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Request for supply of species occurrence data for research project

Dear Sir or Madam,

Currently, the Red List of fern and vascular plants of Switzerland is revised by the Swiss floristic network (www.zdsf.ch). An accessory study of the Swiss Federal Institute WSL and of the University of Lausanne is aiming to evaluate the application of statistical models as a tool for revisions of red lists. One part of the study is focusing on the use of species distribution models (SDMs) to detect unknown occurrences of rare and threatened plants. This approach should be tested thoroughly to evaluate the practicability of using these methods for nature conservation. As our focus is on rare and endangered plant species there are only few occurrence data available as a matter of course. Therefore, we want to add occurrence data from neighboring countries to the models. In doing so, we will get more information about the ecological niche of the species resulting in a better goodness of fit of the models and in better detection rates by prospective sampling. We are interested most in data located in regions close to the Swiss border (approx. 200km radius). Attached you will find our target species list (147 species at all) of which we search supplementary occurrence data.

We ask you kindly to support our project with data on these species. If you have information concerning these species in a database and are willing to share it with us we would be more than happy. If you personally do not have access to a database, but know such a person, please contact us. Resolution of the data should be 1km² at the least, but the more precise data are, the better is the modeling result. Gladly, we will inform you about further progress and results of the project.

The project is supported by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN project number 10.0042.PJ) and is in strong cooperation with the Swiss floristic network (ZDSF).

Certainly, we will treat data strictly confidential and use them solely in the context of our project. We do not follow any commercial interests.

If you have further questions to the project or the species data we are looking for, don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Frank Breiner
PhD Student

Dr. Ariel Bergamini
Project leader

Dr. Michael Nobis
Project leader

Attachments

Target species list