



About us

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics

Life on Earth evolves under continuously changing environmental conditions. Changes in climate, the atmosphere, geo-morphology, ocean currents, hydrology, soils, habitats: they all may affect the functioning of ecosystems and the diversity of organisms they sustain.

To enable a sustainable management of the system called Earth, a thorough understanding of the functioning of ecosystems and their response to natural and human-induced changes is needed. The Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED) meets this challenge through a joint effort of scientists with expertise in biology, physical geography, environmental chemistry and mathematical modelling.

The research group Earth Surface Science (ESS)

Our scientific mission is to improve our understanding of geo-ecological systems in a changing environment. The domain of Earth Surface Sciences is formed by the interface of soil, air and water in the landscape. It encompasses the complex interrelationships between biogeochemical and geomorphological processes in terrestrial and adjacent aquatic ecosystems, and the effects thereon of Climate Change and direct human impact. A major challenge inherent to these processes is that they are of a biotic as well as an abiotic nature, and have large spatial and temporal heterogeneity. As a result, the core business of our Research Group is characterized by investigations of a vast array of complex interactions at scales ranging from the molecular to the landscape level. The challenges posed by such investigations can only be met by multidisciplinary approaches, innovative experiments and application of modern analytical tools.

Contact IBED

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