

Session 5. Dissemination
Meetings, messages & opportunities
Sue Collins, Martin Warren and Cristina Sevilleja
Butterfly Conservation Europe



UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



HELMHOLTZ
Centre for Environmental Research

ABLE Dissemination and Awareness Raising

Who?

Volunteers and EBMS Coordinators and potential Coordinators

EU level – DG Environment, DG Agriculture, EEA, JRC, Eurostat, EU Parliament, EU Committee of the Regions
Member States' Authorities – EU Nature Directors, N Parks
Experts and academics interested in Pollinators
NGOs and some landowners

Civil Society

How?

Meetings, Conference Presentations, Workshops
Field Guides, Articles, Posters, Newsletters, emails
Social Media – Twitter and Facebook

Why?

To increase participation and support and ensure use of butterfly abundance data in policy evaluation and design



The eBMS in Numbers (1990 – 2018)

▶ 5,086,884 counts

▶ 17,333 km of transect

▶ 913,821 visits



a round and a half to the moon!

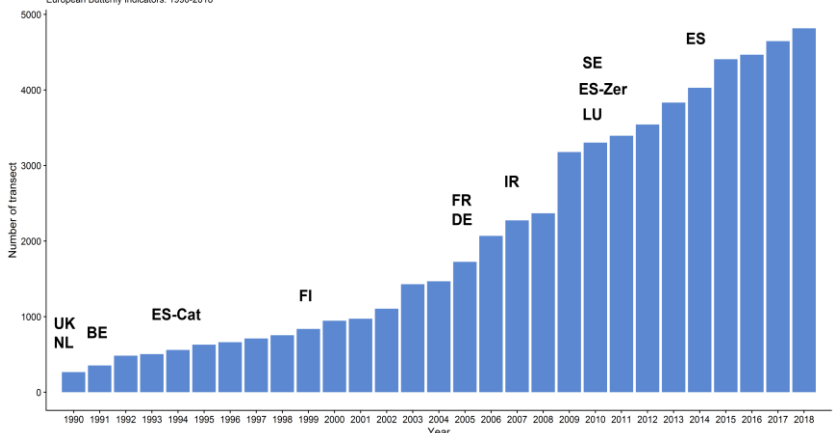
▶ 10,816 transects

▶ 312 species monitored

▶ 25 schemes across

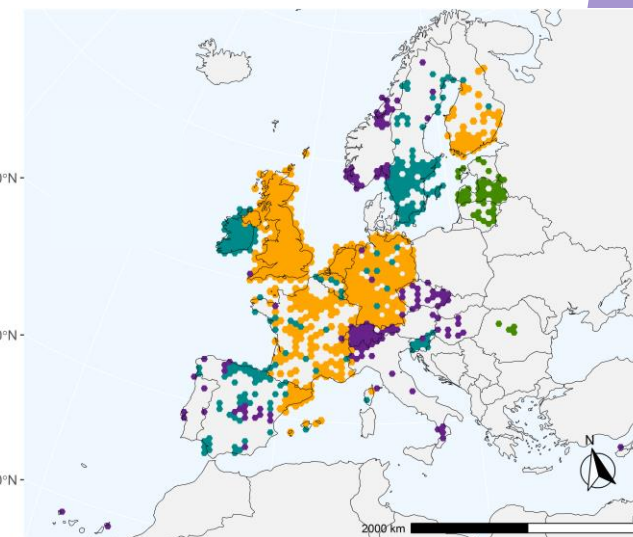
22 Countries

Number of BMS transect
European Butterfly Indicators: 1990-2018



2019
IT, PT,
SL, HU,
CY

2020
CZ, NO,
SW, LV



Butterfly data input

- **Sustainable development Goals in the EU:** *Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context 2020*

Goal 15: ...conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, inland-water and mountain ecosystems (...)

