



The European Biodiversity Observation Network: outcomes and products for GEO

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EU BON outcomes

The EU-funded project EU BON “Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network” aims to advance biodiversity knowledge by building a European gateway for biodiversity information and by integrating and harmonising a wide range of biodiversity data. Other goals of the project are the establishment and adoption of new data standards, the development of tools, the integration of advanced techniques for data analysis and the development of new approaches and strategies for future biodiversity monitoring and assessment. The project represents a joint effort of 31 partners from 15 European countries, Israel, the Philippines, Brazil and more than 30 associated partners.

The project developed a range of tools for data analysis, such as GeoCAT - a tool that performs rapid geospatial analysis to ease the process of Red Listing taxa and AquaMaps – a toolkit that models the distribution and makes predictions of where aquatic species occur naturally. Another group of tools – the GBIF Integrated Toolkit and ARPHA-BioDiv facilitates the process of data sharing, integration and publishing. Furthermore, novel services were developed such as the EU BON Unified Taxonomic Information Service (UTIS) that allows the running of a federated search on multiple European taxonomic checklists by scientific name or vernacular name strings. These include the Pan-European Species directories Infrastructure (EU-Nomen), the European Nature Information System (EUNIS), the Catalogue of Life, the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), the GBIF Checklist Bank and the Plazi Treatment Bank.

All these web applications are bound together under the umbrella of the EU BON European Biodiversity Portal (<http://biodiversity.eubon.eu>), with highly relevant contributions to the aims of the Group on Earth Observation’s Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON). Besides applied tools and software, the portal also serves as an online library for manuals, guidelines, factsheets, case studies, policy recommendations and other documents.

The European Biodiversity Portal

The European Biodiversity Portal offers EU BON derived products, tools and knowledge and serves as a communication interface between biodiversity researchers, data repositories, interested communities and policy makers. The main goals of the biodiversity portal is to make biodiversity data and information discoverable (Fig.1), accessible and digestible (e.g. by visualising relative observation trends, Fig. 2).

