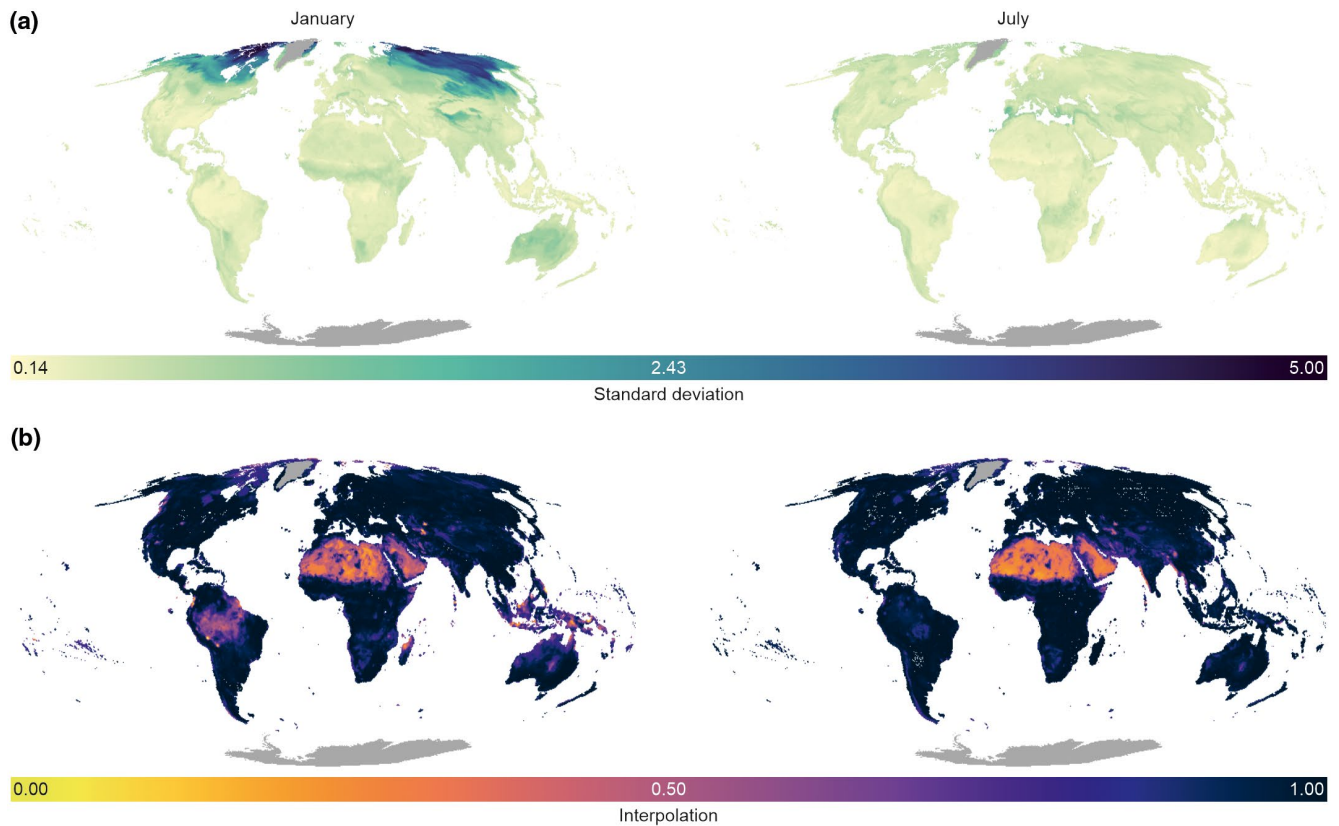


FIGURE 5 Models of the temperature offset between soil and air temperature have low standard deviations and good global coverage. Analyses for the temperature offset between in situ measured topsoil (0–5 cm depth) temperature and gridded air temperature. (a) Standard deviation (in °C) over the predictions from a cross-validation analysis that iteratively varied the set of covariates (explanatory data layers) and model hyperparameters across 100 models and evaluated model strength using 10-fold cross-validation, for January (left) and July (right), as examples of the two most contrasting months. (b) The fraction of axes in the multidimensional environmental space for which the pixel lies inside the range of data covered by the sensors in the database. Low values indicate increased extrapolation

these potential temporal dynamics, especially given the increasing rate at which the climate is warming (GISTEMP Team, 2021; Xu et al., 2018).

Similarly, a potential bias could result from the mismatch in method and resolution between ERA5L—used to calculate the temperature offsets—and CHELSA, which was used to create the bioclimatic variables. However, even though temperature offsets have slightly larger variation when based on the coarser-grained ERA5L-data than on the finer-grained CHELSA-data, Figures S2–S5 show that relationships between soil and air temperature are largely consistent in all biomes and across the whole global temperature gradient. Therefore, the larger offsets created additional random scatter, yet no consistent bias.

Finally, we acknowledge that the 1-km² resolution gridded products might not be representative of conditions at the in situ measurement locations within each pixel. This issue could be particularly significant for different vegetation types (here proxied at the pixel level using total aboveground biomass (unit: tons/ha i.e., Mg/ha, for the year 2010; Santoro, 2018) and NDVI (MODIS NDVI product MYD13Q1, averaged over 2015–2019)). To verify this, we compared a pixel's estimated aboveground biomass with the dominant in situ habitat (forest versus open) surrounding the sensors in that pixel (Table S6). Importantly, all sensors installed in forests fell indeed in pixels with more than 1 ton/ha aboveground biomass. Similarly, 75% or more of sensors in open terrain fell in pixels with biomass estimates

of less than 1 ton/ha. Only in the temperate woodland biome was the match between in situ habitat estimates and pixel-level aboveground biomass lower, with less than 95% of sensors in forested locations correctly placed in pixels with more than 1 ton/ha biomass, and less than 50% of open terrain sensors in pixels with less than 1 ton/ha biomass. While our predictions will thus not be accurate for locations within a pixel that largely deviate from average conditions (e.g. open terrain in pixels identified as largely forested, or vice versa), they should be largely representative for those pixel-level averages.

