

FUTURE FOR DANISH BUTTERFLIES

– CAN A CENTURY OF DECLINE BE HALTED?

**1st Danish Future Earth Summit
June 2nd 2016**

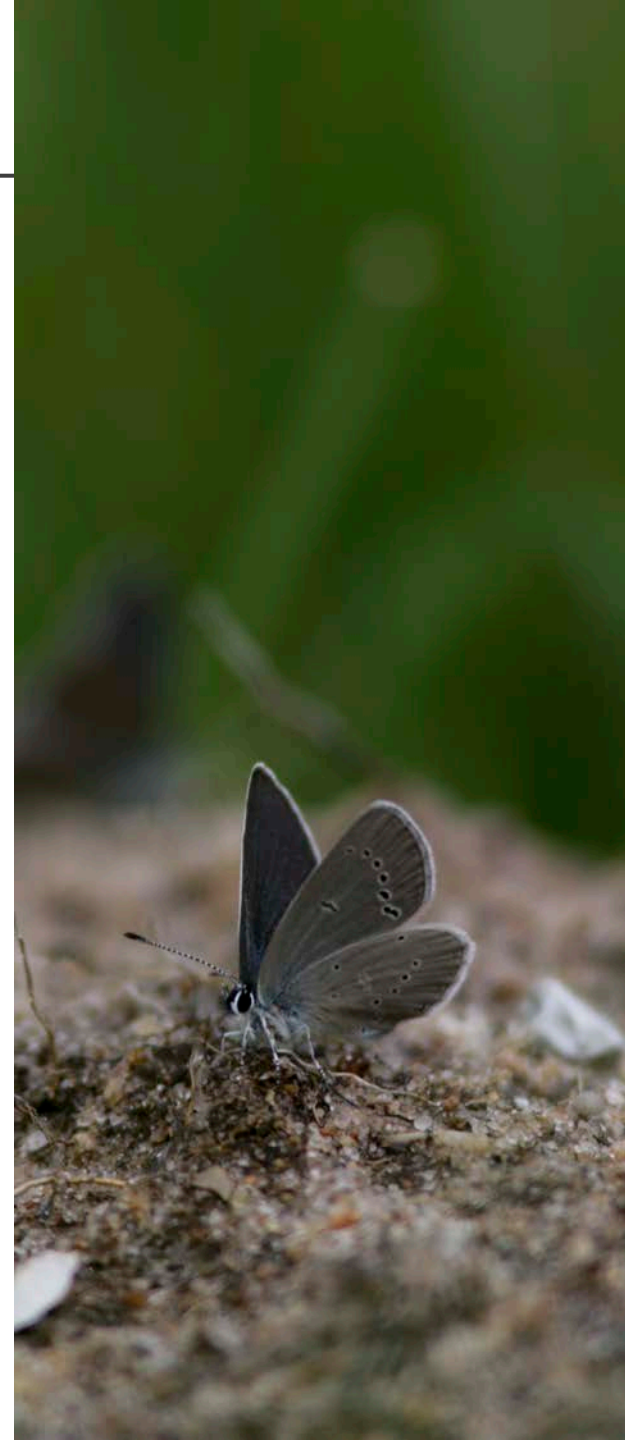
Anne Erland Eskildsen (PhD)



