

1 **Supporting material for Sullivan et al. Diversity and carbon storage across the tropical forest**  
2 **biome**

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149 **Supplementary methods**

150 Plot selection

151 Plots were obtained from a global dataset of forest inventory plots <sup>1</sup> surveyed using standardised field  
152 methods <sup>2</sup>. Plots were 1 ha (except for four that were 0.96ha), and were all located in old-growth,  
153 closed-canopy, *terra firme* forests, with mean annual temperature of  $\geq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and mean annual  
154 precipitation of  $\geq 1300\text{mm}$ . Thus, montane, swamp, peatland and seasonally flooded forest were  
155 excluded. Plots known to have been subject to anthropogenic disturbance were also excluded. This  
156 enabled us to focus on carbon-diversity relationships within lowland *terra firme* tropical forest,  
157 avoiding major climatic, anthropogenic and hydrological factors that could confound these  
158 relationships. Having accurate measures of diversity was important for the purposes of this study, so  
159 plots were only included if  $>80\%$  of trees were identified to genus level and  $>60\%$  of trees were  
160 identified to species level. Identification rates were similar amongst continents (median identification  
161 rates to species level: South America = 92.5%, Africa = 93.5%, Asia = 93.1%). We excluded  
162 transects  $>500\text{m}$  in length or  $<20\text{m}$  in width, and any plot known to contain more than one soil type,  
163 and only included non-contiguous samples if within 500m of each other. In each plot all stems  
164  $\geq 100\text{mm}$  diameter were measured, and identified to species level where possible. Where a plot had  
165 been surveyed multiple times we normally used the initial census, as these were typically  
166 accompanied by botanists so were expected to have the highest proportion of identified stems, except  
167 where there was a specific reason (e.g. failure of first census to meet selection criteria) to use a later  
168 census.

169 Environmental variables

170 We used soil data from 0-30 cm depth, and used total exchangeable bases (TEB; measuring soil  
171 fertility), carbon: nitrogen ratio (C:N ratio; a useful proxy of available phosphorus) and soil texture as  
172 explanatory variables in analysis. Plots were assigned a reference soil group according to the World  
173 Reference Base soil classification system <sup>3</sup>, using data from published sources e.g. <sup>4,5</sup> where available.  
174 When these data were not available, the reference soil group as mapped in the Harmonised World Soil

175 Database <sup>6</sup>, or SOTER <sup>7</sup> for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was used. Results are similar when  
176 only dominant soil groups are used (Supplementary Fig. 20). Then, the particle size and TEB data for  
177 the nearest soil unit of the same reference soil group were extracted from the HWSD or SOTER. C:N  
178 data were extracted from the Digital Soil Map of the World, or SOTERLAC or SOTER where available.

179 We extracted mean annual precipitation (MAP) and mean annual temperature (MAT) from the  
180 WorldClim database <sup>8</sup> at 30' ( $\approx$  1km) resolution. Temperature data were corrected using the lapse rate  
181  $\Delta$  temperature = 0.005°C m<sup>-1</sup> to account for differences between plot elevation and the mean elevation  
182 of WorldClim grid-cells. We also calculated cumulative water deficit (CWD), a measure of water  
183 stress experienced in the dry season. This was done using mean monthly precipitation from  
184 WorldClim and mean monthly potential evapotranspiration (PET, 1980-2010 average) from CRU  
185 TS3.22 <sup>9</sup>. The water balance for each month (t) was calculated as  $CWD_t = \min(0, CWD_{t-1} +$   
186  $Precipitation_t - PET_t)$ . This model was run recursively over a period of 12 months, starting in the  
187 wettest month of the year, with the starting water balance assumed to be zero. The minimum  $CWD_t$   
188 value across the year represents the greatest drought stress experienced by plants, and is referred to as  
189 CWD.

190

### 191 Estimating diversity

192 Although we applied stringent selection criteria to ensure that the diversity measures included in this  
193 study were largely based on fully identified taxa, it was seldom possible to fully identify all taxa in a  
194 plot, as local species pools frequently exceed 1000 tree taxa in the tropical forest domain <sup>10</sup>. Some  
195 unidentified stems could safely be considered to be additional taxa and added to richness estimates as  
196 botanists had assigned them to morphospecies, or had identified them to a higher taxonomic level not  
197 otherwise represented in the plot. We assigned remaining unidentified stems to discrete taxa based on  
198 the ratio of taxa per stem based on stems that were fully identified to a given taxonomic level. This  
199 procedure was necessary to ensure that richness estimates did not simply reflect the proportion of

200 stems that could be fully identified. The formulas for deriving richness estimates at different  
201 taxonomic levels are thus:

202 Species richness =  $I_s + M_s + a + b + [U_s \cdot P_s]$ ,

203 Genus richness =  $I_g + a + [U_g \cdot P_g]$ ,

204 Family richness =  $I_f + [U_f \cdot P_f]$ ,

205 Where  $I$  = richness of stems identified to a given taxonomic level,  $M_s$  = morphospecies richness,  $a$  =  
206 richness of stems unidentified to genus level but unique representatives of a particular family,  $b$  =  
207 richness of stems unidentified to species level but unique representatives of a particular genus,  $U$   
208 = number of stems remaining unidentified at a given taxonomic level,  $P$  = number of taxa (at given  
209 taxonomic level) per identified stem, and  $s$ ,  $g$  and  $f$  subscripts denoting species, genus and family  
210 respectively.  $[\ ]$  denotes rounding to the nearest integer.

211 These formulas give richness per unit area. Richness per  $n$  stems was estimated using individual based  
212 rarefaction at both plot (1 ha) and subplot (0.04 ha) scales. At plot scale, richness was expressed per  
213 300 stems, while at subplot scale richness was expressed per 10 stems.

214 We calculated diversity metrics representing the three most commonly used Hill numbers<sup>11</sup>, richness  
215 ( ${}^0D$ ), Shannon diversity ( ${}^1D = \exp(H')$ , where  $H' = -\sum p_i \log p_i$ , with  $p_i$  the proportion of stems  
216 belonging to species  $i$ ) and Simpson diversity ( ${}^2D = 1/\lambda$ , where  $\lambda = \sum p_i^2$ ), as these give different  
217 weightings to rare versus dominant taxa, with higher Hill numbers giving greater proportional weight  
218 to dominant taxa. In addition, we calculated Fisher's  $\alpha$ , as it is commonly used to explore diversity in  
219 tropical forests. Fisher's  $\alpha$  is a constant derived from the log series  $S = \alpha \ln(1 + N/\alpha)$ , where  $S$  is the  
220 number of species in the sampled community and  $N$  is the number of individuals sampled. Analyses  
221 with taxon richness ( ${}^0D$ ) and Fisher's  $\alpha$  have been presented in the main text, with analysis of  ${}^1D$  and  
222  ${}^2D$  presented in supporting materials.

223



224 Analysing beta diversity

225 We used Sørensen index to quantify beta diversity between pairs of plots. These pairwise similarities  
226 were related to the geographic distance between pairs of plots using a generalised linear model with a  
227 binomial errors and a log-link function following <sup>12</sup>. Fitting exponential distance decay models as  
228 generalised linear models in this way avoids the problem of log-transforming zero similarity values,  
229 with a binomial error structure appropriate as similarity values are bounded to vary between zero and  
230 one <sup>12</sup>. Models were constructed for each continent. The significance of parameter estimates was  
231 assessed by resampling the data 10000 times with replacement. Following <sup>12</sup> we excluded identical  
232 sites pairs with zero geographic distance and identical tree communities from bootstrap samples as  
233 these lie outside the original sampling frame.

234 We also investigated how Fisher's alpha in each continent increased with the number of samples or  
235 the distance around a plot, repeating the methods of <sup>13</sup> on our dataset to investigate whether the  
236 patterns of diversity accumulation over space they observe are also evident in our data.

237 Incomplete species identifications pose a challenge to the calculation of beta diversity as it means that  
238 not all the species pool have been sampled. A wide range of beta diversity metrics, including  
239 Sørensen index, show an approximately linear relationship between undersampling of taxa and bias in  
240 the beta diversity metric <sup>14</sup>. Because of this we excluded sites with <90% of stems identified to species  
241 level from our analysis of beta diversity; this threshold was a compromise between maintaining a  
242 large sample of plots and reducing bias caused by undersampling of taxa. This threshold gave a  
243 sample size of 99 plots in South America, 105 plots in Africa and 23 plots in Asia. Synonymous  
244 species names pose a further challenge, as treating two synonyms as separate species would inflate  
245 beta diversity, and no universal adjudicated list exists for all tropical plants. We used the R package  
246 Taxonstand <sup>15</sup> to compare species names with those in The Plant List ([www.theplantlist.org](http://www.theplantlist.org)) and  
247 remove identified synonyms. However, 28.5% of identified stems remained unresolved (i.e. the  
248 species name was present in The Plant List but it was uncertain whether the species name was a  
249 synonym) in Asia after using Taxonstand, compared to 0.3% in South America and 0.6% in Africa,

250 indicating that further botanical work is required in Asia to resolve these synonyms. We compared  
251 unresolved species in Asia against The Asian Plant Synonym Lookup  
252 ([phylodiversity.net/fslik/synonym\\_lookup.htm](http://phylodiversity.net/fslik/synonym_lookup.htm)) in a further attempt to remove synonyms. Following  
253 this, 5.2% of identified stems in Asia remained unresolved.

#### 254 Statistical analysis

255 We conducted analyses at three spatial scales, firstly comparing carbon and diversity among  
256 continents, secondly, assessing relationships between carbon and diversity between 1ha plots within  
257 each continent, and finally assessing carbon – diversity relationships between 0.04 ha subplots within  
258 1 ha plots.

259 Differences in carbon-storage and diversity metrics between continents were assessed by modelling  
260 each response variable of interest as a function of continent in a linear modelling framework, where  
261 continent was a factor with three levels. Area based taxon richness are count data, so were modelled  
262 using generalised linear models with negative binomial errors (due to overdispersion) and a log link  
263 function. <sup>1</sup>D (species level), <sup>2</sup>D (species level) and Fisher's  $\alpha$  were square root transformed prior to  
264 modelling to homogenise variances and ensure normality of residuals. We tested for significant  
265 differences between continents using Tukey's all-pair comparisons, implemented in the R packages  
266 multcomp <sup>16</sup>.

267 We then conducted Kendall's tau correlations between carbon and each diversity metric to assess  
268 univariate relationships, using plot level data from each continent in turn. Kendall's tau was chosen as  
269 it is non-parametric, so does not assume bivariate normality, and can handle ties. This analysis  
270 involved computing 13 tests for each continent, so there is therefore some risk of significant  
271 relationships appearing by chance. We used false discovery rate control to adjust *P* values for multiple  
272 testing, and present both corrected and uncorrected *P* values. We performed power analysis using the  
273 R package pwr <sup>17</sup> to assess the smallest effect size (Pearson's *r*) that could be detected with 80%  
274 power given the sample size in each continent. Values of *r* were converted to  $\tau$  using the lookup table  
275 in <sup>18</sup>.

276 The univariate correlations examined whether diversity metrics were spatially congruent with carbon.  
277 However, other environmental variables acting on carbon or diversity metrics could enhance or  
278 obscure any underlying mechanistic relationship. We therefore conducted a multivariate analysis  
279 where carbon was modelled as a function of diversity metrics, climate and edaphic variables. This  
280 analysis was performed separately for each continent. Diversity metrics were highly correlated with  
281 each other (mean Pearson's  $r = 0.833$ ), so one model was constructed per diversity metric. We  
282 included cumulative water deficit (CWD), mean annual temperature (MAT), mean annual  
283 precipitation (MAP) as climate variables; we did not include other variables relating to precipitation  
284 seasonality as they were strongly correlated with CWD. No plots in Asia experienced CWD different  
285 from zero, so CWD was not included in models for there. We used Principal Component Analysis to  
286 collapse variation in soil texture into two orthogonal axes, which collectively explained 95.4% of  
287 variation in soil texture. Axis one (PCA1) was positively correlated with the amount of sand, while  
288 axis two (PCA 2) was correlated with the amount of silt and negatively correlated with the amount of  
289 clay (Supplementary Table 1). We also included the sum of total exchangeable bases (TEB) and the  
290 carbon: nitrogen ratio (C:N). Explanatory variables were centred and scaled to have a mean of zero  
291 and a standard deviation of one. The basic equation for these models was thus

$$\log(\text{carbon}) = a + \beta_1 \text{Diversity metric} + \beta_2 \text{CWD} + \beta_3 \text{MAP} + \beta_4 \text{MAT} + \beta_5 \text{PCA1} + \beta_6 \text{PCA2} + \beta_7 \text{TEB} + \beta_8 \text{C:N} + \varepsilon$$

294 We used MuMIn<sup>19</sup> to fit all valid simplifications of this global model. Each model was ranked based  
295 on AIC<sub>C</sub>, from which the Akaike weight of each model  $i$  was calculated ( $\omega_i$ ). The parameters of the  
296 best supported models (defined as the models required for cumulative sum of  $w_i = 0.95$ , known as the  
297 95% confidence set) were averaged, while the support for individual explanatory variables was  
298 assessed by summing to  $\omega_i$  of models in which that variable appeared.

299 Spatial autocorrelation in residuals of these OLS models was examined by plotting correlograms  
300 using the R package ncf<sup>20</sup>. Positive short range and negative long-range residual autocorrelation was  
301 evident in South America, suggesting the presence of strong environmental gradients. Residual spatial

302 autocorrelation was less strong in Africa, and weakest in Asia, but was present in all continents. We  
303 repeated the above modelling procedures using simultaneous autoregressive error models (SAR),  
304 implemented in `spdep`<sup>21</sup>. These were selected because of good performance in evaluations by<sup>22</sup>, with  
305 error models selected, as opposed to lag or mixed SARs, as<sup>23</sup> found they performed better regardless  
306 of the mechanism generating spatial autocorrelation. We selected the best neighbourhood distance for  
307 each global model by fitting models with maximum neighbourhoods distances varying in 20km  
308 increments from 20km to 1000km, and selecting the neighbourhood distance that gave the lowest  
309 AIC<sub>C</sub>. Although all SAR models had lower AIC values than OLS models, we present results from  
310 both OLS and SAR models, as it has been argued that spatial models are not necessarily more correct  
311 than non-spatial models<sup>24</sup>.

312 We assessed fine-scale relationships between diversity and carbon by using multiple regression to  
313 model  $\ln(\text{carbon})$  in 0.04ha subplots as a function of diversity and the number of stems in the subplot,  
314 with a second order polynomial used for the number of stems to capture potentially saturating  
315 relationships. Explanatory variables were natural log transformed to allow comparison with results of  
316<sup>25</sup>. We ran these models in each 1ha plot where subplot level was available ( $n = 266$ ). We tested  
317 whether the mean coefficient was different from zero using one-sample Wilcoxon tests, and  
318 calculated 95% confidence intervals from 10000 bootstrap resamples with replacement. Running  
319 separate models for each plot allowed us to capture variability in fine scale relationships between  
320 plots. However, the overall mean relationship between diversity and carbon at subplot scale could be  
321 more robustly assessed using mixed effects models with random coefficients. This assumes that  
322 coefficients in plot  $j$  come from a normal distribution,  $\beta_j \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_\beta, \sigma_\beta^2)$ , where  $\mu_\beta$  is the mean value  
323 of the coefficient across plots, and  $\sigma_\beta^2$  is the variance of the coefficient across plots. We relax the  
324 assumption of independence between coefficients, so that pairs of coefficients in the same plot are  
325 assumed to come from a multivariate normal distribution with correlations between coefficients  
326 estimated in a variance-covariance matrix. Mixed effects models were implemented using the R  
327 package `lme4`<sup>26</sup>.

328

329 **Supplementary Discussion – Examining support for mechanisms underpinning diversity-carbon**  
330 **relationships**

331 Our results show a weak positive relationship between diversity and carbon storage at small spatial  
332 scales (among 0.04 ha subplots within 1 ha plots), but no pan-tropically consistent relationship among  
333 1 ha plots, even after controlling for potentially confounding environmental variation and spatial  
334 autocorrelation. These results pose two questions. Firstly, which mechanisms underlie the positive  
335 diversity-carbon relationship between 0.04 ha subplots? And secondly, why do these mechanisms  
336 appear to only operate at small spatial scales? These questions are best investigated with long-term  
337 experiments in tropical forests, however, we can evaluate whether correlative results from our  
338 observational dataset are consistent with the operation of niche complementarity and selection effects  
339 at 0.04 ha and 1 ha scales.

340 Evidence for niche complementarity

341 Positive relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem function have been hypothesised to arise  
342 through two general mechanisms, niche complementarity and the selection effect. The niche  
343 complementarity hypothesis proposes that differences in resource use by species allows diverse  
344 communities to use available resources more efficiently than less diverse communities<sup>27</sup>. For  
345 example, in low diversity temperate forests, complimentary canopy architecture has been found to  
346 drive a positive relationship between diversity and productivity<sup>28</sup>. In tropical forests attempts to  
347 assess the role of niche complementarity have focused on relating above-ground live carbon storage to  
348 the functional diversity of tree communities<sup>29,30</sup>, with the expectation that more functionally diverse  
349 species assemblages should be able to partition resources more effectively. However, these studies  
350 found no relationship between carbon storage and functional diversity<sup>29,30</sup>.

351 Quantifying functional diversity in tropical forests is challenging due to the shortage of available trait  
352 data. We used two approaches to quantify functional diversity, (i) the standard deviation of wood  
353 density ( $SD_{WD}$ ) in a subplot or plot, and (ii) a multivariate functional diversity metric (FDM) using  
354 both the wood density and the maximum diameter of each species in a subplot or plot.

