

Preface

Why This Book and How Should It Be Read?

This book explains how to fit habitat suitability models (HSMs) in ecology to quantify species' ecological niches and predict species distributions. It is a textbook with practical examples in R, intended for readers who want to familiarize themselves with this field. The book does not presume to review the whole field, as it is developing extremely rapidly, but rather to explain the main steps of model building, evaluation, and application in a simple and illustrated way. It should thus prove useful for master or doctoral courses, or specialized workshops, and help researchers unfamiliar with this field to analyze their own data. We advise that readers start their reading with Chapter 1, which explains in more detail what the book is about.