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German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)

Deutscher Platz 5e, 04103 Leipzig

Germany

Dr. Patrick Goymer

Editor-in-Chief

Nature Ecology and Evolution

Dear Dr. Goymer,

In November last year, my colleague and previous Ph.D. advisor Alexandre Antonelli (currently Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) contacted you regarding your potential interest in a short piece for NEE presenting an online tool for exploring the links between political regimes and biodiversity knowledge. You showed interest in seeing the manuscript and advised that the theme could fit as a Comment.

We have therefore gone ahead with the full development of the tool and are very pleased to send you here an initial submission for consideration. We formatted it as a Brief Communication but could easily adapt it to a Comment if you would prefer.

We are very excited about this work and believe it would be of broad interest to the readers of NEE and beyond. To our knowledge, this is the first tool to enable the easy and visual exploration of how political and socio-economic differences among countries influence the generation and availability of primary biodiversity data (species occurrences). This is important and timely, given the increasing political instability in several parts of the world and its potential impact on biodiversity research and conservation. Please feel free to try the tool by yourself at [www.bio-dem.surge.sh](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.bio-2Ddem.surge.sh&d=DwMGaQ&c=vh6FgFnduejNhPPD0fl_yRaSfZy8CWbWnIf4XJhSqx8&r=Lt02J-CWKzJqKpPrDsYDBd3wIlDr3bP7MgP5D8NPjV8&m=F1OXPvULWTHvfyRjmSMXMYkdSa9EB5FyIobQqEZUP9Q&s=tvKDqmHTeBSfDW6DSiIW7yFgg5eBBNsq3kdyrnS47YI&e=)

To demonstrate the use of this tool, we present a series of analyses at global and national levels, based on diversity data for plants, birds, mammals and amphibians. We report striking examples of strong links between democratic levels, armed conflicts, education and biodiversity data.

We hope you will share our enthusiasm for this work and look forward to your feedback!

Yours faithfully,

Alex

Dr. Alexander Zizka (on behalf of all co-authors)

email, phone