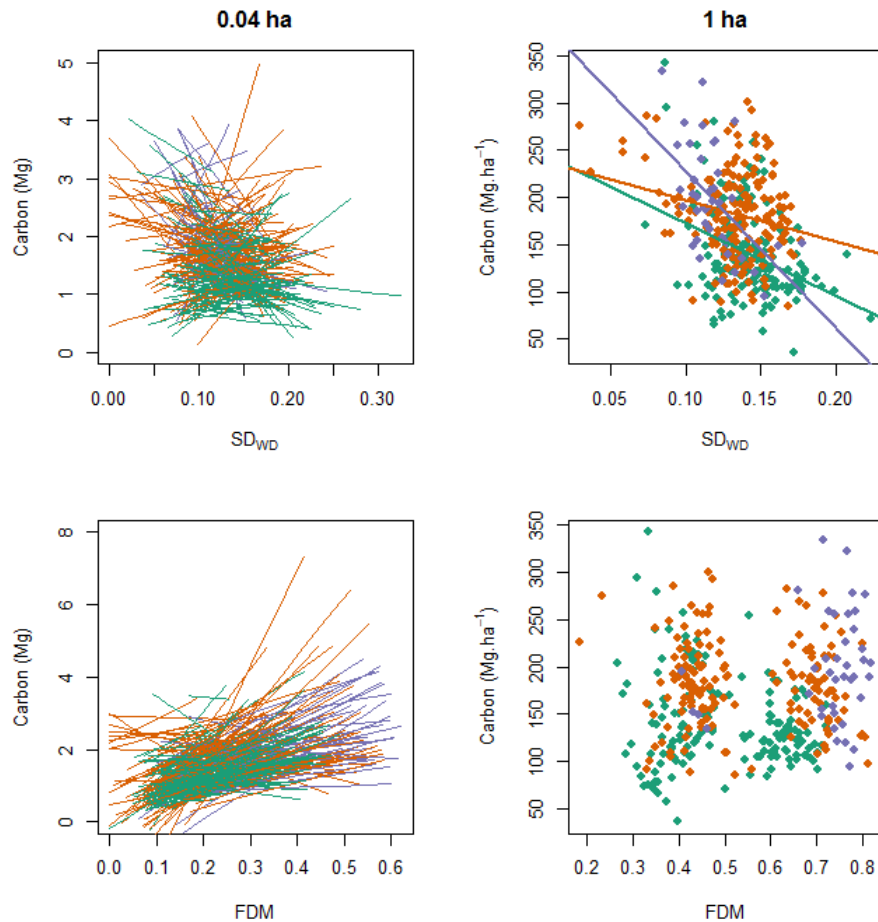
355 For the  $SD_{WD}$  we used published wood density values<sup>31,32</sup>, and commonly used methods to select  
356 genera-level wood density in cases when literature values for a given species were unavailable<sup>33-35</sup>. It  
357 would be preferable to use local trait data<sup>36</sup> but as these are not available for many plots it is  
358 necessary to use literature values for pan-tropical studies<sup>29</sup>. Wood density provides a proven proxy  
359 for life history strategy in tropical forests<sup>37</sup>, since denser wooded trees tend to be slower growing, less  
360 light demanding and potentially larger than species with lower wood density<sup>38,39</sup>, and variation in  
361 wood density is closely related to variation in leaf traits<sup>40</sup> and demographic traits<sup>41</sup>. We therefore  
362 expect that the potential for niche complementarity is greater in species assemblages with more  
363 variation in wood density.

364 The relationship between carbon storage and  $SD_{WD}$  at the 0.04 ha scale within 1-ha plots was variable  
365 but significantly negative overall. At the 1 ha scale the relationship was significantly negative in all  
366 three continents (Fig. S1). At both scales,  $SD_{WD}$  was negatively related to mean wood density (Fig.  
367 S2), indicating that the more variable plots were increasingly composed of species with ‘fast’ life  
368 history strategies. These plots potentially have high rates of stem turnover, and thus shorter biomass  
369 residence time<sup>42</sup>. When we included community weighted mean wood density as a covariate to  
370 account for this, the negative relationship between carbon storage and wood density standard  
371 deviation among 0.04 ha subplots was weaker but still significantly negative ( $P < 0.001$ ). Negative  
372 relationships among 1 ha plots also weakened in all continents (non-significantly negative in South  
373 America and Africa ( $P \geq 0.177$ ), significantly negative in Asia ( $P = 0.004$ ).  $SD_{WD}$  was also negatively  
374 related to the community weighted mean of maximum diameter at both scales (Fig. S3), indicating  
375 that plots with a greater variety of tree life history strategies were increasingly composed of smaller  
376 tree species.

377 We then estimated functional diversity using the FDM, calculated following<sup>43</sup>. For this, we follow  
378 Cavanaugh et al.<sup>29</sup> and define functional diversity in terms of the wood density and maximum  
379 diameter of each species in an assemblage (they worked at genus level). Thus, following Fauset et al.  
380<sup>44</sup>, we estimated maximum diameter as the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile diameter of species with a least 20 stems in  
381 the dataset. We used species-level maximum diameters were available, with genus-level estimates

382 used for species that occurred too infrequently to estimate species level maximum diameter, and  
383 family-level estimates used when there was no genus-level estimate. We estimated maximum  
384 diameter for each genus and family using the same methods as for species-level estimates. We used  
385 this trait data to construct a functional dissimilarity matrix, where the dissimilarity of pairs of species  
386 based on their traits was quantified using Gower distance. This dissimilarity matrix was converted  
387 into a dendrogram using average linkage. FDM was calculated as the sum of branch lengths of a  
388 dendrogram containing all species in a plot or subplot divided by the sum of branch lengths of a  
389 dendrogram containing all species in the potential source pool, defined as all species in our dataset  
390 found in a given continent. Thus, FDM is equal to one when all the trait diversity in the source pool of  
391 species is found in the subset of species in a subplot or plot, and decreases towards zero as  
392 increasingly large amounts of trait diversity are missing from the subset of species.

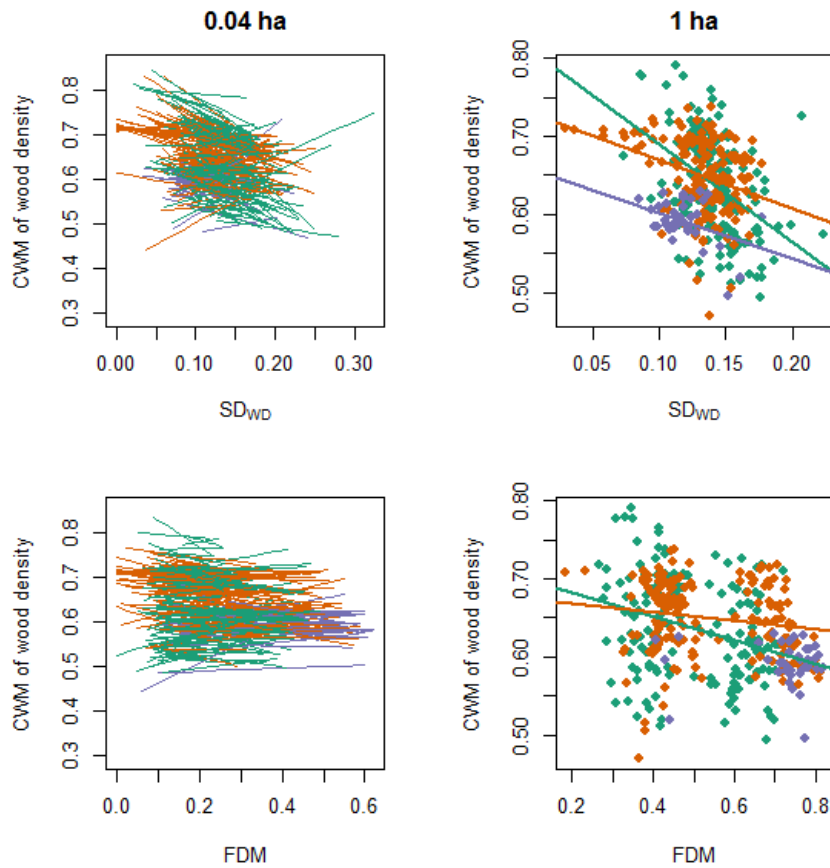
393 Our FDM metric showed an overall weak positive relationship between functional diversity and  
394 carbon storage at the 0.04ha scale (Fig. S1), which remained when community-weighted mean wood  
395 density was included as a covariate ( $\beta = 2.6, P < 0.001$ ). However, at the 1 ha scale, FD and carbon  
396 storage were unrelated, even when community-weighted mean (CWM) wood density was included as  
397 a covariate ( $P \geq 0.118$ ). This is consistent with results of previous studies at this scale<sup>29,30</sup>, which  
398 found no relationship between functional diversity and carbon storage. At both scales FDM was  
399 weakly negatively related to community-weight mean wood density (Fig. S2), indicating that the most  
400 functionally diverse stands were composed of species with fast life-history strategies. FDM was  
401 positively related to the community weighted mean of maximum diameter at 0.04 ha scale but not at 1  
402 ha scale. This indicates that at small scales trees are on average larger in more functionally diverse  
403 stands. The weak positive relationship between FDM and carbon storage at 0.04 ha but not 1 ha scale  
404 is consistent with the scale-dependent operation of niche complementarity.



405

406 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Relationship between carbon storage and functional diversity. Functional  
 407 diversity is quantified either as the standard deviation of wood density among stems within a plot/  
 408 sub-plot (SD<sub>WD</sub>), or using a dendrogram based method where species are clustered according to their  
 409 wood density and maximum diameter traits (FDM). Relationships are shown for 1 ha plots in each  
 410 continent (data from South America are shown by green circles, Africa by orange squares, and Asia  
 411 by purple triangles, regression lines are shown for significant relationships ( $P < 0.05$ )), and for 0.04  
 412 ha subplots in 1 ha plots (regression lines shown for each 1 ha plot, colour scheme same as before).  
 413 Relationships between wood density SD and carbon are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = -5.0$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ;  
 414 Africa 1 ha  $\beta = -2.3$ ,  $P = 0.006$ ; Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = -9.1$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effects model,  $\beta = -1.1$ ,  
 415  $P < 0.001$ . Relationships between functional diversity and carbon are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = -0.3$ ,  $P$   
 416  $= 0.139$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta = -0.1$ ,  $P = 0.687$ , Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = 0.5$ ,  $P = 0.236$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effects model,  
 417  $\beta = 2.5$ ,  $P < 0.001$ .

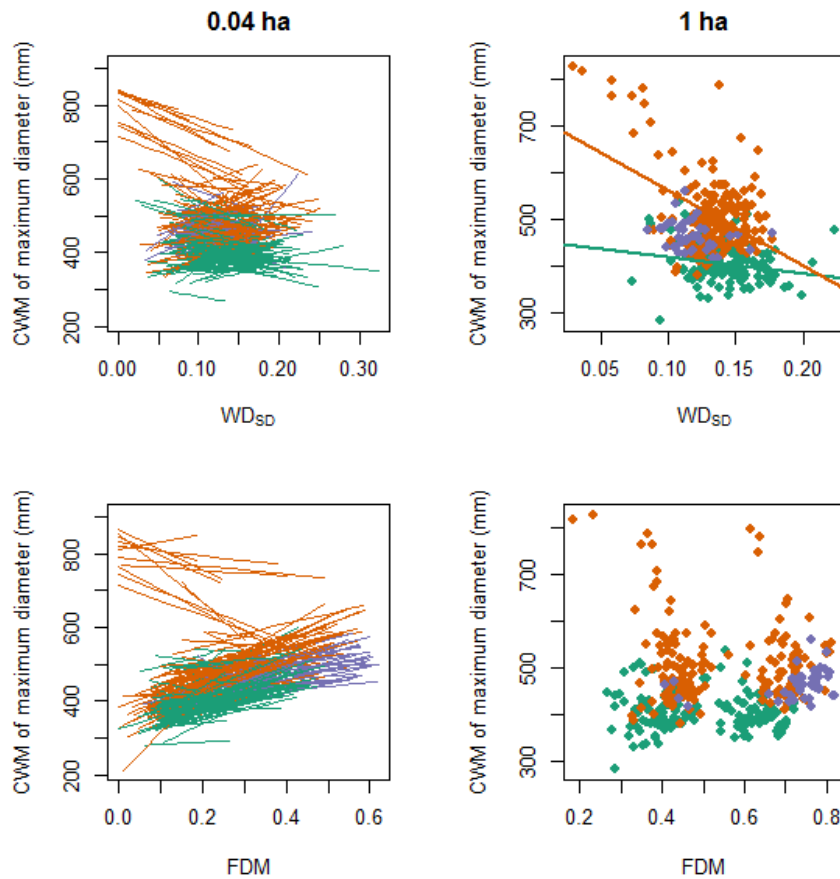




418

419 **Supplementary Figure 2.** Relationship between measures of functional diversity the community  
 420 weighted mean of wood density. Symbols as in Fig. S1. Relationships between SD<sub>WD</sub> and CWM of  
 421 wood density are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = -1.3$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta = -0.6$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Asia 1  
 422 ha,  $\beta = -0.6$ ,  $P = 0.012$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effects model,  $\beta = -0.31$ ,  $P < 0.001$ . Relationships between  
 423 FDM and CWM of wood density are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = -0.2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta = -0.1$ ,  
 424  $P = 0.0371$ ; Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = -0.1$ ,  $P = 0.768$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effects model,  $\beta = -0.02$ ,  $P = 0.005$ .

425



426

427 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Relationship between measures of functional diversity and the functional  
 428 dominance of species with large maximum diameters. Symbols as in Fig. S1. Relationships between  
 429  $SD_{WD}$  and community-weighted mean (CWM) of maximum diameter are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = -$   
 430  $349$ ,  $P = 0.0095$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta = -1623$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = -387$ ,  $P = 0.156$ ; 0.04 ha mixed  
 431 effects model,  $\beta = -34$ ,  $P < 0.001$ . Relationships between FDM and CWM of maximum diameter are:  
 432 South America 1 ha,  $\beta = -33$ ,  $P = 0.181$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta = -71$ ,  $P = 0.137$ ; Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = 84.7$ ,  $P =$   
 433  $0.074$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effect model,  $\beta = 263$ ,  $P < 0.001$ .

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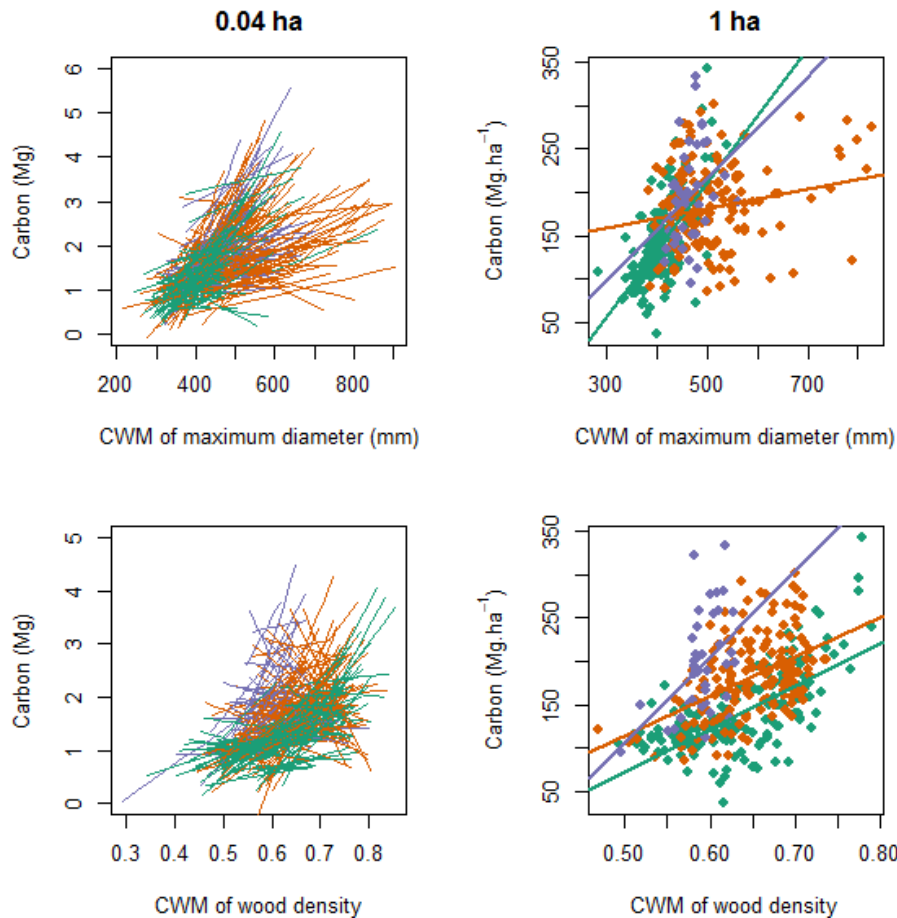
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436 Evidence for the selection effect

437 A second mechanism by which positive diversity-ecosystem function relationships might be generated  
 438 is via the selection effect. The selection effect hypothesis proposes that diverse communities, by  
 439 containing a greater proportion of the overall species pool, are more likely to contain dominant  
 440 species that contribute strongly to ecosystem function<sup>27</sup>. Species contributions to ecosystem function  
 441 are known to be highly uneven in Amazonian forests, where approximately 1% of species are  
 442 responsible for 50% of carbon storage<sup>44</sup>. Furthermore, maximum diameter is known to be the most

443 important determinant of species' contribution to carbon storage<sup>44</sup>, aside from overall abundance,  
444 while pan-tropically plot-level carbon stocks are closely related to the density of large trees (defined  
445 as d.b.h.  $\geq 70$  cm)<sup>45</sup>. Thus any positive diversity-carbon relationship could plausibly arise through  
446 diverse plots being more likely to contain species with large maximum diameters.

