

Figure 1: Input to the EuMon database by week with indications of special events triggering the input.

Event 1 – sending out coverletters to a few institutions for testing purposes; Event 2 – First large scale contacting of monitoring organisations across Europe with a focus on Eastern European Countries (N ~ 840); Event 3 - Second large scale contacting of monitoring organisations across Europe with a focus on Germany, Spain, France, Austria and Switzerland (N ~ 760); Event 4 – summer hole; Event 5 – series of announcements at meetings and congresses and sending out of the first EuMon newsletter; Event 6 – Christmas break.

Dear colleagues and EuMon supporters,

This is the third EuMon-Newsletter. The high-level input to our database has ceased by now (Fig. 1), but it is still possible to contribute your scheme and we would highly recommend that you do in order to improve the value of the database for yourselves in the future. The database will remain accessible online after the end of the EuMon project in April 2008. Our aim is that it will become an official tool for the EU-Commission and the Habitats Reporting but this is still in discussion.

From within EuMon

In our database, especially bird schemes are well represented, while fungi and marine mammals are hardly covered (Fig. 2). The schemes inputted to our database represent a total of 46,275 persons working a total of 148,690 person-days per year. The monitoring costs an estimated 3.979 Million Euros per year, calculating equipment and salary costs of professionals. Despite the costliness of expert involvement, 159 schemes (39.45%) do not involve volunteers at all. The majority of such pure professional schemes have been registered in Poland, (65 of 102 polish schemes (63.7%)), while this proportion is 32.3% in Hungary, 28.3% in France and 23.7% in Germany.

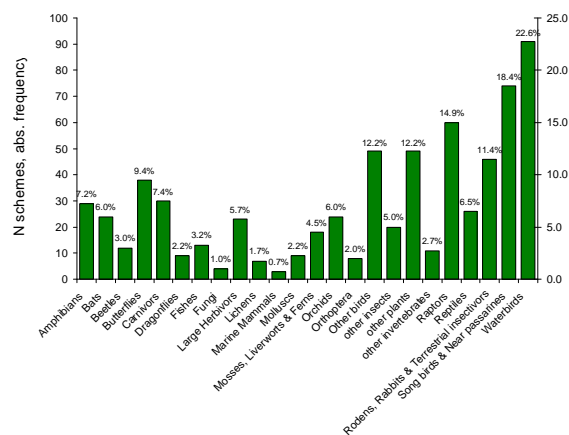


Figure 2: Schemes (abs. and rel. frequency) by species group currently available in DaEuMon

EuMon has entered its final phase, and focuses besides the analysis of the database mainly on the development of tools to make life easier for monitoring organisations and governmental institutions. All the tools will be web-based and accessible for anyone. These tools comprise:

- Tools to assess state and trends in biodiversity based on existing data
- Optimal monitoring design

- Integration of recommended monitoring approaches and methods for species and habitats
- Recommendations for the integration of volunteers in biodiversity monitoring

These tools will provide users with a guide on analysing monitoring data and the design of an efficient monitoring scheme. When beta versions become available, we will inform you and invite you to test and comment. A version of the tools will then be presented to potential users in our final workshop (see below).

Currently available tools are the

- [Online Reports](#), and
- The [Search Interface](#) of DaEuMon

The latter tool is in a beta stage. Please can you support our work by letting us know how we can adapt it to your needs.

The online reports will also be partly integrated in the tools to come, but we would like to draw your attention toward the [newly available reports](#) from our social science group, focusing on the role of volunteers in biodiversity monitoring.

Most of the monitoring organisations employ few paid staff, basing on data from 260 organisations. Most organisations have less than 50 staff. In fact, 56% of the organisations have less than 10 staff whilst around 8% of the organisations each have between 51-100, 101-250, or more than 250 staff (Fig. 2).

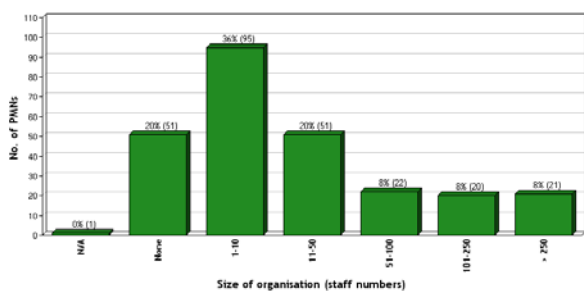


Figure 3: Size frequency (staff numbers) of organisations providing information.

The cooperation between organizations is good and data is exchanged with various institutions (Fig. 3). The category “national level” is dominant for supplying researched information to, next are the categories “local level” and “international level”. Respondents stated that their organizations are supplying data to: National Non-government Organization (35.6%), National Government Organization (33.4%), local non-government organizations (24.0%), research institutes (18.5%), local government organizations (17.2%) and international organizations (14.6%). Museums (4.7%) and private/public companies (4.3%) have the least access. Mainly data is supplied to 1-3 organizations (75.9% of respondents) and the biggest group of respondents belongs to 1 organization monitoring data suppliers (39.4%).

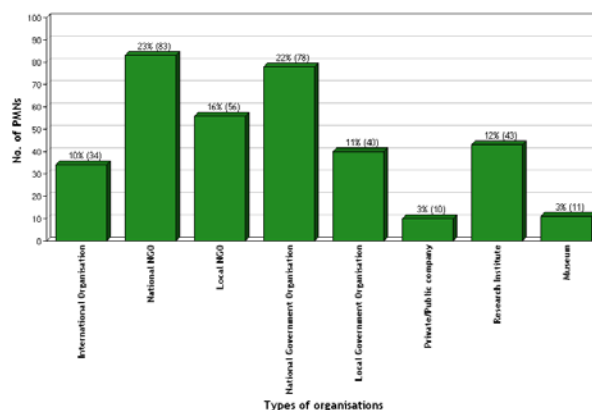


Figure 4: Data receiving institutions of monitoring organisations

More interesting information on participatory monitoring networks can be found on our [webpage](#).

Conferences and meetings

Here, we would like to announce our own workshop. At the workshop we want to present and discuss the results of EuMon with stakeholders, policymakers, and the general public. The meeting is envisaged for the 27th to the 30th of January 2008 at the KUBUS of the UFZ in Leipzig, Germany. The first day is dedicated to the interested public and we plan to include movies on biodiversity issues, a photo exhibition, nature book flea market, and NGO exhibitions among other activities. The major issues we are going to address are:

- Where are gaps in monitoring? What types of education is needed to encourage the public's interest in biodiversity and monitoring?
- BioDiv Monitoring, needs and duties of governments and the public
- Advantages and problems to building multinational monitoring schemes
- Volunteer involvement in BioDivMon

Each day will be dedicated to one of these subjects and will usually start with presentations in the morning and panel discussions in the afternoon. As we can not host too many people, a short note of interest for participation would [help us](#). We will announce the program later on the [EuMon webpage](#).

For the photo exhibition during our workshop we also are open for contributions from you. If you are interested in sending us your best photos of plants, animals, and habitats please get in touch with [us](#).

Some useful web pages

- [NatureGate.FI](#) – a.o. species identification tools
- Criteria for assessing national lists of pSCI at [biogeographical level](#)
- [British Trust for Ornithology - Garden BirdWatch scheme](#)
- [The National Biodiversity Network](#)
- [The Butterfly Monitoring Project](#)
- [The monitoring scheme for butterflies](#) as bioindicators of environmental quality in Catalonia
- [The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#)
- [The Butterfly Scheme in Germany](#)

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