



17th workshop of the German working group on vegetation databases

Vegetation Databases and Detection of Environmental Change

Since 2002 the German Working Group on Vegetation Databases <<http://www.hswt.de/person/joerg-ewald/vegetationsdatenbanken.html>> engages in making the vast amount of plot data produced by vegetation scientists accessible to research and application. Our 17th meeting to be held from 14th to 16th March 2018 at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena (Germany) will be dedicated to the topic “Vegetation Databases and Detection of Environmental Change”.

Identifying links between vegetation and environment across spatial and temporal scales provide important insights into processes affecting the worldwide biodiversity. Vegetation databases from local to global scales provide excellent tools to study vegetation changes and to derive (indirectly) information about abiotic and biotic drivers that caused these changes. The relative importance of prominent drivers for vegetation changes differs from local to global change. Changes in land-use and climate were mentioned as most prominent drivers changing species composition in natural and semi-natural habitats.

We invite scientists and practitioners to report on the following topics related to vegetation plot databases and the detection of environmental change:

1. Detection of environmental changes and related vegetation changes
2. Relative importance of drivers of vegetation change from local to global scales
3. Application of different data sources, including:
 - a. Permanent plot studies, resurveys
 - b. Gradient studies, space-for-time substitutions
 - c. Construction of temporal gradients using vegetation and species distribution data from different time steps
 - d. Application of plant functional traits to identify adaptations of plants and plant communities



Preliminary program

The workshop will start on Wednesday afternoon with a field trip and some hands-on software demonstrations. On Thursday and Friday there will be keynote (45 min) and regular talks (20 min) as well as poster presentations.

Wednesday, 14th March

12.00-15.00: Fieldtrip to the *Rautal* near Jena to visit Germany's largest population of *Eranthis hyemalis* (L.) Salisb. (Winter aconite - Winterling)

15.00-16.30: Jana Wäldchen & Michael Rzanny, Max Planck Institute of Biogeochemistry: Software demonstration - Flora Incognita project (<http://floraincognita.com>)

17.00- 18.30: Jochen Müller & Jörn Hentschel, Guided tour Herbarium Haussknecht (including demonstration of the procedure in the digitalisation project and related database management)

19.00 Come together at a restaurant (at own costs)

Thursday, 15th March

9.15-10.00: Keynote 1 - Helge Bruelheide: *sPlot – The Global Vegetation Database*

10.00-13.00: lectures

14.00-14.45: Keynote 2 - Anne Bjorkman: *Vegetation change in tundra ecosystems: lessons from the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX)*

14.45-18.00: lectures and poster presentation

19.00 conference dinner in one of Jena's famous restaurants (at own costs)

Friday, 16th March

9.15-10.00: Keynote 3 - Radim Hédli: *Vegetation plot resurveys in the age of large databases: a powerful tool for the assessment of global environmental change*

10.00-11.30: lectures

11.30-12.00: Final remarks and closing session

The workshop will be hosted by the Institute of Ecology and Evolution with Herbarium Haussknecht and Botanical Garden at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena and organized by Christine Römermann, Markus Bernhardt-Römermann and Solveig Franziska Bucher.

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The workshop will take place in the Rosensäle Jena (Fürstengraben 27; 07743 Jena)



Registration

There will be no participation fee. Please register via email at the Institute of Ecology and Evolution (Secretary Kathleen Radzio; spezbot@uni-jena.de)

Please indicate if you plan to join the:

- field trip (for transport planning)
- pre-meeting workshops
- Come-Together
- Conference Dinner

Abstract submission

If you want to present a lecture or a poster, please submit an abstract (max. 400 words) including your postal and e-mail address until 12 February 2018.

Deadlines

We accept abstract submissions until 12 February 2018. Registration for excursion and pre-meeting workshop is possible until 23 February 2018.