

## Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

### Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- ☐ ☒ The exact sample size ( $n$ ) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- ☐ ☒ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- ☐ ☒ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided  
*Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
- ☐ ☒ A description of all covariates tested
- ☐ ☒ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- ☐ ☒ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- ☒ ☐ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g.  $F$ ,  $t$ ,  $r$ ) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and  $P$  value noted  
*Give  $P$  values as exact values whenever suitable.*
- ☒ ☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- ☒ ☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- ☒ ☐ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's  $d$ , Pearson's  $r$ ), indicating how they were calculated

*Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.*

### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection We have have archived R code on Zenodo and data on EDI data repository (see code and data availability statements in paper).

Data analysis We used R version 4.2.2

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

### Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

We made a data repository for this paper that is made available to the public on the Environmental Data Initiative Server (EDI): <https://doi.org/10.6073/pasta/62e2c0f1bc1ccb5a29d63b513bb66810>.

## Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

### Reporting on sex and gender

Use the terms *sex* (biological attribute) and *gender* (shaped by social and cultural circumstances) carefully in order to avoid confusing both terms. Indicate if findings apply to only one sex or gender; describe whether sex and gender were considered in study design; whether sex and/or gender was determined based on self-reporting or assigned and methods used. Provide in the source data disaggregated sex and gender data, where this information has been collected, and if consent has been obtained for sharing of individual-level data; provide overall numbers in this Reporting Summary. Please state if this information has not been collected. Report sex- and gender-based analyses where performed, justify reasons for lack of sex- and gender-based analysis.

### Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings

Please specify the socially constructed or socially relevant categorization variable(s) used in your manuscript and explain why they were used. Please note that such variables should not be used as proxies for other socially constructed/relevant variables (for example, race or ethnicity should not be used as a proxy for socioeconomic status). Provide clear definitions of the relevant terms used, how they were provided (by the participants/respondents, the researchers, or third parties), and the method(s) used to classify people into the different categories (e.g. self-report, census or administrative data, social media data, etc.) Please provide details about how you controlled for confounding variables in your analyses.

### Population characteristics

Describe the covariate-relevant population characteristics of the human research participants (e.g. age, genotypic information, past and current diagnosis and treatment categories). If you filled out the behavioural & social sciences study design questions and have nothing to add here, write "See above."

### Recruitment

Describe how participants were recruited. Outline any potential self-selection bias or other biases that may be present and how these are likely to impact results.

### Ethics oversight

Identify the organization(s) that approved the study protocol.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☐ Behavioural & social sciences ☒ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

## Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

### Study description

This study uses a randomized factorial field experiment design globally replicated across the Nutrient Network, a collaborative research network that applies the same experimental design throughout the planet.

### Research sample

We sampled plant cover and plant diversity within a given subplot of a 5 x 5 m grassland plot within a randomized block design that applied different nutrient and herbivore treatments. The sample represents a sample of a given community of grassland plants.

### Sampling strategy

Our sampling procedures used the standardized, reproducible sampling protocols for plant cover and diversity found on the Nutrient Network website: <https://nutnet.org/methods>

### Data collection

Site PIs for each Nutrient Network site and their teams collected the data in accordance to Nutrient Network protocols for plant cover, plant composition, and plant diversity.

### Timing and spatial scale

Data are sampled yearly at each active Nutrient Network site. The data also contains information on the time since beginning of treatment applications.

### Data exclusions

We excluded data from one site cereep.fr that added the wrong amount of nutrients to the plots. Including vs not including this site in the analysis did not affect the outcome of the results.

### Reproducibility

The same experimental design is repeated across a wide range of 94 different grassland locations spanning 6 continents using standardized protocols that are created to maximize reproducibility.

### Randomization

Treatments were randomly assigned within each experimental block using a randomized factorial design.

### Blinding

Blinding is not applicable to this study. Since one of the treatments involved adding a large fence, it was very conspicuous which plots had a fence and which ones didn't when working in the field.

Did the study involve field work? ☒ Yes ☐ No

## Field work, collection and transport

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Field conditions       | Fieldwork occurred at 94 grassland sites spanning six continents. The supplement includes a table that lists the climate, latitude, longitude, and experimental details of each site.                                        |
| Location               | We used 94 grassland sites across the globe. Supplemental information provides a detailed list of climate, longitude, latitude, and other relevant metadata for each site.                                                   |
| Access & import/export | We complied with all state, national, and international policies regarding each of our Nutrient Network sites. Site specific acknowledgments about site access and funding are listed in Supplemental Data 3 where relevant. |
| Disturbance            | We used 5 x 5 m plots and contained the effects of our added nutrients to be only within the given plots to minimize disturbance.                                                                                            |

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

### Materials & experimental systems

### Methods

| n/a                                 | Involved in the study                                  | n/a                                 | Involved in the study                           |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms   |                                     |                                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data                 |                                     |                                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern  |                                     |                                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plants             |                                     |                                                 |

## Dual use research of concern

Policy information about [dual use research of concern](#)

### Hazards

Could the accidental, deliberate or reckless misuse of agents or technologies generated in the work, or the application of information presented in the manuscript, pose a threat to:

| No                                  | Yes                                                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public health              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> National security          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Crops and/or livestock     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other significant area |

## Experiments of concern

Does the work involve any of these experiments of concern:

No Yes

- |                                     |                          |                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase transmissibility of a pathogen                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Alter the host range of a pathogen                                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enable evasion of diagnostic/detection modalities                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enable the weaponization of a biological agent or toxin                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other potentially harmful combination of experiments and agents         |

## Plants

Seed stocks

Not applicable as we used naturally occurring plants.

Novel plant genotypes

Not applicable as we used naturally occurring plants.

Authentication

Not applicable as we used naturally occurring plants.