447 Previous attempts to evaluate whether selection effects occur in tropical forests have tested the  
448 prediction that carbon storage is related to the functional dominance of species with large maximum  
449 diameters or dense wood<sup>29,30</sup>. To begin with, we therefore repeated this approach with our larger pan-  
450 tropical dataset (360 plots), using the community weighted mean of wood density and maximum  
451 diameter as a measure of functional dominance. We found that at both scales carbon storage increased  
452 with the community weighted mean of maximum diameter, as found by previous studies at 1 ha scale  
453<sup>29,30</sup>, and also that it increased with the community weighted mean of wood density (Fig. S4), which  
454 the previous studies did not detect as a driver of carbon storage<sup>29,30</sup>. However, while this approach is  
455 useful and interesting, strictly it is a test of the biomass ratio hypothesis, by which ecosystem function  
456 is related to the traits of dominant taxa<sup>46</sup>, rather than a test of the selection effect *per se*.



457

458 **Supplementary Figure 4.** Relationship between community weighted mean (CWM) of species traits  
 459 and carbon storage. The community weighted mean of traits indicates the dominance of species with  
 460 different trait values within a community. Symbols as in Fig. S1. Relationships between CWM of  
 461 maximum diameter and carbon are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = 0.0049$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta =$   
 462  $0.0006$ ,  $P = 0.022$ ; Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = 0.0030$ ,  $P = 0.049$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effects model,  $\beta = 0.0029$ ,  $P <$   
 463  $0.001$ . Relationships between CWM of wood density and carbon are: South America 1 ha,  $\beta = 3.1$ ,  $P$   
 464  $< 0.001$ ; Africa 1 ha,  $\beta = 2.8$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Asia 1 ha,  $\beta = 5.7$ ,  $P = 0.0005$ ; 0.04 ha mixed effects model,  
 465  $\beta = 2.4$ ,  $P < 0.001$ .

466

467 Another, and directly testable, prediction of the selection effect is that the probability of a community  
 468 containing a functionally dominant species increases with species richness. Maximum diameter has  
 469 been found to be an important determinant of species' contribution to carbon storage. Of our 1441  
 470 species for which the species level maximum diameter could be estimated, 169 (11.7%) had  
 471 maximum diameters  $\geq 70$  cm. The probability of a random sample of  $s$  species from this species pool  
 472 containing a potentially large tree species ( $L$ ) is thus  $L = 1 - 0.883^s$ . This means that the probability of  
 473 sampling a potentially large tree species rapidly saturates with species richness. For example, at 14

474 species (the median species richness of 0.04 ha subplots)  $L = 0.826$ , while at 100 species (the median  
475 species richness of 1 ha plots)  $L > 0.999$ . This calculation ignores differences in species composition  
476 between continents, so we also estimated the probability of samples of different species richness  
477 containing a potentially large species by sampling the tree species in our dataset 3000 times for each  
478 species richness increment, with each sample restricted to contain species from a single continent  
479 (1000 samples for each continent). We also repeated this procedure with the probability of sampling a  
480 species weighted by that species' frequency in a continent. Both approaches gave a similar rapidly  
481 saturating curve (Fig. S4), and with a slightly higher probability of sampling large species when  
482 species frequency was maintained. Importantly, the probability of a sample containing a potentially  
483 large species increases substantially through the inter-quartile range of 0.04 ha species richness  
484 values, but for the whole inter-quartile range of 1 ha species richness values samples were almost  
485 certain to contain a potentially large species (Fig. S5). Similar inferences obtain when we modelled  
486 the probability of subplots containing potentially large tree species as a function of species  
487 richness using binomial generalised mixed models (with plot identity as a random effect): the  
488 probability of sampling a large tree species in a 20x20m subplot increased with species richness (Fig.  
489 S6), but at the 1 ha scale all but one of our 360 plots contains a potentially large tree species. This  
490 further supports the inference that selection effects could plausibly lead to a relationship between  
491 diversity and carbon storage at 0.04 ha scale, but that tropical forest 1 ha plots are sufficiently diverse  
492 for selection effects to have potentially saturated.

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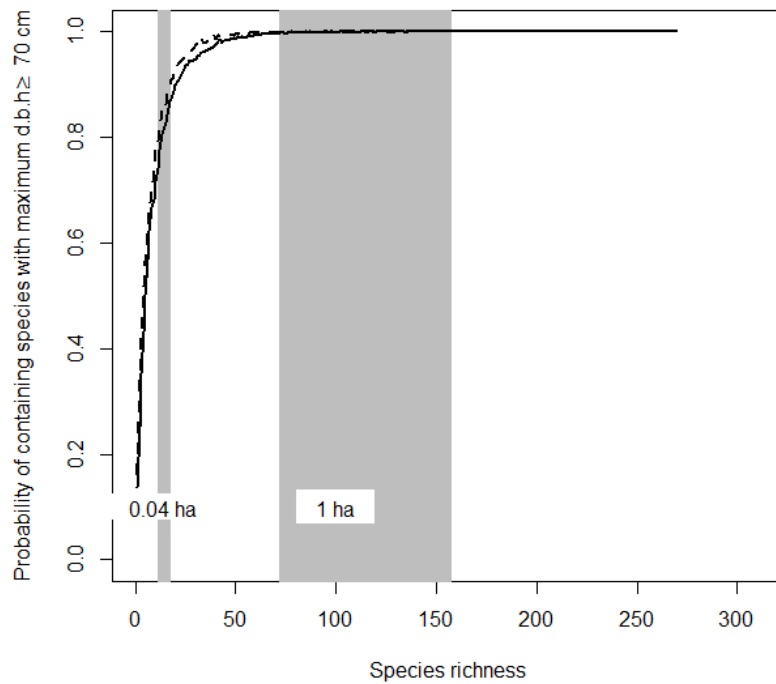
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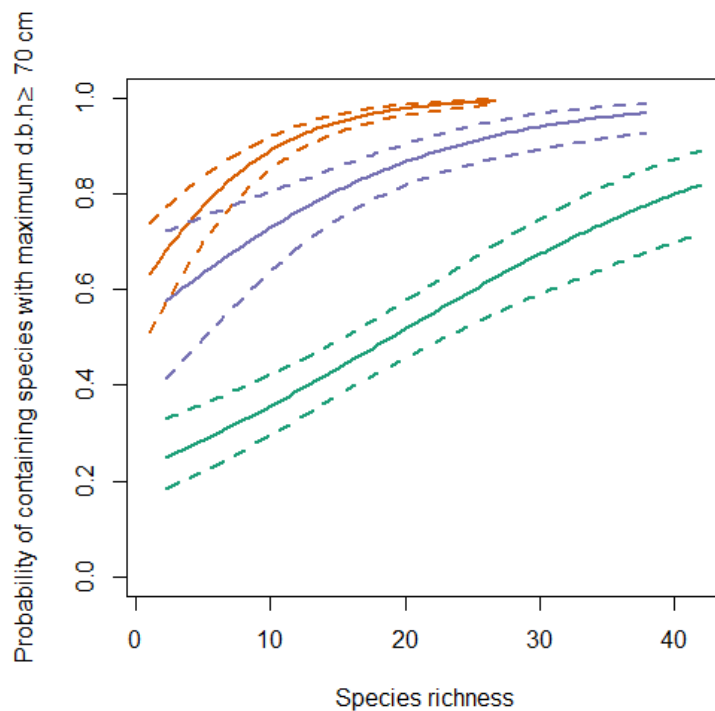
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499

500 **Supplementary Figure 5.** Relationship between the species richness of a sample and the probability  
501 of that sample containing a potentially large tree species (maximum diameter  $\geq 70$  cm). Probabilities  
502 were estimated by randomly sampling the species pool in each continent 1000 times for each  
503 continent and species richness increment, with the probability of selecting a species either equal for  
504 all species in a continent (solid line) or weighted by the proportion of plots that species was recorded  
505 in (dashed line). The interquartile range of species richness in 0.04 ha subplots and 1 ha plots are  
506 shown by grey shading.

507



508

509 **Supplementary Figure 6.** Observed relationship between species richness of 0.04 ha subplots and the  
 510 probability of that subplot containing a potentially large species (maximum diameter  $\geq 70$  cm). Fitted  
 511 relationships in each continent are from generalised linear mixed effects models with binomial errors  
 512 (green = South America, orange = Africa, purple = Asia). Standard errors are shown with dashed  
 513 lines. Model coefficients are: South America,  $\beta = 0.066$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Africa,  $\beta = 0.173$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ;  
 514 Asia,  $\beta = 0.088$ ,  $P < 0.001$ . Relationships are not shown for 1 ha plots, as all but one of our 360 plots  
 515 contained a potentially large species.

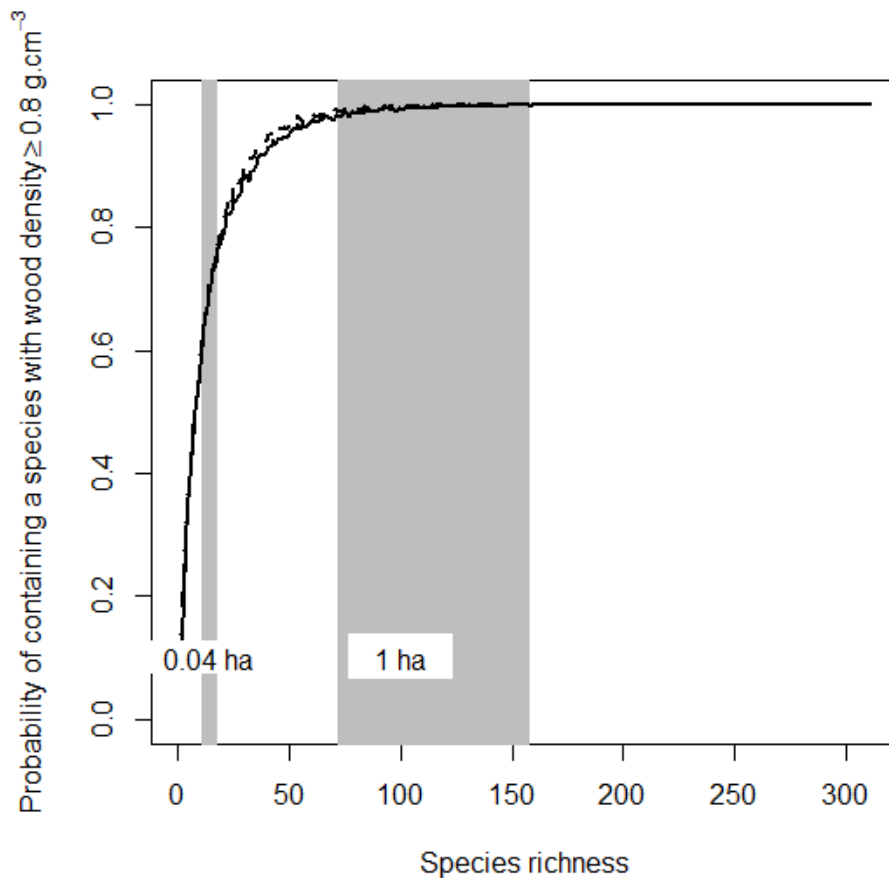
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517 We find similar results when evaluating the probability of sampling a species with high wood density.

518 Thus, the probability of sampling a species with wood density  $\geq 0.8 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$  increases with species  
 519 richness through the range of species richness values found in 0.04 ha subplots, but saturates by the  
 520 species richness values found in 1 ha plots (Fig. S7). All but one 1 ha plot contains a species with  
 521 wood density  $\geq 0.8 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ , however at 0.04 ha scale there is a positive relationship in all continents  
 522 (Fig. S8).

523 Although the choice of 70 cm as a threshold for maximum diameter is supported by previous work  
 524 demonstrating the contribution of trees of this size class to overall biomass<sup>45</sup>, the thresholds chosen  
 525 for both maximum diameter and wood density are essentially arbitrary. To explore sensitivity to this  
 526 choice we also explored the effects using other, substantially different, thresholds. Setting a lower

527 threshold naturally means that the probability of sampling a high functioning species saturates at  
528 lower species richness, while setting a higher threshold means that it saturates at higher species  
529 richness (Fig. S9, Fig. S10). However, for all the thresholds which we investigated, the probability of  
530 sampling a high functioning species increased more rapidly with species richness though the range of  
531 species richness values found in 0.04 ha subplots than the range of species richness values found in 1  
532 ha plots (Fig. S9, Fig. S10).

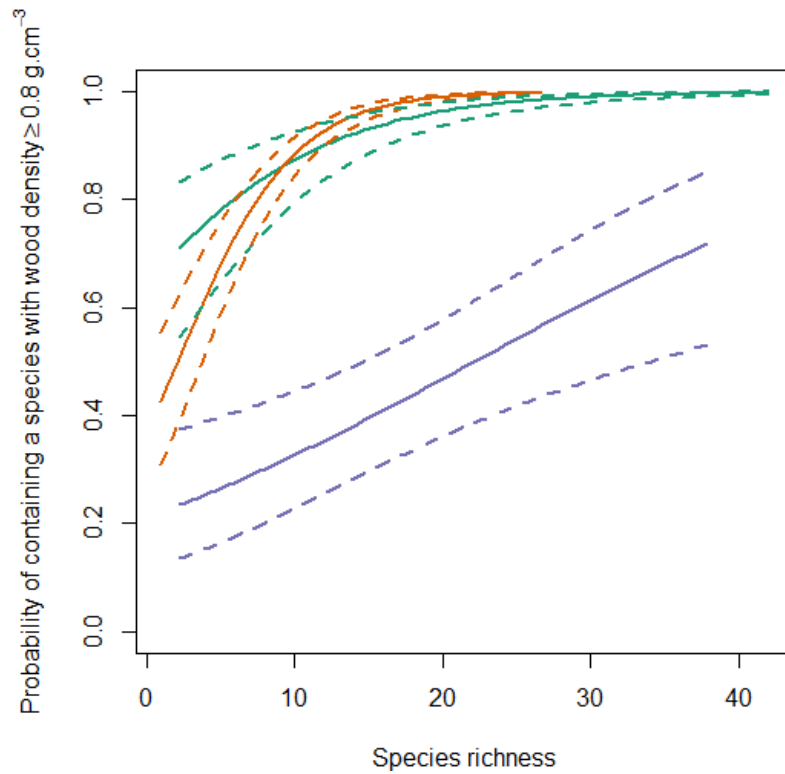


533

534 **Supplementary Figure 7.** Relationship between the species richness of a sample and the probability  
535 of that sample containing a species with high wood density (wood density  $\geq 0.8 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ). Probabilities  
536 were estimated by randomly sampling the species pool in each continent 1000 times for each  
537 continent and species richness increment, with the probability of selecting a species either equal for  
538 all species in a continent (solid line) or weighted by the proportion of plots that species was recorded  
539 in (dashed line). The interquartile range of species richness in 0.04 ha subplots and 1 ha plots are  
540 shown by grey shading.

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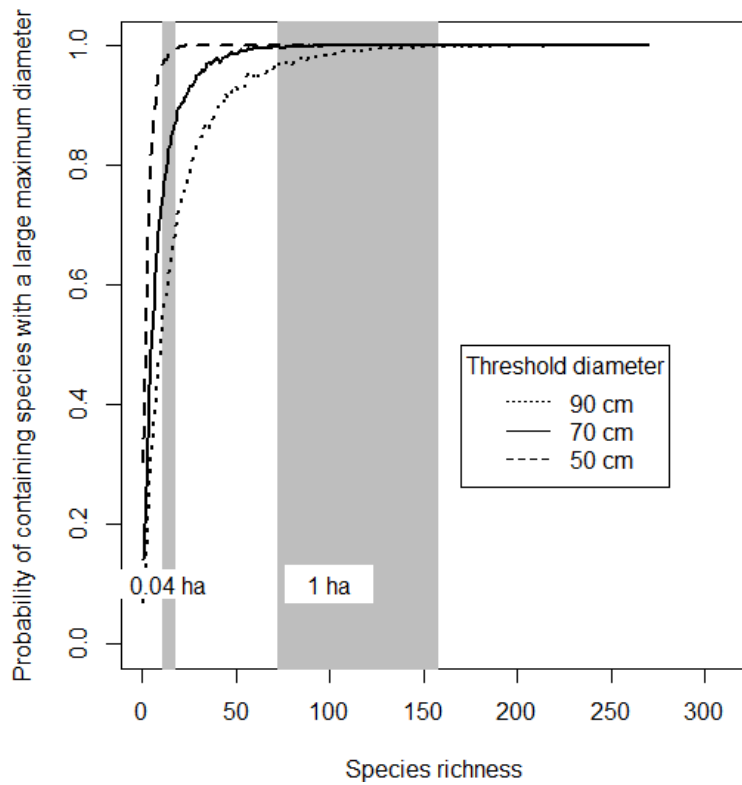




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543 **Supplementary Figure S8.** Observed relationship between species richness of 0.04 ha subplots and  
544 the probability of that sample containing a species with high wood density (wood density  $\geq 0.8 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ). Fitted relationships in each continent are from generalised linear mixed effects models with  
545 binomial errors (green = South America, orange = Africa, purple = Asia). Standard errors are shown  
546 with dashed lines. Model coefficients are: South America,  $\beta = 0.135$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Africa,  $\beta = 0.258$ ,  $P$   
547  $< 0.001$ ; Asia,  $\beta = 0.059$ ,  $P = 0.001$ . Relationships are not shown for 1 ha plots, as all but one of our  
548 360 plots contained a species with high wood density.  
549

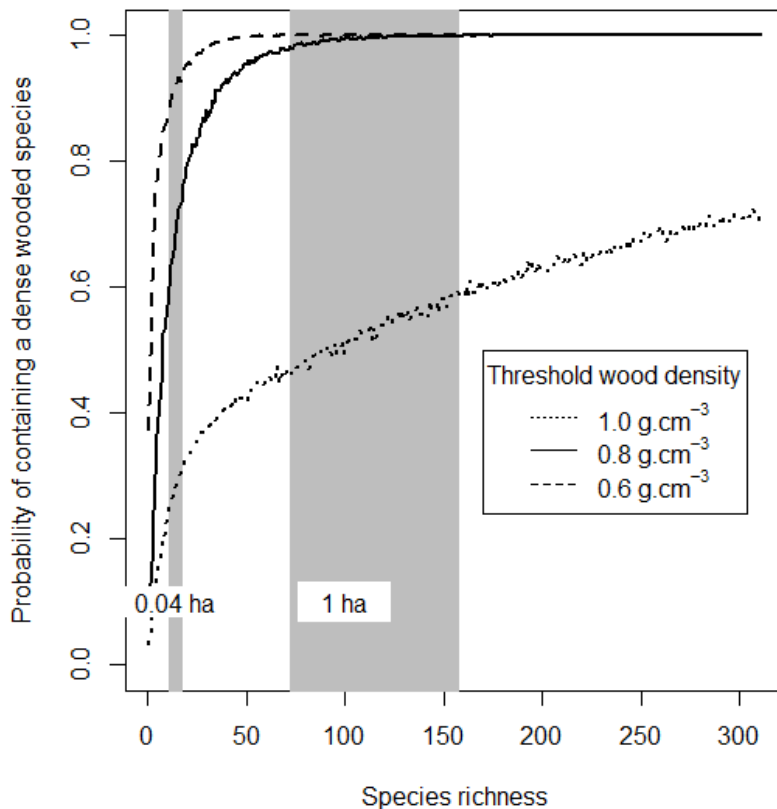
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552 **Supplementary Figure 9.** Sensitivity of the relationship between the species richness of a sample and  
553 the probability of that sample containing a potentially large tree species to the choice of threshold  
554 maximum diameter. Probabilities were estimated by randomly sampling the species pool in each  
555 continent 1000 times for each continent and species richness increment, with the probability of  
556 selecting a species either equal for all species in a continent (solid line). The interquartile range of  
557 species richness in 0.04 ha subplots and 1 ha plots are shown by grey shading.

