

## *Overlooked local biodiversity loss*

IN THEIR REPORT "Assemblage time series reveal biodiversity change but not systematic loss" (18 April, p. 296), M. Dornelas *et al.* summarized 100 time series of biodiversity monitoring programs and concluded that the world's biomes are "undergoing biodiversity change but not systematic biodiversity loss." This conclusion is misleading, given that Dornelas *et al.* did not account for several of the most pervasive processes known to drive biodiversity loss on the planet.

Nowhere in their data set did Dornelas *et al.* consider the local losses of biodiversity that occurred as 13 million hectares of tropical rainforest were cleared each year from 1990 to 2010 (1). Nowhere in their data set did they account for local losses of biodiversity that have occurred as more than 90% of wetlands have been drained, more than 50% of grasslands destroyed, and 70% of Mediterranean and temperate woodlands cut down to make way for 4.9 billion hectares of cropland and pastures (2)

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harmonization in the collection of quality  
biodiversity data.