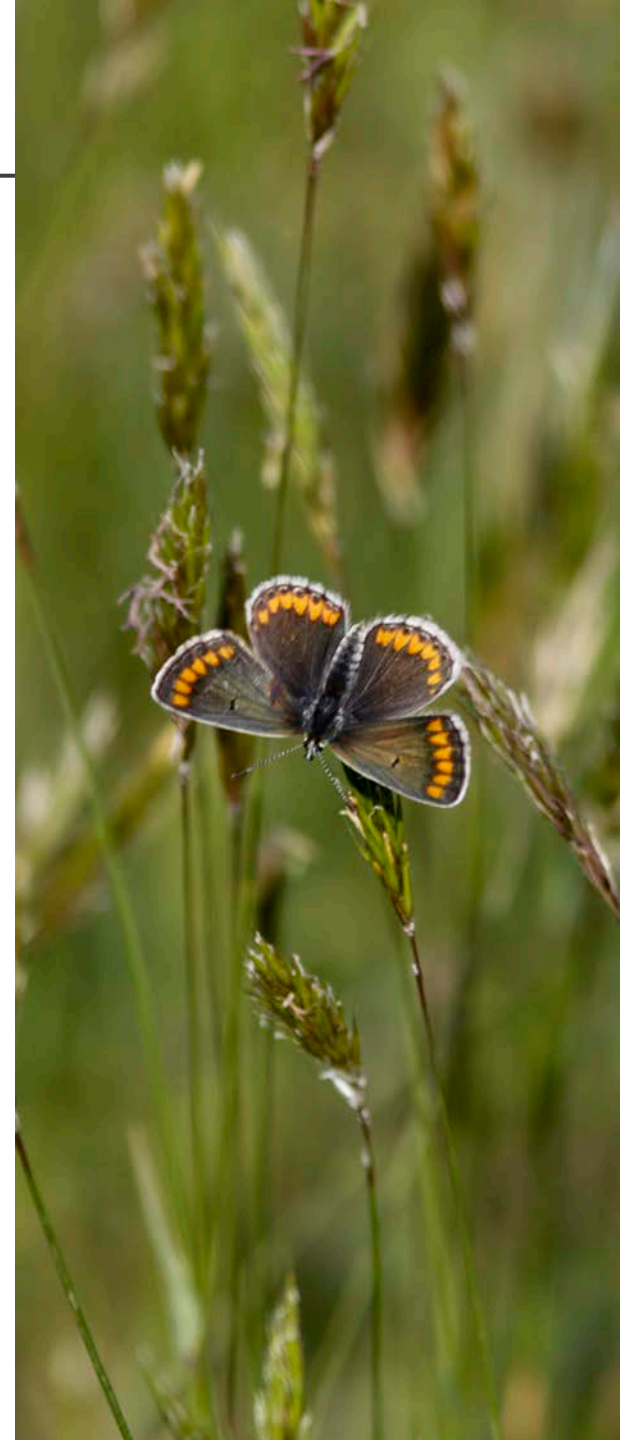
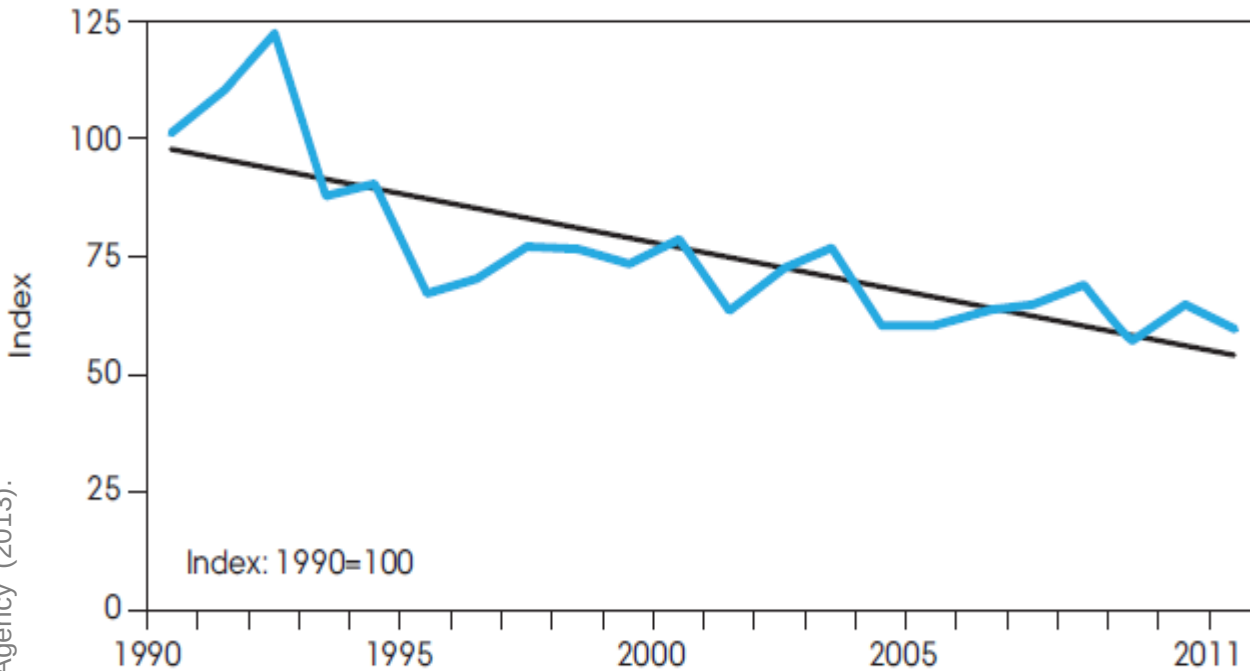
BUTTERFLIES ARE EXCELLENT INDICATORS



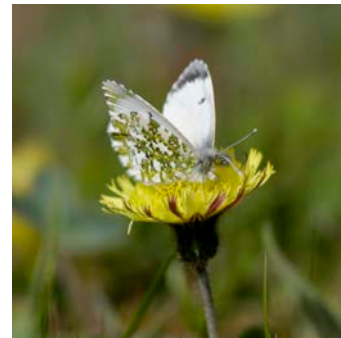
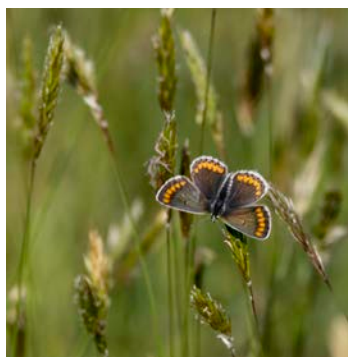
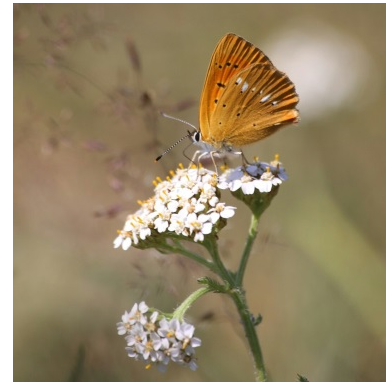
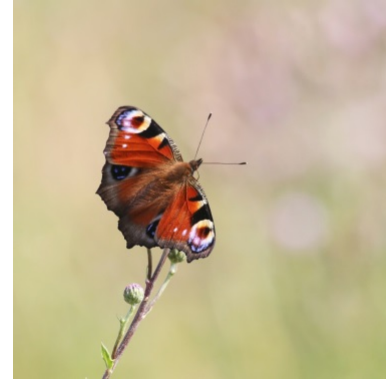
- Well-known life history
- Wide distribution in many habitat types
 - Short generation-time
- Easy to identify and monitor
 - Variation in mobility
 - Ectothermic



