

Butterfly Indicators for policy evaluation and use of data to improve conservation action and management effectiveness

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EBMS Coordinators Meeting Laufen
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UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



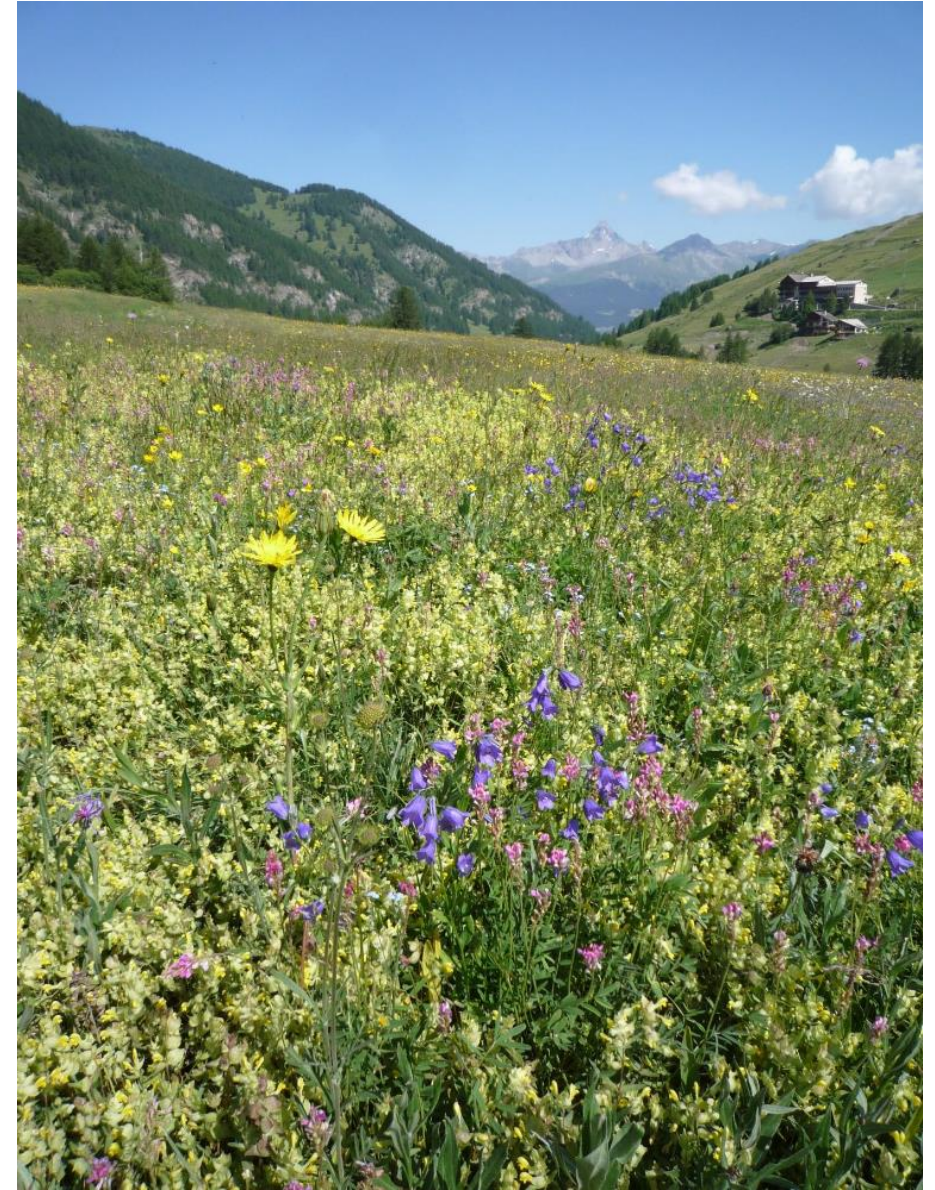
HELMHOLTZ
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BCE Do's and Don'ts for butterflies of EU Habitats Directive