558



559

560 **Supplementary Figure 10.** Sensitivity of the relationship between the species richness of a sample  
 561 and the probability of that sample containing a species with high wood density to the choice of  
 562 threshold wood density. Probabilities were estimated by randomly sampling the species pool in each  
 563 continent 1000 times for each continent and species richness increment, with the probability of  
 564 selecting a species either equal for all species in a continent (solid line). The interquartile range of  
 565 species richness in 0.04 ha subplots and 1 ha plots are shown by grey shading.

566

567

568 Conclusions

569 Our results are consistent with the weak positive relationship between diversity and carbon storage  
 570 resulting from niche complementarity and/or selection effects, as at this scale we found a weak  
 571 positive relationship between carbon storage and functional diversity (Fig. S1, consistent with niche  
 572 complementarity) and between species richness and the probability of sampling a large tree (Fig. S6,  
 573 consistent with selection effects). We note that positive diversity-carbon relationships at fine scales  
 574 could also result from density dependent effects, which could arise if pests and pathogens incur a  
 575 reduced cost on species with low local densities. We found no evidence of either selection effects or

576 niche complementarity operating at the 1-ha scale, which is consistent with both mechanisms being  
577 scale dependent. For selection effects this potential scale dependency could arise through the greater  
578 number of species as spatial scale increases, as we show that 1 ha plots are already sufficiently diverse  
579 for plots to be almost certain to contain a potentially large tree species (Fig. S5).

580 Carbon storage was related to the dominance of wood density and maximum diameter traits in species  
581 assemblages (Fig. S3), consistent with the biomass ratio hypothesis where ecosystem function is  
582 related to the traits of the dominant taxa. Our results are therefore consistent with previous studies in  
583 showing that carbon storage in 1 ha plots is related to functional dominance but not to functional  
584 diversity<sup>29,30</sup>, and extend these by firstly showing that selection effects potentially saturate so are  
585 unlikely to explain functional dominance at 1 ha scales, and secondly by reporting correlations  
586 consistent with the operation of both niche complementarity and selection effects at the 0.04 ha scale.

587 Overall, we find support for the operation of niche complementarity and selection effects at 0.04 ha  
588 scale but no evidence for their operation at 1 ha scale, although as firm causal inferences cannot be  
589 drawn from correlative observational studies such as this substantial uncertainty remains about the  
590 role of niche complementarity and selection effects in tropical forests. The potential scale dependency  
591 of both mechanisms is consistent with the central finding of our pan-tropical analysis: except at the  
592 very smallest scales, across and within the three main tropical forest continents, above-ground live  
593 carbon storage and tree diversity are decoupled.

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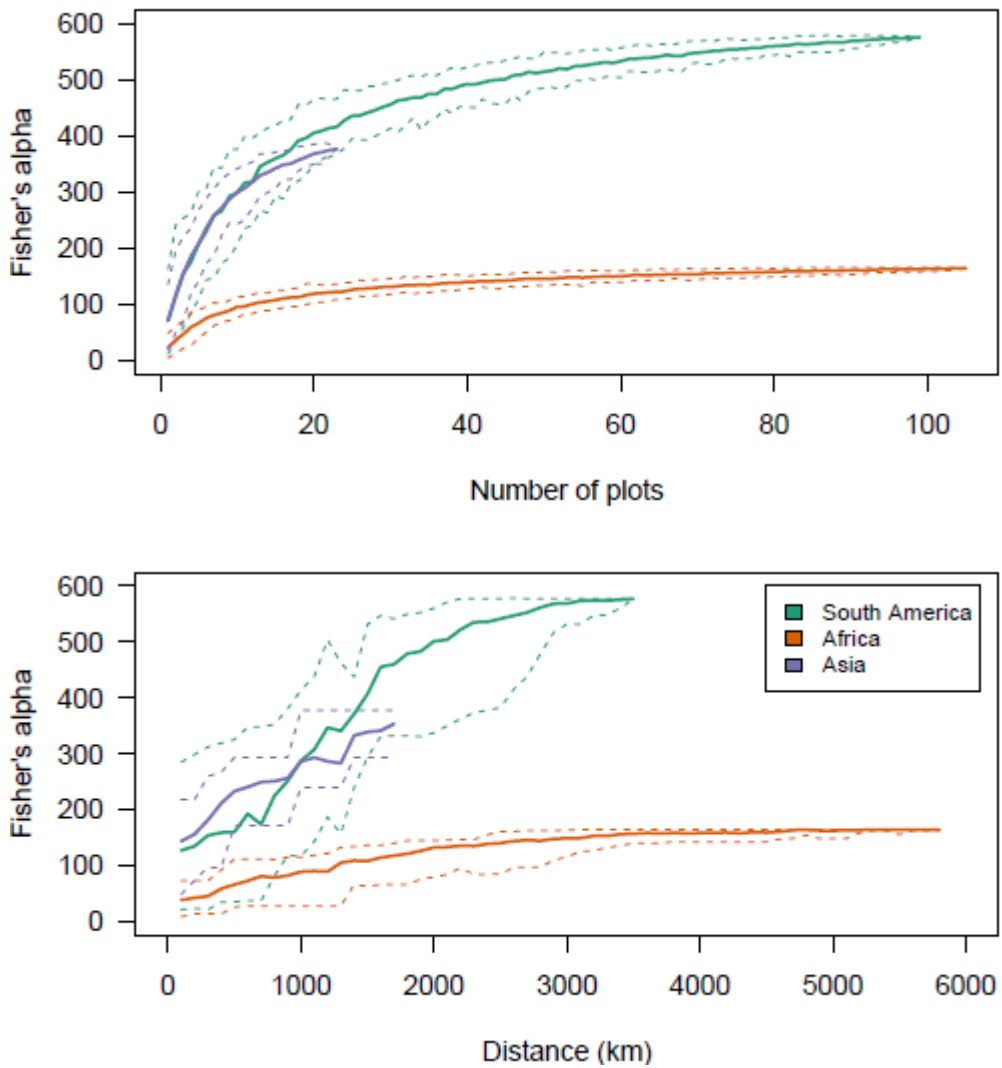
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603 **Additional figures and tables**

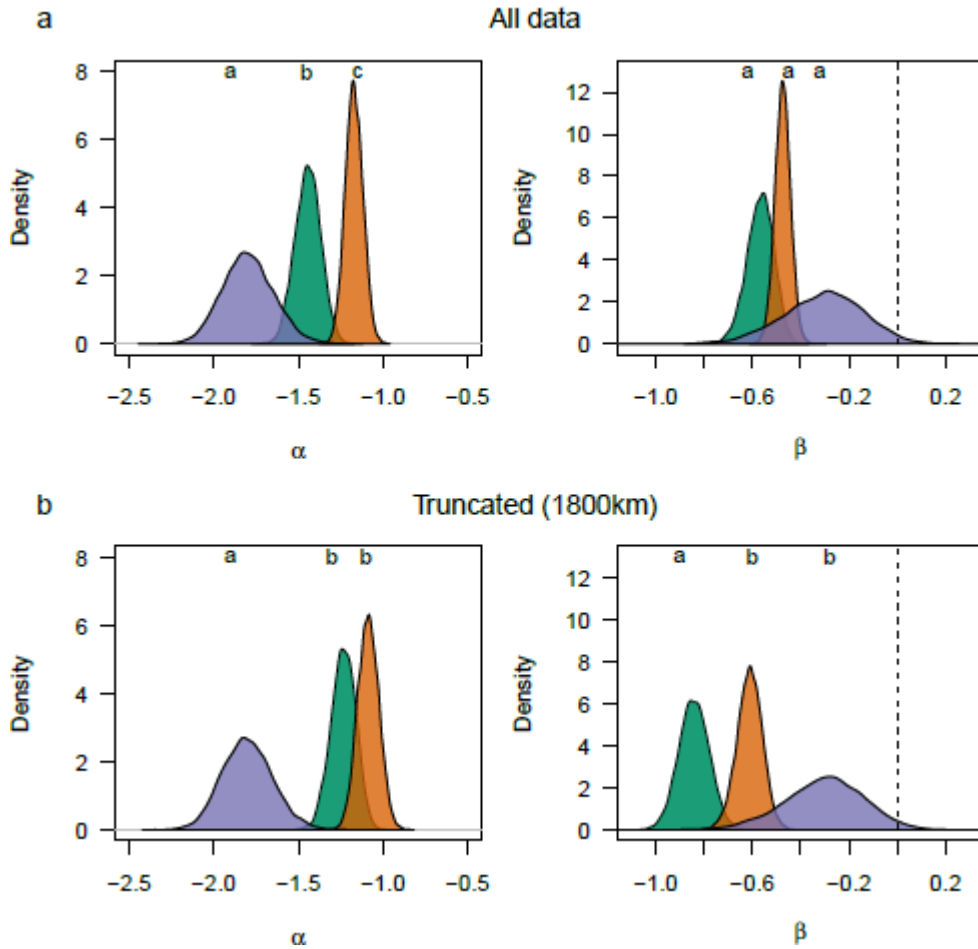


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606 **Supplementary Figure 11.** Increase in diversity (Fisher's  $\alpha$ ) with increasing sample size of plots and  
 607 increasing geographic distance around plots. For each sample size a random selection of  $n$  plots was  
 608 drawn from the pool of available plots in each continent, while for each distance, a random plot was  
 609 selected and all plots within a given distance of it were selected. This was repeated 100 times for each  
 610 sample size and distance. Solid lines show mean values and dashed lines 95% confidence limits from  
 611 these samples.

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614 **Supplementary Figure 12.** Coefficients of generalised linear models of species similarity (Sørensen  
 615 index) against distance, with  $\alpha$  being the model intercept and  $\beta$  being the gradient. The distributions of  
 616 parameters from 10000 bootstrap samples are shown. Models for South America are in green, Africa  
 617 orange and Asia purple. Asia has a significantly lower intercept than Africa and South America, and  
 618 when data were truncated a significantly shallower gradient than South America.

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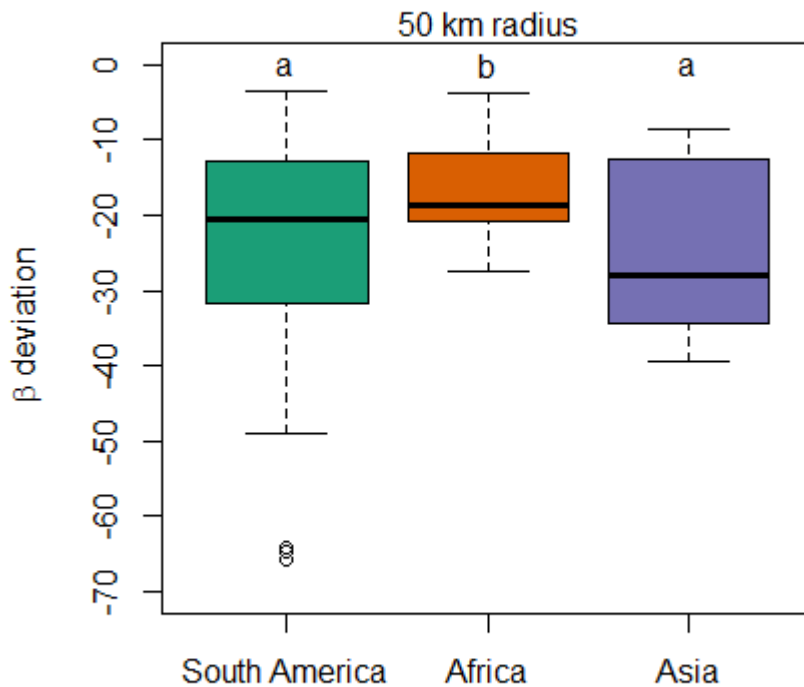
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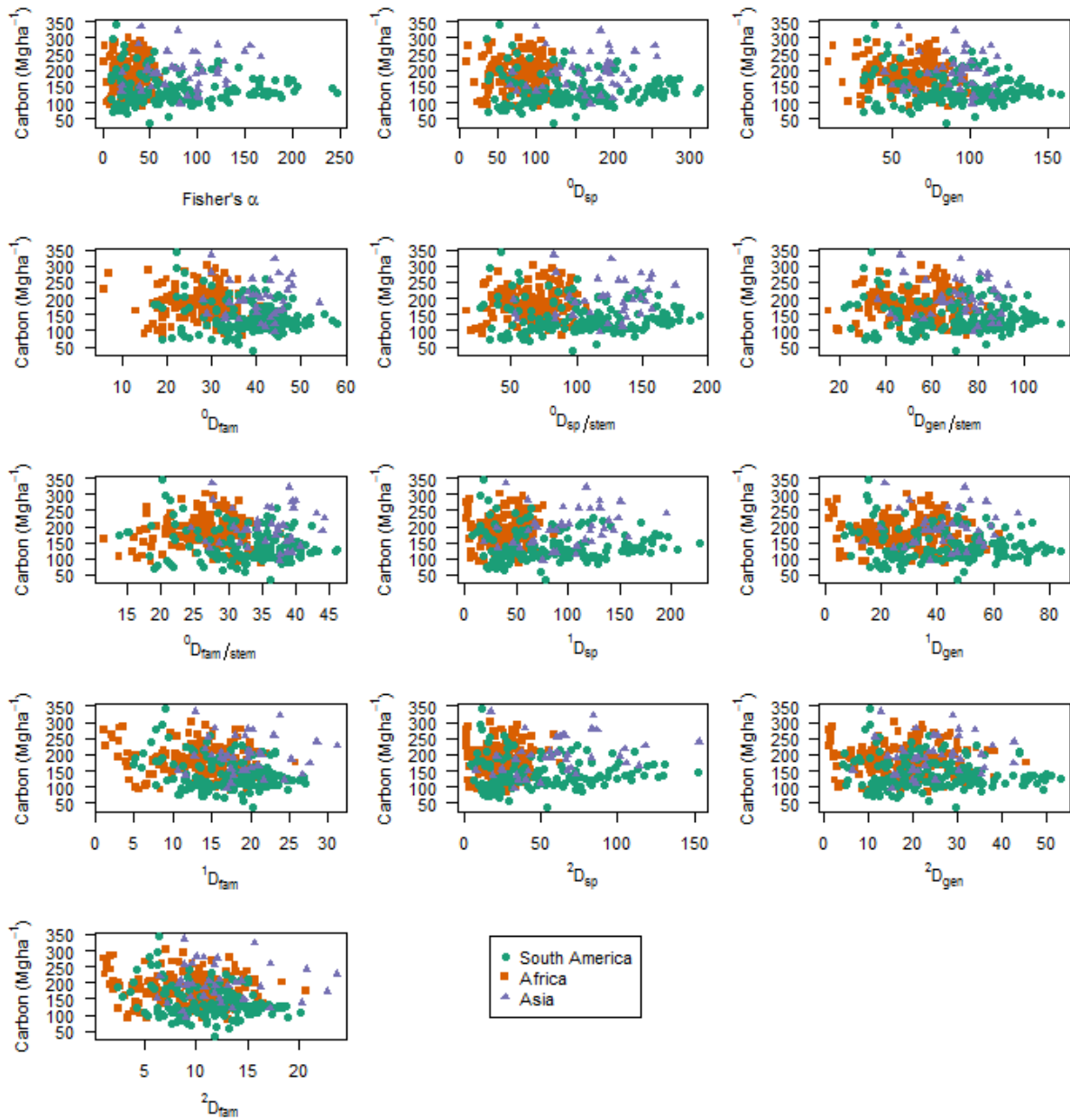
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630 **Supplementary Figure 13.** Variation in the standardised effect size of the difference between  
 631 observed and expected Sørensen index values ( $\beta$  deviation).  $\beta$  deviation values below zero indicate  
 632 that forest stands are less similar than expected after controlling for the effect of gamma diversity.  
 633 Expected values were generated by using a null model that randomly shuffles individual trees among  
 634 plots within a sample area, while maintaining the number of stems in each plot and the overall gamma  
 635 diversity and relative abundance of species in the sample area <sup>47</sup>.  $\beta$  deviation was estimated for each  
 636 plot, with the sample area defined as a 50 km radius around that plot. The null model was run for  
 637 1000 iterations for each plot. Beta deviation differed significantly amongst continents (Kruskal-  
 638 Wallis,  $\chi^2 = 13.7$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ). Different letters indicate significant differences between continents  
 639 (pairwise Mann-Whitney tests with false discovery rate correction,  $P < 0.05$ ). Beta deviation in all  
 640 continents was significantly lower than zero (one sample Wilcoxon tests,  $P < 0.001$ ).

