

Developing Tools for Conserving the Plant Diversity of the South Caucasus (extension)

Initiative: Zwischen Europa und Orient - Mittelasien/Kaukasus im Fokus der Wissenschaft

Ausschreibung: Ausschreibung: Strukturell orientierte Maßnahmen

Bewilligung: 01.11.2015

Laufzeit: 3 Jahre

The project extension is structured into five work packages. The spectrum of methods applied in WP 1 - Research includes molecular phylogenetics and taxonomy, analyses of geographical distributions, historical biogeography, and conservation status assessment. Selected plant genera from different ecosystems (Campanula, Pyrus, Dianthus, Scutellaria, Jurinea, and Ramalina) will be studied as models to arrive at a better understanding their evolutionary history and to carry out meta-analyses on Caucasus plant diversity patterns. Population-level analyses (conservation genetics) will contribute information that is essential for conservation planning, such as the distribution of genotypes and effects of habitat fragmentation on gene flow in selected species. Applications extend from protected area management (management of genetic diversity and unique genotypes in situ), to identifying plant material suitable for restoration programs. Research in this context will continue on *Pterocarya fraxinifolia* (a relict tree) and *Calligonum bakuense* (a highly endangered endemic shrub). Presenting and disseminating the biodiversity data and insights generated in this project will be the key component of WP 2 - Data management and dissemination. The primary data generated in this project (specimen meta-data, sequence data) will be managed in a way that they can be sustainably stored, shared, and used for scientific syntheses to provide the tools supporting conservation. Among the products of this project will be databases and on-line resources on the plant diversity in the Caucasus. The WP 3 - Endangered species management will then assist the practical implementation of ex situ and in situ conservation measures using results of WPs 1 and 2 on selected plants as exemplars. The WP 4 and 5 will deal with Capacity building and Outreach.

Projektbeteiligte

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