



## Comment on "Global Resilience of Tropical Forest and Savanna to Critical Transitions"

Zak Ratajczak and Jesse B. Nippert *Science* **336**, 541 (2012); DOI: 10.1126/science.1219346

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precipitation per year) and frequent state transitions in mesic ecosystems (900 mm precipitation per year).

In semiarid regions, population growth rates, especially for trees and shrubs, should be limited by water availability (1, 3–5). Likewise, the primary feedback mechanism responsible for semiarid state shifts (changes in soil properties) can take decades to act but creates highly stable states in the process (6