

Copperflora – an online species-level database of biology, ecology, geography of the flora from the Katangan Copperbelt (D.R. Congo) to manage their conservation

Sylvain Boisson^{1,*}, Maxime Séleck¹, Soizig Le Stradic¹, Julie Lebrun¹, Wilfried Massengo², Grégory Mahy¹

¹ BIOSE - Biosystem Engineering Department, Biodiversity and Landscape Unit, University of Liege, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, 2 Passage des Déportés, Gembloux 5030, Belgium.

² Ecology, Restoration Ecology and Landscape Research Unit, Faculty of Agronomy, University of Lubumbashi, Route Kasapa. Campus Universitaire, 1825 Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo.

* Corresponding author: sylvain.boisson@ulg.ac.be / + 32 (0)81 62 22 40

Storage and accessibility to structured data are essential in all fields of scientific research. In ecology, conservation managers regularly use thousands qualitative and quantitative data from different partners and studies. In recent years, online databases concerning climate, species traits and distribution have been developed but few offer a comprehensive tool for the management of species conservation at several steps. The Copperflora database was created in order to include a diversity of informations about species (taxonomy, habitats, phenology, pictures, distribution, etc.) but also information concerning seeds collection, conservation, monitoring and tests applied to target species. Copperflora is meant to be an interactive and a dynamic project enhancing the exchange of data. Our project also contributes to the advance in the understanding of metallophyte communities' conservation and restoration projects. Our database structure is expected to be easily transferable to other conservation actions.