- ▶ Manage at a landscape scale in favour of small scale habitat patches
- ▶ Maintain active pastoral systems
- ▶ Manage for structural diversity: edges
- ▶ Support mosaics of habitats
- ▶ Create connections between patches
- ▶ Manage woodland actively
- ▶ Avoid uniform cutting dates
- ▶ Monitor butterflies and other pollinators in the field

Van Swaay, Chris, Sue Collins, Goran Dušej, Dirk Maes, Miguel López Munguira, Laszlo Rakosy, Nils Ryrholm et al. (2012): *Dos and Don'ts for butterflies of the Habitats Directive of the European Union*. Nature Conservation 1 73.



Poor conservation state of butterflies and their habitats

Butterflies present on thousands of Natura 2000 sites, in EU and nationally Protected Areas and in wider landscape

Grassland habitats often important for non listed butterflies and other wild pollinators

eBMS data, BCE Butterfly Indicators, Red Lists and MSs' HD Article 17 Reports, all underline the poor state of conservation of butterflies and their habitats.

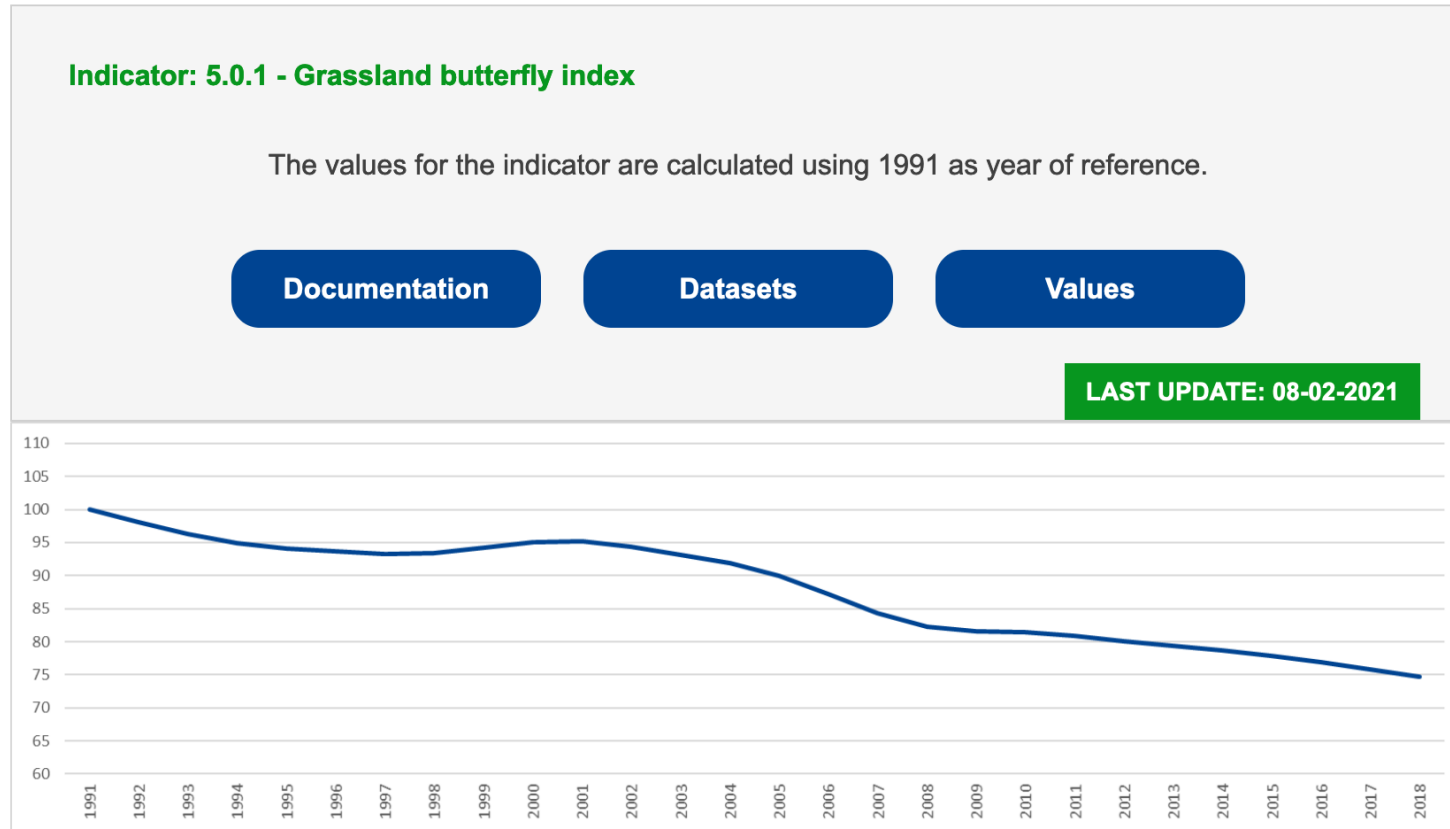
Many butterfly populations and their habitats are in declining condition - **see Holly's following presentation and the data tables we will circulate for discussion with Member State officials, highlighting restoration and management measures needed in your Member State**