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Biome-wide patterns in the temperature offset

We found positive and negative temperature offsets of up to 10°C between in situ measured mean annual topsoil temperature and gridded air temperature (mean = $3.0 \pm 2.1^\circ\text{C}$ standard deviation, Figure 1, 0–5 cm, depth; 5–15 cm is available in Figures S2, S5). The magnitude and direction of these temperature offsets varied considerably within and across biomes. Mean annual topsoil temperature was on average $3.6 \pm 2.3^\circ\text{C}$ higher than gridded air temperature in cold and/or

dry biomes, namely tundra, boreal forests, temperate grasslands and subtropical deserts. In contrast, offsets were slightly negative in warm and wet biomes (tropical savannas, temperate forests and tropical rainforests) where soils were, on average, $0.7 \pm 2.7^\circ\text{C}$ cooler than gridded air temperature (Figure 1b, Figures S2 and S5; note, however, the lower spatial coverage in these biomes in Figure 1a,c,d, Table S4). Temperature offsets in annual minimum and maximum temperature amounted to c. 10°C maximum. While annual soil temperature minima were on average higher than corresponding gridded air temperature minima in all biomes, temperature offsets of annual maxima followed largely the same biome-related trends as seen for the annual means, albeit with the higher variability expected for temperature extremes (Figures S2g, S2h, S4g, S4h). Using different air temperature data sources did not alter the annual temperature offset and biome-related patterns (see Methods and Figures S2–S5).

Soils in the temperate seasonal forest biome were on average 0.8°C ($\pm 2.2^\circ\text{C}$) cooler than air temperature within 1-km^2 grid cells of forested habitats, and 1.0°C ($\pm 4.0^\circ\text{C}$) warmer than the air within 1-km^2 grid cells of non-forested habitats, resulting in a biome-wide average of 0.5°C (Table S7). Similar patterns were observed in other biomes.

3.2 | Temporal and spatial variation in temperature offsets

Our RF outputs highlighted a strong seasonality in monthly temperature offsets, especially towards higher latitudes (Figure 2). High-latitude soils were found to be several degrees warmer than the air (monthly offsets of up to 25°C) during their respective winter months, and cooler (up to 10°C) in summer months, both at 0–5 cm (Figure 2) and 5–15 cm (Figure S8) soil depths. In the tropics and subtropics, soils in dry biomes (e.g. in the Sahara Desert or southern Africa) were predicted to be warmer than air throughout most of the year, while soils in mesic biomes (e.g. tropical biomes in South America, central Africa and Southeast Asia) were modelled to be consistently cooler, at both soil depths. These global gridded products were then used to create temperature-based global bioclimatic variables for soils (SBIO, Figure 3, Figure S9).

3.3 | Global variation in soil temperature

We observed 17% less spatial variation in mean annual soil temperature globally (expressed by the standard deviation) than in air temperature, largely driven by the positive offset between soil and air temperature in cold environments (Figure 4). Importantly, our machine learning models slightly (up to 1°C , or around 10% of variation) underestimated temperature offsets at both extremes of the temperature gradient at the 1-km^2 resolution (Figure S10) and likely even more in comparison with finer-resolution products. Estimates of the reduction in variation across space are thus conservative, especially in the coldest biomes. The reduction in

spatial temperature variation was observed in all cold and cool biomes, with tundra and boreal forests having both a significant positive mean temperature offset and a reduction of 20% and 22% in variation, respectively (Figure 4c). In the warmest biomes (e.g. tropical savanna and subtropical desert), however, we found an increase in variation of, on average, 10%.

Our bootstrap approach to validate modelled monthly offsets indicated high consistency among the outcomes of 100 bootstrapped models (Figure 5, Figure S6a), with standard deviations in most months and across most parts of the globe around or below $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. One exception to this was the temperature offset at high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere during winter months (standard deviation up to $\pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ in the 0–5 cm layer). Predictive performance was comparable across biomes, although with large variation in data availability (Figure S11).

The importance of predictor variables in the RF models was largely consistent across months. Macroclimatic variables such as incoming solar radiation as well as long-term averages in air temperature and precipitation were by far the most influential explanatory variables in the spatial models of the monthly temperature offset (Figures S12 and S13).

We highlight that the current availability of in situ soil temperature measurements is significantly lower in the tropics (Table S5), where our model had to extrapolate temperatures beyond the range used to calibrate the model (Figure 5b, Figure S6b).

Finally, our comparison with a mean annual soil temperature product derived from the coarse-resolution ERA5L topsoil temperature showed that spatial variability, for example, driven by topographic heterogeneity, is much better captured here than in the coarser resolution of the ERA5L-based product (Figure 6c–e). Nevertheless, our predictions at the coarse scale showed to be condensed within a 5°C range of values from the ERA5L-predictions, for more than 95% of pixels globally. Noteworthy, our predictions resulted in consistently cooler soil temperature predictions than topsoil conditions provided by ERA5L across large areas, such as the boreal and tropical forest biomes (Figure 6a,b). Additionally, our models predicted lower values for SBIO1 than ERA5L in all regions with mean annual soil temperature below 0°C , except for a few locations around Greenland and Svalbard (Figure 6a,b).

