



Volunteer Involvement in Biodiversity Monitoring

1



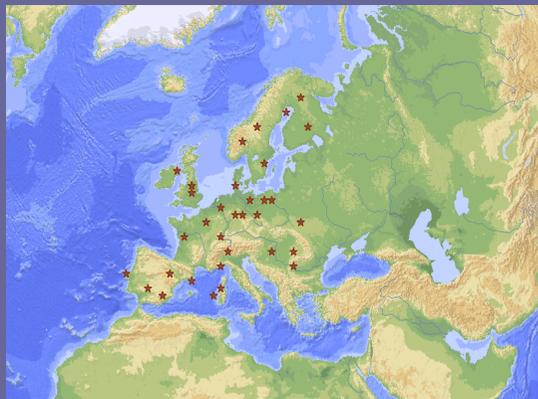
Increased demand for biodiversity data due to

- international agreements and treaties
- Environmental assessment for spatial planning and development

NEED TO EXPAND NUMBERS OF VOLUNTEER MONITORS

2

Phase 1 Goal: To initiate a database of Participatory Monitoring Networks in Europe



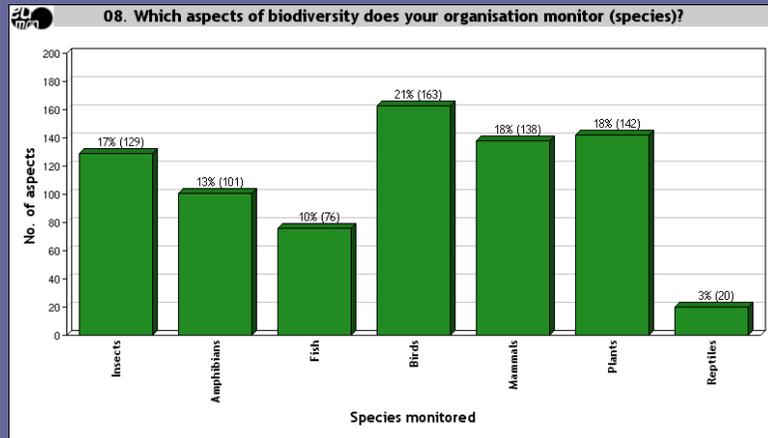
3

Blind survey

- Sent questionnaire to 2856 organisations
- 327 completed or partially completed questionnaires
- 28 countries – EU member states plus 7 from Croatia, Macedonia, Norway
- 257 use volunteers 55 do not (n312)
- Initiated database of PMNs