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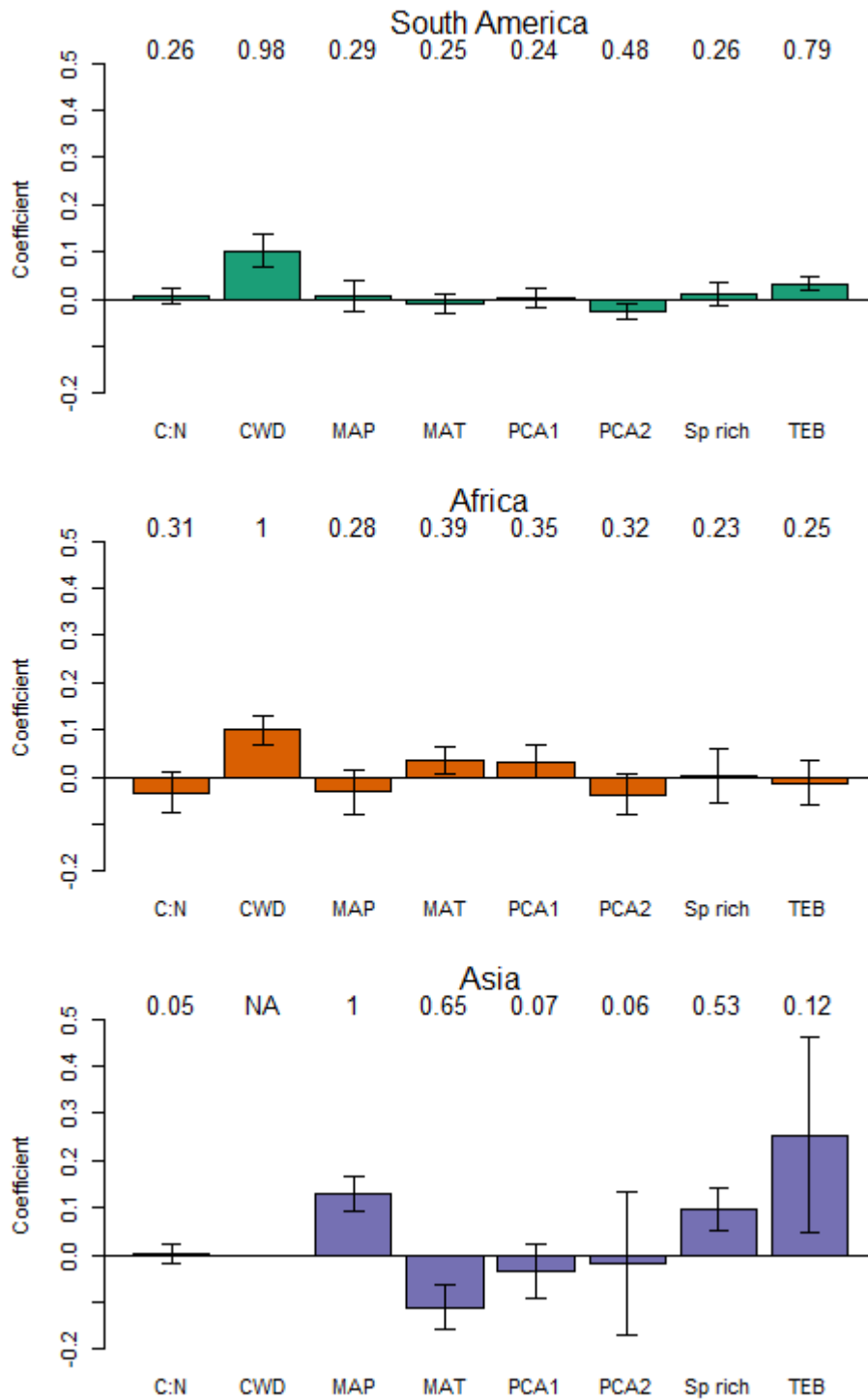
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643 **Supplementary Figure 14.** Relationship between carbon and each diversity metric in plots in South  
 644 America (green circles), Africa (orange squares) and Asia (purple triangles). Diversity Hill numbers  
 645 have been calculated for different taxonomic levels (sp= species, gen = genus, fam = family) and by  
 646 area or per 300 stems (taxa/ stem). There are no significant relationships between any of these  
 647 diversity metrics and forest biomass carbon.

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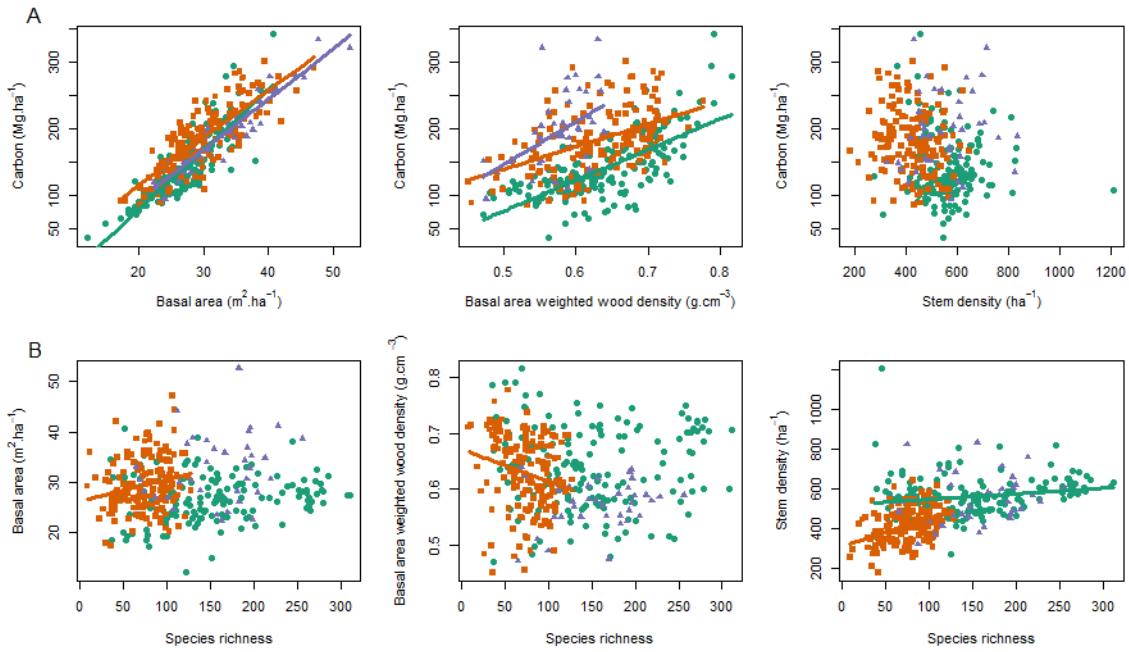


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651 **Supplementary Figure 15.** Average model coefficients from simultaneous autoregressive error  
 652 model of carbon storage in 1 ha plots as a function of species richness (Sp rich), climate (CWD, MAP,  
 653 MAT) and soil (C:N, PCA1, PCA2, TEB). The sum of AIC<sub>c</sub> weights of models containing a variable  
 654 are shown above each variable. Coefficients of ordinary least squares models and models with other  
 655 diversity metrics are presented in Table S4.

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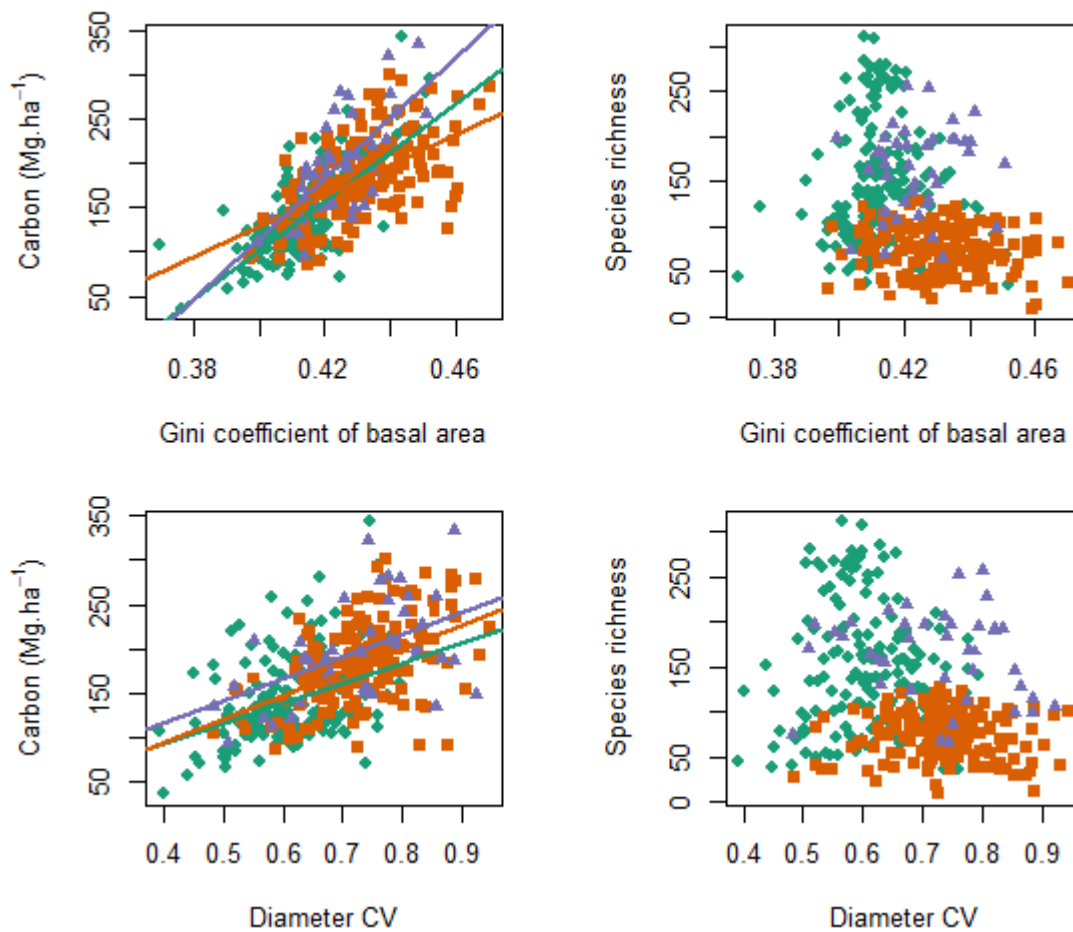


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660 **Supplementary Figure 16.** (A) Relationship between carbon storage and stand structure and (B)  
661 relationship between stand structure and species richness in 1 ha plots. Data from South America are  
662 shown by green circles, Africa by orange squares, and Asia by purple triangles. Regression lines show  
663 significant relationships.

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666 **Supplementary Figure 17.** Relationship between carbon storage, species richness and stem size  
 667 inequality among 1 ha plots. Stem size inequality has been quantified as either the Gini coefficient of  
 668 stem basal area or the coefficient of variation in stem diameters. For both metrics, higher values  
 669 indicate greater inequality in stem size within a stand. In all continents, log-transformed carbon  
 670 storage was positively related to both the Gini coefficient of basal area (South America:  $\beta = 18.53$ ,  $P$   
 671  $< 0.001$ ; Africa:  $\beta = 10.02$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Asia:  $\beta = 17.45$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and the coefficient of variation in  
 672 stem diameters (South America:  $\beta = 1.74$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Africa:  $\beta = 1.49$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; Asia:  $\beta = 1.37$ ,  $P <$   
 673  $0.001$ ). There were no significant relationships between species richness and either metric of stem size  
 674 inequality in any continent (negative-binomial GLM,  $P \geq 0.078$ ).

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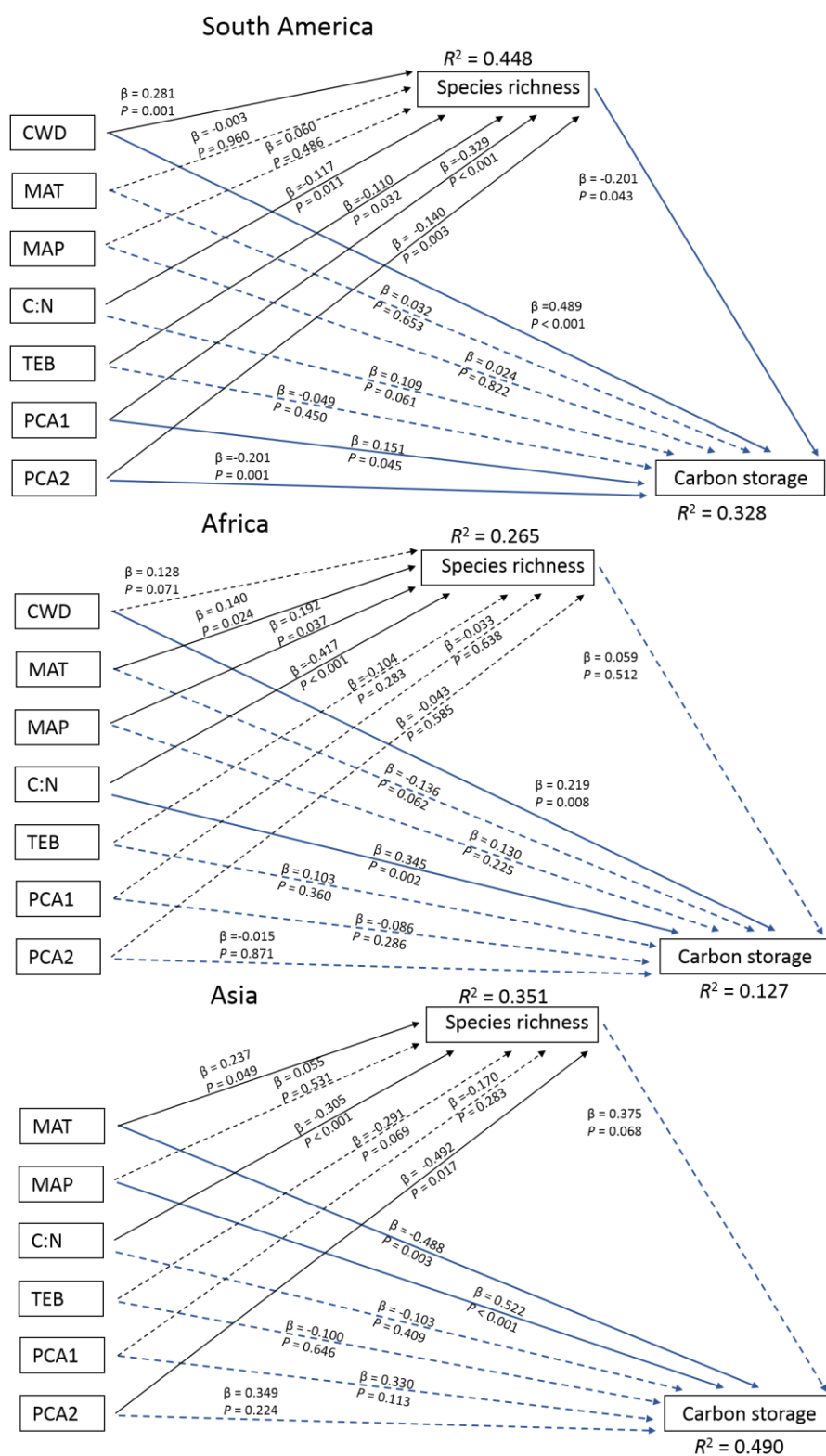
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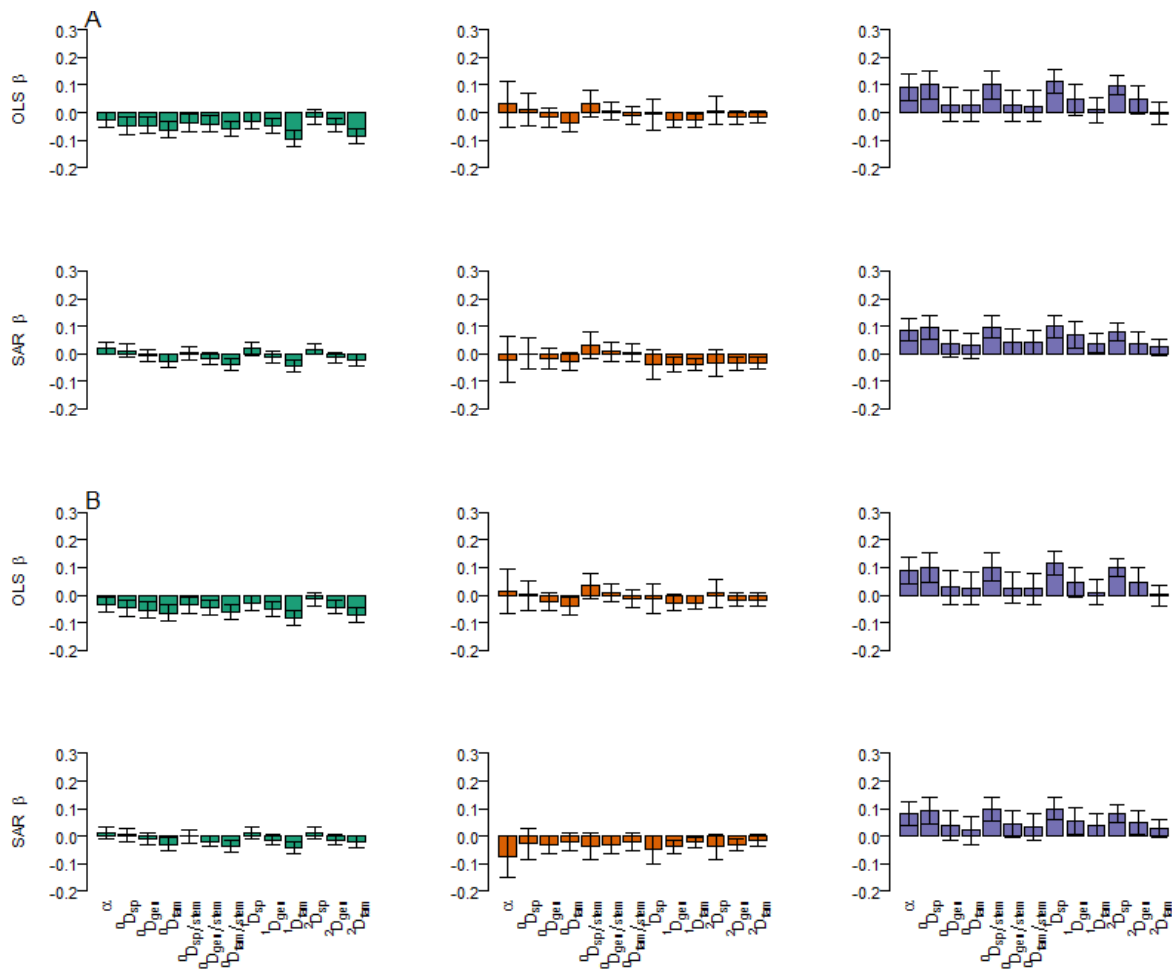
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683 **Supplementary Figure 18.** Fitted structural equation models, where both species richness and carbon  
 684 storage were modelled as a function of climate and soil, with carbon storage also a function of species  
 685 richness. Models were parameterised separately for each continent, using the lavaan R package to  
 686 define and parameterise paths. All variables were scaled and centred prior to analysis to have a mean  
 687 of zero and standard deviation of one, with species richness and carbon storage also natural log  
 688 transformed.

