

Evidences are accumulating that biodiversity is facing the effects of global change. The most influential drivers of change in ecosystems are land-use change, alien species invasions and climate change impacts. Accurate projections of species' responses to these changes are needed to propose mitigation measures to slow down the on- going erosion of biodiversity. Niche-based models (NBM) currently represent one of the only tools for such projections. However, their application in the context of global changes relies on restrictive assumptions, calling for cautious interpretations. In this thesis, I aim to assess the effectiveness and shortcomings of niche-based models for the study of global change impacts on biodiversity through the investigation of specific unsolved limitations and suggestion of new approaches.

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Olivier Broennimann (1978) is a biogeographer and ecological modeler. He accomplished his studies in biology (Master and PhD) at University of Lausanne. After a post-doc at SUNY at Stony Brook, USA, he's now working at the University of Lausanne. His main interest lies in assessing and understanding global change impacts on plant diversity.



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