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Land-use history impacts functional diversity across multiple trophic groups

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ABSTRACT

Land-use change is a major driver of biodiversity loss worldwide. Although biodiversity often shows a delayed response to land-use change, previous studies have typically focused on a narrow range of current landscape factors, and have largely ignored the role of land-use history in shaping plant and animal communities and their functional characteristics. Here, we used a unique database of 220,000 land-use records to investigate how 20-years of land-use changes have affected functional diversity across multiple trophic groups (primary producers, mutualists, herbivores, invertebrate predators and vertebrate predators) in 75 grassland fields with a broad range of land-use histories. The effects of land-use history on multitrophic trait diversity were as strong as other drivers known to impact biodiversity, e.g. grassland management and current landscape composition. The diversity of animal mobility and resource-acquisition traits was lower in landscapes where much of the land had been historically converted from grassland to crop. In contrast, functional biodiversity was higher in landscapes containing old permanent grasslands,

most likely because they offer a stable and high quality habitat refuge for species with low mobility and specialized feeding niches. Our study shows that grassland-to-crop conversion has lasting impacts on the functional biodiversity of agricultural ecosystems. Accordingly, land-use legacy effects must be considered in conservation programs aiming to protect agricultural biodiversity. In particular, the retention of permanent grassland sanctuaries within intensive landscapes may offset ecological debts.

SIGNIFICANCE

The World's agricultural landscapes have seen dramatic declines in their biodiversity. Because biodiversity responses to land-use changes can be delayed, understanding how current biodiversity is impacted by historical land-use changes is crucial to protect and restore agricultural biodiversity. By utilizing a long-term land-use record database, we show that historical land-use changes continue to shape current biodiversity. Our study expands our understanding of global biodiversity change by identifying land-use history effects to be as strong as the effects of current management and the amount of semi-natural land cover, often assumed to be the major drivers of biodiversity change in agricultural landscapes. Accordingly, land-use legacy effects must be considered in management programs that aim to protect and restore biodiversity.

66 /body

67 **INTRODUCTION**

68 Habitat destruction caused by land-use change is a major driver of global biodiversity declines (1).
69 While land-use changes often have time-delayed impacts on biodiversity (2, 3), we know very little
70 about the relationship between land-use history and present-day biodiversity. The presence of
71 remnant and alternative habitats in the landscape can buffer biodiversity loss through time, if
72 organisms are able to persist in, and disperse to these refuges (4). These meta-population processes
73 can delay or prevent species extinction for years or decades (4), meaning we may have
74 underestimated the impacts of past land-use change on biodiversity. Understanding the long-term
75 response of biodiversity to land-use change is crucial if we are to limit species extinctions and
76 biodiversity decline by implementing sound and timely conservation and restoration efforts.

77 Species can differ significantly in their responses to land-use changes (5), making it hard to
78 generalize biodiversity response as a whole, and to predict which species and taxa may suffer the
79 most from habitat destruction in the long run. A solution to this problem is the use of species traits,
80 as species sharing similar traits have been shown to respond consistently to land use change (6, 7).
81 Furthermore, in agricultural landscapes, trait diversity plays an important role in determining the
82 capacity of ecosystems to cope with future environmental changes (8) and secure the provision of
83 key ecosystem services. However the long term response of functional diversity to land-use changes
84 is unknown as previous studies investigating the effects of land-use history have focused on species
85 richness (3, 9), ignoring trait diversity. A general understanding of how the trait diversity of
86 multiple trophic groups responds to land-use changes over time may therefore improve our capacity
87 to manage agricultural biodiversity, and secure sustainable long-term agroecosystem functioning.