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692 **Supplementary Figure 19.** Coefficients of relationships between diversity metrics and carbon  
 693 between 1 ha plots within continents (green = South America, orange = Africa, purple = Asia) from  
 694 multiple regression models also incorporating climate and edaphic variables. Results are shown for  
 695 models run using (a) the best estimate soil class from the Harmonised World Soil Database and (b)  
 696 the dominant soil class from the Harmonised World Soil Database. Diversity Hill numbers have been  
 697 calculated for different taxonomic levels (sp= species, gen = genus, fam = family) and by area or per  
 698 300 stems (taxa/ stem).

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706 **Supplementary Table 1.** Loadings of first two axes of principal components analysis performed on  
 707 soil texture data from each 1 ha plot.

Soil texture class (%)	PC1	PC2
Sand	0.82	-0.07
Silt	-0.33	0.75
Clay	-0.47	-0.65
Proportion of variance explained	0.64	0.32

708 95.4% of variance was explained by first two axes.

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732 **Supplementary Table 2.** Mean carbon storage and diversity in 1ha plots in South America, Africa  
 733 and Asia. 95% confidence limits derived from 10000 bootstrap resamples of the data (sampling with  
 734 replacement) are shown in parentheses. Different letters indicate significant differences between  
 735 continents (ANOVA and subsequent Tukey's all-pair comparison,  $P < 0.05$ ).

Variable	South America	Africa	Asia
Carbon (Mg. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	140 (133 – 148) <sup>A</sup>	183 (176 – 190) <sup>B</sup>	197 (180 - 215) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>0</sup> D (species level)	152 (141 – 163) <sup>B</sup>	74 (70 – 78) <sup>A</sup>	162 (147 - 177) <sup>C</sup>
<sup>0</sup> D (genus level)	91 (86 – 96) <sup>C</sup>	59 (56 – 62) <sup>A</sup>	87 (81 - 93) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>0</sup> D (family level)	38 (37 – 39) <sup>B</sup>	28 (27 – 28) <sup>A</sup>	40 (38 - 42) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>1</sup> D (species level)	85 (77 – 93) <sup>B</sup>	37 (34 – 40) <sup>A</sup>	98 (86 – 110) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>1</sup> D (genus level)	43 (41 – 46) <sup>B</sup>	28 (26 – 30) <sup>A</sup>	43 (39 – 47) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>1</sup> D (family level)	17 (17 – 18) <sup>B</sup>	13 (12 – 14) <sup>A</sup>	19 (18 – 21) <sup>C</sup>
<sup>2</sup> D (species level)	48 (42 – 53) <sup>B</sup>	22 (20 – 24) <sup>A</sup>	60 (51 – 70) <sup>C</sup>
<sup>2</sup> D (genus level)	25 (23 – 26) <sup>B</sup>	17 (16 – 18) <sup>A</sup>	24 (22 – 27) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>2</sup> D (family level)	11 (11 – 12) <sup>B</sup>	9 (8 – 10) <sup>A</sup>	12 (11 – 14) <sup>B</sup>
Fisher's $\alpha$	80 (71 – 88) <sup>B</sup>	28 (26 – 30) <sup>A</sup>	84 (73 - 96) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>0</sup> D (species level) / 300 stems	109 (102 – 116) <sup>B</sup>	65 (62 – 69) <sup>A</sup>	120 (111 - 130) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>0</sup> D (genus level) / 300 stems	72 (68 – 75) <sup>B</sup>	54 (51 – 56) <sup>A</sup>	71 (66 - 75) <sup>B</sup>
<sup>0</sup> D (family level) / 300 stems	33 (32 – 34) <sup>B</sup>	26 (25 – 27) <sup>A</sup>	35 (34 - 37) <sup>B</sup>

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750 **Supplementary Table 3.** Mean carbon storage and tree diversity in forest inventory plots in South  
 751 America (n = 99), Africa (n = 105) and Asia (n = 23) where at least 90% of stems have been identified  
 752 to species level. 95% confidence limits derived from 10000 bootstrap resamples of the data (sampling  
 753 with replacement) are shown in parentheses. Different letters indicate significant differences between  
 754 continents (ANOVA and subsequent Tukey's all-pair comparison,  $P < 0.05$ ). Changing the species  
 755 identification cut-off level for including plots has no impact on continental patterns of diversity and  
 756 carbon (compare to Table 1 in main manuscript).

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Variable	South America	Africa	Asia
Carbon (Mg. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	133 (125 – 142) <sup>A</sup>	177 (168 – 187) <sup>B</sup>	180 (159 - 202) <sup>B</sup>
Fisher's $\alpha$	86 (74 – 99) <sup>B</sup>	26 (23 – 28) <sup>A</sup>	83 (74 - 99) <sup>B</sup>
Species richness (ha <sup>-1</sup> )	159 (144 – 174) <sup>B</sup>	71 (65 – 76) <sup>A</sup>	161 (139 - 183) <sup>B</sup>
(300 stems <sup>-1</sup> )	111 (102 – 120) <sup>B</sup>	63 (59 – 67) <sup>A</sup>	117 (104 - 130) <sup>B</sup>
Genus richness (ha <sup>-1</sup> )	93 (87 – 99) <sup>B</sup>	57 (53 – 61) <sup>A</sup>	89 (80 - 97) <sup>B</sup>
(300 stems <sup>-1</sup> )	73 (69 – 77) <sup>B</sup>	53 (49 – 56) <sup>A</sup>	72 (69 - 77) <sup>B</sup>
Family richness (ha <sup>-1</sup> )	39 (38 – 41) <sup>B</sup>	27 (25 – 28) <sup>A</sup>	41 (38 - 43) <sup>B</sup>
(300 stems <sup>-1</sup> )	34 (33 – 35) <sup>B</sup>	26 (25 – 27) <sup>A</sup>	36 (34 - 38) <sup>B</sup>

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774 **Supplementary Table 4.** Kendall's tau correlations between carbon and diversity metrics in each  
 775 continent. Both uncorrected *P* values and false-discovery rate corrected *P* values (*P*(fdr)) have been  
 776 presented. Significant relationships prior to false-discovery rate correction are shown in italics. Power  
 777 analysis was used to estimate the minimum effect size (presented as both  $\tau$  and Pearson's *r*) detectable  
 778 with 80% power.

Diversity metric	South America			Africa			Asia		
	$\tau$	P	P (fdr)	$\tau$	P	P (fdr)	$\tau$	P	P (fdr)
<sup>0</sup> D (species level)	0.084	0.12	0.223	0.014	0.788	0.999	0.132	0.230	0.598
<sup>0</sup> D (genus level)	0.066	0.223	0.362	-0.016	0.765	0.999	-0.006	0.954	0.954
<sup>0</sup> D (family level)	-0.007	0.893	0.956	-0.051	0.35	0.999	0.087	0.434	0.756
<sup>1</sup> D (species level)	<i>0.107</i>	<i>0.046</i>	0.223	0	0.999	0.999	<i>0.218</i>	<i>0.048</i>	0.312
<sup>1</sup> D (genus level)	0.034	0.521	0.616	-0.032	0.552	0.999	0.082	0.465	0.756
<sup>1</sup> D (family level)	-0.089	0.096	0.223	-0.046	0.381	0.999	0.010	0.935	0.954
<sup>2</sup> D (species level)	<i>0.12</i>	<i>0.025</i>	0.223	0	0.994	0.999	<i>0.246</i>	<i>0.025</i>	0.312
<sup>2</sup> D (genus level)	-0.003	0.956	0.956	-0.031	0.559	0.999	0.159	0.153	0.566
<sup>2</sup> D (family level)	-0.101	0.059	0.223	-0.033	0.529	0.999	-0.028	0.808	0.954
Fischer's $\alpha$	0.083	0.12	0.223	0.012	0.821	0.999	0.115	0.302	0.654
<sup>0</sup> D Species/300 stem	0.092	0.087	0.223	0.031	0.573	0.999	0.151	0.174	0.566
<sup>0</sup> D Genus/300 stem	0.059	0.272	0.393	0.01	0.859	0.999	-0.051	0.652	0.942
<sup>0</sup> D Family/300 stem	-0.042	0.43	0.559	-0.036	0.519	0.999	0.021	0.862	0.954
Detectable effect size	$\tau = 0.14$ <i>r = 0.22</i>			$\tau = 0.14$ <i>r = 0.22</i>			$\tau = 0.28$ <i>r = 0.43</i>		

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788 **Supplementary Table 5** Averaged multiple regression model for ln(carbon) in 1 ha plots as a  
 789 function of species richness, climate and soil variables. Both non-spatial ordinary least squares (OLS)  
 790 and spatial simultaneous autoregressive error (SAR) models have been shown.  $\sum\omega_i$  is the sum of AIC<sub>C</sub>  
 791 weights in models containing a variable, with values close to 1 indicating strong support for a  
 792 variable.

Variable	OLS					SAR				
	$\beta$	SE	Z	P	$\sum\omega_i$	$\beta$	SE	Z	P	$\sum\omega_i$
South America Fisher's $\alpha$										
(Intercept)	4.931	0.028	176.801	0.000	NA	4.838	0.113	42.778	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.050	0.025	2.033	0.042	0.77	0.007	0.018	0.406	0.685	0.26
CWD	0.163	0.030	5.408	0.000	1.00	0.101	0.034	2.994	0.003	0.98
Fisher's $\alpha$	-0.026	0.029	0.899	0.369	0.35	0.019	0.022	0.886	0.376	0.32
MAP	-0.018	0.034	0.522	0.602	0.27	0.005	0.035	0.150	0.881	0.29
MAT	0.030	0.025	1.187	0.235	0.41	-0.009	0.021	0.441	0.659	0.26
PCA1	0.086	0.026	3.330	0.001	1.00	0.004	0.021	0.175	0.861	0.24
PCA2	-0.041	0.019	2.146	0.032	0.81	-0.025	0.017	1.461	0.144	0.48
TEB	-0.009	0.021	0.423	0.672	0.27	0.034	0.015	2.194	0.028	0.80
Africa Fisher's $\alpha$										
(Intercept)	5.195	0.040	129.606	0.000	NA	5.182	0.063	82.417	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.016	0.038	0.426	0.670	0.28	-0.036	0.043	0.818	0.414	0.31
CWD	0.062	0.028	2.194	0.028	0.81	0.099	0.031	3.200	0.001	1.00
Fisher's $\alpha$	0.031	0.084	0.365	0.715	0.26	-0.022	0.083	0.260	0.795	0.24
MAP	0.065	0.047	1.365	0.172	0.51	-0.032	0.046	0.684	0.494	0.28
MAT	-0.031	0.026	1.194	0.232	0.41	0.034	0.028	1.200	0.230	0.39
PCA1	0.029	0.030	0.944	0.345	0.35	0.034	0.034	0.985	0.325	0.35
PCA2	-0.007	0.039	0.191	0.849	0.25	-0.038	0.043	0.880	0.379	0.32
TEB	-0.070	0.047	1.491	0.136	0.56	-0.011	0.046	0.247	0.805	0.25
Asia Fisher's $\alpha$										
(Intercept)	5.073	0.068	72.799	0.000	NA	5.113	0.125	41.019	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.024	0.598	0.550	0.07	0.002	0.020	0.089	0.929	0.06
Fisher's $\alpha$	0.090	0.049	1.778	0.075	0.42	0.086	0.041	2.118	0.034	0.50
MAP	0.179	0.041	4.222	0.000	1.00	0.128	0.038	3.408	0.001	1.00
MAT	-0.118	0.055	2.083	0.037	0.64	-0.105	0.045	2.303	0.021	0.60
PCA1	-0.025	0.069	0.347	0.729	0.08	-0.032	0.056	0.564	0.573	0.07
PCA2	0.030	0.151	0.194	0.846	0.06	-0.017	0.151	0.110	0.912	0.07
TEB	0.197	0.237	0.804	0.422	0.10	0.258	0.207	1.247	0.212	0.14
South America Species richness										
(Intercept)	4.936	0.029	169.527	0.000	NA	4.838	0.113	42.930	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.049	0.025	1.949	0.051	0.73	0.007	0.018	0.399	0.690	0.26
CWD	0.168	0.031	5.344	0.000	1.00	0.102	0.034	2.997	0.003	0.98
MAP	-0.018	0.034	0.522	0.602	0.26	0.006	0.034	0.188	0.851	0.29
MAT	0.030	0.025	1.185	0.236	0.40	-0.009	0.021	0.427	0.670	0.25
PCA1	0.080	0.027	2.918	0.004	0.97	0.002	0.020	0.116	0.908	0.24
PCA2	-0.044	0.020	2.233	0.026	0.85	-0.025	0.017	1.450	0.147	0.48
Species richness	-0.047	0.033	1.409	0.159	0.50	0.012	0.025	0.487	0.626	0.26
TEB	-0.011	0.021	0.517	0.605	0.28	0.033	0.015	2.177	0.029	0.79
Africa Species richness										
(Intercept)	5.192	0.035	148.990	0.000	NA	5.185	0.060	85.967	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.017	0.038	0.446	0.655	0.28	-0.034	0.043	0.796	0.426	0.31
CWD	0.062	0.028	2.211	0.027	0.81	0.099	0.031	3.195	0.001	1.00
MAP	0.064	0.047	1.357	0.175	0.50	-0.032	0.046	0.684	0.494	0.28
MAT	-0.031	0.026	1.190	0.234	0.41	0.034	0.028	1.192	0.233	0.39

Supporting materials for Sullivan et al.

