

Swiss Biodiversity Monitoring BDM (Z9 Plants)

Thomas Stalling

Abstract: Switzerland is one of the first countries in the world to monitor its biological diversity. The Federal Office for the environment (FOEN) has launched a programme for this purpose called Biodiversity Monitoring in Switzerland (BDM). In conjunction with the BDM programme, experts contracted by the Federal Government will regularly count animals and plants in numerous predetermined areas in the field. Whereas numerical qualitative objectives are accepted in most areas of environmental protection (emissions thresholds in air pollution control, for example), there are so far no targets for how biodiversity should change. Biodiversity monitoring helps us to define specific targets for nature conservation policy and to establish whether the measures that have been implemented are enabling us to reach these targets. Plants are surveyed for the state indicators Z7 (species diversity in landscapes) and Z9 (species diversity in habitats). This report describes the available content in the vegetation-plot database of the Swiss Biodiversity Monitoring BDM (Z9 Plants) (GIVD ID EU-CH-002).

Keywords: habitat; monitoring; surveillance; Switzerland; vegetation.

GIVD Database ID: EU-CH-002		Last update: 2012-05-09	
Swiss Biodiversity Monitoring BDM (Z9 Plants)			
Scope: The state indicator Z9 (species diversity in habitats) of the BDM consists of about 1,600 plots of 10 square meters using a systematic sampling grid, covering the whole of Switzerland. Plants are surveyed every 5 years.			
Status: completed and continuing		Period: 2001-2011	
Database manager(s): Thomas Stalling (stalling@hintermannweber.ch)			
Owner: Federal Office for the Environment FOEN			
Web address: http://www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch			
Availability: according to a specific agreement		Online upload: no	Online search: no
Database format(s): FileMaker		Export format(s): [NA]	
Publication: http://www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch/pdfs/downloads/Lagebericht_d_def_lowres.pdf			
Plot type(s): time series		Plot-size range: 10 - 10 m ²	
Non-overlapping plots: 1,600	Estimate of existing plots: [NA]	Completeness: [NA]	
Total plot observations: 3,000	Number of sources: [NA]	Valid taxa: [NA]	
Countries: CH: 100.0%			
Forest: [NA] — Non-forest: [NA]			
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%			
Environmental data: [NA]			
Performance measure(s): [NA]			
Geographic localisation: [NA]			
Sampling periods: [NA]			
<i>Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-CH-002</i>			

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