88 Here, we investigated how 20-years of past land-use changes affected the functional trait
89 diversity of seven taxonomic groups in grasslands (vascular plants, wild bees, hoverflies,
90 grasshoppers, carabid beetles, spiders and birds), belonging to five trophic groups (primary

producers, pollinators, herbivores, invertebrate and vertebrate predators) (see for details *SI Appendix, Table S2*). We used a unique database of 220,000 land-use records in an agricultural region of 430 km² dominated by crop production in western France (11,000 fields recorded annually since 1994, ref. 10) to investigate the effect of multiple aspects of land-use history, operating at the field and landscape level, on functional diversity (*SI Appendix, Fig. S1 and Table S1*). Historically, the study region was a typical rural area composed of mixed crop-livestock systems. Fifty years ago, grassland was the dominant land use, covering 60% of the study area (10). These grasslands were either grazed or mown for livestock production. Since that time and up to the present day, shifts from livestock to annual crop production resulted in a strong decline in grassland cover and in 2014, grasslands covered only 12% of the area.

Within the study area, we sampled 75 grasslands with a wide range of land-use histories, while controlling for the effects of current landscape composition and the management of the sampled grassland field. Land-use history was assessed by the age of the sampled grassland field (“Field age”) and by three independent landscape metrics (*SI Appendix, Fig. S1 and Table S1*): (i) the time elapsed since the first grassland-to-crop conversion for all fields within a landscape of 1-km radius of the sampled grassland (“Time as cropland”). High value of time as cropland indicates that most grasslands in the landscape were converted into crops long ago; (ii) the permanency of the grassland cover in the landscape (“Grassland permanency”). A high value of grassland permanency corresponds to landscapes with old permanent grasslands; (iii) the turnover of rotation from crop to grassland in the landscape (“Crop-grassland turnover rate”). A high value of crop-grassland turnover rate indicates that sown grasslands are maintained for several years. These three metrics complement each other to inform on the loss, the stability and turnover of grasslands in the landscape.

We focused on a core set of independent organismal traits that mediate species responses to land-use changes (Fig. S2): body size, mobility (e.g. wing span) and resource-use traits (e.g.

mandible strength or beak size). Such traits can directly determine a species' ability to respond rapidly to land-use intensification, e.g. frequent disturbances and resource homogenization in agricultural landscape may for species with smaller size, a generalist diet, shorter generation time and higher dispersal abilities (6, 11). We summarized the functional diversity of the entire trophic chain using multitrophic and multi-trait diversity metrics (9). We also investigated how land use affects different facets of functional trait diversity by compiling three multitrophic trait diversity indices for mobility, resource-acquisition and body size traits separately. We controlled for confounding effects of the local species pool (the multitrophic density and species richness, following ref. 9) in our analyses, to isolate net effects of land-use changes on functional diversity (see methods). We hypothesized that landscapes in which grassland was converted to crop long ago would support low grassland multitrophic trait diversity by selecting generalist species and reducing the diversity of body size and mobility traits. We further hypothesized that increasing grassland permanency and decreasing the crop-grassland turnover rate could mitigate biodiversity loss by providing stable and high quality habitat to low mobility organisms and feeding specialist species.

RESULTS

All models accounted for the influence of multitrophic species richness and density on trait diversity (Fig. 1). Multitrophic trait diversity increased linearly with multitrophic species richness and decreased with multitrophic density (Fig. 2), with the exception of resource-acquisition trait diversity for which multitrophic density had no effect. We also found multitrophic species richness to be more strongly affected by land-use history (43% of explained variance) than by current land use (18% of explained variance) (*SI Appendix*, Figs. S4 and S5). On the contrary, multitrophic density was mostly driven by current land use (62% vs. 38% of variance explained by land-use history).

The best-selected model explained 70% of the variance in multi-trait diversity (Fig. 1; see also *SI Appendix*, Table S5). Of this, current land use accounted for 16% of the explained variance (Fig. 1), where multi-trait diversity was higher in landscapes with high grassland cover (Fig. 2). Land-use history explained 12% of multi-trait diversity, through the effects of grassland field age (5% of the explained variance) and grassland permanency in the landscape (accounted for 7% of the explained variance) (Fig. 2). These effects were positive: multi-trait diversity was higher in fields that had been grasslands for a long time and were surrounded by other permanent grasslands (Fig. 2).

