# Butterfly Monitoring in Europe eBMS & GBI meeting for EU Member States

- 9.30-11.30h CET
- Andreas Gumbert EU DG ENV
- Introduction Chris van Swaay
- Grassland Butterfly Index GBI Reto Schmucki
- Capacity building Cristina Sevilleja
- Clarification questions directly after each talk, discussion after the last talks; talks will be recorded.

Questions, remarks and discussion (not recorded)





Chris van Swaay

De Vlinderstichting / Dutch Butterfly Conservation

Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE)

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH)

Butterfly Conservation (BC UK)

















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## EMBRACE: all about Butterfly Monitoring



#### ENTOMOLOGIST'S GAZETTE, Vol. 26

79

#### A METHOD OF ASSESSING THE ABUNDANCE OF BUTTERFLIES IN MONKS WOOD NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE IN 1973

By E. POLLARD, D. O. ELIAS, M. J. SKELTON & J. A. THOMAS Monks Wood Experimental Station,\* Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon

There is a need for a simple reliable method of recording the abundance of butterflies in nature reserves and similar places so that changes from year to year can be assessed. The method described



## EMBRACE: all about Butterfly Monitoring

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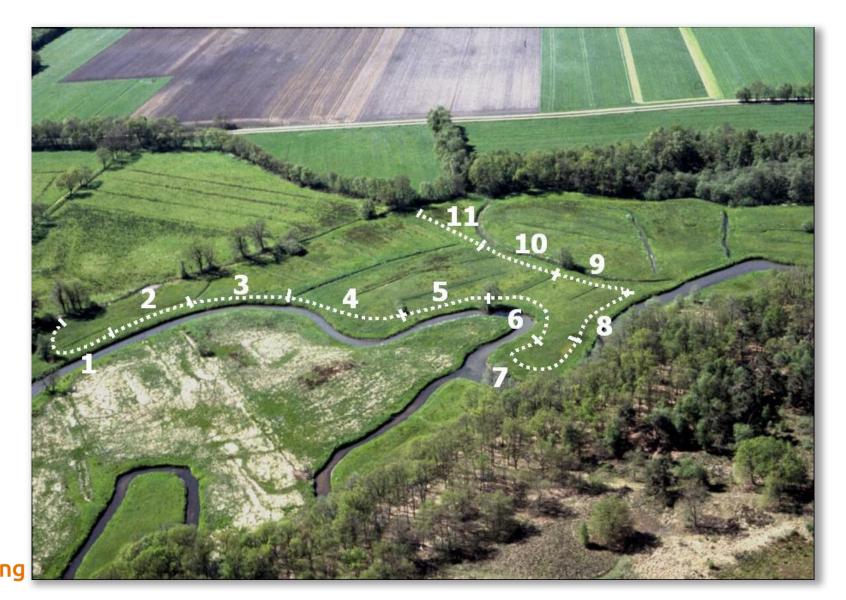
#### **Butterfly monitoring:**

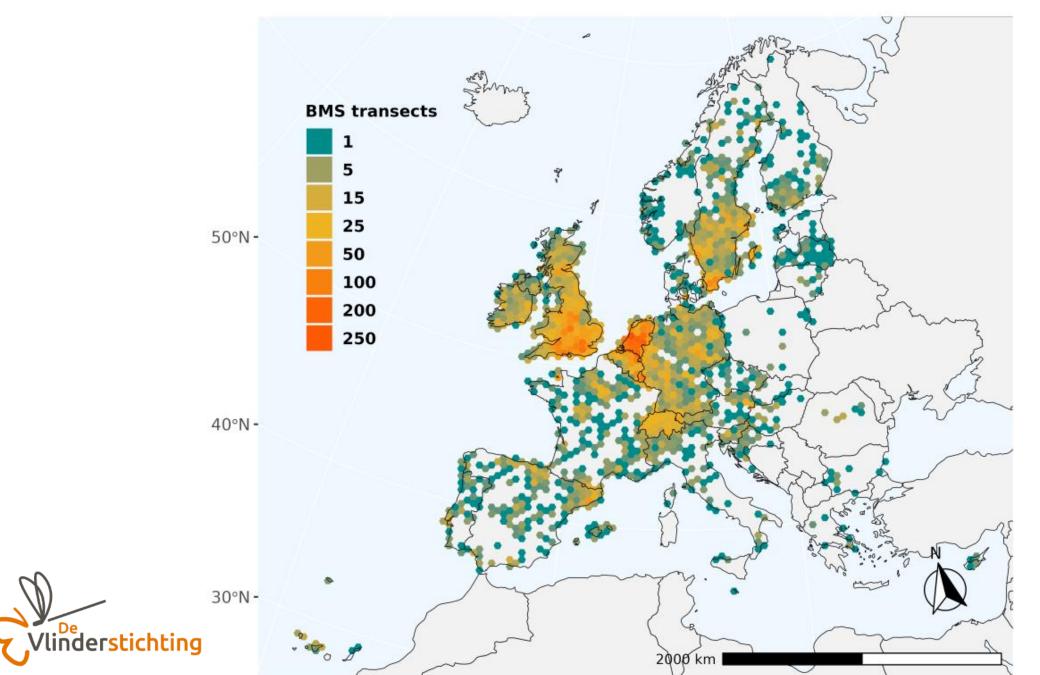
- Since 1973 (UKBMS started 1976)
- Repeated transect-counts of butterflies to species level following <u>protocol</u>
- Mainly by expert-volunteers (citizen science)
- Many sites, number still growing
- Scalable: local/regional/national/continental
- Golden standard: many scientific publications