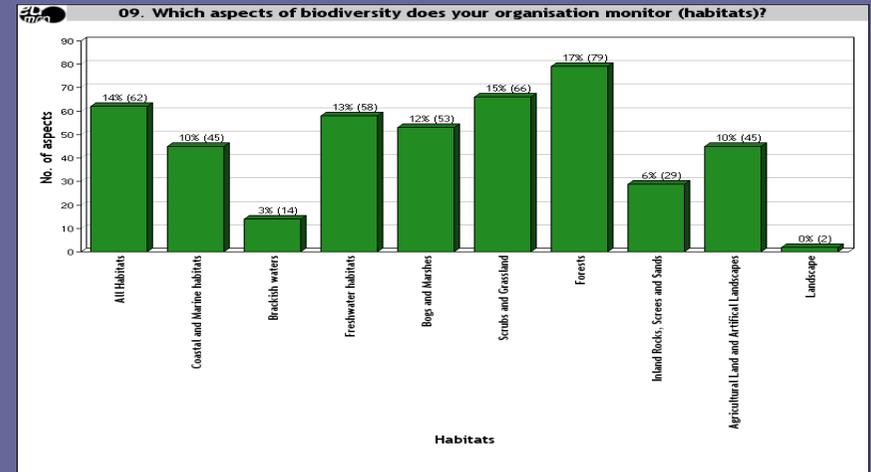
4

Species monitored



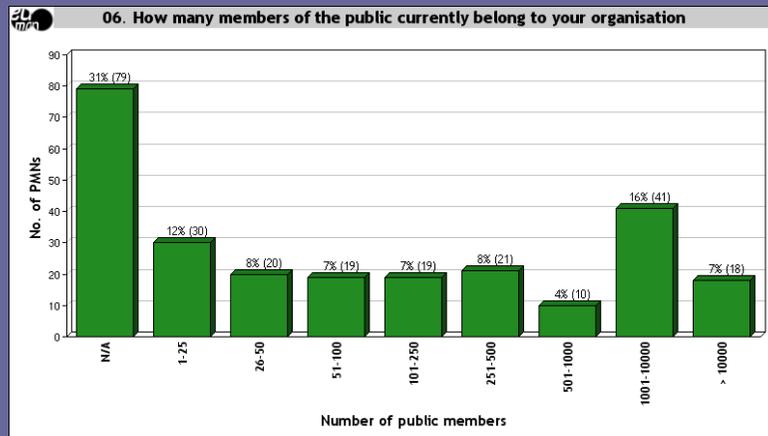
5

Habitats monitored



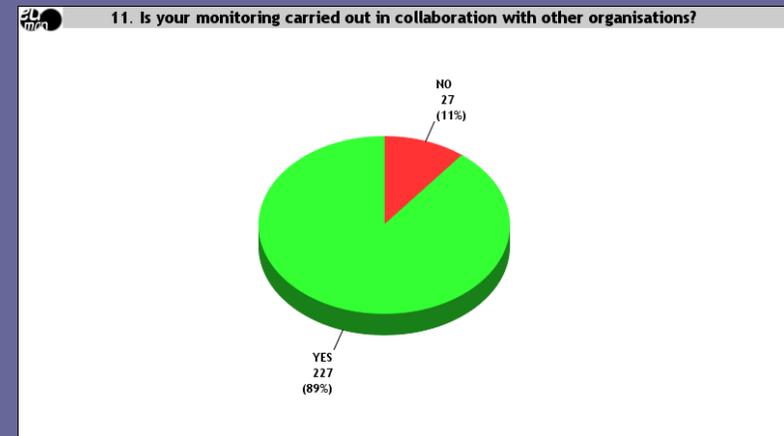
6

Size of membership



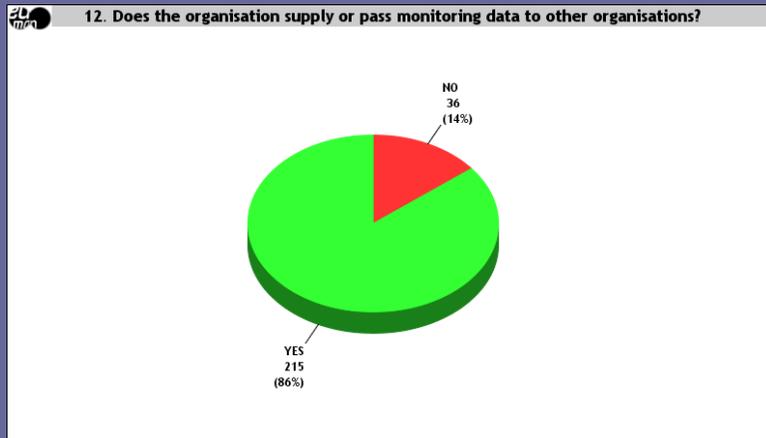
7

Collaboration



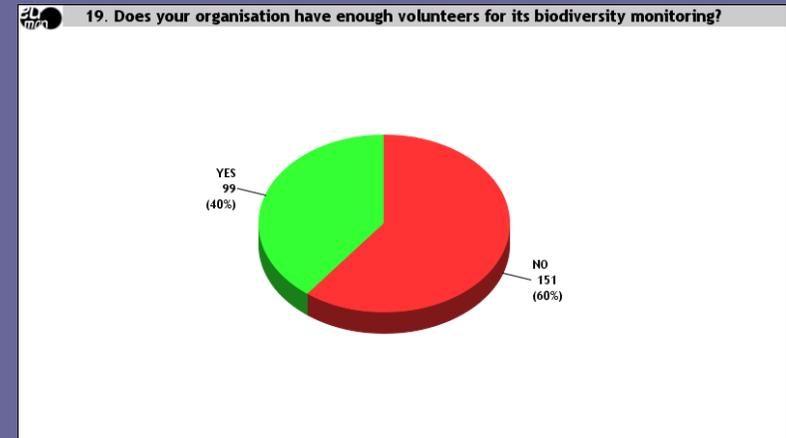
8

Data exchange



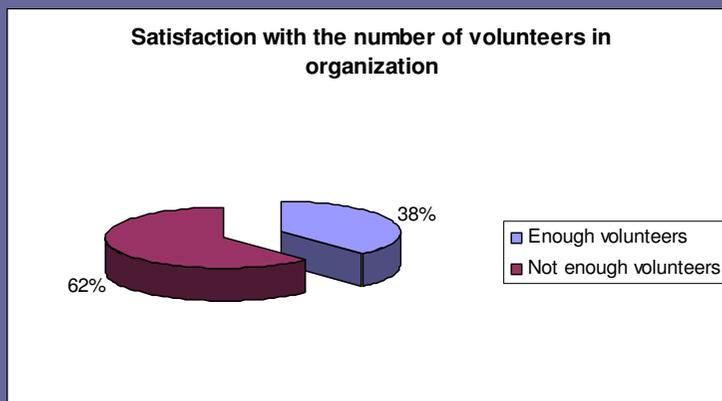
9

Enough volunteers?