EU BDS 2030 Dashboard

Bringing Nature back to Agricultural land

Target 5 The decline of pollinators is reversed

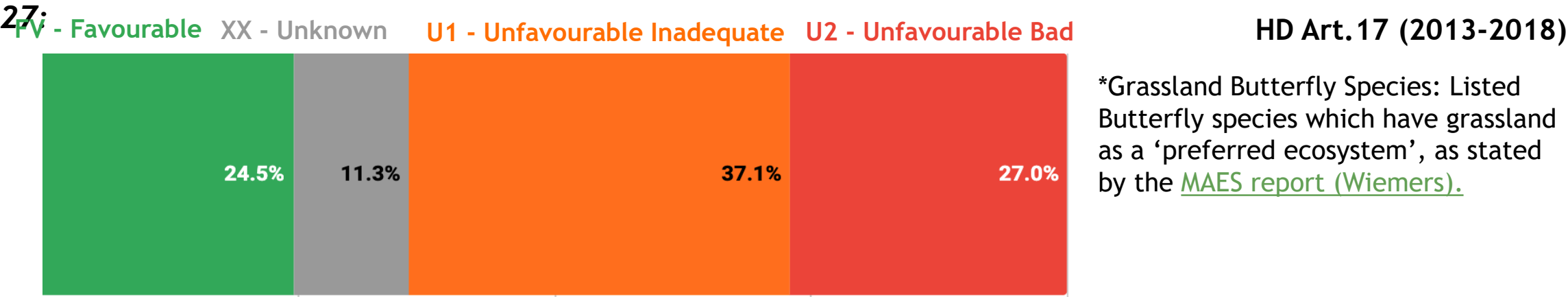


<https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/kcbd/dashboard/>

Evidence of need for restoration action

POOR STATE OF BUTTERFLIES AND POLLINATOR HABITATS OF EUROPEAN IMPORTANCE

Conservation status of Habitats Directive Grassland Butterfly Species* across EU



Conservation status of Area of top 5 most important grassland habitats** for pollinators across EU