When considering each trait separately, we found that mobility, resource-acquisition and body size trait diversity responded differently to past and current land use. Land-use history was the main driver of the diversity of mobility traits (34% of explained variance) (Fig. 1). Mobility trait diversity was lower in fields embedded in landscapes converted to cropland long-ago (Fig. 2). In contrast, the diversity of mobility traits was higher in old grassland fields and in landscapes in which grassland cover was more permanent. Past and current land use accounted for an equal amount (28%) of explained variance for resource-acquisition trait diversity (Fig. 1). The diversity of resource-use strategies initially increased following grassland-to-cropland conversion in the landscape (during the first 10 years) but subsequently decreased (Fig. 2). Current land use could either mitigate this loss, as resource-acquisition trait diversity increased with present-day grassland cover, or accentuate it, as it decreased with grassland field productivity, a proxy of grassland management intensity, and the amount of mass flowering crops in the landscape. Our model explained less variation in body size diversity, although this did respond to current land use (16% of explained variance) (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S6).

When considering each trophic group separately, plant trait diversity was only impacted by current grassland field productivity (27% of explained variance). For animals, the importance of land-use history decreased with increasing trophic level, while the importance of current landscape-

scale predictors increased (Figs. 3 and 4, see also *SI Appendix*, Table S6). Herbivore (i.e. grasshoppers) and mutualist (i.e. wild bees and hoverflies) trait diversity was strongly affected by land-use history (respectively 39% and 27% of explained variance) and was higher in old grassland fields (Fig. 4). Land-use history accounted for 28% of the explained variance in invertebrate predator trait diversity, which increased in landscapes dominated by permanent grasslands. Vertebrate predator trait diversity was mainly driven by current landscape composition, and increased in landscapes with a high cover of mass flowering crops (16% of explained variance) and forest (46% of explained variance).

DISCUSSION

We investigated how land-use history affects the functional diversity of multiple trophic groups in grasslands. We found that historical land use continues to play an important role in shaping the present-day functional diversity across multiple trophic groups, and that it is of equal importance to well established land-use drivers of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, such as grassland management intensity (7) and current landscape composition (6). Ignoring the role of land-use legacies on functional diversity may therefore hinder our ability to predict how biodiversity responds to land-use changes, and the functional consequences of biodiversity change on ecosystems.

Multi-trait diversity was most strongly influenced by the species pool, i.e. the density of individuals and the taxonomic diversity observed within the sampled grasslands. There was a negative relationship between multi-trait diversity and density. High population densities, together with low functional diversity, occur when a small number of functionally similar species benefit from land-use intensification in agricultural landscapes. These few species may benefit from the resources offered by particular crop monocultures and become hyper abundant, e.g. in pest outbreaks (12). However, by increasing functional diversity, we may limit dominance by a few

species with potentially negative effects on crops, as suggested by the dilution effect hypothesis (13, 14). We also found that multi-trait diversity strongly increased with taxonomic diversity (Fig. 2), which highlights low functional redundancy among species across all the trophic groups studied. A low functional redundancy implies that species loss may be accompanied by strong declines in functional diversity and uncertain outcomes in agroecosystem functioning. While agricultural landscapes have the potential to host high trait diversity (15), the low functional redundancy observed in our study suggests that the functional biodiversity of agroecosystems is particularly vulnerable to land-use changes and species loss (16).

Decomposing multi-trait diversity into three independent indices (Fig. S2) allowed us to investigate the mechanisms through which land-use history alters biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. The multitrophic diversity of mobility and resource-acquisition traits was lower in landscapes that were converted from grassland to cropland long ago (Fig. 2), highlighting that habitat destruction has not only immediate, but also long-lasting negative effects on the functional diversity of agroecosystems. The conversion of permanent grasslands into annual crops may have particularly strong effects on low mobility organisms and species with narrow feeding niches. However, our results show that maintaining permanent grasslands in the surrounding landscape mitigates this loss (Fig. 2), probably by providing stable, heterogeneous and resource-rich habitats in which many species can persist in and migrate between. While increasing the quantity of semi-natural habitats in the landscape is often viewed as an important method to conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes (e.g. 18), our results highlight that increasing the quality of these habitats – through the conservation of old permanent grasslands in the landscape – may be equally important. Finally, we observed that mobility trait diversity decreased linearly with time since landscape conversion to cropland, while resource-acquisition trait diversity showed a hump-shaped response: it increased during the first 10 years after grassland-to-crop conversion but then decreased (Fig. 2). Spatial and temporal disturbances can create a concentration of transient species in remnant

habitats, thus locally increasing resource-acquisition trait diversity (18). However, resource-acquisition trait diversity will decrease after some time due to the scarcity of habitats and resources in the landscape (9). Quantifying the duration of this effect may be essential to slow down species loss and delay extinction.