4 | DISCUSSION

4.1 | Global patterns in soil temperature

We observed large spatiotemporal heterogeneity in the global offset between soil and air temperature, often in the order of several degrees annually and up to more than 20°C during winter months at high latitudes. These values are in line with empirical data from regional studies (Lembrechts et al., 2019; Obu et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2018). Both annual and monthly offsets showed clear discrepancies between cold and dry versus warm and wet biomes. The modelled monthly offsets covaried strongly negatively with both long-term averages in free-air temperature and solar radiation, linking to the well-known decoupling of soil from air temperature due to snow (for cold extremes in cold and

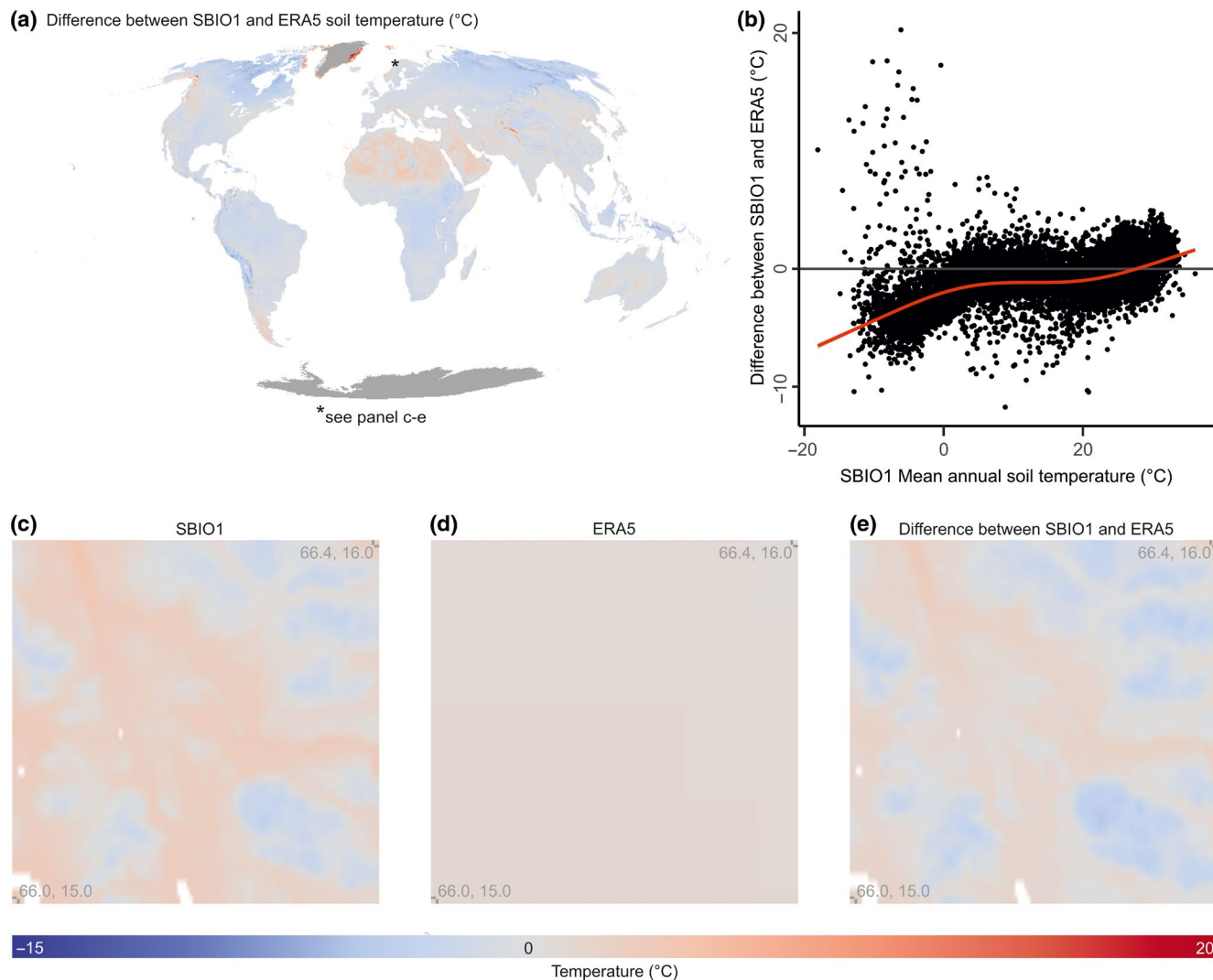


FIGURE 6 The mean annual soil temperature (SBIO1, 1 x 1 km resolution) modelled here is consistently cooler than ERA5L (9 x 9 km) soil temperature in forested areas. (a) Spatial representation of the difference between SBIO1 based on our model and based on ERA5L soil temperature data. Negative values (blue colours) indicate areas where our model predicts cooler soil temperature. Dark grey areas (Greenland and Antarctica) are excluded from our models. Asterisk in Scandinavia indicates the highlighted area in panels d to f (see below). (b) Distribution of the difference between SBIO1 and ERA5L along the macroclimatic gradient (represented by SBIO1 itself) based on a random subsample of 50,000 points from the map in a). Red line from a Generalized Additive Model (GAM) with $k = 4$. (c-e) High-resolution zoomed panels of an area of high elevational contrast in Norway (from 66.0–66.4°N, 15.0–16.0°E) visualizing SBIO1 (c), ERA5L (d) and their difference (e), to highlight the higher spatial resolution as obtained with SBIO1