## Fieldwork: butterfly counts on transects







## National Butterfly Monitoring co-ordinators

- Collect the counts
- Validate the counts
- Can calculate national trends and indicators
- Lead data to eBMS: central database







#### **EMBRACE**

- eBMS
- Extend eBMS network
- Support BMS co-ordinators (we had a workshop on 2 April)
- Capacity building
- Grassland Butterfly Index (GBI) on European/EU level







## Grassland Butterfly Index GBI

• 2005: first version

© PENSOFT Publishers Sofia – Moscow E. Kuehn, J. Thomas, R. Feldmann & J. Settele (Eds) 2005 Studies on the Ecology and Conservation of Butterflies in Europe Proceedings of the Conference held in UFZ Leipzig, 5-9th of December, 2005, pp. 00-00

## Using butterfly monitoring data to develop a European grassland butterfly indicator

Chris Van Swaay1 & Arco van Strien2

De Vlinderstichting/Dutch Butterfly Conservation & Butterfly Conservation Europe, P.O. Box 506, NL-6700 AM Wageningen, Netherlands
<sup>2</sup> Statistics Netherlands, P.O. Box 4000, 2270 JM Voorburg, Netherlands Contact: chris.vanswaay@vlinderstichting.nl



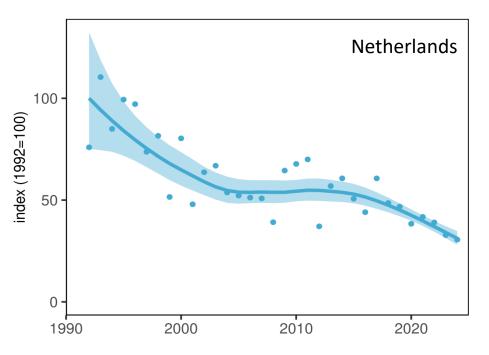
## Grassland Butterfly Index GBI

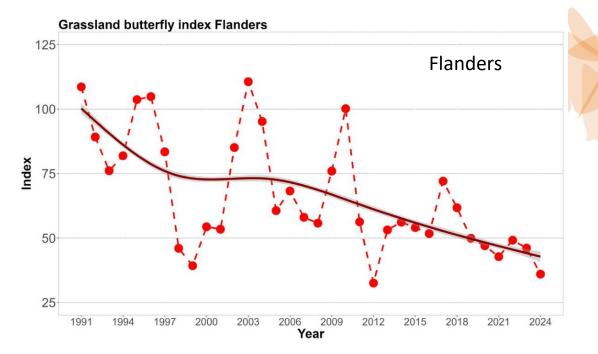
- 2005: first version
- Regular updates with existing data
- ABLE 2019-2020: extension of butterfly monitoring in Europe + update GBI
- SPRING 2021-2023: update up to 2020
- EMBRACE 2025-2026: update up to 2025