PCA1	0.029	0.030	0.945	0.344	0.35	0.033	0.034	0.975	0.330	0.35
PCA2	-0.007	0.039	0.183	0.855	0.25	-0.038	0.043	0.890	0.373	0.32
Species richness	0.010	0.057	0.177	0.859	0.25	0.001	0.057	0.017	0.987	0.23
TEB	-0.069	0.047	1.482	0.138	0.55	-0.012	0.046	0.250	0.802	0.25
Asia Species richness										
(Intercept)	5.069	0.069	71.481	0.000	NA	5.109	0.123	41.417	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.024	0.598	0.550	0.07	0.002	0.020	0.124	0.901	0.05
MAP	0.179	0.041	4.238	0.000	1.00	0.128	0.037	3.436	0.001	1.00
MAT	-0.122	0.055	2.135	0.033	0.67	-0.110	0.046	2.380	0.017	0.65
PCA1	-0.026	0.069	0.359	0.719	0.08	-0.033	0.057	0.585	0.558	0.07
PCA2	0.022	0.150	0.141	0.888	0.06	-0.017	0.151	0.114	0.909	0.06
Species richness	0.100	0.052	1.852	0.064	0.44	0.096	0.044	2.190	0.029	0.53
TEB	0.193	0.236	0.791	0.429	0.10	0.253	0.207	1.224	0.221	0.12
South America Genus richness										
(Intercept)	4.937	0.029	169.730	0.000	NA	4.841	0.112	43.148	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.051	0.024	2.065	0.039	0.78	0.007	0.018	0.399	0.690	0.25
CWD	0.167	0.030	5.518	0.000	1.00	0.103	0.034	3.023	0.002	0.98
Genus richness	-0.046	0.030	1.501	0.133	0.53	-0.007	0.022	0.324	0.746	0.25
MAP	-0.016	0.034	0.464	0.642	0.26	0.008	0.034	0.243	0.808	0.29
MAT	0.028	0.025	1.098	0.272	0.38	-0.010	0.021	0.450	0.653	0.26
PCA1	0.080	0.027	2.932	0.003	0.98	0.000	0.020	0.006	0.995	0.24
PCA2	-0.041	0.019	2.178	0.029	0.82	-0.025	0.017	1.440	0.150	0.48
TEB	-0.010	0.021	0.491	0.624	0.27	0.033	0.015	2.159	0.031	0.78
Africa Genus richness										
(Intercept)	5.188	0.031	164.165	0.000	NA	5.182	0.059	88.360	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.019	0.038	0.496	0.620	0.29	-0.037	0.044	0.838	0.402	0.32
CWD	0.063	0.028	2.252	0.024	0.82	0.099	0.031	3.207	0.001	1.00
Genus richness	-0.017	0.035	0.475	0.635	0.27	-0.018	0.036	0.503	0.615	0.26
MAP	0.064	0.047	1.346	0.178	0.50	-0.031	0.046	0.679	0.497	0.28
MAT	-0.030	0.026	1.180	0.238	0.41	0.034	0.028	1.200	0.230	0.39
PCA1	0.028	0.030	0.929	0.353	0.34	0.034	0.034	0.995	0.320	0.35
PCA2	-0.006	0.039	0.147	0.883	0.25	-0.037	0.043	0.868	0.385	0.31
TEB	-0.068	0.047	1.448	0.148	0.54	-0.011	0.046	0.238	0.812	0.25
Asia Genus richness										
(Intercept)	5.092	0.064	77.681	0.000	NA	5.222	0.145	36.096	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.014	0.024	0.578	0.563	0.12	-0.010	0.021	0.464	0.642	0.08
Genus richness	0.028	0.061	0.452	0.651	0.10	0.037	0.048	0.785	0.432	0.09
MAP	0.176	0.041	4.119	0.000	1.00	0.081	0.036	2.280	0.023	0.51
MAT	-0.111	0.055	1.953	0.051	0.61	-0.104	0.041	2.537	0.011	0.71
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.09	-0.108	0.082	1.324	0.186	0.23
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.10	-0.355	0.249	1.424	0.154	0.28
TEB	0.189	0.246	0.745	0.456	0.14	0.561	0.339	1.652	0.099	0.40
South America Family richness										
(Intercept)	4.948	0.030	163.808	0.000	NA	4.845	0.112	43.193	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.050	0.024	2.062	0.039	0.78	0.007	0.018	0.395	0.693	0.25
CWD	0.168	0.028	5.925	0.000	1.00	0.103	0.034	3.009	0.003	0.98
Family richness	-0.064	0.030	2.133	0.033	0.80	-0.026	0.022	1.178	0.239	0.40
MAP	-0.010	0.034	0.292	0.770	0.25	0.011	0.034	0.332	0.740	0.30
MAT	0.022	0.025	0.864	0.387	0.32	-0.012	0.022	0.554	0.579	0.27

Supporting materials for Sullivan et al.

PCA1	0.073	0.026	2.757	0.006	0.97	-0.003	0.021	0.160	0.873	0.25
PCA2	-0.041	0.018	2.184	0.029	0.82	-0.025	0.017	1.435	0.151	0.47
TEB	-0.011	0.020	0.520	0.603	0.27	0.033	0.015	2.153	0.031	0.77
Africa Family richness										
(Intercept)	5.182	0.033	154.128	0.000	NA	5.179	0.059	87.131	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.020	0.038	0.537	0.591	0.29	-0.038	0.044	0.870	0.384	0.32
CWD	0.065	0.028	2.310	0.021	0.84	0.100	0.031	3.221	0.001	1.00
Family richness	-0.036	0.034	1.042	0.297	0.36	-0.027	0.033	0.816	0.414	0.31
MAP	0.063	0.047	1.343	0.179	0.50	-0.031	0.046	0.660	0.509	0.28
MAT	-0.030	0.026	1.162	0.245	0.40	0.033	0.028	1.180	0.238	0.38
PCA1	0.027	0.030	0.891	0.373	0.33	0.035	0.034	1.010	0.313	0.36
PCA2	-0.004	0.039	0.092	0.927	0.25	-0.036	0.043	0.844	0.399	0.31
TEB	-0.066	0.048	1.383	0.167	0.51	-0.011	0.046	0.228	0.820	0.24
Asia Family richness										
(Intercept)	5.092	0.064	76.789	0.000	NA	5.222	0.145	36.041	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.014	0.024	0.578	0.563	0.12	-0.010	0.021	0.478	0.633	0.09
Family richness	0.024	0.059	0.399	0.690	0.10	0.030	0.045	0.673	0.501	0.08
MAP	0.176	0.041	4.124	0.000	1.00	0.081	0.036	2.261	0.024	0.50
MAT	-0.111	0.055	1.950	0.051	0.61	-0.103	0.041	2.532	0.011	0.71
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.09	-0.108	0.082	1.320	0.187	0.23
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.10	-0.355	0.249	1.424	0.155	0.28
TEB	0.189	0.246	0.745	0.456	0.14	0.560	0.340	1.648	0.099	0.40
South America Species per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	4.933	0.028	174.606	0.000	NA	4.845	0.109	44.318	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.049	0.025	1.997	0.046	0.74	0.007	0.018	0.391	0.696	0.26
CWD	0.165	0.031	5.324	0.000	1.00	0.097	0.033	2.916	0.004	0.97
MAP	-0.015	0.039	0.370	0.711	0.26	0.005	0.035	0.129	0.897	0.27
MAT	0.030	0.025	1.199	0.231	0.42	-0.012	0.022	0.554	0.580	0.27
PCA1	0.083	0.026	3.123	0.002	1.00	0.002	0.020	0.076	0.940	0.24
PCA2	-0.043	0.019	2.194	0.028	0.83	-0.023	0.017	1.321	0.187	0.44
Species per 300 stems	-0.038	0.031	1.202	0.229	0.42	0.004	0.024	0.154	0.877	0.24
TEB	-0.007	0.024	0.286	0.775	0.26	0.030	0.017	1.788	0.074	0.62
Africa Species per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	5.206	0.037	138.288	0.000	NA	5.197	0.066	79.307	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.051	0.040	1.264	0.206	0.43	-0.043	0.045	0.962	0.336	0.34
CWD	0.010	0.043	0.225	0.822	0.31	0.076	0.037	2.076	0.038	0.76
MAP	0.092	0.043	2.098	0.036	0.78	-0.030	0.050	0.590	0.555	0.27
MAT	-0.009	0.028	0.320	0.749	0.26	0.048	0.030	1.585	0.113	0.52
PCA1	0.029	0.033	0.885	0.376	0.34	0.028	0.034	0.834	0.404	0.31
PCA2	0.020	0.043	0.462	0.644	0.27	-0.018	0.044	0.406	0.685	0.25
Species per 300 stems	0.033	0.047	0.690	0.490	0.30	0.033	0.048	0.690	0.490	0.28
TEB	-0.103	0.044	2.332	0.020	0.90	-0.014	0.055	0.256	0.798	0.26
Asia Species per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	5.054	0.076	64.759	0.000	NA	5.093	0.127	40.034	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.023	0.622	0.534	0.07	0.003	0.020	0.130	0.896	0.05
MAP	0.181	0.041	4.282	0.000	1.00	0.130	0.037	3.486	0.000	1.00
MAT	-0.117	0.054	2.103	0.035	0.63	-0.104	0.044	2.346	0.019	0.60
PCA1	-0.027	0.069	0.381	0.703	0.08	-0.035	0.056	0.624	0.533	0.07
PCA2	0.037	0.150	0.237	0.813	0.04	0.014	0.127	0.113	0.910	0.05
Species per 300 stems	0.101	0.050	1.941	0.052	0.53	0.097	0.042	2.333	0.020	0.60

Supporting materials for Sullivan et al.

TEB	0.201	0.236	0.823	0.411	0.10	0.253	0.194	1.305	0.192	0.12
South America Genera per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	4.933	0.028	176.185	0.000	NA	4.846	0.109	44.414	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.051	0.024	2.058	0.040	0.78	0.007	0.018	0.398	0.690	0.25
CWD	0.165	0.030	5.473	0.000	1.00	0.098	0.033	2.943	0.003	0.97
Genera per 300 stems	-0.041	0.028	1.447	0.148	0.50	-0.016	0.021	0.786	0.432	0.30
MAP	-0.012	0.039	0.311	0.756	0.25	0.006	0.035	0.175	0.861	0.27
MAT	0.028	0.025	1.123	0.261	0.39	-0.013	0.022	0.591	0.554	0.27
PCA1	0.081	0.027	3.003	0.003	0.99	-0.001	0.021	0.067	0.946	0.24
PCA2	-0.041	0.019	2.173	0.030	0.82	-0.023	0.017	1.311	0.190	0.44
TEB	-0.007	0.024	0.292	0.770	0.26	0.029	0.017	1.765	0.078	0.61
Africa Genera per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	5.202	0.034	152.373	0.000	NA	5.192	0.064	81.491	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.053	0.040	1.315	0.189	0.45	-0.045	0.045	0.996	0.319	0.35
CWD	0.010	0.043	0.236	0.813	0.31	0.076	0.037	2.078	0.038	0.77
Genera per 300 stems	0.008	0.032	0.239	0.811	0.25	0.008	0.033	0.237	0.813	0.24
MAP	0.093	0.043	2.127	0.033	0.78	-0.029	0.050	0.572	0.568	0.27
MAT	-0.008	0.028	0.270	0.787	0.26	0.048	0.030	1.606	0.108	0.53
PCA1	0.029	0.033	0.892	0.372	0.34	0.029	0.034	0.856	0.392	0.32
PCA2	0.022	0.043	0.503	0.615	0.28	-0.016	0.044	0.379	0.705	0.24
TEB	-0.104	0.044	2.346	0.019	0.91	-0.014	0.055	0.257	0.797	0.26
Asia Genera per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	5.092	0.064	77.413	0.000	NA	5.221	0.145	36.130	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.024	0.598	0.550	0.11	-0.010	0.021	0.490	0.624	0.09
Genera per 300 stems	0.025	0.057	0.427	0.669	0.11	0.044	0.046	0.966	0.334	0.10
MAP	0.176	0.041	4.116	0.000	1.00	0.081	0.035	2.282	0.023	0.51
MAT	-0.111	0.055	1.950	0.051	0.61	-0.104	0.041	2.540	0.011	0.71
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.09	-0.108	0.082	1.322	0.186	0.22
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.10	-0.355	0.249	1.425	0.154	0.27
TEB	0.189	0.246	0.746	0.456	0.14	0.560	0.339	1.650	0.099	0.39
South America Families per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	4.940	0.028	175.164	0.000	NA	4.851	0.110	44.195	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.050	0.024	2.062	0.039	0.77	0.007	0.018	0.396	0.692	0.25
CWD	0.163	0.028	5.734	0.000	1.00	0.096	0.034	2.850	0.004	0.95
Families per 300 stems	-0.060	0.027	2.182	0.029	0.81	-0.038	0.021	1.798	0.072	0.65
MAP	-0.002	0.040	0.057	0.955	0.24	0.018	0.037	0.497	0.620	0.31
MAT	0.023	0.025	0.913	0.362	0.34	-0.018	0.022	0.812	0.417	0.31
PCA1	0.072	0.026	2.713	0.007	0.97	-0.011	0.023	0.488	0.625	0.28
PCA2	-0.041	0.019	2.192	0.028	0.82	-0.023	0.017	1.307	0.191	0.43
TEB	-0.006	0.023	0.244	0.807	0.25	0.029	0.017	1.759	0.079	0.61
Africa Families per 300 stems										
(Intercept)	5.199	0.034	151.668	0.000	NA	5.192	0.064	81.181	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.055	0.040	1.362	0.173	0.47	-0.045	0.045	1.001	0.317	0.35
CWD	0.011	0.043	0.251	0.802	0.31	0.076	0.037	2.083	0.037	0.77
Families per 300 stems	-0.010	0.033	0.304	0.761	0.25	0.004	0.033	0.137	0.891	0.23
MAP	0.093	0.043	2.136	0.033	0.79	-0.029	0.050	0.578	0.563	0.27
MAT	-0.006	0.028	0.223	0.824	0.25	0.048	0.030	1.614	0.106	0.54
PCA1	0.029	0.033	0.890	0.373	0.34	0.029	0.034	0.862	0.389	0.32
PCA2	0.023	0.043	0.539	0.590	0.28	-0.016	0.044	0.375	0.708	0.25
TEB	-0.105	0.044	2.355	0.019	0.91	-0.014	0.056	0.254	0.800	0.26

Supporting materials for Sullivan et al.

	Asia Families per 300 stems									
(Intercept)	5.092	0.065	76.189	0.000	NA	5.219	0.145	35.990	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.024	0.598	0.550	0.11	-0.009	0.020	0.449	0.654	0.08
Families per 300 stems	0.023	0.056	0.394	0.694	0.10	0.044	0.043	1.028	0.304	0.13
MAP	0.176	0.041	4.123	0.000	1.00	0.080	0.036	2.264	0.024	0.48
MAT	-0.110	0.055	1.948	0.051	0.60	-0.103	0.041	2.532	0.011	0.71
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.09	-0.107	0.081	1.315	0.189	0.23
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.10	-0.360	0.248	1.449	0.147	0.26
TEB	0.189	0.246	0.746	0.456	0.14	0.556	0.339	1.638	0.101	0.39
	South America Shannon index_sp									
(Intercept)	4.932	0.028	176.548	0.000	NA	4.838	0.113	42.840	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.050	0.025	2.017	0.044	0.76	0.007	0.018	0.409	0.682	0.26
CWD	0.165	0.030	5.372	0.000	1.00	0.102	0.034	3.001	0.003	0.98
Shannon index_sp	-0.030	0.029	1.030	0.303	0.38	0.018	0.023	0.786	0.432	0.30
MAP	-0.018	0.034	0.534	0.593	0.27	0.006	0.034	0.172	0.864	0.29
MAT	0.029	0.025	1.167	0.243	0.40	-0.009	0.021	0.420	0.674	0.25
PCA1	0.085	0.025	3.317	0.001	1.00	0.003	0.021	0.154	0.878	0.24
PCA2	-0.042	0.019	2.163	0.031	0.83	-0.025	0.017	1.446	0.148	0.48
TEB	-0.009	0.021	0.427	0.669	0.26	0.033	0.015	2.190	0.029	0.80
	Africa Shannon index_sp									
(Intercept)	5.189	0.033	154.343	0.000	NA	5.179	0.061	84.831	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.018	0.038	0.467	0.640	0.28	-0.037	0.044	0.850	0.395	0.32
CWD	0.063	0.028	2.230	0.026	0.82	0.099	0.031	3.207	0.001	1.00
Shannon index_sp	-0.007	0.055	0.118	0.906	0.24	-0.037	0.053	0.700	0.484	0.29
MAP	0.064	0.047	1.355	0.175	0.51	-0.031	0.046	0.664	0.507	0.28
MAT	-0.031	0.026	1.188	0.235	0.41	0.034	0.028	1.202	0.229	0.39
PCA1	0.029	0.030	0.946	0.344	0.35	0.035	0.035	1.017	0.309	0.36
PCA2	-0.007	0.039	0.168	0.866	0.25	-0.037	0.043	0.851	0.395	0.31
TEB	-0.069	0.047	1.471	0.141	0.55	-0.011	0.046	0.243	0.808	0.25
	Asia Shannon index_sp									
(Intercept)	5.038	0.067	72.796	0.000	NA	5.169	0.129	40.203	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.013	0.023	0.567	0.571	0.03	-0.007	0.020	0.375	0.707	0.03
Shannon index_sp	0.114	0.044	2.528	0.011	0.83	0.099	0.039	2.525	0.012	0.64
MAP	0.183	0.039	4.524	0.000	1.00	0.089	0.033	2.710	0.007	0.64
MAT	-0.132	0.052	2.433	0.015	0.76	-0.117	0.040	2.921	0.003	0.84
PCA1	-0.039	0.070	0.541	0.589	0.04	-0.102	0.078	1.299	0.194	0.12
PCA2	0.055	0.150	0.355	0.723	0.03	-0.351	0.257	1.365	0.172	0.11
TEB	0.228	0.231	0.956	0.339	0.05	0.504	0.322	1.567	0.117	0.22
	South America Shannon index_gen									
(Intercept)	4.937	0.028	175.385	0.000	NA	4.841	0.112	43.232	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.050	0.024	2.068	0.039	0.78	0.007	0.018	0.395	0.693	0.26
CWD	0.170	0.029	5.718	0.000	1.00	0.102	0.034	3.021	0.003	0.98
Shannon index_gen	-0.049	0.026	1.835	0.067	0.66	-0.012	0.020	0.627	0.531	0.28
MAP	-0.013	0.034	0.392	0.695	0.26	0.009	0.034	0.249	0.803	0.29
MAT	0.024	0.025	0.961	0.337	0.34	-0.010	0.022	0.478	0.633	0.26
PCA1	0.078	0.026	2.930	0.003	0.99	0.000	0.020	0.020	0.984	0.24
PCA2	-0.041	0.019	2.189	0.029	0.83	-0.025	0.017	1.442	0.149	0.48
TEB	-0.008	0.021	0.390	0.697	0.26	0.033	0.015	2.160	0.031	0.78
	Africa Shannon index_gen									
(Intercept)	5.186	0.031	165.462	0.000	NA	5.174	0.060	86.411	0.000	NA