cool biomes) (Grundstein et al., 2005). However, the secondary importance of variables related to precipitation and soil structure hints to the additional distinction between wet and dry biomes at the warm end of the temperature gradient. There, buffering due to shading, evapotranspiration and the specific heat of water (mostly against warm extremes in warm and wet biomes) results in cooler soil temperature (De Frenne et al., 2013; Geiger, 1950; Grünberg et al., 2020; Grundstein et al., 2005; Hennon et al., 2010; Wang & Dickinson, 2012), while such buffering is not as strong in warm and dry biomes due to the lower water availability (Greiser et al., 2018; Wang & Dickinson, 2012; Zhou et al., 2021). As such, these results highlight strong macroclimatic impacts on the soil microclimate across the globe (see also De Frenne et al., 2019), yet with soil temperature importantly non-linearly related to air temperature at the global scale. This confirms that the latter is

not sufficient as a proxy for temperature conditions near or in the soil. With our soil-specific global bioclimatic products, we have provided the means to correct for these important region-specific, non-linear differences between soil and air temperature at an unprecedented spatial resolution.

4.2 | Drivers of the temperature offset

Our empirical modelling approach enabled us to accurately map global patterns in soil temperature. In doing so we did not aim to disentangle the mechanisms governing the temperature offset: such an endeavour would require modelling the biophysics of energy exchange at the soil surface across biomes (Kearney et al.,

2019; Maclean & Klings, 2021; Maclean et al., 2019). Importantly, many of the predictor variables used in our study (e.g. long-term averages in macroclimatic conditions or solar radiation) are unlikely to represent direct causal relationships underlying the temperature offset, but may rather indirectly relate to many ensuing factors that affect the functioning of ecosystems at fine spatial scales which, in turn, feedback on local temperature offsets, such as energy and water balances, snow cover, wind intensity and vegetation cover (De Frenne et al., 2021). For example, while increased solar radiation itself would theoretically result in soils warming more than the air, high solar radiation at the global scale often coincides with high vegetation cover blocking radiation input to the soil, thus correlating with relatively cooler soils (De Frenne et al., 2021). Our results highlight, however, that the complex relationship between microclimatic soil temperature and macroclimatic air temperature is predictable across large spatial extents thanks to broad scale patterns, even if this is governed by a multitude of local-scale factors involving fine spatiotemporal resolutions. Nevertheless, the predictive quality of our models was lower in high latitude regions, where high variation in the in situ measured offsets—likely driven by the interactions between snow, local topography and vegetation—reduced predictive power of the models at the 1-km² resolution (Greiser et al., 2018; Grünberg et al., 2020; Myers-Smith et al., 2020; Niittynen et al., 2020; Way & Lewkowicz, 2018).

4.3 | Implications for microclimate warming

Our results highlight clear biome-specific differences in mean annual temperature between air and soil temperatures, as well as a significant reduction in the spatial variation in temperature in the soil or near the soil surface, especially in cold and cool biomes (Figure 4). These patterns remain even despite the presence of often strongly opposing monthly offset trends (Figure 2). The observed correlation between long-term averages in macroclimatic conditions and the annual temperature offset illustrates that soil temperature is unlikely to warm at the same rate as air temperature when macroclimate warms. Indeed, one degree of air temperature warming could result in either a bigger or smaller soil temperature change, depending on where along the macroclimatic gradient this is happening. These effects might be seen in cold biome soils most strongly, as they not only experience the largest (positive) temperature offsets and reductions in climate range compared to air temperature (Figure 4b,c), but they are also expected to experience the strongest magnitude of macroclimate warming (Chen et al., 2021; Cooper, 2014; GISTEMP Team, 2021; Overland et al., 2014). As a result, mean annual temperatures in cold climate soils can be expected to warm slower than the corresponding macroclimate as offsets shrink with increasing macroclimate warming.

Contrastingly, predicted climate warming in hot and dry biomes could be amplified in the topsoil, where we show soils to become increasingly warmer than the air at higher temperatures.

Similarly, changes in precipitation regimes—and thus soil moisture—can significantly alter the relationship between air and soil temperature, with critical implications for soil moisture-atmosphere feedbacks, especially in hot biomes (Zhou et al., 2021). Indeed, as precipitation decreases, offsets could turn more positive and soil temperatures might warm even faster than the observed macroclimate warming. Therefore, future research should not only use soil temperature data as provided here to study belowground ecological processes (De Frenne et al., 2013; Lembrechts et al., 2020), it should also urgently investigate future scenarios of soil climate warming in light of changing air temperature and precipitation, at ecologically relevant spatial and temporal resolutions to incorporate the non-linear relationships exposed so far (Lembrechts & Nijs, 2020).

4.4 | Within-pixel heterogeneity

We chose to use a 1-km² resolution spatial grid to model mismatches between soil and air temperature, aggregating all values from different microhabitats within the same 1-km² grid cell (e.g. sensors in forested versus open patches) as well as all daily and diurnal variation within a month. Additionally, we used coarse-grained free-air temperature rather than in situ measured air temperatures. We are aware that higher spatiotemporal resolutions would likely reveal the importance of locally heterogeneous variables. Finer-scale factors that affect the local radiation balance and wind (e.g. topography, snow and vegetation cover, urbanization) at the landscape to local scales and those that directly affect neighbouring locations (e.g. topographic shading and cold-air drainage, Ashcroft & Gollan, 2012; Lembrechts et al., 2020; Whiteman, 1982) would probably have emerged as more important drivers at regional scales and with higher spatiotemporal resolutions than those used here (Figure S12). The latter is illustrated by the multi-degree Celsius difference in mean annual temperature between forested and non-forested locations within the same biome (Table S7), as well as the lower accuracy obtained during winter months at high latitudes, where and when fine-scale spatial heterogeneity in snow cover and depth probably lowers models' predictability at the 1-km² resolution. In situ measurements were largely from areas with a representative vegetation type, supporting the reliability of our predictions for the dominant habitat type within a pixel. However, improved accuracy at high latitudes will depend on the future development of high-resolution snow depth and/or snow water equivalent estimates (Luoju et al., 2010).

