

## Update on the progress of our project for searching non-English-language literature

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### Progress so far

Thanks to the huge help from all of the collaborators, our searches have already been completed for 7 languages (German, Japanese, Persian, Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, simplified Chinese) and are still ongoing for three languages (Italian, Polish and traditional Chinese). This is based on a huge amount of effort from a total of 22 collaborators. So far about 386k papers in 317 journals have been screened and 637 papers were identified as potentially relevant (see the table below for more detail). I am sure you would agree that this is an amazing achievement! Thanks so much again for your help from us. Meanwhile, our biggest priority now is French, the last gap in major languages.

	Language	Journals	Papers screened	Relevant papers identified	Collaborators
1	Simplified Chinese	62	293,901	84	2
2	German	44	16,183	103*	3
3	Japanese	18	16,437	285	2
4	Persian	9	2,868	5	1
5	Portuguese	39	8,347	36*	5
6	Spanish	110	27,058	88*	4
7	Russian	11	20,494	36	1
8	Italian	7	searching	searching	2
9	Polish	7	691	searching	1
10	Traditional Chinese	10	searching	searching	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>317</b>	<b>385,979</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>22</b>
*CE has not reviewed all relevant papers yet					

### Future plan and further requests

We are hoping to complete the initial search stage within the next 2-3 months, and move on to the second stage, a deeper analysis of the collected information. For this we have recently realised that **it would be truly great if we could collect a bit more information (more specifically, study site coordinates and experimental designs) from each of the identified relevant studies**. Some of you might have already received an email request on this, but I know this is another time-consuming task, so let me explain here why we are hoping to extract such information.

At the beginning, I asked everyone to extract only species names from each relevant literature. This is to compare species covered by studies in different languages. We expect to see that non-English-language literature could fill the gap in species covered by English-language literature. However, Alec Christie, a PhD student in Cambridge, has recently extracted study locations and experimental designs from English-language studies in the Conservation Evidence database (see this: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/797639v1.full>), which has opened up some exciting opportunities. First, if we can extract study locations from non-English literature, we can test if non-

English literature can fill gaps in the geographical coverage of English-language studies. This is a huge addition to our future paper as we could discuss both spatial and species gaps in existing evidence. Meanwhile, experimental designs will be used to test if study quality is significantly different or not between languages. Without this, our future paper could be criticised with the assumption of non-English studies = low-quality studies. I had been worrying about this but now we can partly address this criticism, should we have the data extracted. So all of these are for making the analysis and paper even better and more rigorous.

**I would thus appreciate it very much if you could offer to help this process (i.e., extract study locations and experimental designs from the identified studies).** If not that's fine of course. I am aware that you have already spent much time for this project. In that case, if you know of anyone who might be interested, please let us know.

**We are also still looking for collaborators for French - the last gap in our searches. Again, if you know any French-speakers in your networks who might be interested in this collaboration, please let us know.**

We are planning to finish analysing data and writing our paper by the end of the year. But for this, we will still surely need your skill and knowledge on your languages, e.g., for extracting further information like our request above, or interpreting results etc. So again, a little bit more help from you, when needed, would be much, much appreciated!

Anyway thanks so much for your contribution so far and we will keep you updated on the future progress.