- Indicator set, Biodiversity: Bird index and **Grassland Butterfly index**



- **Living Planet Index 2020**

Chapter 1: an SOS for nature
European grassland butterflies

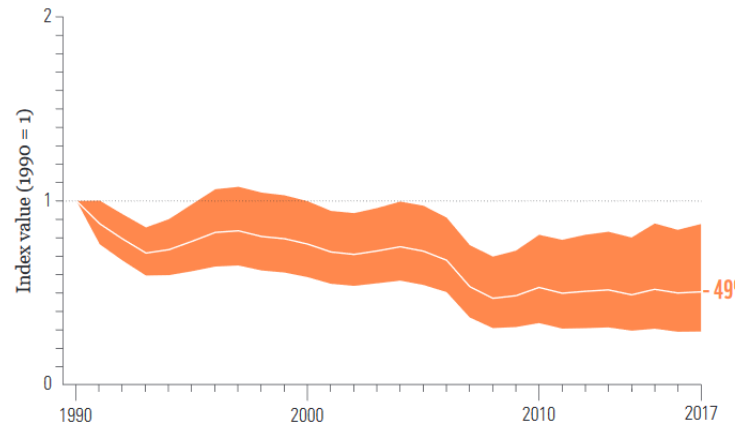


Figure 9: The Living Planet Index for European grassland butterflies: 1990 to 2017

The abundance of 17 grassland butterfly species declined by 49% on average. The white line shows the index values and the shaded areas represent the statistical certainty surrounding the trend (range: -71% to -13%). Data contributed by Butterfly Conservation in Europe, European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, *Assessing Butterflies in Europe Consortium*⁹⁹. The LPI method differs slightly to other analyses of the data⁹⁹ but the ranges overlap, meaning that the results are statistically similar.