The SoilTemp database (Lembrechts et al., 2020) will facilitate the necessary steps towards mapping soil temperature at higher spatiotemporal resolutions in the future, with its georeferenced time series of in situ measured soil and near-surface temperature and associated metadata. Nevertheless, compared with existing soil temperature products such as those from ERA5L (Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2019), we

emphasize that the increased resolution of our data products already provides a major technical advance, even though substantial finer within-pixel variation is still lost through spatio-temporal aggregation.

5 | CONCLUSIONS

The spatial (biome-specific) and temporal (seasonally variable) offsets between air and soil temperature quantified here likely bias predictions of current and future climate impacts on species and ecosystems (Bergstrom et al., 2021; Cooper, 2014; Graae et al., 2018; Kearney et al., 2009; Körner & Paulsen, 2004; Opedal et al., 2015; Zellweger et al., 2020). Temperature in the topsoil rather than in the air ultimately defines the distribution and performance of most terrestrial species, as well as many ecosystem functions at or below the soil surface (Gottschall et al., 2019; Hursh et al., 2017; Pleim & Gilliam, 2009; Portillo-Estrada et al., 2016). As many ecosystem functions are highly correlated with temperature (yet often non-linear, Johnston et al., 2021), soil temperature rather than air temperature should in those instances be the preferred predictor for estimating their rates and temperature thresholds (Coûteaux et al., 1995; Rosenberg et al., 1990; Schimel et al., 1996). Correcting for the non-linear relationship between air and soil temperature identified here is, thus, vital for all fields investigating abiotic and biotic processes relating to terrestrial environments (White et al., 2020). Indeed, soil temperature, macroclimate and land-use change will interact to define the future climate as experienced by organisms, and high-resolution soil temperature data are needed to tackle current and future challenges.

By making our global soil temperature maps and the underlying monthly offset data openly available, we offer gridded soil temperature data for climate research, ecology, agronomy and other life and environmental sciences. Future research has the important task of further improving the spatial and temporal resolution of global microclimate products as microclimate operates at much higher temporal resolutions, with temporal variation over hours, days, seasons and years (Bütikofer et al., 2020; Potter et al., 2013), as well as to confirm accuracy of predictions in undersampled regions in the underlying maps (Lembrechts et al., 2021). However, we are convinced that the maps presented here bring us one step closer to having accessible climate data exactly where it matters most for many terrestrial organisms (Ashcroft et al., 2014; Kearney & Porter, 2009; Lembrechts & Lenoir, 2019; Niittynen & Luoto, 2018; Pincebourde et al., 2016). We, nevertheless, highlight that there is still a long way to go towards global soil microclimate data with an optimal spatiotemporal resolution. We, therefore, urge all scientists to submit their microclimate time series to the SoilTemp database to fill data gaps and help to increase the spatial resolution until it matches with the scale at which ecological processes take place (Bütikofer et al., 2020; Lembrechts et al., 2020).

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Jonas J. Lembrechts, Johan van den Hoogen and Jonathan Lenoir conceptualized the project; Jonas J. Lembrechts, Johan van den Hoogen, Juha Aalto, Michael B. Ashcroft, Pieter De Frenne, Martin Kopecký, Miska Luoto, Ilya M. D. Maclean, Tom W. Crowther, Ivan Nijs and Jonathan Lenoir designed the paper; the SoilTemp consortium acquired the data; Jonas J. Lembrechts, Johan van den Hoogen, Julia Kemppinen, Pekka Niittynen and Jonathan Lenoir analyzed the data; Jonas J. Lembrechts, Johan van den Hoogen, Juha Aalto, Michael B. Ashcroft, Pieter De Frenne, Julia Kemppinen, Martin Kopecký, Miska Luoto, Ilya M. D. Maclean, Tom W. Crowther, Joseph J. Bailey, Stef Haesen, David H. Klings, Pekka Niittynen, Brett R. Scheffers, Koenraad Van Meerbeek, Ivan Nijs and Jonathan Lenoir interpreted the analyses. All authors significantly revised the manuscript and approved it for submission.

CODE AVAILABILITY

All source codes are available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558663>.


























































DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

All gridded maps are available at <https://zenodo.org/record/4558732#Ydv0Hf7MJPY>. Soil bioclimatic layers SBIO1-11 are also available on Google Earth Engine under projects/crowtherlab/soil_bioclim/SBIO_v1_0_5cm and projects/crowtherlab/soil_bioclim/SBIO_v1_5_15cm. Monthly soil temperature maps are available under projects/crowtherlab/soil_bioclim/soil_temp_monthly_0_5_cm and projects/crowtherlab/soil_bioclim/soil_temp_monthly_5_15_cm. All monthly data to train the models and reproduce the figures, sampled covariate data and models are available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558663>.



