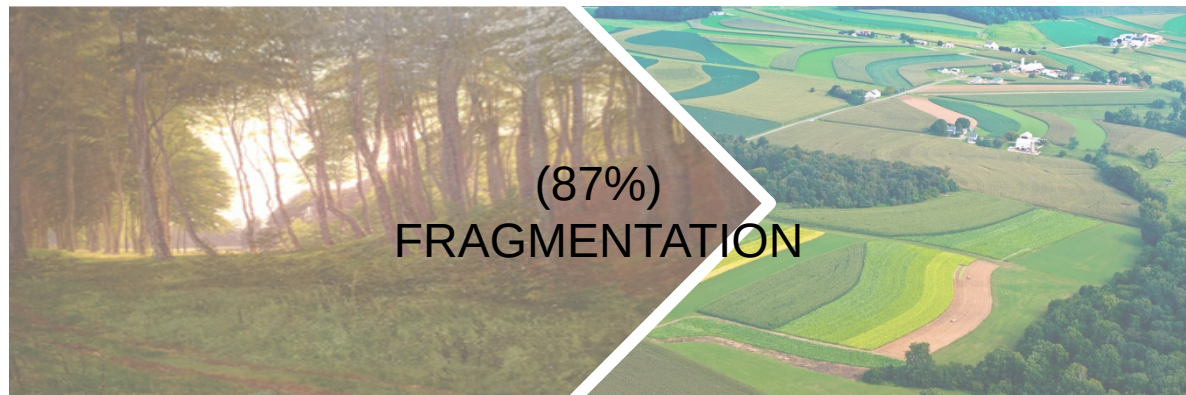
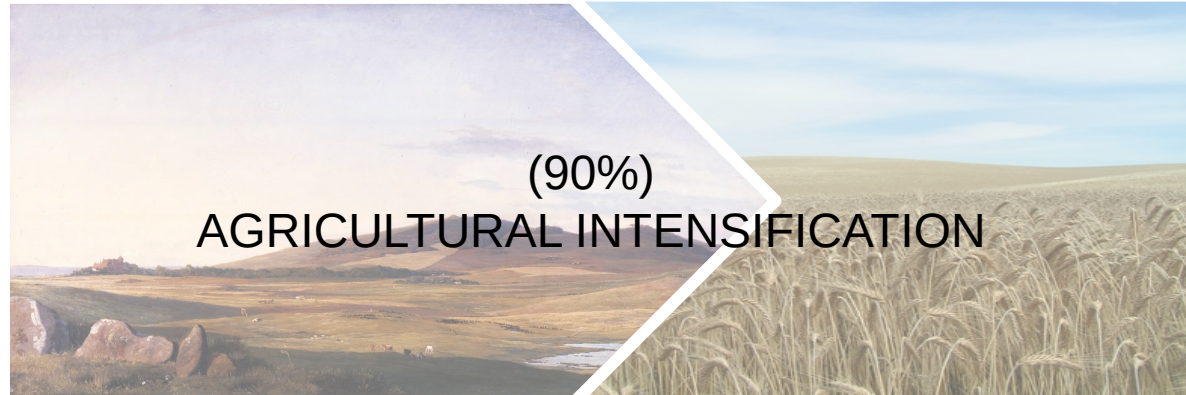
EUROPEAN GRASSLAND BUTTERFLIES: 50% DECLINE!



BUTTERFLIES HAVE 'WOW-FACTOR'