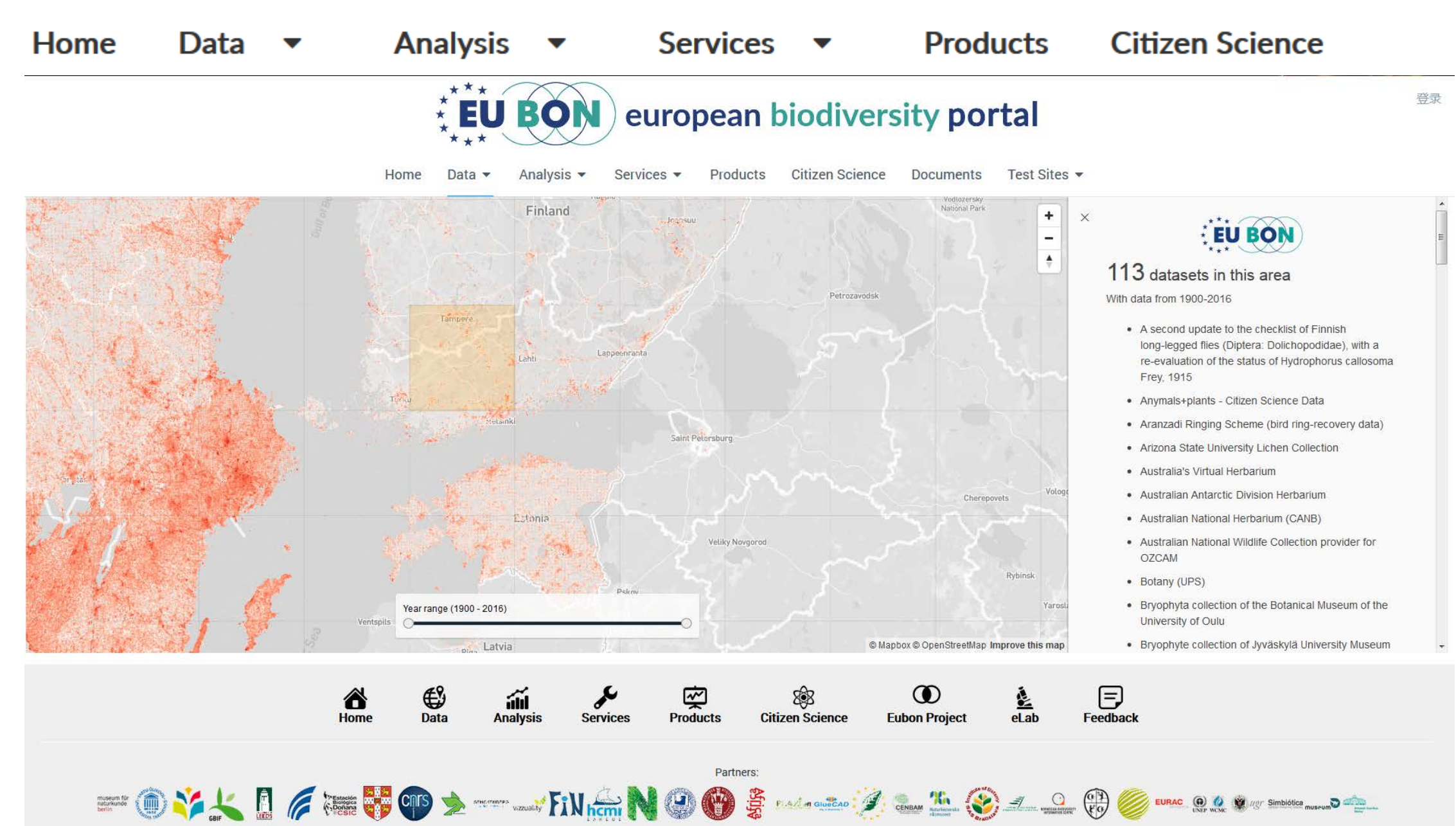


Fig. 1: Spatial Dataset Browser helps to identify and access datasets of interest when generating Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) for species distribution.

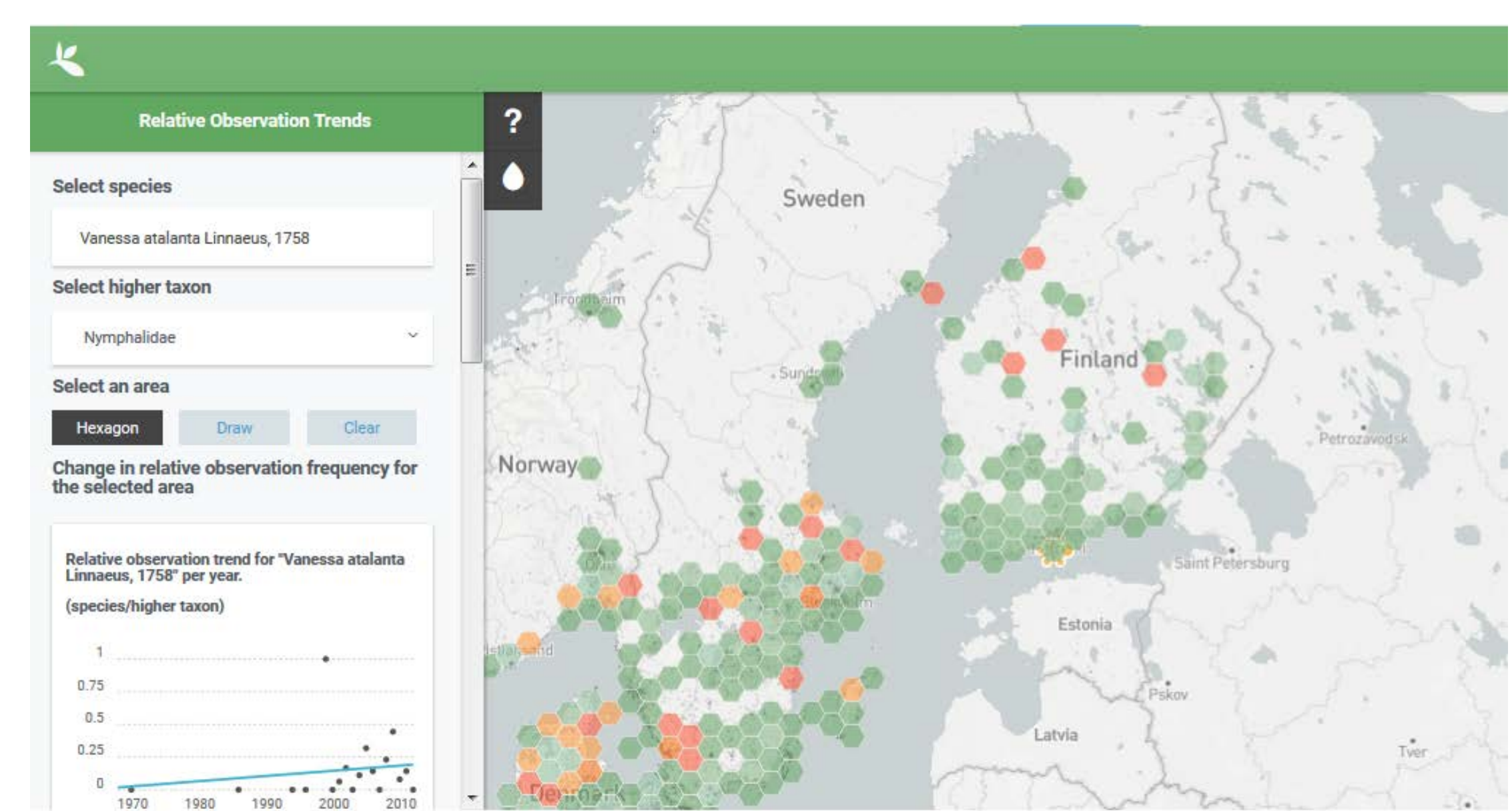


Fig. 2: Relative Observation Trends Browser helps to analyse species trends in GBIF mediated data. Example: the butterfly species ‘Red Admiral’ *Vanessa atalanta*, green: increasing populations, red: declining.