ORCID

Jonas J. Lembrechts  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1933-0750>
 Johan van den Hoogen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6624-8461>
 Juha Aalto  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6819-4911>
 Pieter De Frenne  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8613-0943>
 Julia Kemppinen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7521-7229>
 Martin Kopecký  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1018-9316>
 Miska Luoto  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6203-5143>
 Ilya M. D. Maclean  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8030-9136>
 Thomas W. Crowther  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5674-8913>
 Joseph J. Bailey  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9526-7095>
 Stef Haesen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4491-4213>
 David H. Klings  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7900-9379>
 Pekka Niittynen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7290-029X>
 Brett R. Scheffers  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2423-3821>
 Koenraad Van Meerbeek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9260-3815>
 Peter Aartsma  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5086-856X>
 Otar Abdalaze  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8140-0900>

Mehdi Abedi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1499-0119>
 Rien Aerts  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6694-0669>
 Negar Ahmadian  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7427-7198>
 Antje Ahrends  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5083-7760>
 Juha M. Alatalo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5084-850X>
 Jake M. Alexander  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2226-7913>
 Camille Nina Allonsius  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2599-9941>
 Jan Altman  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4879-5773>
 Christof Ammann  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0783-5444>
 Christian Andres  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0576-6446>
 Christopher Andrews  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2428-272X>
 Jonas Ardö  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9318-0973>
 Nicola Arriga  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5321-3497>
 Alberto Arzac  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3361-5349>
 Valeria Aschero  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3865-4133>
 Rafael L. Assis  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8468-6414>
 Jakob Johann Assmann  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3492-8419>
 Maaïke Y. Bader  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4300-7598>
 Khadijeh Bahalkeh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1485-0316>
 Peter Barančok  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1171-2524>
 Isabel C. Barrio  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8120-5248>
 Agustina Barros  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6810-2391>
 Edmund W. Basham  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0167-7908>
 Marijn Bauters  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0978-6639>
 Manuele Bazzichetto  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9874-5064>
 Luca Belelli Marchesini  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8408-4675>
 Michael C. Bell  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3401-7746>
 Juan C. Benavides  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9694-2195>
 José Luis Benito Alonso  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1086-8834>
 Bernd J. Berauer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9472-1532>
 Jarle W. Bjerke  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2721-1492>
 Robert G. Björk  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7346-666X>
 Mats P. Björkman  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5768-1976>
 Katrin Björnsdóttir  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7421-9441>
 Benjamin Blonder  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5061-2385>
 Pascal Boeckx  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3998-0010>
 Julia Boike  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5875-2112>
 Stef Bokhorst  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0184-1162>
 Bárbara N. S. Brum  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8421-3200>
 Josef Brůna  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4839-4593>
 Nina Buchmann  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0826-2980>
 José Luis Camargo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0370-9878>
 Otávio C. Campoe  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9810-8834>
 Onur Candan  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9254-4122>
 Rafaella Canessa  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6979-9880>
 Nicoletta Cannone  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3390-3965>
 Michele Carbognani  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7701-9859>
 Jofre Carnicer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7454-8296>
 Angélica Casanova-Katny  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3860-1445>
 Simone Cesarz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2334-5119>
 Bogdan Chojnicki  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9012-4060>
 Philippe Choler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9062-2721>
 Steven L. Chown  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6069-5105>

- Edgar F. Cifuentes  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5918-5861>
- Marek Čiliak  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6720-9365>
- Tamara Contador  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0250-9877>
- Peter Convey  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8497-9903>
- Elisabeth J. Cooper  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0634-1282>
- Edoardo Cremonese  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6708-8532>
- Salvatore R. Curasi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4534-3344>
- Maurizio Cutini  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8597-8221>
- C. Johan Dahlberg  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0271-3306>
- Gergana N. Daskalova  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5674-5322>
- Miguel Angel de Pablo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4496-2741>
- Stefano Della Chiesa  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6693-2199>
- Jürgen Dengler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3221-660X>
- Patrice Descombes  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3760-9907>
- Valter Di Cecco  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9862-1267>
- Michele Di Musciano  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3130-7270>
- Jan Dick  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4180-9338>
- Jiri Dolezal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5829-4051>
- Ellen Dorrepaal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0523-2471>
- Jiří Dušek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6119-0838>
- Nico Eisenhauer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0371-6720>
- Lars Eklundh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7644-6517>
- Todd E. Erickson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4537-0251>
- Brigitta Erschbamer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6792-1395>
- Werner Eugster  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6067-0741>
- Dan A. Exton  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8885-5828>
- Nicolas Fanin  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4195-855X>
- Fatih Fazlioglu  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4723-3640>
- Iris Feigenwinter  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7493-6790>
- Giuseppe Fenu  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4762-5043>
- Olga Ferlian  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2536-7592>
- Eduardo Fernández-Pascual  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4743-9577>
- Manfred Finckh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2186-0854>
- Rebecca Finger Higgins  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7645-504X>
- T'ai G. W. Forte  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8685-5872>
- Erika C. Freeman  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7161-6038>
- Esther R. Frei  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1910-7900>
- Eduardo Fuentes-Lillo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5657-954X>
- Rafael A. García  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0591-0391>
- María B. García  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4231-6006>
- Charly Géron  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7912-4708>
- Mana Gharun  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0337-7367>
- Dany Ghosh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1898-9681>
- Khatuna Gigauri  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6707-0818>
- Anne Gobin  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3742-7062>
- Ignacio Goded  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1912-325X>
- Mathias Goeckede  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2833-8401>
- Felix Gottschall  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1247-8728>
- Keith Goulding  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6465-1465>
- Sanne Govaert  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8939-1305>
- Bente Jessen Graae  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5568-4759>
- Sarah Greenwood  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9104-7936>
- Caroline Greiser  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4023-4402>
- Achim Grelle  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3468-9419>
- Benoit Guénard  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7144-1175>
- Joannès Guillemot  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4385-7656>
- Peter Haase  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9340-0438>
- Sylvia Haider  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2966-0534>
- Aud H. Halbritter  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2597-6328>
- Maroof Hamid  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3406-5008>
- Albin Hammerle  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1963-5906>
- Arndt Hampe  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2551-9784>
- Siri V. Haugum  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4958-7132>
- Lucia Hederová  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1283-0952>
- Bernard Heinesch  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7594-6341>
- Carole Helfter  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5773-4652>
- Daniel Hepenstrick  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1090-6888>
- Maximiliane Herberich  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0716-1520>
- Luise Hermanutz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0706-7067>
- David S. Hik  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8994-9305>
- Raúl Hoffrén  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9123-304X>
- Jürgen Homeier  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5676-3267>
- Lukas Hörtnagl  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5569-0761>
- Toke T. Høye  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5387-3284>
- Filip Hrbacek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5032-9216>
- Kristoffer Hylander  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1215-2648>
- Hiroki Iwata  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8962-8982>
- Marcin Antoni Jackowicz-Korczynski  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6574-5703>
- Hervé Jactel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8106-5310>
- Järvi Järveoja  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6317-660X>
- Szymon Jastrzębowski  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1239-4847>
- Anke Jentsch  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2345-8300>
- Juan J. Jiménez  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2398-0796>
- Ingibjörg S. Jónsdóttir  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3804-7077>
- Tommaso Jucker  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0751-6312>
- Alistair S. Jump  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2167-6451>
- Radosław Juszczak  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5212-7383>
- Róbert Kanka  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7071-7280>
- Vít Kašpar  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0879-0137>
- Julia Kelly  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7370-1401>
- Anzar A. Khuroo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0251-2793>
- Leif Klemetsson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1122-0717>
- Marcin Klisz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9486-6988>
- Natascha Kljun  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9650-2184>
- Alexander Knohl  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7615-8870>
- Johannes Kobler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0052-4245>
- Jozef Kollár  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0069-4220>
- Martyna M. Kotowska  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2283-5979>
- Bence Kovács  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8045-8489>
- Juergen Kreyling  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8489-7289>
- Andrea Lamprecht  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8719-026X>
- Simone I. Lang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6812-2528>
- Christian Larson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7567-4953>
- Keith Larson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7089-524X>
- Kamil Laska  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5199-9737>