Resource-acquisition trait diversity was also strongly impacted by current land use. Locally, we found a strong negative effect of the grassland field productivity (Fig. 3). High grassland productivity is associated with high rates of fertilization, which decreases plant diversity, and in turn, the availability of feeding niches (19). This has been observed in both in experiments and real-world landscapes, and leads to a global homogenization of species resource-use strategies at higher trophic levels (20). In addition, at the landscape scale, the proportion of mass flowering crops (ranging from 0% to 44% in the study area) negatively affected resource-acquisition trait diversity. Mass flowering crops offer short pulses of uniform and homogeneous resources for herbivores and mutualists that may select for particular resource-acquisition traits and therefore reduce their diversity (e.g. 33). As the diversity of resource-acquisition traits drives overall resource utilization (22), the community level homogenization of resource-acquisition traits following land-use intensification could threaten the delivery of essential agroecosystem services such as nutrient recycling (23), pollination (24) and biological control (25).

We did not find clear response of body size to land-use changes (Fig. 1 and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S6), in contrast to other studies focusing on single trophic groups (e.g. 37). Body size is an integrative trait related to many aspects of animal species physiology and ecology (e.g. metabolism, ref. 13; mobility and dispersal, or else stoichiometry, ref. 39) and may not have the same functional significance across multiple trophic groups (28). As a result, our synthetic index of multitrophic body size may not show a consistent response to land-use changes. This may explain why our analyses predicted less variation in body size trait diversity, than they did for mobility or resource-acquisition traits.

We found that past and current land use had contrasting impacts on trait diversity of different trophic groups (Fig. 3). For instance, primary consumers (i.e. herbivores and mutualists) responded more strongly to local history (through the age of the sampled grasslands) while predators were more impacted by past and present-day landscape composition (Fig. 4 and *SI Appendix*, Table S6). Accordingly, delayed responses to land-use changes could create temporal mismatches between interacting trophic levels, if land-use changes disrupt interacting partners inconsistently. This may lead to the disruption of ecological interactions and further biodiversity loss (29). While plants are expected to experience time-delayed responses to habitat loss because of persistence in seed banks (30), plant trait diversity was not impacted by land-use history (Fig. 3). However, we found a strong effect of land-use history on plant species richness (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S7), suggesting that legacy effects of land use affect plant species independently of the traits investigated in this study. While the functional diversity of certain trophic groups showed divergent responses to land-use changes (Figs. 4), our study shows that there is a consistent pattern in the response of overall ecosystem trait diversity, thus suggesting that our integrated index of multi-trait diversity provides a simple quantitative measure of the whole ecosystem biodiversity response.

Our results revealed that present-day functional biodiversity was impacted by land-use changes that happened up to 20 years ago, thus demonstrating that land-use actions have long-lasting impacts and that extinction debts (*sensu* 9) are commonplace in agricultural landscapes (3). In an era of global biodiversity change, our results emphasize the need to consider land-use legacies in conservation programs that aim to protect the biodiversity of agroecosystems and its associated ecosystem functions and services. In particular, our results emphasize the need to preserve permanent grasslands in agricultural landscapes, as it provides a shelter to low mobility organisms and species with narrow feeding niches. While large-scale policy schemes encourage the retention of permanent grasslands, they have largely decreased in their cover over the last years (31). Our