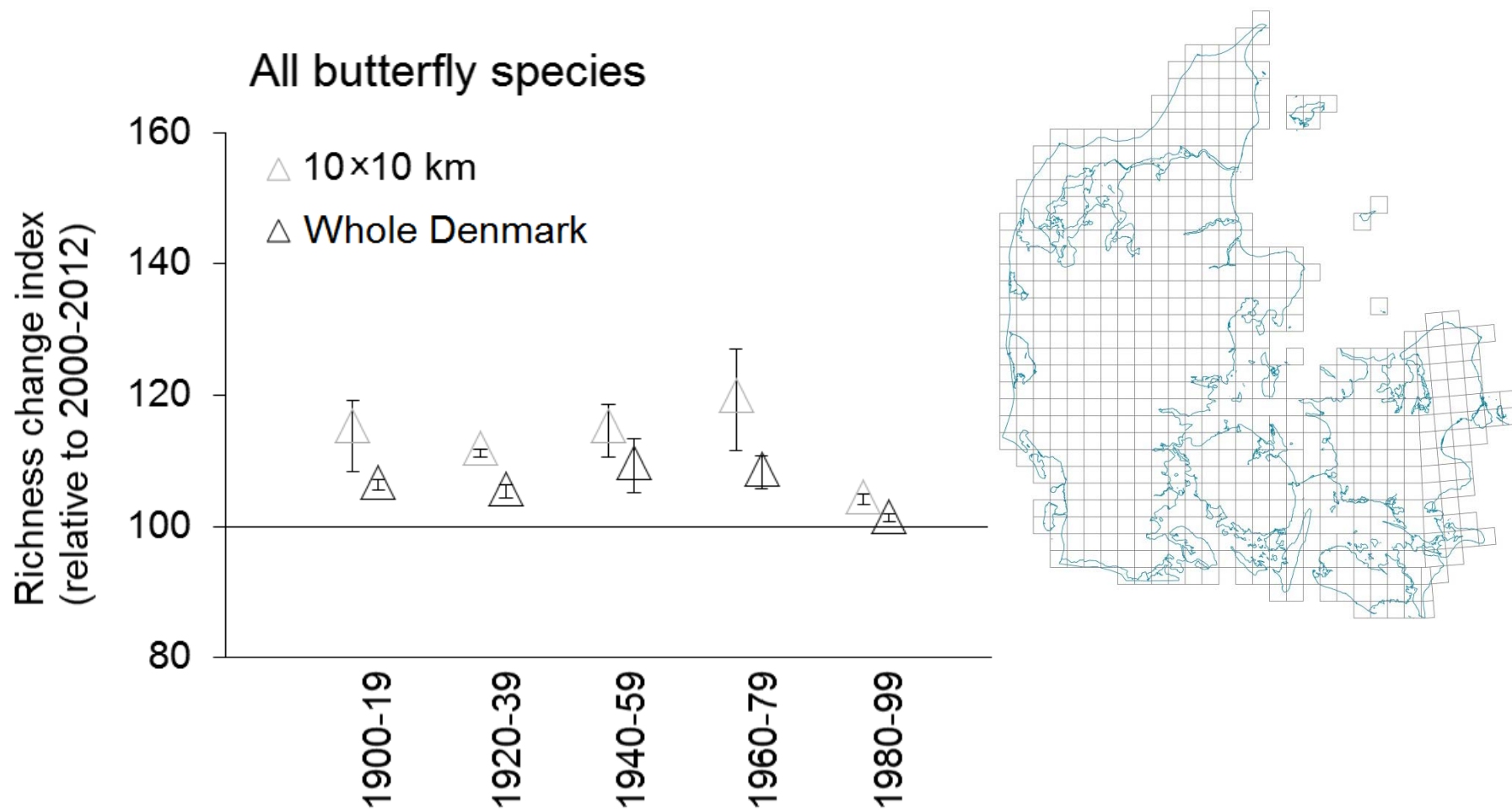


BUTTERFLIES ARE NATURALLY LINKED TO AGRICULTURE!





A CENTURY OF DECLINE...



1 IN 5 SPECIES EXTINCT IN 50 YEARS!

Terning-sommerfugl (1960)



Poppelsommerfugl (1961)



Herorandøje (1982)



Pærlemorrandøje (1996)



Mnen.



Ege-sommerfugl (1997)



Stor lidfugl (1956)



Svalehale (1961)



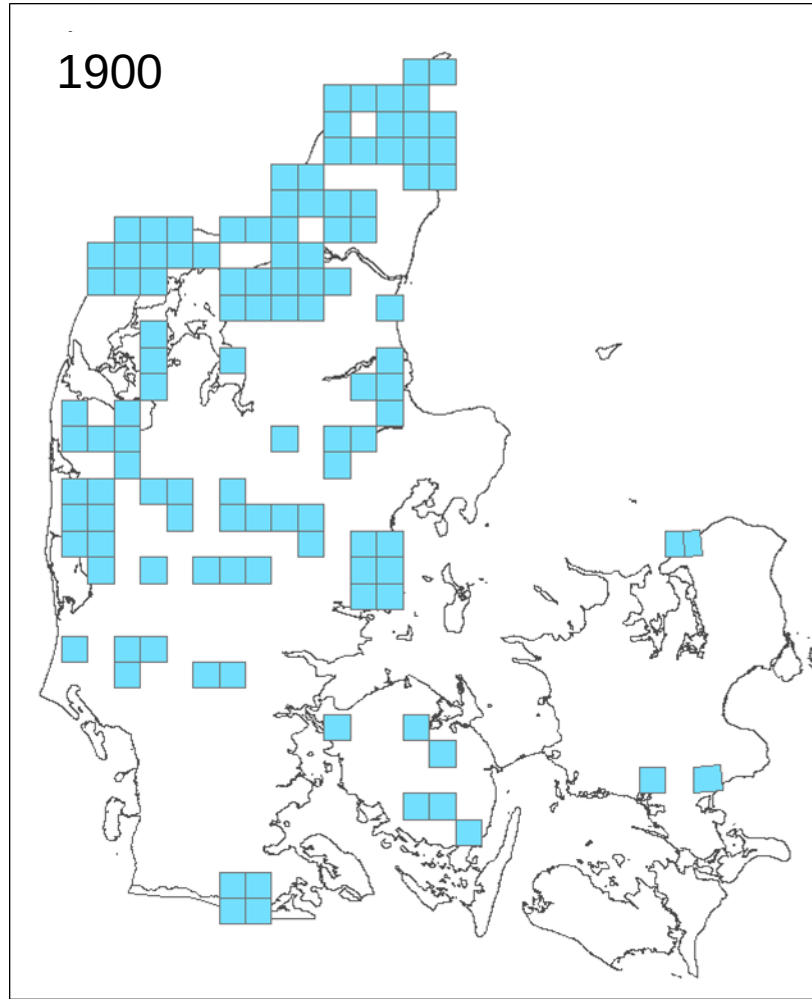
Slåen-sommerfugl (1987)