- Guerric le Maire  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5227-958X>
- Rachel I. Leihy  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9672-625X>
- Luc Lens  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0241-2215>
- Bengt Liljebadh  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2998-5865>
- Annalea Lohila  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3541-672X>
- Juan Lorite  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4617-8069>
- Benjamin Loubet  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8825-8775>
- Joshua Lynn  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7190-7991>
- Martin Macek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5609-5921>
- Roy Mackenzie  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6620-1532>
- Enzo Magliulo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5505-6552>
- Regine Maier  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3158-4136>
- Francesco Malfasi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2660-8327>
- František Málíš  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2760-6988>
- Matěj Man  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4557-8768>
- Giovanni Manca  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9376-0310>
- Antonio Manco  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3677-4134>
- Paraskevi Manolaki  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3958-0199>
- Radim Matula  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7460-0100>
- Sergiy Medinets  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5980-1054>
- Volodymyr Medinets  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7543-7504>
- Camille Meeussen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5869-4936>
- Sonia Merinero  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1405-6254>
- Rita de Cássia Guimarães Mesquita  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1746-3215>
- Katrin Meusburger  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4623-6249>
- Filip J. R. Meysman  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5334-7655>
- Sean T. Michaletz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2158-6525>
- Ann Milbau  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3555-8883>
- Pavel Moiseev  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4808-295X>
- Andrea Mondoni  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4605-6304>
- Leonardo Montagnani  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2957-9071>
- Mikel Moriana-Armendariz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8251-1338>
- Umberto Morra di Cella  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4250-9705>
- Martin Mörsdorf  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3903-2021>
- Jonathan R. Mosedale  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9008-5439>
- Lena Muffler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8227-7297>
- Miriam Muñoz-Rojas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9746-5191>
- Jonathan A. Myers  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2058-8468>
- Isla H. Myers-Smith  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8417-6112>
- Marianna Nardino  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9466-8340>
- Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9504-4484>
- Lena Nicklas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9337-4153>
- Georg Niedrist  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7511-6273>
- Mats B. Nilsson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3765-6399>
- Signe Normand  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8782-4154>
- Marcelo D. Noretto  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9428-490X>
- Yann Nouvellon  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1920-3847>
- Martin A. Nuñez  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0324-5479>
- Romà Ogaya  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4927-8479>
- Jérôme Ogée  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3365-8584>
- Joseph Okello  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4462-3923>
- Janusz Olejnik  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5305-1045>
- Jørgen Eivind Olesen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6639-1273>
- Øystein H. Opedal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7841-6933>
- Simone Orsenigo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0348-9115>
- Andrej Palaj  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7054-4183>
- Timo Pampuch  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6290-9661>
- Meelis Pärtel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5874-0138>
- Ada Pastor  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7114-770X>
- Anibal Pauchard  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1284-3163>
- Harald Pauli  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9842-9934>
- Marian Pavelka  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7339-3410>
- William D. Pearse  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6241-3164>
- Matthias Peichl  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9940-5846>
- Rachel M. Penczykowski  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4559-0609>
- Josep Penuelas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7215-0150>
- Matteo Petit Bon  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9829-8324>
- Alessandro Petraglia  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4632-2251>
- Shyam S. Phartyal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3266-6619>
- Gareth K. Phoenix  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0911-8107>
- Casimiro Pio  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3531-8620>
- Andrea Pitacco  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7260-6242>
- Camille Pitteloud  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4731-0079>
- Roman Plichta  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2442-8522>
- Francesco Porro  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9855-2468>
- Miguel Portillo-Estrada  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0348-7446>
- Jérôme Poulenard  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0810-0308>
- Rafael Poyatos  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0521-2523>
- Anatoly S. Prokushkin  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8721-2142>
- Radoslaw Puchalka  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4764-0705>
- Mihai Puşcaş  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2632-640X>
- Dajana Radujković  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4981-5879>
- Krystal Randall  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2507-1000>
- Amanda Ratier Backes  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7229-578X>
- David Renault  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3644-1759>
- Anita C. Risch  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0531-8336>
- Christian Rixen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2486-9988>
- Sharon A. Robinson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7130-9617>
- Bjorn J. M. Robroek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6714-0652>
- Adrian V. Rocha  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4618-2407>
- Graziano Rossi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5102-5019>
- Olivier Roupsard  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1319-142X>
- Alexey V. Rubtsov  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9663-4344>
- Patrick Saccone  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8820-593X>
- Jhonatan Sallo Bravo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9007-4959>
- Cintha C. Santos  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7042-5993>
- Judith M. Sarneel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6187-499X>
- Tobias Scharnweber  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4933-5296>
- Marius Schmidt  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5292-7092>
- Thomas Scholten  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4875-2602>
- Max Schuchardt  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3103-8063>
- Tony Scott  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6631-0672>
- Julia Seeber  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0189-7377>
- Tim Seipel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6472-2975>
- Philipp Semenchuk  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1949-6427>