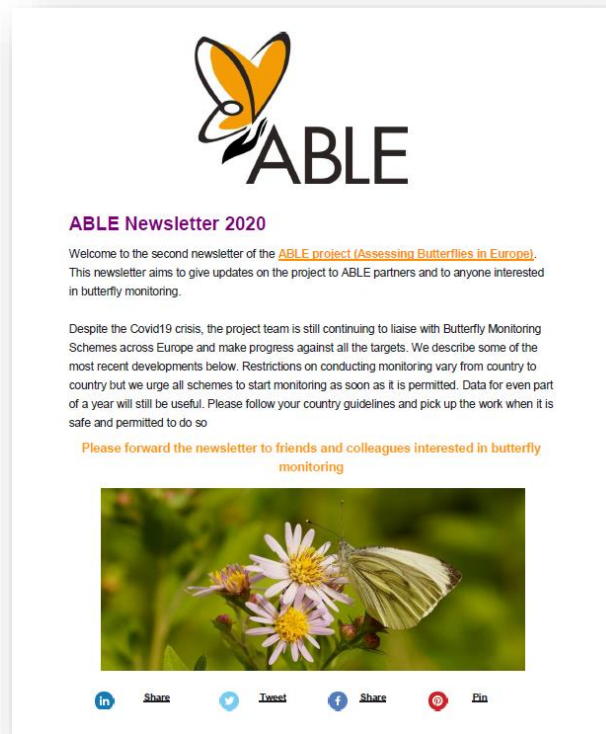
Key

- LPI for European grassland butterflies
- Confidence limits

Dissemination: ABLE

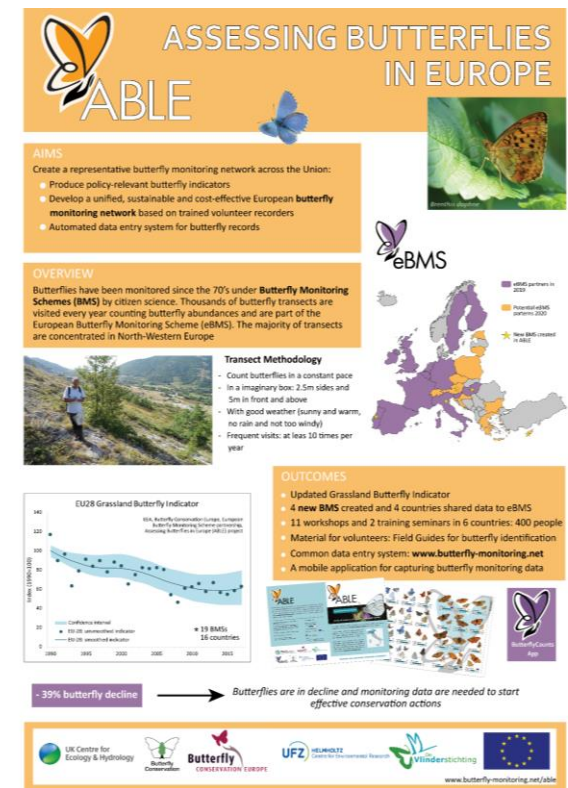
ABLE Newsletter 2019 & 2020

+ 150 recipients



ABLE Poster

Conference Halting the loss of pollinators – Brussels 2020



Dissemination: Social Media

Butterfly Conservation Europe

Twitter campaigns:

#FebruaryButterflyMonth

#AprilButterflyMonth



@europebutterfly

Top Tweet earned 6,580 impressions

Day 6 #Anthocariseuphenoides

The butterfly of today in #AprilButterflyMonth. The delicate Provence Orange-tip is found only in south-west Europe. It lays its eggs singly on the flower-heads of crucifers. 🦋🦋 Did you see it? Others Orange-tips welcome! pic.twitter.com/fMhMyj2MX3



10 replies 17 retweets 102 likes

Top mention earned 1,623 engagements

Kaisu Pyy @xaya_pooh - Apr 9

I made a butterfly bar at my parents yard last year and among the 'Flybars regulars (Comma gang) two Peacock came about to have drink! 29.08.2019 Sotkamo, Finland @europebutterfly #AprilButterflyMonth pic.twitter.com/5ev3y9sWdu



11 replies 46 retweets 314 likes

Portugal

TAGIS - Centro de Conservação das Borboletas de Portugal entusiasmado(a). 19 de septiembre

Mais um curso de formação no âmbito do projeto ABLE e dos Censos de Borboletas de Portugal. Desta vez o anfitrião foi o Parque Natural do Alvão, mas também contamos com a participação de técnicos e vigilantes da natureza do PN Douro Internacional, PN Litoral Norte, PN Montesinho e do Parque Nacional Peneda-Gerês. Um verdadeiro êxito: com pelo menos seis novos transetos a começar em 2020 nestas áreas protegidas! 16 e 17 de setembro de 2019 #ABLE Butterfly Conservation Europe Ver traducción



Slovenia

DPOMS - Društvo za proučevanje in ohranjanje metuljev Slovenije 24 June

Beautiful world of butterflies
If you are interested in butterflies or would like to know more about them, you are kindly invited to see the exhibition in the city house in the center of Ljubljana. 🦋

👉 Free entrance.
🌐 See original · Rate this translation



WED, 5 AUG
Čudoviti svet metuljev Ljubljana, Slovenia 87 people interested Interested



Italy

ALI - Associazione Lepidotterologica Italiana 26 August

ALI supporta il Butterfly Monitoring Scheme
Unisciti anche tu alla rete di monitoraggio europea delle farfalle del Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Contribuisci alla #conservazione di questi meravigliosi insetti attraverso il loro monitoraggio. Puoi contare le #farfalle lungo un percorso fisso (transetto) oppure puoi percorrere piccole aree e campionare con il conteggio a tempo (conteggio di 15 minuti).

Partecipare è semplice..... See more
See translation



ALI - Associazione Lepidotterologica Italiana Non-profit organisation Send Message

Poland

Laskotani motyla skrzydlami 10 May

WANTS TO SEE YOUR LEGS!
Unfortunately, for obvious reasons 🙄 monitoring meetings planned by us and by Butterfly Conservation Europe cannot take place 🙄. Among them were also supposed to be joint BUTTERYLE walks, during which you could m. in with your own eyes, see how to count and RECOGNIZE Butterflies. We can't meet, but nothing stands in the way of dating butterflies 🦋 and learning to identify them. In order to facilitate and encourage it every once in a while I will try to... See more