Poor state of HD butterflies of grassland habitats

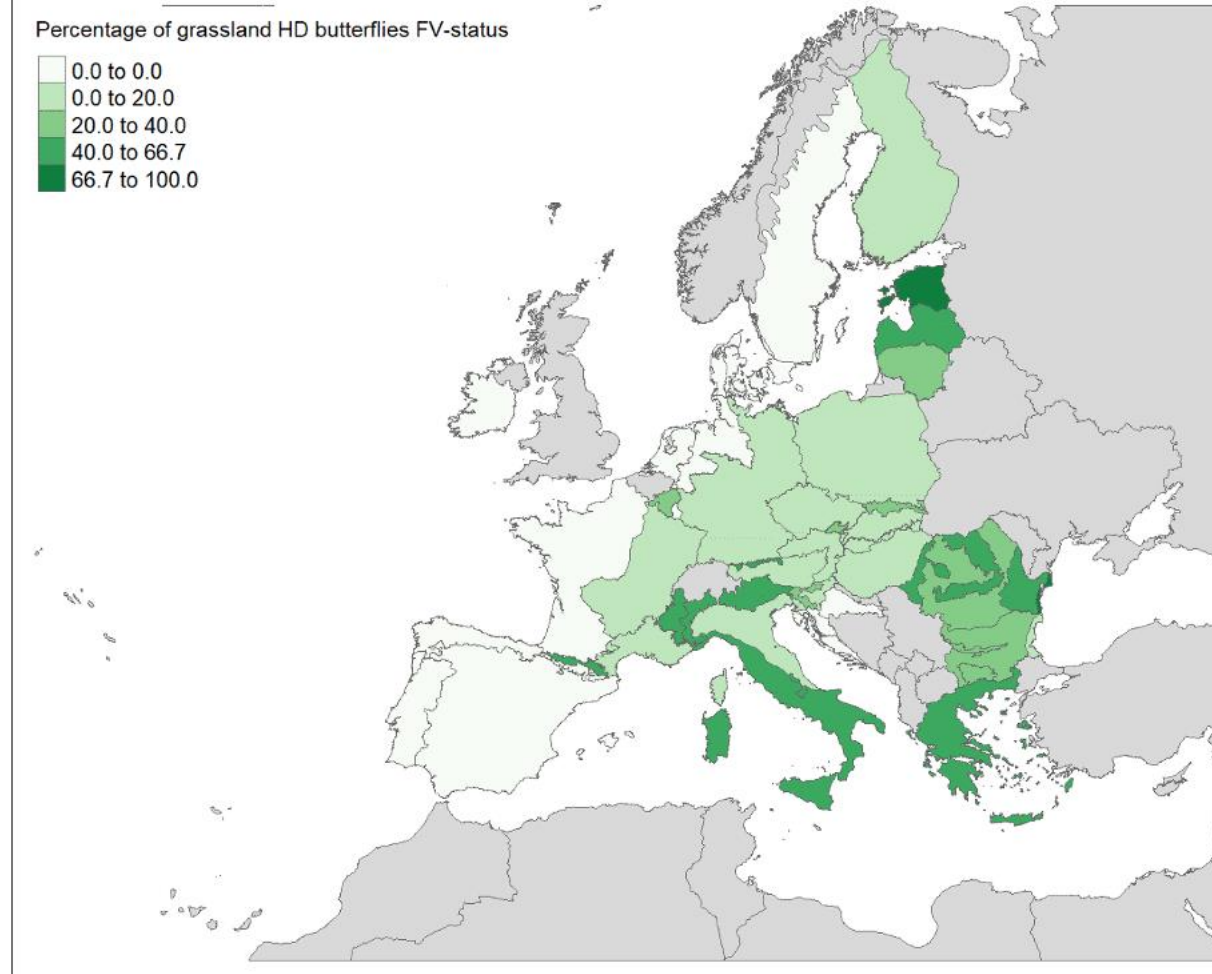
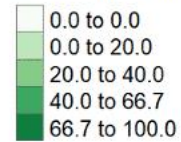
- %age of Grassland HD butterflies in Favourable Conservation Status - Art17 Reports