results call for immediate actions to conserve and restore permanent grasslands in order to preserve the functionality of agricultural landscapes and avoid future extinction debt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area. The study was conducted in 2014 in the Long Term Socio-Ecological Research (LTSER) “Zone atelier Plaine & Val de Sèvre” (ZAPVS) located in western France (32). The LTSER covered approximately 430 km² of an intensively managed agricultural plain. Historically, it was a typical rural area characterized by the presence of mixed crops-livestock systems (dairy goats and cows). Grassland was the dominant land use fifty years ago covering about 60% of the area (32). Since that time, shifts from grazing livestock to feeding livestock, and shifts from livestock production to annual crop production have resulted in a strong decline in grassland cover. In 2014, grasslands covered about 12% of the area and included artificial grasslands (i.e., alfalfa with 3% of the area), temporary (sown with pure grasses or in mixtures with legume species and ≤ 5 year old) and permanent grasslands (> 5 year old) managed by grazing, mowing or abandoned. The remaining areas were covered by crops (66% of landscape area). Soils are mostly composed of karst, with calcareous rocks providing shallow calcareous soils with low water retention and pH > 7 . Since 1994, land cover of the study area has been monitored on a yearly basis at the field scale, by using about 30 land-use types (11,000 fields approximately, see ref. 21 for methodological details on land cover monitoring), and has been stored in a Geographical Information System (GIS) database, running on QGIS v 2.14.

Grassland selection and land-use metrics. We monitored 75 grassland fields within the study area. The grassland fields were selected among hay meadows of varying ages and vegetation types (pure legumes, pure or mixed grasses, legume and grass mixture, post-cultural vegetation). The average age of the grassland field was 8 year-old ($sd = 6.55$). We calculated for each of the 75

grassland fields the current landscape composition, and landscape metrics linked to land-use history, within a 1 km-radius landscape (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1). This scale was chosen to approximate the dispersal distance of different taxa (e.g. 39). For landscape composition, we considered landscape elements known as favorable or resource rich habitats for the different groups of taxa, i.e. the proportion of the landscape covered by grasslands, forests and mass flowering crops (oilseed rape and sunflower). Landscape composition metrics varied between 0-35 % for grassland, 0-32 % for forests and 0-44 % for mass flowering crop covers. For land-use history metrics, we calculated for all field in the 1 km-radius landscape surrounding the focal grasslands: (i) the time elapsed since the first grassland-to-crop conversion (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1); (ii) the time spent into current land use since the last tillage (hereafter called “Field age”). The age of crop-field was 1 year and the age of grassland field varied between 1 and 20 years (set to 20 years if it had not been ploughed since 1994); and (iii) the rate of turnover from crop to grassland since the last conversion of the field into cropland. This metric is linked to the lifespan of grasslands sown in crop rotation and is higher when the average lifespan of sown grasslands in the landscape is longer. To account for the size of the field, all these metrics were weighted by the field area. We then averaged these three metrics at the landscape level (hereafter called “Time as cropland”, “Grassland permanency” and “Crop-grassland turnover rate”) (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1).

Species richness and density. Seven taxonomic groups were sampled on the 75 grassland fields. The taxonomic groups were chosen for their association with key ecological functions: primary producers (vascular plants), pollinators (wild bees and hoverflies), herbivores involved in carbon and nitrogen cycling (grasshoppers), invertebrate predators that are natural enemies of pests (carabid beetles and spiders) and vertebrate predators (birds) of important cultural value (see *SI Appendix*, Table S2). Sampling was performed throughout the growing season from April to August 2014 in each grassland field following standardized protocols (10). Details of sampling methods are

provided in *SI Appendix Methods S1*. Relative abundance per plant species was calculated as the sum of the species cover in the 10 quadrats divided by the total cover of all species. For animals, species density was estimated as the number of individuals captured (invertebrates) or recorded (birds) divided by sampling intensity (number of traps or point counts in the grassland). The number of species in each grassland field was determined in the lab for all invertebrate species.

Trait measurements and trait diversity. Functional trait data were collected for all taxonomic groups. Plant trait data came from a local database from the LSTER site (23). Bird morphological traits were compiled from the literature (34). For all other taxonomic groups, all measurements were performed using a stereo microscope (Leica Microsystems M50) equipped with an integrated high definition microscope camera (Leica IC80 HD). Details of trait measurements are provided in *SI Appendix, Methods S2*. In total, we collected trait data for 178 species distributed across the different trophic groups (*SI Appendix, Methods S2*).