Enghvidvinge (2004)

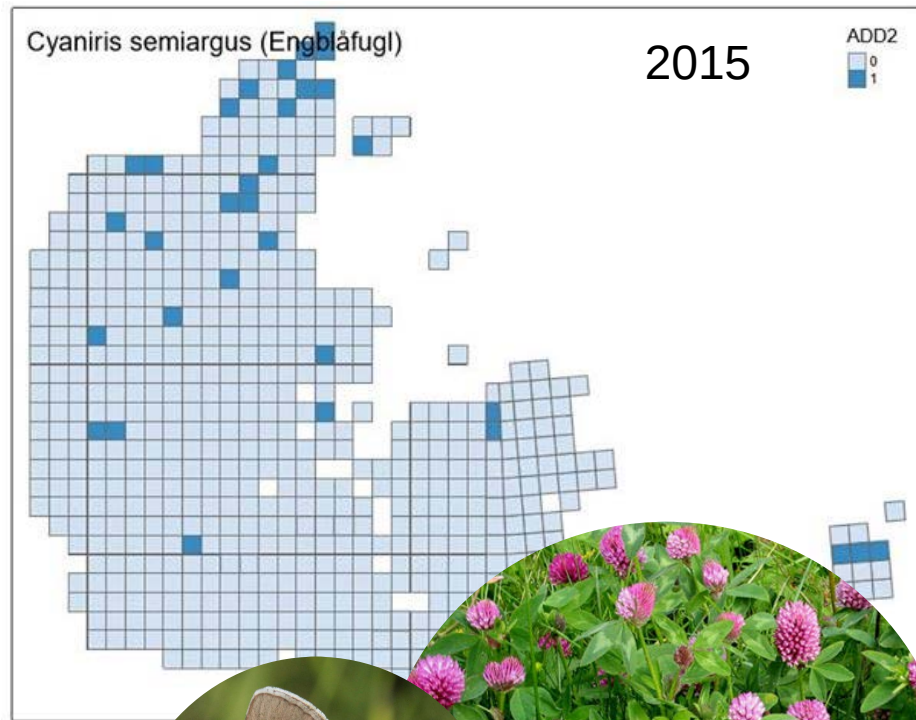
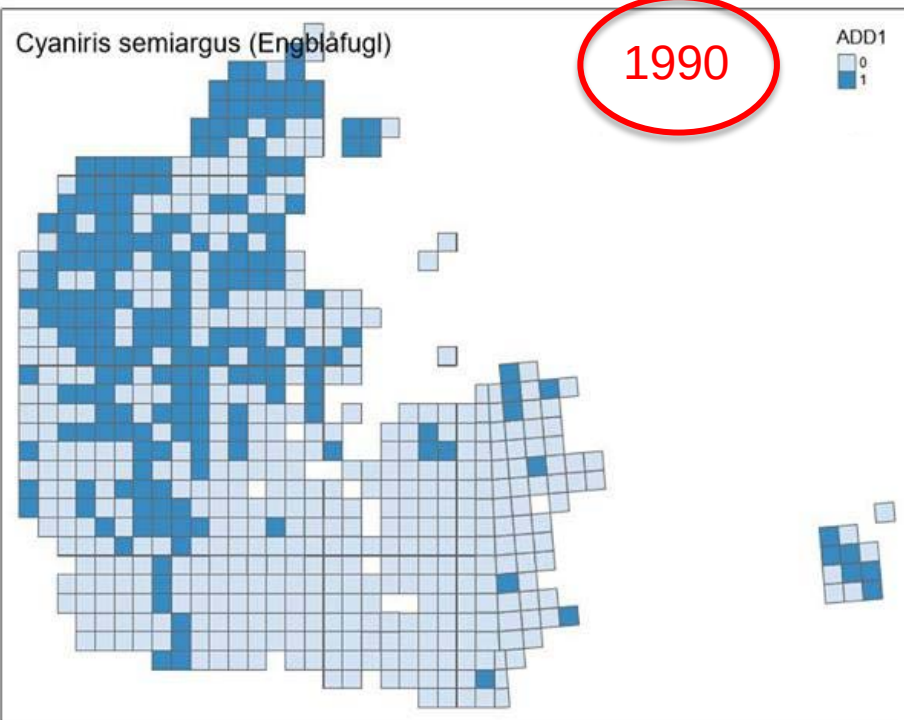


THE MARSH FRITILLARY (*EYPHYDRYAS AURINIA*)