🌐 See original · Rate this translation



Dissemination: Magazines

Arctopos article, 2020

CONTRIBUTING TO THE LONG-TERM MONITORING OF INSECTS: THE ASSESSING BUTTERFLIES IN EUROPE (ABLE) PROJECT

by Cristina G. Sevilleja, Nigel Bourn, Sue Collins, Josef Settele, Chris van Someren, Martin Warren & David B. Roy

INTRODUCTION

There are an increasing number of articles reporting major declines in insect numbers. Most notably has been the UN Environment Foresight report that highlights that we are losing the "Little things that run the world" (Gordon *et al.*, 2019). The global media have greatly added to the raised awareness of the current plight of insects, referring to an insect 'apocalypse' or 'Armageddon'. Such alarming headlines have resulted from several scientific papers, including in the journal *Biological Conservation* (Sánchez-Bayo & Wyckhuys, 2019) which warns about 41% of insect species in decline in the last decade, twice the rate of loss among vertebrates.

The review undertaken by Sánchez-Bayo & Wyckhuys included 73 reports of declining entomofauna mainly in Europe and North America, using data across terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. The review found that well-studied taxa—Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera and dung beetles—had declined most markedly. Declines were attributed



Wall Lacuna *Lacuna lepida*. Declining not just in the UK but across Europe, of the 17 species that make up the EU Grassland indicator it is the most rapidly declining (Photo: M. Warren).

30 Arctopos 65

www.arctopos.info



Scarce Large Blue *Phengaris teleus* is relatively widespread in Europe, and was successfully re-introduced to the Netherlands, but new monitoring schemes in Poland and Slovakia are essential to help monitor this species in Europe (Photo: M. Warren).

to three main causes: the increase of intensive agriculture, land use change and fragmentation of the habitat, and climate change. This review has received much criticism (e.g. Thomas *et al.*, 2019; Simmons *et al.*, 2019) for its extrapolations of rates of insect extinction and only considering studies reporting decline; its strength is in bringing together a range of individual studies reporting insect declines.

The Sánchez-Bayo & Wyckhuys review followed an earlier report that also generated considerable media attention. This study, reported by Hallman *et al.* (2017) was notable in two respects. Firstly, the scale of the 76% decline in biomass of flying insects over a 27-year period (a metric rarely reported), and secondly, the sites sampled for the analysis were protected areas. But again this study has been heavily criticised, biomass and abundance are different and

tropical areas is typical & García, 2018) found loss of ground-dwelling synchronous decline these losses to a 2°C cycles, although the area experiences few

The media after recognition of the in populations remain there is a lack of a

www.arctopos.info

FEATURE | MONITORING IN EUROPE

Spreading wings

Butterfly Conservation Europe's continent-wide monitoring network goes from strength to strength. **Cristina Sevilleja and Dr Martin Warren report**



Cristina Sevilleja, eBMS Quality & eBMS's network project manager

Better than know us butterflies, but to conserve them, we have to be able to track their numbers as accurately as possible, and that means international cooperation is vital.

The most widely used monitoring technique was pioneered in the UK during the early 1970s and involves counting butterflies every week along a fixed transect. It led to the first ever Butterfly Monitoring Scheme in 1976. The method proved so effective in Britain that many other countries followed suit. As the monitoring data mountain grew, we needed a system for storing it. So, in 2014, the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS) was born. Butterfly Conservation Europe, a joint venture between the UK and eBMS, is now the lead organisation for the eBMS project (Assessing Butterflies in Europe). The programme has three main aims: to provide a standard for all the monitoring data in



Coverage of the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme in May 2020 (Arctopos project)



Dr Martin Warren is Butterfly Conservation Europe's head of development

a single database and produce a suite of indicators showing the overall trend of butterflies in Europe to report the network to countries with no monitoring scheme; and to provide digital infrastructure, such as

websites and mobile apps, to encourage butterfly monitoring. It was an ambitious project. To make it happen, a consortium was set up, involving UK, Europe, Butterfly Conservation, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Dutch Butterfly Conservation, and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (HZI) in Germany.