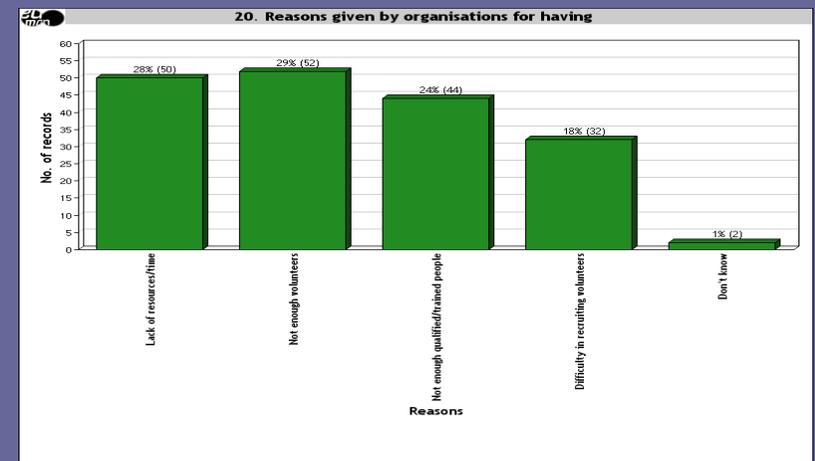
10

- Most dissatisfied countries with the number of volunteers: UK, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Romania
- Enough volunteers: Greece, Ireland

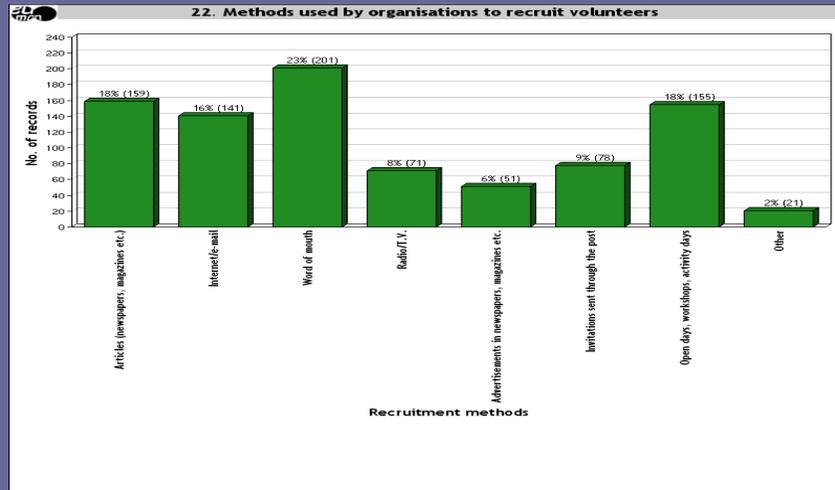


11

Reasons for not having enough volunteers



Methods of Recruitment



Phase 2

Qualitative ethnographic analysis of four selected PMNs from four different regions in Europe plus six rapid appraisals



PMNS studied

In depth:

- Akcja Carpatica
- Birdwatching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia
- Lithuanian Ornithological Society
- Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Rapid appraisal

- WOLF Association for Nature (WILK)
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Danish Ornithological Society
- Tethys Research Institute
- UK Phenology Network

Volunteering in post-communist states

- Mistrust of organisations
 - Persistence of dependence on friendship networks
 - Post-communist disappointment
 - Economic factors – lack spare time and resources
- (Source – Howard 2002)

Opposite Trends

- Countries with lengthy tradition of political and social democracy
- Countries with historical tradition of participation in natural history i.e. UK
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee UK calculated voluntary activity equalling 500,000 working days from 2000-2005 in just 3 of UK's largest conservation organisations
(www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3971)



17

Serious Leisure and Amateur Experts

- “a systematic pursuit of an amateur, hobbyist or volunteer activity that participants find so substantial and interesting that, in the typical case, they launch themselves on a career centred on acquiring and expressing its special skills, knowledge and experience”
(Stebbins 1992:3)
- Cycle of knowledge exchange
- *“I have been birdwatching for 22 years. I class myself as a good birdwatcher but I am always learning.....”*

18

Signpost to tomorrow's session

- Volunteer motivation
- How to integrate volunteers
- How to reach the public
- Examples:
butterfly monitoring
waterbird census



19