We calculated the community abundance-weighted variance (35) for each taxonomic group separately and each trait separately. For single traits, the variance is a measure of the trait dispersion within a given community weighted by the abundance of each individual species and is a measure of functional trait diversity of a given community (35). We also computed a multi-trait index of functional diversity based on trait dispersions for each taxonomic group separately – the Functional Dispersion (FD) (36).

Multitrophic trait diversity measurements. We used methods developed to study ecosystem multifunctionality to calculate a multi-trait diversity index considering on all traits and taxonomic groups. This approach (averaging approach, see 54) consists of calculating the average standardized values of multiple functional diversities. Our multi-trait functional diversity index was thus calculated as the average standardized FD values across the taxonomic groups (similar to

multidiversity indices following 8). Using this index allows us to identify the environmental conditions, which maximize functional trait diversity across multiple taxonomic groups. Note that the averaged multi-trait diversity index was highly correlated with the threshold-50 multi-trait diversity index (37) - calculated as the percentage of community variance values that exceeds 50% of their maximum observed community variance ($r=0.87$, see *SI Appendix*, Table S3). Similarly, we calculated an average index of multitrophic density – average standardized values of the total density for the different animal taxonomic groups (i.e. grasshoppers, wild bees, hoverflies, carabids, spiders and birds) – and an average index of multitrophic species richness, following 8. In addition, to test if land-use changes have similar effects on different axes of trait variation, we also calculated averaged indices for mobility trait diversity, resource-acquisition trait diversity and body size trait diversity values as the average standardized community variance values of these three types of traits, across the taxonomic groups. To calculate these trait indices, we excluded plant traits as the three selected plant traits are associated with different functions and other axes of variation. Finally, to test if the response of each trophic group to land-use changes is similar, we computed multi-trait diversity, species richness and density indices for five trophic groups separately: primary producers (vascular plants), mutualists (wild bees and hoverflies), herbivores (grasshoppers), invertebrate predators (carabids and spiders) and vertebrate predators.

Assessing the effects of past and current land use. We evaluated the effects of land-use changes on grassland trait diversity by using linear models. We ran separate analyses on: (i) the multi-trait diversity; (ii) the mobility, resource-acquisition and body size trait diversity; (iii) on the multi-trait diversity of the different trophic groups separately. We included in our models the effects of the grassland field age and of the three landscape land-use history metrics as predictors of functional trait diversity. We also controlled for current landscape composition (% grassland, % forest and % mass flowering crop areas). We used plant productivity as a proxy measure of grassland

management, as it is related to fertilizer inputs. This was assessed by harvesting plant biomass each month (between February and August 2014) above a cutting height of 5 cm from the soil surface, within five 35 × 35 cm quadrats. Productivity was then calculated as the weight of dried-plant material (oven-dried at 60°C for 72h) product per square meter per day between the initial biomass measurement and peak biomass (end of May). We considered quadratic terms for grassland field age, landscape land-use history metrics, current grassland field productivity and landscape composition to assess potential non-linear effects of these variables. Further co-varying factors accounted for the number of mowing events and soil depth were included. Our models also integrated the coordinates of the centroid of each sampled grassland (latitude and longitude) to correct for additional spatial effects not accounted for by the field and landscape predictors (38). Finally, as the local species pool (defined by both the density and the species richness) may affect functional trait diversity metrics (39), we included in the models the multitrophic density and multitrophic species richness indices to isolate the net effects of land-use changes on multitrophic trait diversity. We ran separate analyses on the multitrophic density and the species richness, and results are presented in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S4 and Fig. S5.