During 2018, alongside Italy, Portugal, Slovakia and Luxembourg joined the network, bringing the total number of countries reported to 17. The expanded database now had information on more than 2,000 butterfly transects, giving a better picture of trends across the continent. But it remained a key goal to maintain more consistent, such as those around the Mediterranean and in eastern Europe.

The monitoring manual was translated into several other languages and new monitoring materials were developed. Throughout 2018, a series of workshops were held in Butterfly Conservation Europe partners, bringing together volunteers and professional ecologists to update the methodology and how to share a transect. Workshops were held in Italy, Portugal, Austria, Hungary and Cyprus. Then in December 2018, a workshop was held for representatives from across Europe to discuss

MONITORING IN EUROPE | FEATURE

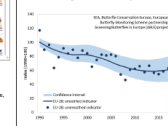


Guide to identifying butterflies in northern Italy

how they would get involved. Delegates from 28 countries attended, showing how truly international the ABLE project had become.

From the start, we recognised that establishing weekly transects in all parts of Europe was probably impossible. So we created a smartphone app to gather 15-minute counts from anywhere on the continent. The new Butterfly Count app can be used by butterfly enthusiasts on holiday, as well as by local people who still have the time to do daily weekly transects. The app was made available in May 2020 and has already enjoyed a substantial uptake.

We've watched about the project's next phase: producing butterfly indicators to show trends of butterflies in Europe. The first to be completed is the Grassland Butterfly Indicator, based on 17 widespread species, which has shown an overall decline of 20% since 1990. In the coming months, the aim is to produce an



The Grassland Butterfly Indicator for the EU. The shaded area represents the 95% confidence interval around the trend line.

overall indicator for all butterfly species, as well as indicators for woodland species, urban species and the impact of climate change.

The overall mission of the eBMS is producing data that improve European policies for butterflies and other wildlife. Throughout the ABLE project, links have been developed with organisations across Europe. We will build active partnerships with these organisations at the end of 2020 to update them on our progress and explore the implications of the new butterfly indicators. With that help, we hope to maximise the conservation efforts of countless butterfly enthusiasts into a better future for butterflies and biodiversity in general. W

GET INVOLVED
Learn more about the new European Butterfly Count app at butterfly-monitoring.net/eBMS-app



Nature Today magazine 2020



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Latest news

- New host of Caribbean gall crab found hidden in plain sight on Bonaire's coral reefs 22-Oct-2020
- Protecting Saba Bank's Red hind and Queen triggerfish populations 21-Oct-2020
- Using sound to track marine mammals in Saba Bank 14-Oct-2020
- Aggressive wasp eats baby bird's head 13-Oct-2020
- How are dragonflies doing worldwide? 12-Oct-2020
- Soil stripping in dry heathlands does not mitigate high nitrogen deposition 10-Oct-2020
- Assisted natural recovery of sea urchin populations around Saba and Sint Eustatius 06-Oct-2020
- Ocean's canaries have survived previous perturbations in the Earth's carbon cycle



Help counting Europe's butterflies

[Dutch Butterfly Conservation](http://Dutch.Butterfly.Conservation)

17-FEB-2020 - I conservation. Everyone can biodiversity.

EBCC Newsletter 2020



Contacts

- About us
- What we do
- Monitoring and atlas work
- Useful reading
- Join us
- Sponsorship



Butterfly Monitoring in Europe – how you can help

28. 10. 2020 | alena.khvanova

The European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS) was started in 2014 by Butterfly Conservation Europe and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. In December 2018 the eBMS was supported by a contract from the EU for a new project Assessing Butterflies in Europe (ABLE).