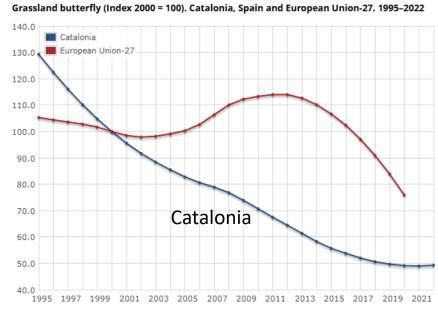


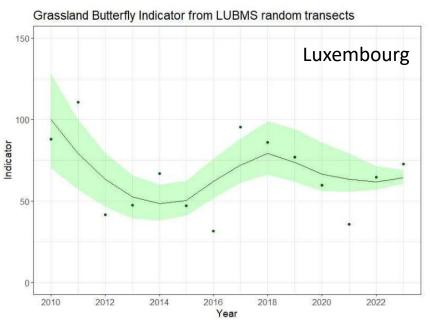


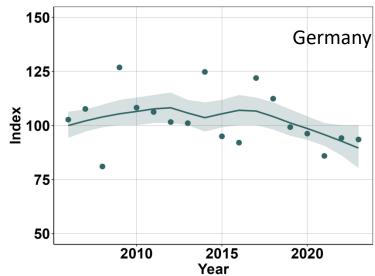






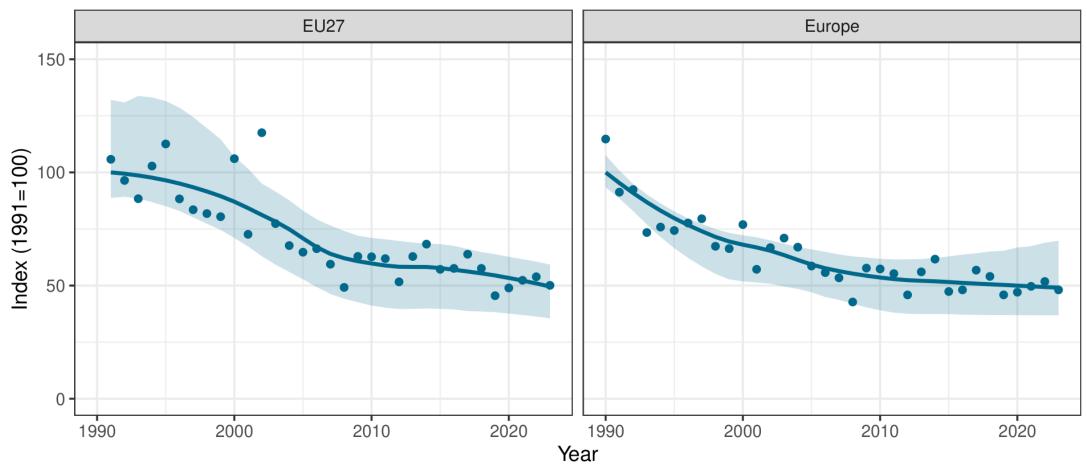






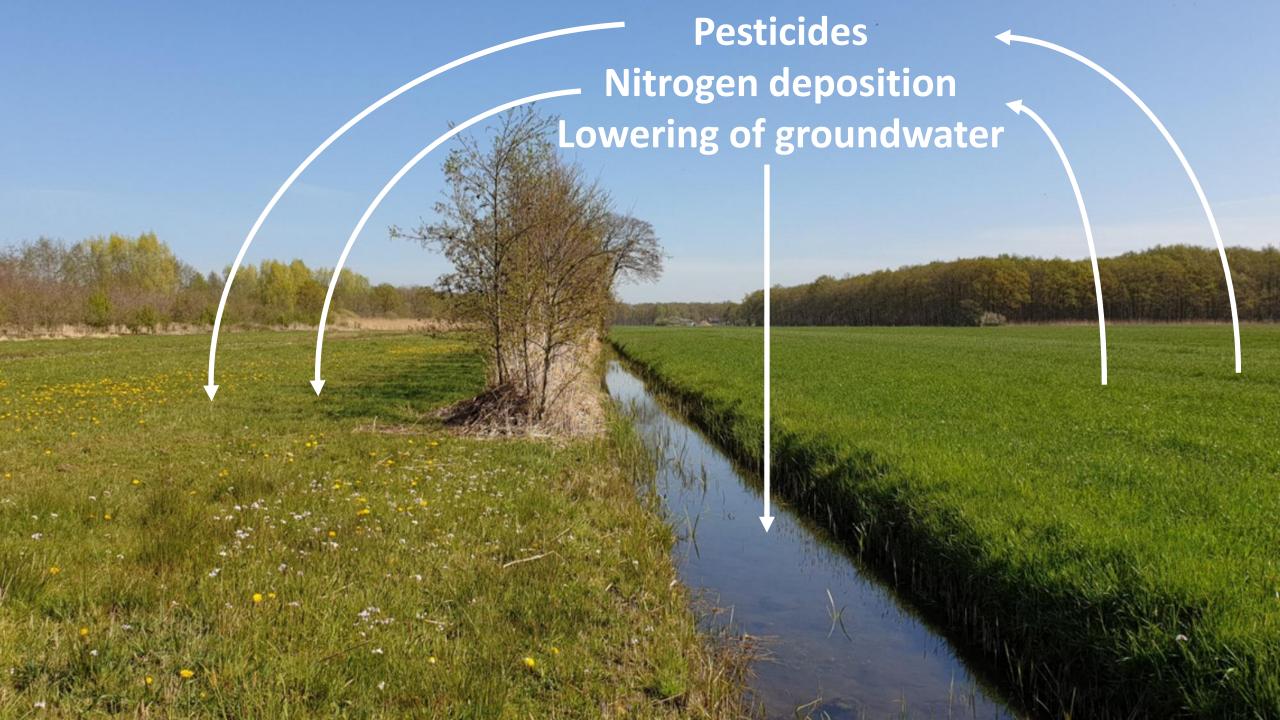
Source Catalonia: Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda. Source Spain and European Union: Eurostat.

## GBI: last update











## How to get a positive trend of the GBI?



- Good monitoring
  - Promote and support your national BMS network
  - Include the EUPoMS butterfly transect (but they won't be enough for the specialist species)
- Improve the quality of grasslands and verges in the wider countryside (which will also be positive for all pollinators), e.g. by good management













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- For specialists: improve the quality of grasslands in nature reserves











#### EMBRACE - timeline

- Support national BMS's
- April 2025: Workshop for BMS co-ordinators
- May 2025: GBI for EU/Europe up to 2023
- Capacity building
- Support in building national GBI's
- → December 2025: GBI for EU/Europe up to 2024
- → December 2026: GBI for EU/Europe up to 2025









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