



ReSurveyEurope Database

Data Property and Governance Rules

Approved at the ReSurveyEurope workshop in Vienna on 6 April 2022

1. Scope and purpose of the ReSurveyEurope Database

The ReSurveyEurope Database is an electronic archive of records from repeatedly surveyed vegetation plots. The geographic scope is Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and adjacent areas, and the thematic scope is any habitat type containing plants. The database collects data from vegetation plots sampled at least twice in different years. Its purpose is to facilitate the use of European resurvey data for academic research and applications in nature conservation and ecological restoration.

2. Governance

The ReSurveyEurope Database is governed by the ReSurveyEurope Board, which includes the ReSurveyEurope initiators¹ and the elected members of the Coordinating Board of the European Vegetation Archive (EVA), which is a database of the Working Group European Vegetation Survey (EVS) of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS).

3. Contributing to the ReSurveyEurope Database

(3a) Datasets that fall within the scope described in Article 1 may be submitted to the ReSurveyEurope Board. The Board will review each submitted dataset and decide whether to include it in the ReSurveyEurope Database. Each accepted dataset will be stored in the ReSurveyEurope Database as a separate database.

(3b) Data are contributed to the ReSurveyEurope Database by custodians. A custodian is a person who owns the contributed data or an authorised representative of all contributors to a collective database that contains data owned by more than one person. Each database contributing to the ReSurveyEurope Database is represented by a custodian and optionally one deputy custodian. The ReSurveyEurope Board only communicates with the custodians or deputy custodians of each database.

(3c) For collective databases, the custodian is responsible for clarifying data ownership, intellectual property rights and authorship rules within the group of contributors before the database is submitted to the ReSurveyEurope Database. The ReSurveyEurope Board does not take any responsibility for data mishandling by the custodians.

(3d) The rights of individual database owners or representatives are not affected by the inclusion of their database in the ReSurveyEurope Database.

¹ Helge Bruelheide, Milan Chytrý, Stefan Dullinger, Franz Essl and Ilona Knollová



4. Data availability regimes

(4a) The custodian of each database selects one of these two data-availability regimes:

Semi-restricted-access data are only available to data providers (i.e. custodians of databases included in the ReSurveyEurope Database or persons approved by one of the custodians). For each data request, the custodian will be notified by the ReSurveyEurope Board at least three weeks prior to the data release. If no objection is raised within this period, it will be assumed that the custodian has given permission to use these data for a particular purpose.

Free-access data are available to a wider community of users. These data can be released based on the project proposal submitted to the ReSurveyEurope Board, with no need for specific permission.

(4b) The ReSurveyEurope initiative encourages a gradual transition of data contributed to the ReSurveyEurope Database from the Semi-restricted-access data regime to the Free-access data regime, but the decision on the regime rests solely with the custodians. Custodians may change the data-availability regime or withdraw their data from the ReSurveyEurope Database at any time.

5. Data requests and terms of data use

(5a) Individuals or groups who intend to use the ReSurveyEurope Database for research or applications may submit a project proposal to the ReSurveyEurope Board using a Data Request Form available on the EVA website.

(5b) Requests for data under the Semi-restricted-access regime will only be considered if submitted by the custodians of the databases included in the ReSurveyEurope Database or by other persons whose data request has been approved by one of the custodians.

(5c) Each proposal will be reviewed by the ReSurveyEurope Board, which will consider: (i) whether the applicant is eligible to receive data under these Rules and whether the proposal complies with these Rules, and if so, (ii) whether there is a reasonable connection between the aims, the expected outcomes and the requested data and (iii) whether there is no significant overlap with a previously approved project.

(5d) If the project proposal is approved by the ReSurveyEurope Board, the Board will deliver the data as soon as possible, but the speed of this service may depend on available human power and funding. Along with the data delivery, the ReSurveyEurope Board will send the applicant the list of custodians who have expressed interest in the project and would like to be informed about the project development and possible co-authorship.

(5e) Applicants are not permitted to share the data obtained from the ReSurveyEurope Database with third parties or to use them for purposes other than those stated in the original proposal. The data obtained from the ReSurveyEurope Database may only be used for non-commercial purposes. The final product (publication, report, software application) must include citations of the original data sources (or at least the main sources if there are many sources) and the citation of the ReSurveyEurope Database.

(5f) Information about projects that have received data from the ReSurveyEurope Database, along with the names of the applicants, will be published on the EVA website. If asked, applicants must provide data on the status of their projects to the ReSurveyEurope Board for reporting purposes. If



there is no significant progress in an approved project within two years since the ReSurveyEurope data release for this project, the ReSurveyEurope Board can cancel this project. If a project is cancelled, the project team loses the right to use the ReSurveyEurope data.

(5g) Applicants are also required to provide the ReSurveyEurope Board with any publications based on the ReSurveyEurope Database. Links to these publications can be added to the EVA website.

(5h) Applicants are encouraged to report any errors found in the data to the custodians of the original databases and the ReSurveyEurope Board.

6. Authorship

(6a) Leaders of the publication projects using the ReSurveyEurope Database should offer co-authorship to a representative of each database that provided data of particular importance to the project (e.g., a relatively large proportion of the final dataset used in the analyses or data from unique vegetation types or under-represented geographic areas). This database representative should be an expert on the project topic (not necessarily the custodian or deputy custodian) and should contribute more to the project than simply providing the existing data. Any co-authorship should include an intellectual contribution to the concept of the article, preparation of new data, help with data interpretation or analysis, interpretation of results, or writing parts of the article text (see the IAVS Code of Professional Ethics: <http://iavs.org/Governance/Code-of-Professional-Ethics.aspx>).

(6b) Custodians representing collective databases should treat any co-authorship offer they receive through ReSurveyEurope in accordance with the internal rules or established practices of their database, for example, by properly assigning the right of co-authorship to the person(s) who contributed the most significant part of the data used for the particular project to their database.

(6c) Upon receipt of a data request from a project proponent, the ReSurveyEurope Board will inform the custodians of all databases containing data relevant to the project. These custodians can express their interest in the project and nominate a representative of their database to the project through an online form provided by the ReSurveyEurope Board. The project leader should allow these representatives to actively participate by providing them with regular updates on the project's progress from its early stage. The project leader is also responsible for the final co-authorship arrangements based on the actual contribution of each contributor.