- Rebecca A. Senior  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8208-736X>
- Josep M. Serra-Diaz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1988-1154>
- Piotr Sewerniak  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3071-3963>
- Ankit Shekhar  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0802-2821>
- Laura Siegwart Collier  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0985-9615>
- Elizabeth Simpson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6107-0286>
- David P. Siqueira  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0756-0153>
- Zuzana Sitková  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6354-6105>
- Johan Six  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9336-4185>
- Marko Smiljanic  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2324-0723>
- Stuart W. Smith  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9396-6610>
- Ben Somers  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7875-107X>
- José João L. L. Souza  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4670-6626>
- Bartolomeu Israel Souza  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2173-8314>
- Arildo Souza Dias  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5495-3435>
- Marko J. Spasojevic  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1808-0048>
- James D. M. Speed  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0633-5595>
- Fabien Spicher  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9999-955X>
- Angela Stanisci  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5302-0932>
- Klaus Steinbauer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3730-9920>
- Rainer Steinbrecher  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5931-4210>
- Michael Steinwandter  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8545-6047>
- Michael Stemkovski  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9854-887X>
- Jörg G. Stephan  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6195-7867>
- Christian Stiegler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0130-2401>
- Stefan Stoll  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3656-417X>
- Martin Svátek  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2328-4627>
- Miroslav Svoboda  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4050-3422>
- Torbern Tagesson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3011-1775>
- Andrew J. Tanentzap  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2883-1901>
- Franziska Tanneberger  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4184-9671>
- Jean-Paul Theurillat  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1843-5809>
- Haydn J. D. Thomas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9099-6304>
- Andrew D. Thomas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1360-1687>
- Marcello Tomaselli  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4208-3433>
- Urs Albert Treier  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4027-739X>
- Mario Trouillier  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9151-7686>
- Pavel Dan Turtureanu  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7422-3106>
- Viina A. Tyystjärvi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1175-5463>
- Masahito Ueyama  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4000-4888>
- Karol Ujházy  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0228-1737>
- Mariana Ujházyová  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5546-1547>
- Domas Uogintas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3937-1218>
- Josef Urban  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1730-947X>
- Marek Urbaniak  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1225-9170>
- Tudor-Mihai Ursu  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4898-6345>
- Francesco Primo Vaccari  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5253-2135>
- Stijn Van de Vondel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0223-7330>
- Liesbeth van den Brink  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0313-8147>
- Maarten Van Geel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8688-6225>
- Vigdis Vandvik  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4651-4798>
- Pieter Vangansbeke  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6356-2858>
- Andrej Varlagin  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2549-5236>
- G. F. Veen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7736-9998>
- Elmar Veenendaal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8230-2501>
- Susanna E. Venn  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7433-0120>
- Hans Verbeeck  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1490-0168>
- Erik Verbruggen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7015-1515>
- Frank G. A. Verheijen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6741-4249>
- Luca Vitale  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7637-264X>
- Pascal Vittoz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4218-4517>
- Maria Vives-Ingla  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4887-8392>
- Jonathan von Oppen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6346-2964>
- Josefine Walz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0715-8738>
- Runxi Wang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4902-169X>
- Yifeng Wang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2660-7874>
- Robert G. Way  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4763-7685>
- Ronja E. M. Wedegärtner  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4633-755X>
- Robert Weigel  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9685-6783>
- Jan Wild  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3007-4070>
- Matthew Wilkinson  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3858-553X>
- Martin Wilmking  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4964-2402>
- Lisa Wingate  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1921-1556>
- Manuela Winkler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8655-9555>
- Sonja Wipf  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3492-1399>
- Georg Wohlfahrt  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3080-6702>
- Georgios Xenakis  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2950-4101>
- Yan Yang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0858-7603>
- Zicheng Yu  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2358-2712>
- Kailiang Yu  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4223-5169>
- Florian Zellweger  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1265-9147>
- Jian Zhang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0589-6267>
- Peng Zhao  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3289-5067>
- Kludia Ziemlińska  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4070-6553>
- Reiner Zimmermann  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8724-941X>
- Shengwei Zong  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3583-6110>
- Viacheslav I. Zyryanov  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1748-4801>
- Ivan Nijs  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3111-680X>
- Jonathan Lenoir  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0638-9582>

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