

**General:** This document aims to provide overview on two global decomposition initiatives. We strongly believe that both project are a good addition to each other, and welcome anybody who wants to participate in both.

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**Name:** TeaComposition

**Purpose:**

1. To study the *long-term litter decomposition* and *C dynamics* and the impact of its *key drivers* at the *present and predicted climate worldwide*
2. To develop a common metric for monitoring of litter decomposition and C dynamics across sites and experiments
3. To create a harmonized dataset for inter-site comparison within a network as well as with other global networks
4. To link potential to actual (by simultaneous incubation of native litter) decomposition rates and use the obtained results for the model application and validation

**Design**

The TeaComposition method is a modified method published by Keuskamp et al. 2013.  
*Tea type:* Lipton Green Tea & Rooibos Tea  
*Incubation length:* few months-few years  
*Spatial design:* specific soil layer (Ah; 0-5 cm)  
*Start of the study:* June (northern hemisphere) / December (southern hemisphere)  
*Tea supply:* UNILEVER sponsors the initiative assuring that the same batch of Lipton tea and thereby similar tea quality is used at all sites and incubations.

**Organization structure**

TeaComposition is an initiative of several global networks and it is led by an international consortium.

**Contact person**

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**Name:** Teatime4science

**Purpose:**

1. Create a global soil map of decomposition.
2. To test the effects of climate and environmental conditions on decomposition (the TBI proxies for initial decomposition rate,  $k$ , and stabilization,  $S$ ) on a global scale.
3. To test the effect of changed climate conditions worldwide.

**Design**

The method follows the publication of Keuskamp et al. (2013), which consists of burying a Lipton Rooibos and Lipton Green tea bag for three months at a depth of 8 cm. With use of the obtained weight losses of both tea types, two decomposition parameters are calculated (the so called Tea Bag Index (TBI) consisting of initial decomposition rate,  $k$ , and stabilization,  $S$ ), that allow estimating a two phased decay curve. With use of global networks, citizen scientists and schools we aim to obtain globally distributed data.

**Organization structure**

The teatime4science project, hosted by Umeå University, is funded by the Swedish Vetenskapsrådet and runs from 2015-2019. Teatime4science is part of the The Tea Bag Index (TBI) team, an international consortium, which will continue after the end of teatime4science. Any project initiated

by the TBI team can be recognized by its name: teatime4projectname.

The TBI team: Joost Keuskamp, Taru Lehtinen, Judith Sarneel and Mariet Hefting ([TBItteam@decolab.org](mailto:TBItteam@decolab.org))

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