

# Mini-symposium

on the occasion of Masha van der Sande's PhD defence on:

**“Biodiversity and the functioning of tropical forests”**

6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 10:30-12:50, Gaia 1

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## Biodiversity and dynamics of tropical forests

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Tropical forests are diverse and dynamic. In this mini-symposium, we will present different perspectives on the past and present vegetation dynamics and the role of biodiversity.

**10:30-11:00 – Biodiversity and productivity: perspectives from grassland ecosystems**

Dr. Jasper van Ruijven, Wageningen University

**11:00-11:30 – Biodiversity and the functioning of tropical forests**

Masha van der Sande, Wageningen University

**11:30-11:50 – Coffee break**

**11:50-12:20 – Human impacts on the vegetation before and after the arrival of Europeans**

Dr. William D. Gosling,  
University of Amsterdam

**12:20-12:50 – Productivity of tropical forests**

Prof. Yadvinder Malhi,  
University of Oxford

