

Master thesis project

Mapping and comparing grassland habitats in St. Antönien



Background

In the 1880s Carl Schröter, the founder of geobotany, published a monography on St. Antönien, a beautiful valley in the Grisons, eastern Switzerland. He described all facets of life in the valley at that time. In this context he also produced a very detailed map on the plant communities of the grassland.

In order to detect the change in biodiversity in the valley as well as its causes, the region should be mapped again, as well as the development of agricultural management over time and other factors, e.g. development of transport routes and land improvement, which may affect grassland biodiversity.

Master Thesis

The master student will develop the method to identify habitats, which matches best the historic classification, apply this method in the field and transfer the findings into a new map. By consulting historical documents and interviewing farmers on the current use, he or she will record how management has changed and influenced the change in biodiversity.

The MSc student will be part of the young and dynamic “Square Foot Team” and will work closely together with the PhD student at Agroscope

(https://www.agroscope.admin.ch/agroscope/de/home/aktuell/newsroom/2021/03-29_gruenland-diversitaet.html).

We are seeking a candidate with very good botanical expertise, who has a strong interest in field work and in communicating with farmers. Good command of German is therefore a pre-requisite. Additionally you should have a good knowledge in the application of GIS.

Preferred starting date is in spring.

For application or additional information, please contact Susanne Riedel
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