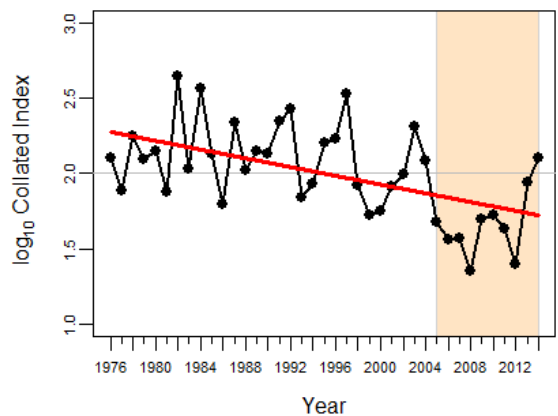
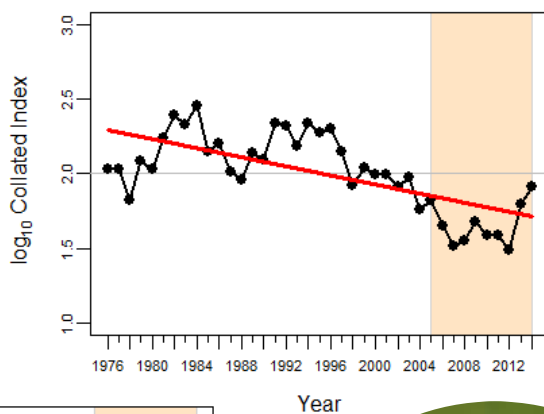
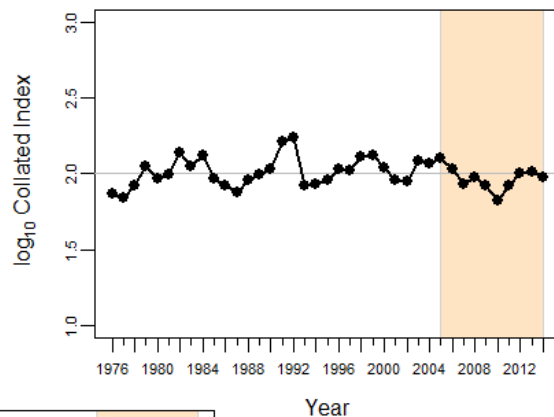


THE MAZARINE BLUE (CYANIRIS SEMIARGUS)



