
State of biodiversity in Paris region: the role of citizen science

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Abstract

Natureparif is a regional agency for nature and biodiversity that publish regularly states of biodiversity in Paris region. They are based on monitoring programs from the National Museum of Natural History using participation of general public and yielded indicators that can inform decision on public policy. In this presentation, we give main outcomes of these citizen science programs.

Biodiversity loss in our region is particularly high. Between 2006 and 2013, bat species richness has declined by 19%. One bird out of five has disappeared between 2004 and 2014. These alarming trends clearly out pass those observed at national level. Finally, butterflies and plants do not decline as much.

Biodiversity decline is stronger in agricultural areas for birds and butterflies than in other habitats. Maintaining natural vegetation like hedgerows in the vicinity of cropped fields may however halt biodiversity erosion. In urban habitats, replacement of wastelands by built-up areas reduced plant biodiversity. However, pesticide use reduction combined with more and more positive perception of wild plants is correlated with an increase of street plants growing on concrete or around the base of tree.

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