Favourable Status

Dark green: 66-100%

White: 0%

Percentage of grassland HD butterflies FV-status

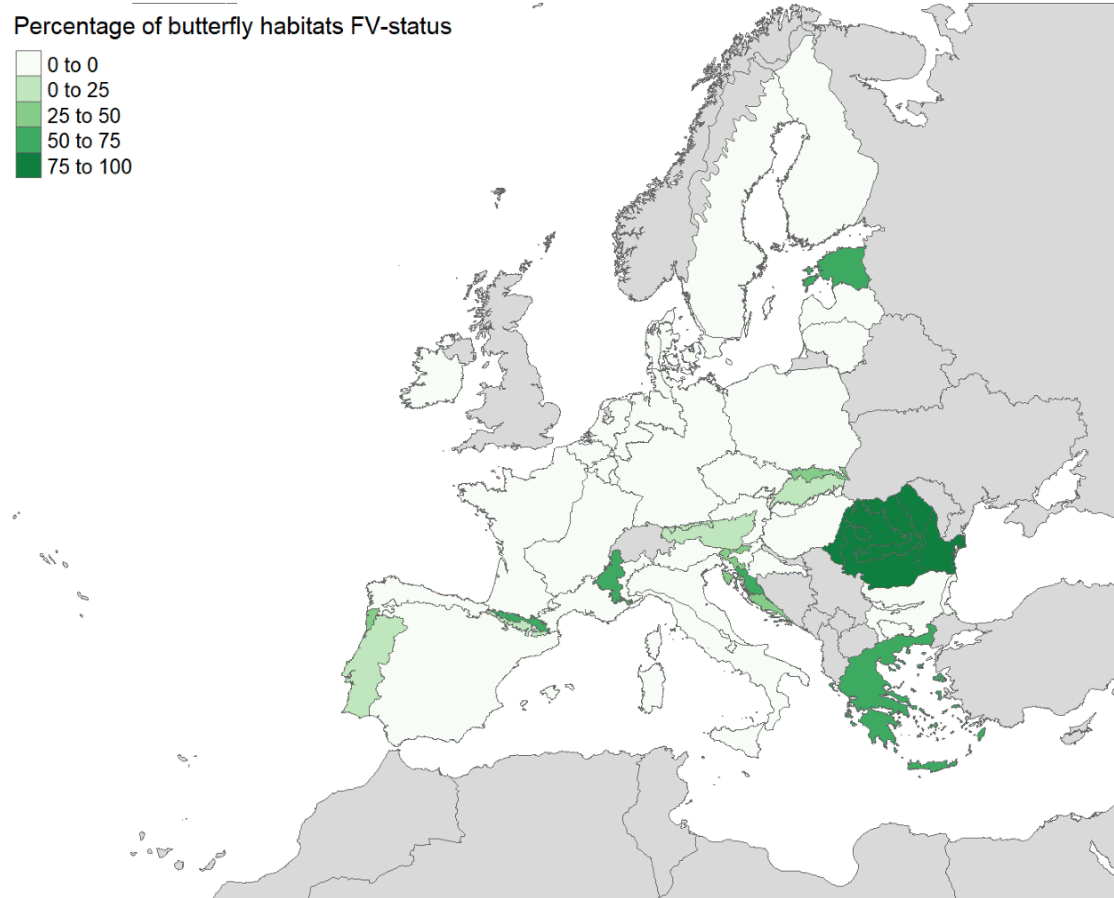
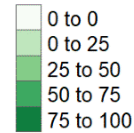


TOP 5 MOST IMPORTANT GRASSLAND HABITATS FOR POLLINATORS BY COUNTRY/BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGION

% age of Natura 2000 Habitats which are important for butterflies and other wild insect pollinators that are in Favourable Conservation Status

Dark green: 75% - 100%
Pale green 0% - 25%
White: 0%

Percentage of butterfly habitats FV-status



Top 3 most dominant ‘High-impact’ pressures and threats

HD Grassland Butterflies

Top 5 most important grasslands for pollinators

EU Level

A06 - **Abandonment** of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing)

A08 - Mowing or cutting of grasslands

A09 - Intensive grazing or **overgrazing** by livestock

A06 - Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing)

L02 - Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)

A09 - Intensive grazing or **overgrazing** by livestock

e.g. Continental (BGR)

A08 - Mowing or cutting of grasslands

A06 - **Abandonment** of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing)