Butterfly Conservation Newsletter, Autumn 2020



Key Messages from ABLE

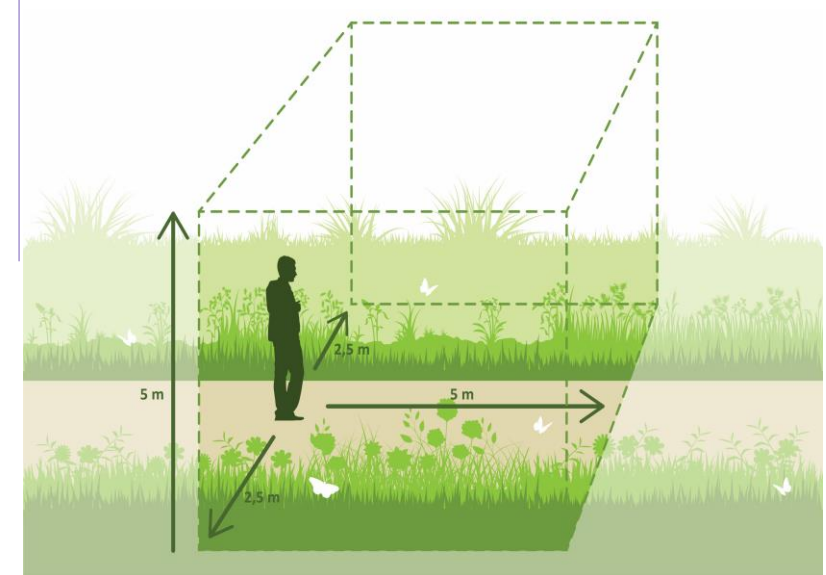
Citizen Science works! Its fun and builds skills.

Systematic frequent monitoring
standardized methodology, with
coordination and
feedback to volunteers

Highly effective and delivers excellent value for money

The ABLE project was needed to:
share enormous experience generated over decades
stimulate the setting up of new schemes to
collect and deliver good quality abundance data
creation of a first class, structured database with
capacity for calculating trends and indicators

The App is brilliant too!



Key Messages from ABLE

Capacity building and financial support to coordination vital for sustainability and growth of eBMS schemes

- we need ABLE II

Placing national data in EU context and learning from each other is inspiring

eBMS database is a first class research resource

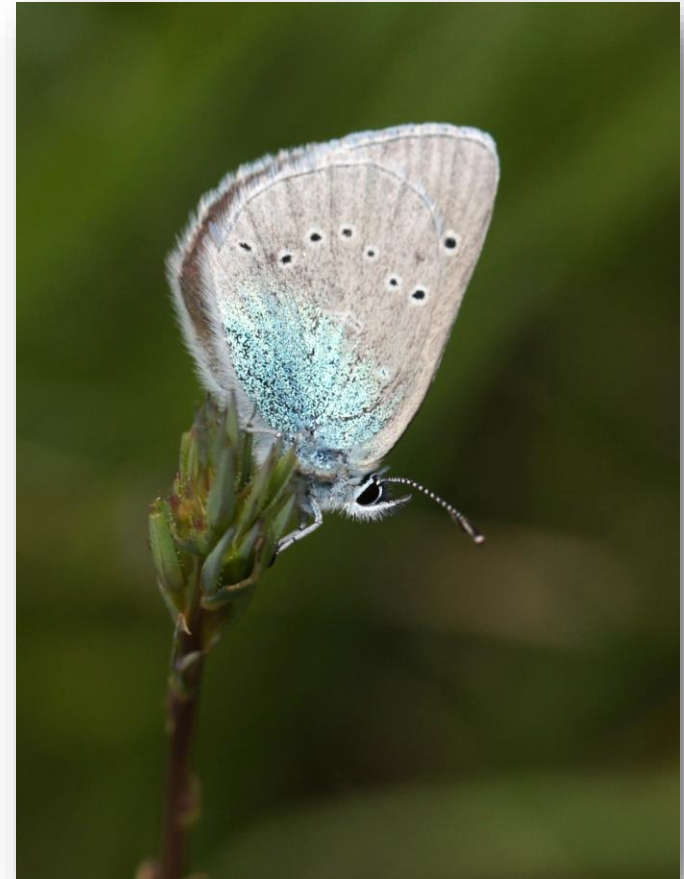
Imperative to keep using evidence and indicators from field monitoring to underpin and reform policies and implementation at EU level, nationally and regionally