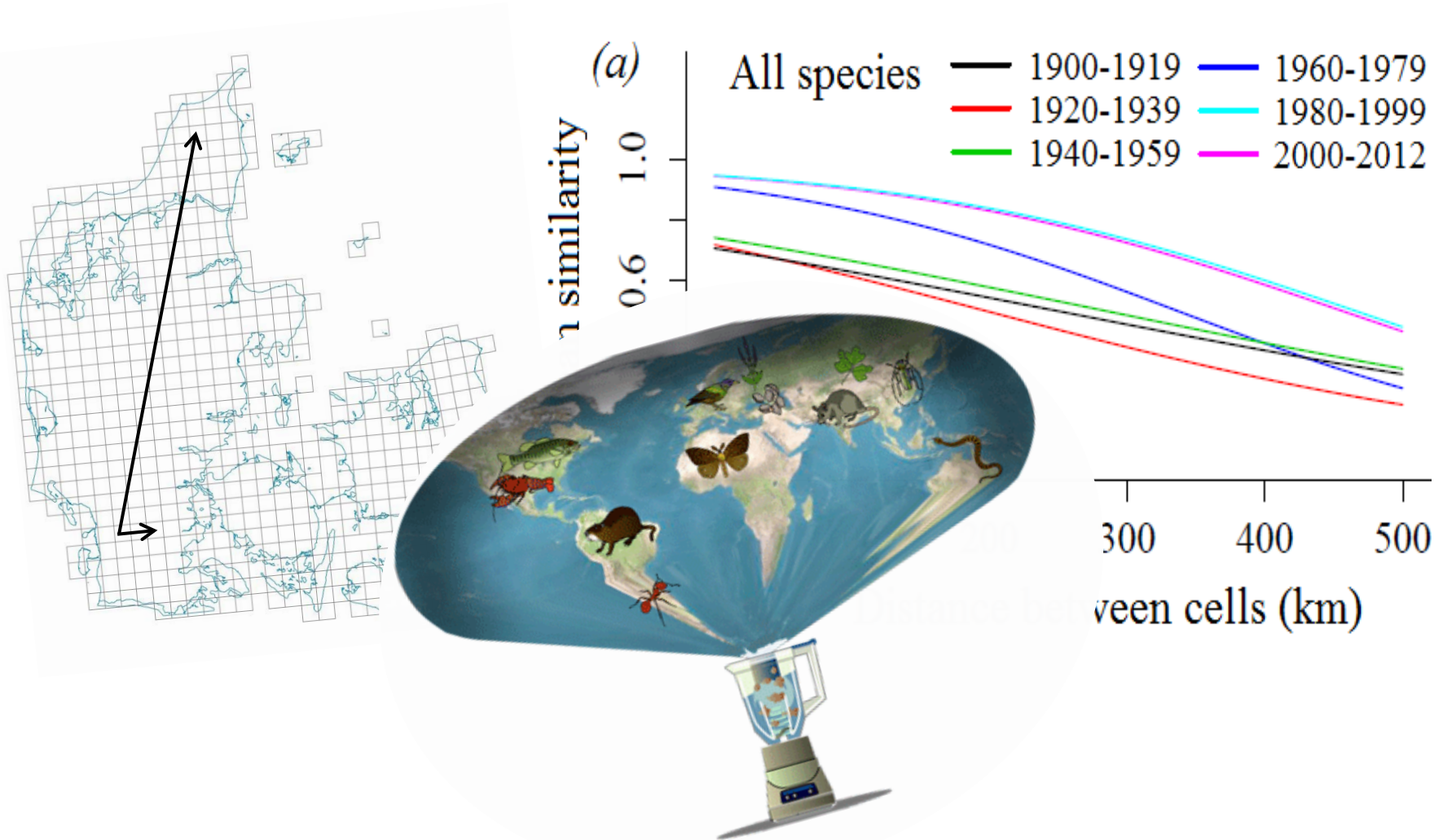


EVEN MANY COMMON SPECIES ARE DECLINING



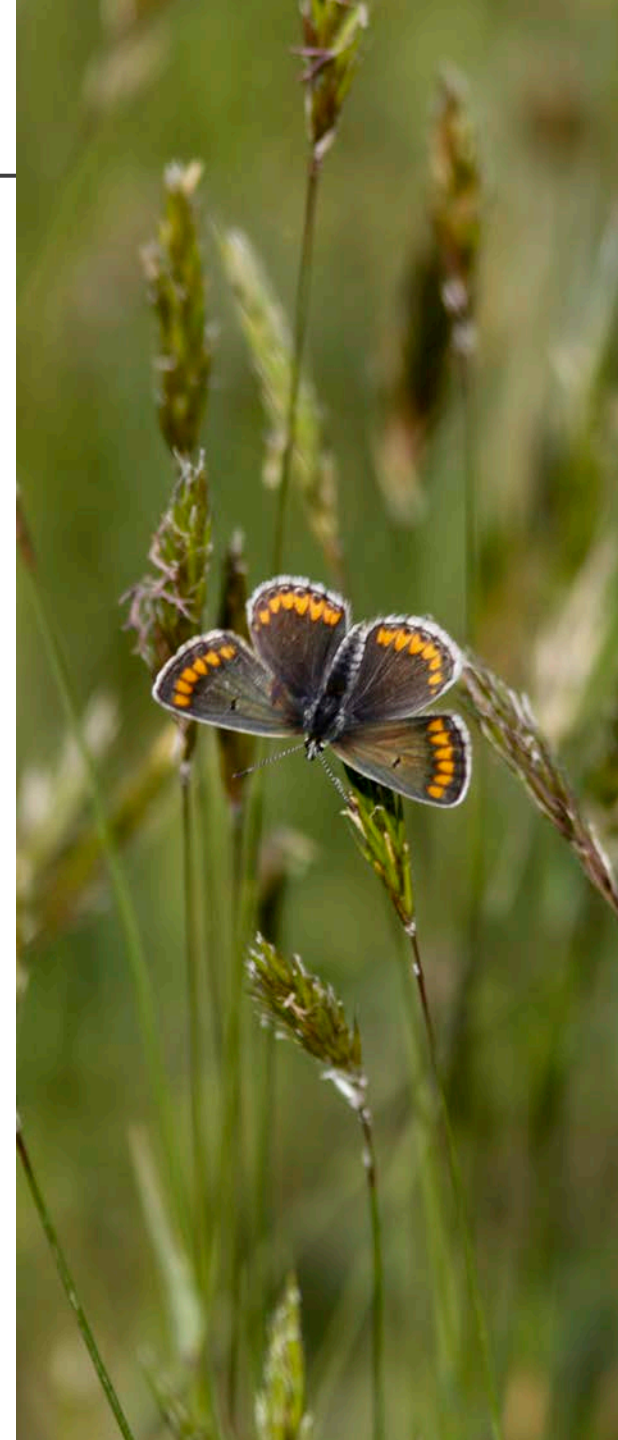


HOMOGENIZATION OF BUTTERFLY COMMUNITIES





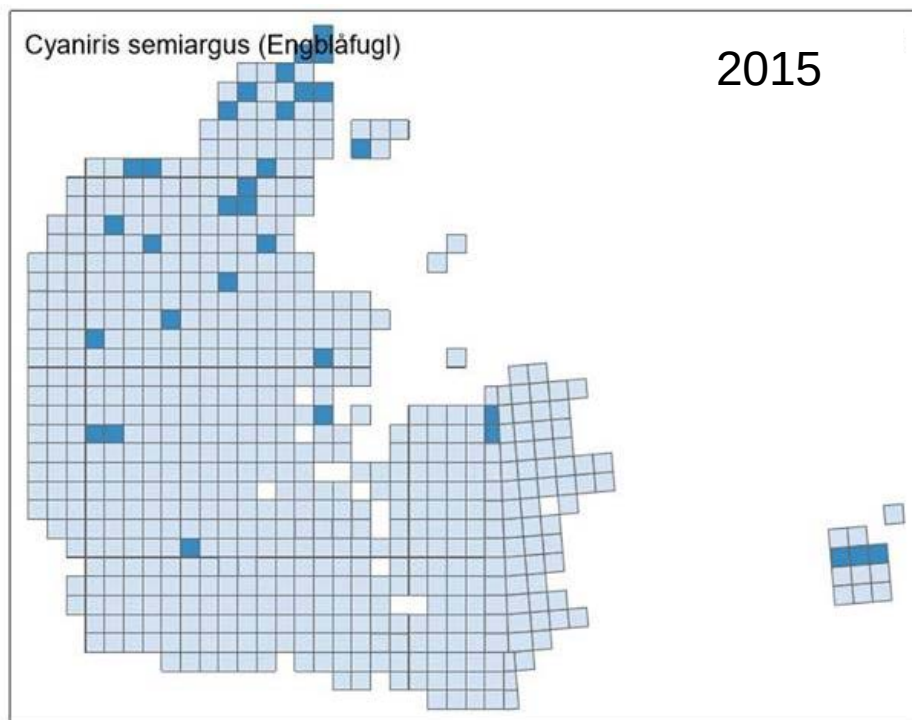
- The decline among Danish butterflies is ***general*** and not restricted to a few, rare species
- Decline in species richness at ***both local and national*** level
- Functional shift towards a ***generalist-dominated butterfly fauna***



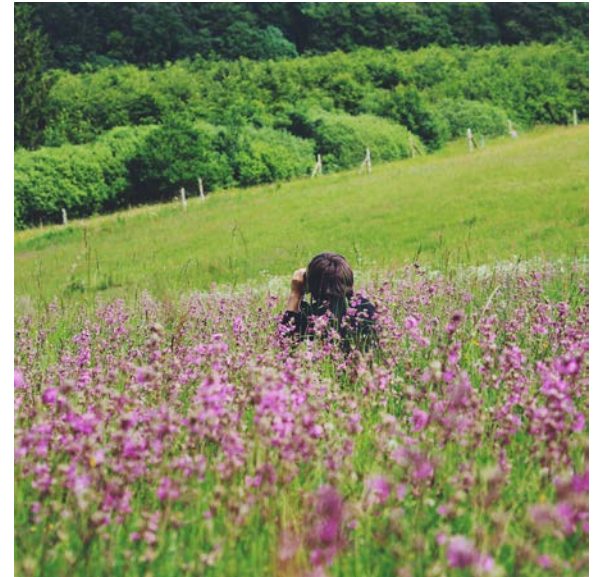


MUCH HAS BEEN LOST, BUT...