A09 - Intensive grazing or **overgrazing** by livestock

A06 - **Abandonment** of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing)

A09 - Intensive grazing or **overgrazing** by livestock

L02 - Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)

e.g. Germany

A06 - **Abandonment** of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing)

A08 - Mowing or cutting of grasslands

A02 - Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning)

L02 - Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)

A06 - **Abandonment** of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing)

A09 - Intensive grazing or **overgrazing** by livestock

TOP 3 MOST DOMINANT CONSERVATION MEASURES

HD Grassland Butterflies

Top 5 most important grasslands for pollinators

EU Level	<p>CA05 - <i>Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities</i></p> <p>CA03 - <i>Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features</i></p> <p>CA04 - <i>Reinstate appropriate agricultural practices to address abandonment, including mowing, grazing, burning or equivalent measures</i></p>	<p>CA03 - <i>Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features</i></p> <p>CA04 - <i>Reinstate appropriate agricultural practices to address abandonment, including mowing, grazing, burning or equivalent measures</i></p> <p>CA05 - <i>Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities</i></p>
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POSITIVE ACTION FOR POLLINATORS BY EU AND SOME MEMBER STATES

German Insect Plan

French Butterfly Species Action Plans

EU LIFE Projects for Butterfly Recovery

- Blues in the Marshes - NL
- Metamorphosis - Romania, Slovakia, Hungary
- Apollo - Austria, Poland, Slovakia

MS Natura 2000 Butterfly Surveys

- Croatia, NL, Austria, Poland and others

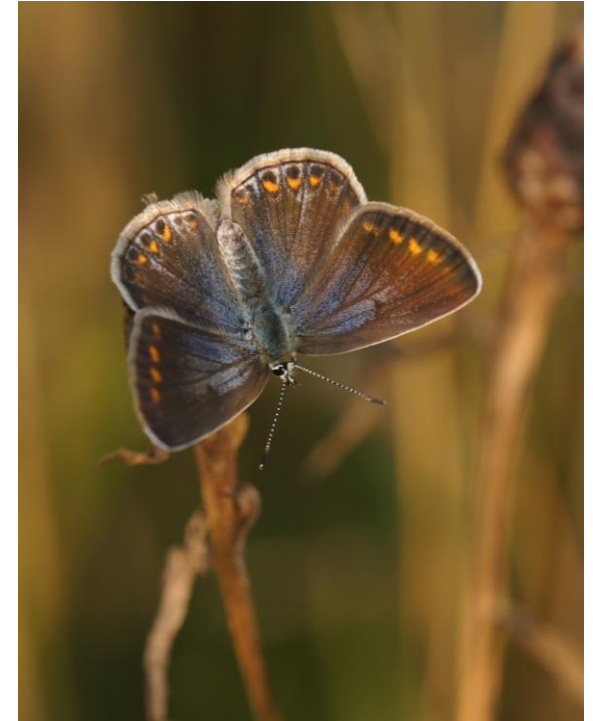
MS support for National eBMS

- France, Flanders, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, UK

EU Parliamentary Projects

- ABLE and SPRING

EEA Grassland Butterfly Indicator Production



CONCLUSIONS

EU and MS have made commitments to support EU BDS 2030 and implement action

Pledges, in 2023, will articulate MS practical commitments to funded measures - **vital to include butterflies in these**

2018 HD Art 17 MS Reports set baseline of Conservation Status trends

eBMS butterfly monitoring data and trends highly relevant to scale of action needed

Draft Nature Restoration Law adds binding commitments on restoration and monitoring from 2026 - **welcome suggested amendments to strengthen draft Law**

EU commitments to level of Biodiversity spending by EU funds, including CAP
7.5% of EU Budget (MFF) in 2024; 10% in 2026

BCE/ SPRING aim - to secure sustained funding for EBMS part time coordinators and data management

Need much more positive action by EU Member States to put in place measures for maintaining and restoring populations of butterflies, moths and their habitats