

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Table A1; Survey questionnaire

1. Define community	
2. Define assemblage	
3. Define guild	
4. Define ensemble	
5. What is your profession? (please choose one)	Professor Government/non-profit Graduate student Undergraduate
6. What is your field of study?	

Table A2; Survey results quantification methods

Key words/term	Context
Spatio/Temporal	Requires a spatial or temporal component
Taxonomic/Phylogenetic Relatedness	Requires a taxonomic or phylogenetic component
Interactions	Requires interactions among species, either direct or indirect
Functional Similarity	Requires species to possess similar traits or be functionally similar
Share Resources	Requires that species share resources
Different Species	Requires multiple species
All Species	Definition encompassess all species in some area versus a subset of species
Never Heard	The respondent had never heard the term

All rubrics require explicit language. For example, "spatial/temporal" requires explicit declaration of a spatial or temporal component. That is "all species in a food web" is NOT spatially explicit (because food webs can be arbitrarily large, depending on how one defines the edges). For all categories 1 = TRUE, 0 = FALSE unless otherwise stated. NOTE: for "different species" 0 can include definitions that require multiple populations, but don't explicitly state multiple species.