Quality, credibility and usefulness of Indicators enhanced by:

more Schemes,

more transects and

more awareness



Opportunities

Possible Funding Opportunities

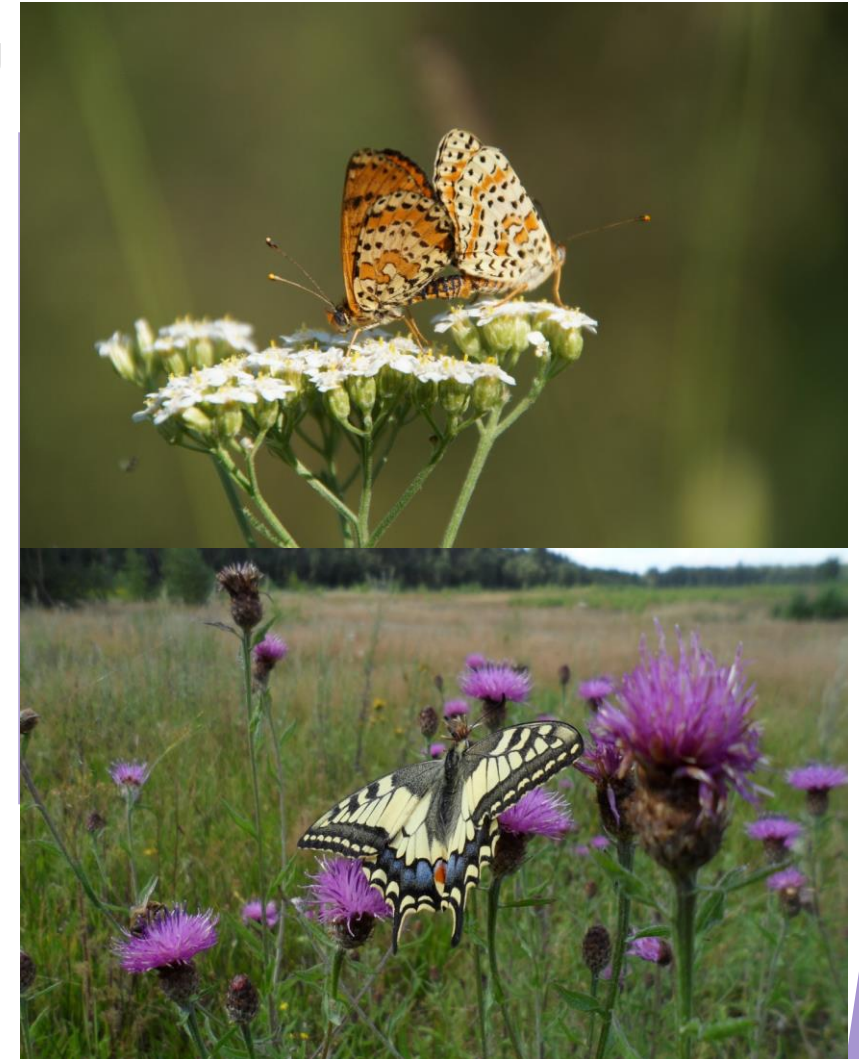
- Parliamentary Preparatory Action (PPA) for Pollinator monitoring building on ABLE and also covering Bumble bees, solitary bees, hoverflies, moths and rare pollinator species
- EU Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call for Citizen Science Projects
- EEA Grants for Citizen Science and Young people in MSs

EU Strategies and Legislation

- EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- Farm2Fork Strategy
- CAP Reform

Exploring Conservation Effectiveness linking habitat data, land use, land management data and satellite earth observations

Adding Protected Areas eg for Red Listed Species and
Influencing Restoration investments





obrigado
 gracias
 Thank you
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 kiitos
 gracias

Coordinators
 Assistants
 Rangers
 Volunteers
 Institutions
 European Commission
 MEPs
 Experts
 ABLE Project Team
 DG Environment

David Roy
 Chris van Swaay
 Emily Dennis
 Reto Schmucki
 Martin Warren
 Nigel Bourn
 Sue Collins
 Irma Wynhoff
 Cristina Sevilleja