



# An invitation to join sPlot

## The Global Vegetation Database

### What is sPlot?

sPlot is the first vegetation-plot database with global coverage and standardised plant nomenclature. The current version, sPlot 2.1, contains more than one million vegetation plots that have been contributed by regional, national and continental databases. The data have been harmonized with the global trait database (TRY, [www.try-db.org](http://www.try-db.org)) and is currently being used to perform several studies on global vegetation patterns.

### How can you contribute?

sPlot is still geographically unbalanced (Figs. 1 and 2), with many gaps outside Europe and USA. We make an open call to vegetation databases for joining sPlot 3.0, which will be the basis for a new generation of studies on plant diversity patterns at the community level. We are particularly seeking vegetation plots from Latin America, South Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Boreal and Alpine zones. In the tropics and subtropics we are particularly interested in plots where both trees and herbaceous plants have been recorded. We also aim to maximize the temporal dimension of sPlot (Fig. 3).

### How to become a member?

According to the sPlot Rules, one can only become a member of the sPlot Consortium upon invitation from the sPlot Steering Committee. If you feel that you could contribute a significant amount of vegetation-plot data, please contact the sPlot Coordinator. Since the preparation of databases is time-consuming, we will normally only consider databases that contribute a significant number of plots and/or cover a unique geographic extent. All contributing databases should be registered in the Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD, [www.givd.info](http://www.givd.info)). Data from Europe can contribute only via the European Vegetation Archive (EVA, [www.euroveg.org/eva-database](http://www.euroveg.org/eva-database)).

### Contact

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### Visit our web

<http://www.idiv.de/splot>

#### The sPlot Consortium

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Sandel



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Kattge



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Lenoir



Ute  
Jandt



Marten  
Winter



+ 181 members  
over the world

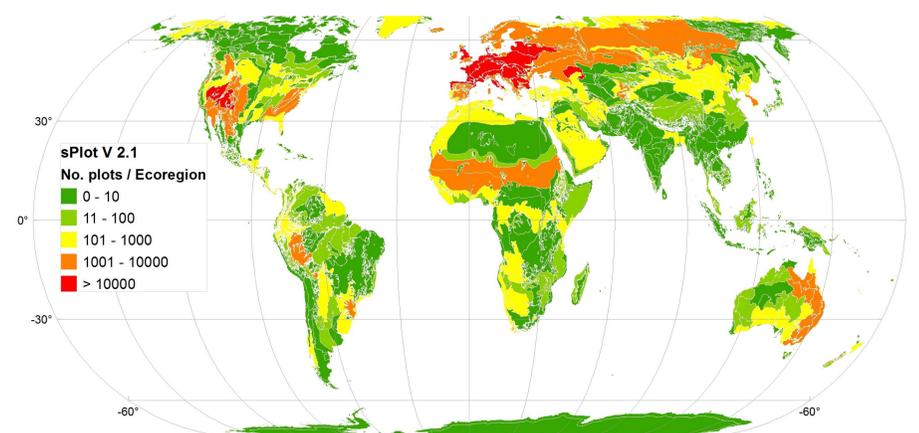


Figure 1. Spatial sampling effort by WWF Ecoregion in sPlot 2.1

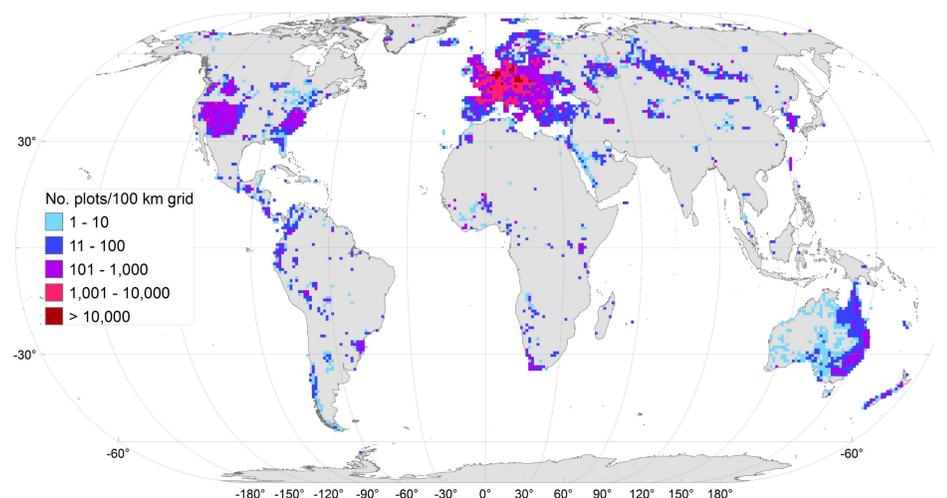


Figure 2. Spatial sampling effort by 100x100 km grid in sPlot 2.1

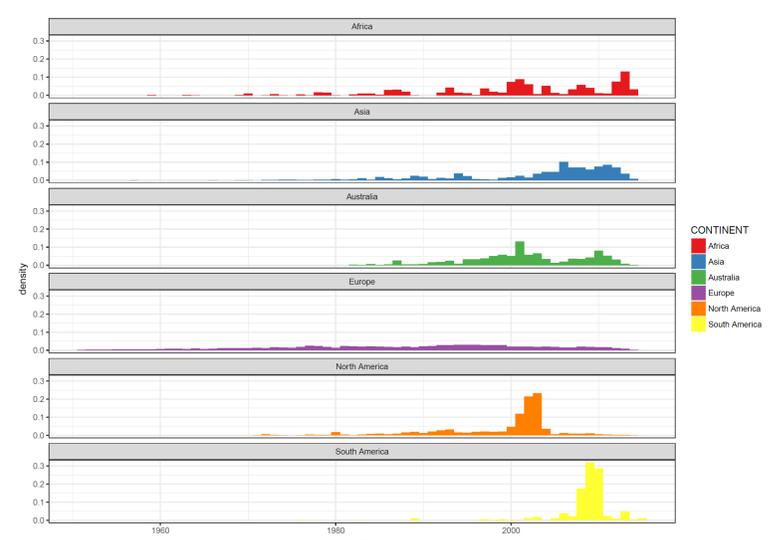


Figure 3. Temporal sampling effort by continents in sPlot 2.1