Explanation of the downloadable graphic files (*.png, *.pdf)

- The altitude maps "Altitude_Samples_*" are based on the altitudes reported on the field sheets of the GEMAS samples. The point data were interpolated into the surface using the same kriging procedures as for the representation of the single element maps. The calculation was done separately for the Ap and Gr samples.
- The representations of the altitude maps "Altitude_Worldclim_*" are based on the altitude grid (UCDAVIS, 2005) contained in the WorldClim database version 1.4 (WorldClim.org, 2005). The grid has a spatial resolution of 30 arc seconds. This is equivalent to about 0.86 km^2 at the equator and less elsewhere. The files "Altitude_Worldclim_Shading_*" contain additional shading.
- The scale of the full size maps is 1:25 000 000.
- The suffixes "_150_dpi" and "_600_dpi" indicate the native resolution of the graphics.

Explanation of the ESRI-Shapefiles

- All shapefiles are combined in one ZIP file.
- The naming of the shapefiles within the ZIP file follows the same pattern as the naming of the graphic files, whereby the specification of the graphic resolution is omitted, of course.
- The spatial resolution of the shapefiles generated from the altitudes of the sample sites ("Altitude (*_Samples)") is 1:20 000 000, derived from the sampling density of one sample per 2 500 km^2. These shapefiles are unsuitable for display at larger scales (e.g. 1:1 000 000). The smallest significantly assessable object size is about 50 x 50 km.
- The shapefile "Altitude_worldclim" was derived from the altitude grid (UCDAVIS, 2005) contained in the WorldClim database version 1.4 (WorldClim.org, 2005). The grid has a spatial resolution of 30 arc seconds. This is equivalent to about 0.86 km^2 at the equator and less elsewhere. This grid was first clipped to the extent of the project survey area, reclassified and finally converted into a polygon shape.
- The coordinate reference system of the shapefiles is EPSG:3035 (ESRI: ETRS_1989_LAEA). Further information can be found at https://epsg.io/3035.
- The attribute tables of the shapefiles include the fields GRIDCODE (format integer) and CLASSLIMIT (format string, length 75). The field GRIDCODE contains the (numeric) class number of the corresponding area; the field CLASSLIMIT contains the corresponding value range.

References

UCDAVIS (University of California, Davis campus, 2005): https://biogeo.ucdavis.edu/data/climate/worldclim/1_4/grid/cur/alt_30s_bil.zip. (downloaded: 2012-10-23, last accessed: 2021-05-26)

WorldClim.org (2005): WorldClim 1.4 historical climate conditions for 1960-1990. https://www.worldclim.org/data/v1.4/worldclim14.html. (downloaded: 2012-10-23, last accessed: 2021-04-07).