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C:N ratio	-0.021	0.038	0.538	0.590	0.29	-0.042	0.044	0.952	0.341	0.35
CWD	0.063	0.028	2.264	0.024	0.83	0.100	0.031	3.238	0.001	1.00
Shannon index_gen	-0.027	0.029	0.933	0.351	0.34	-0.040	0.028	1.437	0.151	0.49
MAP	0.063	0.047	1.341	0.180	0.50	-0.031	0.046	0.665	0.506	0.27
MAT	-0.030	0.026	1.169	0.242	0.40	0.035	0.028	1.233	0.218	0.40
PCA1	0.029	0.030	0.944	0.345	0.35	0.039	0.035	1.117	0.264	0.38
PCA2	-0.004	0.039	0.095	0.925	0.25	-0.033	0.044	0.751	0.453	0.30
TEB	-0.068	0.047	1.447	0.148	0.54	-0.012	0.046	0.250	0.803	0.24
Asia Shannon index_gen										
(Intercept)	5.092	0.063	77.850	0.000	NA	5.236	0.083	62.925	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.024	0.598	0.550	0.11	-0.023	0.020	1.145	0.252	0.20
Shannon index_gen	0.046	0.055	0.805	0.421	0.13	0.070	0.048	1.478	0.139	0.29
MAP	0.176	0.041	4.129	0.000	1.00	0.093	0.047	1.966	0.049	0.41
MAT	-0.111	0.055	1.960	0.050	0.61	-0.104	0.050	2.062	0.039	0.58
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.09	-0.058	0.088	0.665	0.506	0.15
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.09	-0.161	0.208	0.773	0.440	0.17
TEB	0.189	0.245	0.744	0.457	0.13	0.293	0.315	0.930	0.352	0.18
South America Shannon index_fam										
(Intercept)	4.944	0.027	184.020	0.000	NA	4.847	0.110	44.008	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.038	0.024	1.579	0.114	0.56	0.004	0.018	0.241	0.809	0.24
CWD	0.166	0.026	6.221	0.000	1.00	0.097	0.034	2.824	0.005	0.95
Shannon index_fam	-0.095	0.028	3.319	0.001	1.00	-0.042	0.022	1.933	0.053	0.71
MAP	-0.002	0.034	0.048	0.961	0.24	0.021	0.036	0.585	0.559	0.33
MAT	0.008	0.025	0.304	0.761	0.24	-0.021	0.023	0.926	0.355	0.34
PCA1	0.059	0.024	2.373	0.018	0.89	-0.010	0.022	0.472	0.637	0.27
PCA2	-0.044	0.018	2.453	0.014	0.90	-0.024	0.017	1.389	0.165	0.46
TEB	-0.004	0.020	0.177	0.859	0.25	0.033	0.015	2.155	0.031	0.77
Africa Shannon index_fam										
(Intercept)	5.186	0.031	168.170	0.000	NA	5.169	0.061	85.173	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.019	0.038	0.492	0.623	0.28	-0.048	0.045	1.063	0.288	0.37
CWD	0.063	0.028	2.258	0.024	0.83	0.101	0.031	3.278	0.001	1.00
Shannon index_fam	-0.028	0.024	1.137	0.256	0.39	-0.040	0.023	1.781	0.075	0.63
MAP	0.066	0.047	1.390	0.165	0.52	-0.023	0.047	0.494	0.621	0.26
MAT	-0.030	0.026	1.167	0.243	0.40	0.031	0.028	1.101	0.271	0.37
PCA1	0.030	0.030	0.977	0.328	0.36	0.046	0.036	1.282	0.200	0.44
PCA2	-0.002	0.040	0.058	0.954	0.25	-0.026	0.045	0.586	0.558	0.27
TEB	-0.068	0.047	1.436	0.151	0.54	-0.010	0.046	0.208	0.835	0.24
Asia Shannon index_fam										
(Intercept)	5.093	0.064	77.150	0.000	NA	5.219	0.144	36.124	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.014	0.024	0.578	0.563	0.12	-0.010	0.021	0.476	0.634	0.08
Shannon index_fam	0.009	0.047	0.187	0.852	0.09	0.039	0.035	1.128	0.259	0.15
MAP	0.175	0.041	4.121	0.000	1.00	0.080	0.036	2.227	0.026	0.47
MAT	-0.110	0.055	1.942	0.052	0.60	-0.102	0.041	2.485	0.013	0.70
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.10	-0.106	0.081	1.301	0.193	0.22
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.10	-0.350	0.252	1.389	0.165	0.26
TEB	0.189	0.246	0.745	0.456	0.14	0.552	0.341	1.618	0.106	0.38
South America Simpson index_sp										
(Intercept)	4.930	0.027	179.125	0.000	NA	4.839	0.113	42.939	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.051	0.024	2.068	0.039	0.78	0.007	0.018	0.409	0.683	0.26
CWD	0.162	0.029	5.456	0.000	1.00	0.102	0.034	3.015	0.003	0.98

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Simpson index_sp	-0.017	0.027	0.632	0.528	0.29	0.016	0.020	0.800	0.424	0.30
MAP	-0.018	0.034	0.532	0.595	0.26	0.006	0.034	0.179	0.858	0.29
MAT	0.029	0.025	1.150	0.250	0.39	-0.009	0.021	0.422	0.673	0.25
PCA1	0.088	0.024	3.598	0.000	1.00	0.003	0.020	0.135	0.892	0.24
PCA2	-0.040	0.019	2.120	0.034	0.80	-0.025	0.017	1.444	0.149	0.48
TEB	-0.008	0.021	0.392	0.695	0.26	0.033	0.015	2.189	0.029	0.79
Africa Simpson index_sp										
(Intercept)	5.191	0.032	160.645	0.000	NA	5.180	0.060	86.548	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.017	0.038	0.450	0.653	0.28	-0.037	0.044	0.847	0.397	0.32
CWD	0.062	0.028	2.227	0.026	0.82	0.099	0.031	3.203	0.001	1.00
Simpson index_sp	0.007	0.051	0.139	0.890	0.24	-0.033	0.048	0.698	0.485	0.29
MAP	0.064	0.047	1.352	0.177	0.51	-0.031	0.046	0.667	0.505	0.28
MAT	-0.031	0.026	1.191	0.234	0.41	0.034	0.028	1.197	0.231	0.39
PCA1	0.029	0.030	0.943	0.346	0.35	0.035	0.035	1.021	0.307	0.36
PCA2	-0.007	0.039	0.184	0.854	0.25	-0.037	0.043	0.853	0.394	0.31
TEB	-0.069	0.047	1.471	0.141	0.55	-0.012	0.046	0.252	0.801	0.25
Asia Simpson index_sp										
(Intercept)	5.041	0.060	81.465	0.000	NA	5.180	0.124	41.909	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.009	0.024	0.378	0.705	0.02	-0.012	0.020	0.576	0.565	0.05
Simpson index_sp	0.099	0.034	2.812	0.005	0.92	0.079	0.030	2.620	0.009	0.71
MAP	0.181	0.038	4.594	0.000	1.00	0.084	0.032	2.591	0.010	0.56
MAT	-0.136	0.050	2.610	0.009	0.78	-0.117	0.040	2.924	0.003	0.84
PCA1	-0.071	0.063	1.095	0.273	0.03	-0.103	0.072	1.431	0.152	0.15
PCA2	0.096	0.147	0.635	0.526	0.02	-0.311	0.279	1.117	0.264	0.10
TEB	0.222	0.225	0.953	0.341	0.03	0.482	0.329	1.465	0.143	0.19
South America Simpson index_gen										
(Intercept)	4.936	0.027	178.797	0.000	NA	4.841	0.112	43.246	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.051	0.024	2.097	0.036	0.79	0.007	0.018	0.386	0.700	0.25
CWD	0.168	0.029	5.802	0.000	1.00	0.102	0.034	3.011	0.003	0.98
Simpson index_gen	-0.045	0.024	1.857	0.063	0.67	-0.013	0.018	0.736	0.462	0.30
MAP	-0.014	0.034	0.397	0.692	0.25	0.008	0.034	0.236	0.813	0.29
MAT	0.023	0.025	0.897	0.370	0.34	-0.010	0.022	0.486	0.627	0.26
PCA1	0.081	0.025	3.249	0.001	1.00	0.000	0.020	0.019	0.985	0.24
PCA2	-0.039	0.018	2.105	0.035	0.80	-0.025	0.017	1.454	0.146	0.48
TEB	-0.006	0.020	0.280	0.780	0.25	0.033	0.015	2.176	0.030	0.78
Africa Simpson index_gen										
(Intercept)	5.188	0.030	170.405	0.000	NA	5.176	0.059	87.222	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.020	0.038	0.512	0.609	0.29	-0.042	0.044	0.956	0.339	0.35
CWD	0.063	0.028	2.240	0.025	0.82	0.100	0.031	3.224	0.001	1.00
Simpson index_gen	-0.019	0.025	0.733	0.464	0.30	-0.035	0.024	1.484	0.138	0.50
MAP	0.064	0.047	1.352	0.176	0.50	-0.032	0.046	0.687	0.492	0.28
MAT	-0.031	0.026	1.186	0.236	0.41	0.034	0.028	1.205	0.228	0.39
PCA1	0.029	0.030	0.953	0.341	0.35	0.040	0.035	1.144	0.252	0.39
PCA2	-0.005	0.039	0.123	0.902	0.25	-0.033	0.043	0.767	0.443	0.30
TEB	-0.070	0.047	1.471	0.141	0.55	-0.013	0.046	0.285	0.776	0.24
Asia Simpson index_gen										
(Intercept)	5.093	0.062	79.113	0.000	NA	5.223	0.144	36.344	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.015	0.024	0.598	0.550	0.11	-0.009	0.020	0.444	0.657	0.08
Simpson index_gen	0.046	0.052	0.866	0.387	0.15	0.037	0.040	0.925	0.355	0.12



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MAP	0.175	0.041	4.101	0.000	1.00	0.081	0.036	2.261	0.024	0.49
MAT	-0.111	0.055	1.960	0.050	0.61	-0.103	0.041	2.534	0.011	0.71
PCA1	-0.021	0.069	0.290	0.772	0.10	-0.107	0.081	1.316	0.188	0.23
PCA2	0.022	0.150	0.141	0.888	0.08	-0.352	0.251	1.402	0.161	0.27
TEB	0.180	0.235	0.741	0.459	0.12	0.561	0.341	1.646	0.100	0.38
South America Simpson index_fam										
(Intercept)	4.940	0.027	184.100	0.000	NA	4.842	0.111	43.608	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.034	0.025	1.386	0.166	0.48	0.006	0.018	0.323	0.747	0.25
CWD	0.166	0.027	6.141	0.000	1.00	0.101	0.034	2.965	0.003	0.98
Simpson index_fam	-0.085	0.028	3.036	0.002	1.00	-0.022	0.021	1.072	0.284	0.37
MAP	-0.011	0.033	0.324	0.746	0.25	0.009	0.034	0.266	0.790	0.29
MAT	0.008	0.025	0.318	0.751	0.25	-0.013	0.022	0.586	0.558	0.27
PCA1	0.064	0.024	2.608	0.009	0.94	-0.001	0.020	0.057	0.955	0.24
PCA2	-0.044	0.018	2.451	0.014	0.90	-0.025	0.017	1.429	0.153	0.47
TEB	-0.003	0.020	0.147	0.883	0.25	0.033	0.015	2.174	0.030	0.78
Africa Simpson index_fam										
(Intercept)	5.189	0.030	171.774	0.000	NA	5.174	0.060	86.253	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	-0.018	0.038	0.472	0.637	0.28	-0.047	0.045	1.024	0.306	0.36
CWD	0.062	0.028	2.233	0.026	0.82	0.100	0.031	3.248	0.001	1.00
Simpson index_fam	-0.017	0.022	0.750	0.453	0.30	-0.034	0.021	1.618	0.106	0.56
MAP	0.065	0.047	1.375	0.169	0.51	-0.026	0.047	0.549	0.583	0.26
MAT	-0.031	0.026	1.190	0.234	0.41	0.031	0.028	1.076	0.282	0.36
PCA1	0.030	0.030	0.974	0.330	0.36	0.047	0.037	1.269	0.204	0.44
PCA2	-0.005	0.039	0.117	0.907	0.25	-0.029	0.044	0.660	0.510	0.28
TEB	-0.069	0.047	1.467	0.142	0.55	-0.011	0.046	0.244	0.808	0.24
Asia Simpson index_fam										
(Intercept)	5.094	0.064	77.731	0.000	NA	5.221	0.144	36.161	0.000	NA
C:N ratio	0.014	0.024	0.578	0.563	0.12	-0.010	0.021	0.481	0.631	0.08
Simpson index_fam	-0.004	0.039	0.086	0.931	0.09	0.025	0.030	0.830	0.407	0.13
MAP	0.176	0.041	4.121	0.000	1.00	0.081	0.036	2.239	0.025	0.48
MAT	-0.110	0.055	1.945	0.052	0.60	-0.102	0.041	2.475	0.013	0.69
PCA1	-0.019	0.069	0.272	0.785	0.10	-0.106	0.081	1.308	0.191	0.23
PCA2	0.010	0.163	0.058	0.954	0.10	-0.352	0.251	1.401	0.161	0.27
TEB	0.189	0.246	0.745	0.456	0.14	0.556	0.341	1.628	0.103	0.39

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802 **Supplementary Table 6.** Averaged simultaneous autoregressive model coefficients for ln(carbon) in  
 803 1 ha plots as a function of the community weighted mean of wood density (WD CWM), species  
 804 richness, climate and soil variables.

Variable	$\beta$	SE	Z	P	$\sum\omega_i$
South America					
Intercept	5.64	0.05	112.06	<0.001	NA
MAT	-0.10	0.03	3.86	<0.001	1
CWD	0.10	0.04	2.67	0.008	0.97
MAP	0.08	0.03	2.61	0.009	0.87
WD CWM	0.15	0.02	6.55	<0.001	0.45
Species richness	0.02	0.02	0.64	0.520	0.43
TEB	0.02	0.02	1.23	0.220	0.4
PCA1	0.01	0.02	0.36	0.721	0.29
C:N	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.941	0.25
PCA2	0.01	0.02	0.40	0.693	0.24
Africa					
Intercept	5.90	0.06	101.31	<0.001	NA
WD CWM	0.18	0.02	7.61	<0.001	1
MAT	-0.03	0.03	1.37	0.172	1
CWD	0.08	0.03	2.79	0.005	0.96
TEB	0.07	0.03	2.41	0.016	0.92
MAP	-0.05	0.04	1.21	0.228	0.42
Species richness	0.06	0.05	1.29	0.198	0.28
PCA1	-0.02	0.03	0.72	0.469	0.25
PCA2	0.01	0.03	0.20	0.839	0.25
C:N	0.00	0.04	0.08	0.935	0.23
Asia					
Intercept	5.98	0.11	52.26	<0.001	NA
MAP	0.11	0.03	3.35	0.001	0.99
MAT	-0.13	0.04	3.06	0.002	0.96
Species richness	0.11	0.04	2.50	0.012	0.79
WD CWM	0.17	0.07	2.24	0.025	0.65
C:N	-0.03	0.04	0.79	0.431	0.23
TEB	-0.04	0.07	0.66	0.510	0.2
PCA1	-0.03	0.05	0.59	0.554	0.2
PCA2	-0.03	0.07	0.38	0.707	0.18

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810 **Supplementary Table 7.** Relationship between diversity and carbon in 0.04ha subplots within 1ha  
 811 forest inventory plots. For each diversity metric, we constructed mixed effects models of ln (carbon)  
 812 as a function of ln (diversity metric) and ln (stem density) with plot identify as a random effect.  
 813 Coefficients were assumed to vary between plots, with SD showing the estimated standard deviation  
 814 of this variation. The effect of doubling a diversity metric on carbon storage was calculated as  $(2^\beta - 1)$   
 815  $\times 100$ .  $^0D$  is species richness,  $^1D$  is Shannon diversity and  $^2D$  is Simpson diversity (see SI methods).

Diversity metric	$\beta \pm SE$	SD	Effect of doubling (%)
$^0D$ (species level)	$0.096 \pm 0.048$	0.440	6.9
$^0D$ (genus level)	$0.110 \pm 0.046$	0.432	7.9
$^0D$ (family level)	$0.010 \pm 0.039$	0.338	0.7
$^1D$ (species level)	$0.053 \pm 0.035$	0.324	3.7
$^1D$ (genus level)	$0.061 \pm 0.035$	0.331	4.3
$^1D$ (family level)	$-0.007 \pm 0.033$	0.300	-0.5
$^2D$ (species level)	$0.026 \pm 0.028$	0.262	1.8
$^2D$ (genus level)	$0.034 \pm 0.028$	0.267	2.4
$^2D$ (family level)	$-0.020 \pm 0.028$	0.260	-1.4
$^0D$ (species level) / 10 stems	$0.133 \pm 0.069$	0.585	9.7
$^0D$ (genus level) / 10 stems	$0.133 \pm 0.064$	0.572	9.7
$^0D$ (family level) / 10 stems	$0.017 \pm 0.011$	0.046	1.2

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