We then performed a series of models for the multi-trait diversity, mobility trait diversity, resource-acquisition trait diversity and body size trait diversity; and for the multi-trait diversity of each taxonomic group separately. We first used a backward stepwise regression procedure using the software JMP 11 (SAS Institute) to select, between all models, the best-fitting models with lower AICc ($\Delta \text{AICc} < 2$). Second, using the best selected models, we performed a model-averaging procedure based on AICc selection ($\Delta \text{AICc} < 2$) to determine parameter coefficients for the best final set of predictors of our response variables. This procedure was performed using the function *dredge* in the R package Multi-Model Inference (*MuMin*) (40). Model residuals were inspected for constant variance and normality. We standardized all variables (z-scored: mean-centred and divided by the standard deviation) to interpret parameter estimates on a comparable scale (41). [Correlation](#)

among the predictors used was low (*SI Appendix*, Table S1) and did not induce multicollinearity issues in our analyses (*SI Appendix*, Table S4). The inclusion of many predictors in statistical models increases the chance of type I error (false positives). To account for this we used a Benjamini and Hochberg procedure to control for false discovery rates and adjust P-values (42). To evaluate the relative importance of the predictors as drivers of trait diversity, we expressed the importance of predictors as the percentage of variance they explain, based on the comparison between the absolute values of their standardized regression coefficients and the sum of all standardized regression coefficients from the predictors. This method is similar to a variance partitioning analysis because we previously transformed all predictors to z-scores (38, 43, 44). The following identifiable variance fractions were then examined: (i) land-use history, (ii) current land use, and (iii) the species pool.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study will be openly available at <https://datadryad.org>.

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418

419 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

420 GLP, IB and NG designed research; GLP, IB, LH, MR and NG performed research; GLP, IB, LH
421 and NG analyzed data; and GLP, IB, YLBP, YC, LH, CV, VB, MR, PM and NG wrote the paper.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Fig. 1. Importance of the drivers of multi-trait diversity, mobility trait diversity, resource-acquisition trait diversity and body size trait diversity. Relative effects (% R^2), resulting from a model averaging procedure, were calculated for each group of predictors (i.e. land-use history, current land use and the species pool). All predictors were scaled to interpret parameter estimates on a comparable scale. Note that for mobility, resource-acquisition and body size trait diversity, we focused on animal traits and excluded plant traits from the analyses. Results were consistent considering spatial scales ranging from 500-1500 m radii surrounding the sampled grasslands (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S3).

Fig. 2. Effects of land-use history (field age, time as cropland, grassland permanency and crop-grassland turnover rate), current land use (field productivity, % grassland, % mass flowering, % forest) and of the species pool (multitrophic density and richness) on (A) multi-trait diversity, (B) mobility trait diversity and (C) resource-acquisition trait diversity. Lines show model fits and shaded areas correspond to the 95% confidence band. Model predictions were calculated using a model averaging procedure. Note that for mobility trait and resource-acquisition trait diversity, we focused on animal traits and excluded plant traits from the analyses. All predictors were scaled to interpret parameter estimates on a comparable scale. P-values of the best selected models for each model parameter are given. P-values were adjusted following (57) to control for false discovery rates (see *SI Appendix*, Table S7). Gray dots (N=75) correspond to observed data.

Fig. 3. Importance of the drivers of multi-trait diversity within the different trophic groups (primary producers, herbivores, mutualists, invertebrate predators and vertebrate predators). Relative effects (% R^2), resulting from the model averaging procedure, were calculated for each group of predictors

(i.e. land-use history, current land use and the species pool). All predictors were scaled to interpret parameter estimates on a comparable scale.

Fig. 4. Effects of land-use history (field age, time as cropland, grassland permanency and crop-grassland turnover rate) and current land use (field productivity, % grassland, % mass flowering, % forest) on the multi-trait diversity of each trophic group. Lines show model fits for primary producers (green), herbivores (yellow), mutualists (orange), invertebrate predators (brown) and vertebrate predators (blue). Model predictions were calculated using the model averaging procedure. All predictors were scaled to interpret parameter estimates on a comparable scale. P-values of the best selected models for each model parameter are given, *, $P\text{-value} < 0.05$; ** $P\text{-value} < 0.01$; *** $P\text{-value} < 0.001$. P-values were adjusted following (58) to control for false discovery rates (see *SI Appendix*, Table S7). Dots (N=75) correspond to observed data and colors indicate the trophic group.