As long as species persist, it is not too late to minimize the biodiversity crisis through targeted conservation efforts!



(1) NATURE NEEDS SPACE!

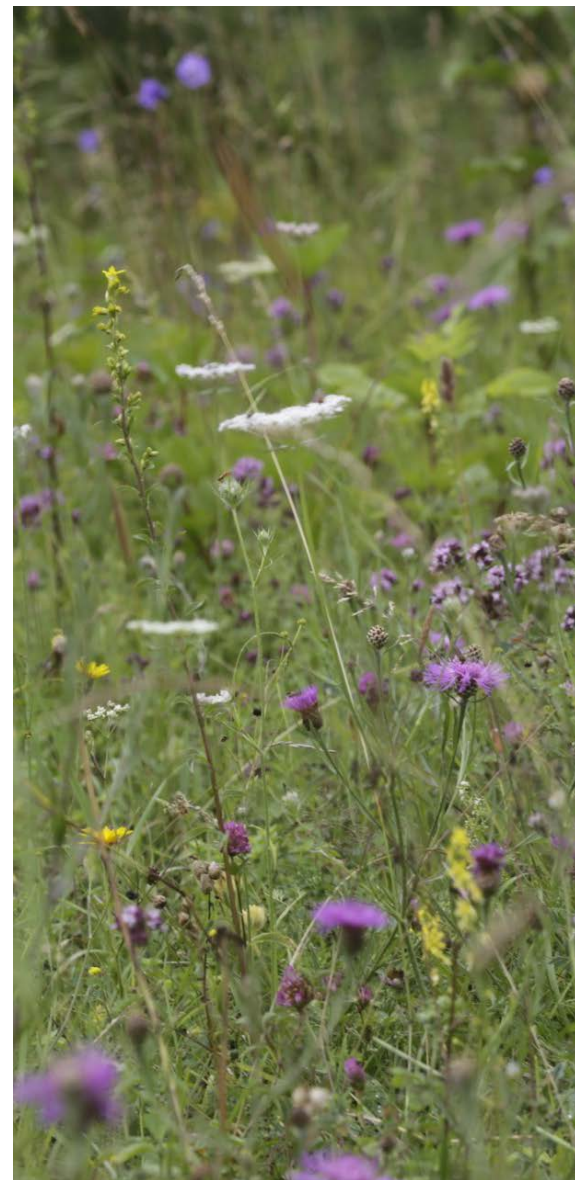


‘Biodiversity-friendly’ measures
in agricultural areas may locally
expand eco-space, but mostly
benefit common species



(2) IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

Strong need for prioritization of butterfly management – not only Red List/Habitats Directive species!





Hidden potential in 'untraditional' habitats



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