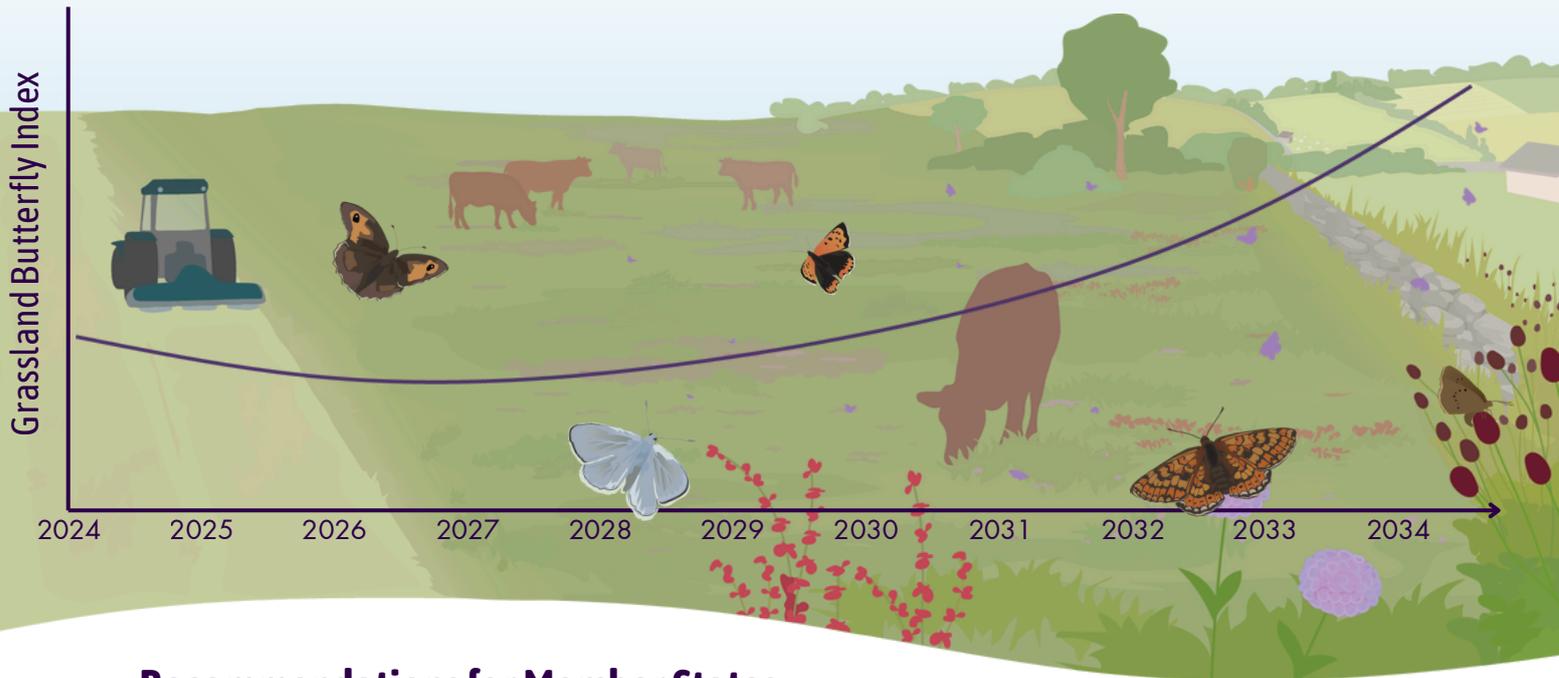


The GBI should show an increasing trend as sustainable agricultural practices are implemented: a broader diversity of plants and microhabitats leads to increased butterfly diversity.



Recommendations for Member States

- Choose to monitor and work to increase the trend of the Grassland Butterfly Index as one of the two mandatory indicators of agricultural ecosystem health set by the NRR.
- Provide financial support to BMS coordinators to ensure monitoring schemes function properly and grow over time.
- Provide funding for more than one coordinator per BMS to ensure that both the volunteer support and data management dimensions of the monitoring scheme are adequately supervised.
- Invest in developing BMSs now to reliably calculate the GBI within the timeline set by the NRR.

Find more information about each EU27 BMS by scanning the QR code below



Contact

 www.bc-europe.eu

 www.butterfly-monitoring.net

 info@bc-europe.eu

The Grassland Butterfly Index

Achieving the agricultural ecosystem restoration goals set by the **Nature Restoration Regulation** through citizen science



In this policy brief:

How this agricultural ecosystem health indicator is calculated, the advantages and synergies of monitoring it, and recommendations to meet the NRR Article 11(2) requirements.

Produced in January 2026

Context

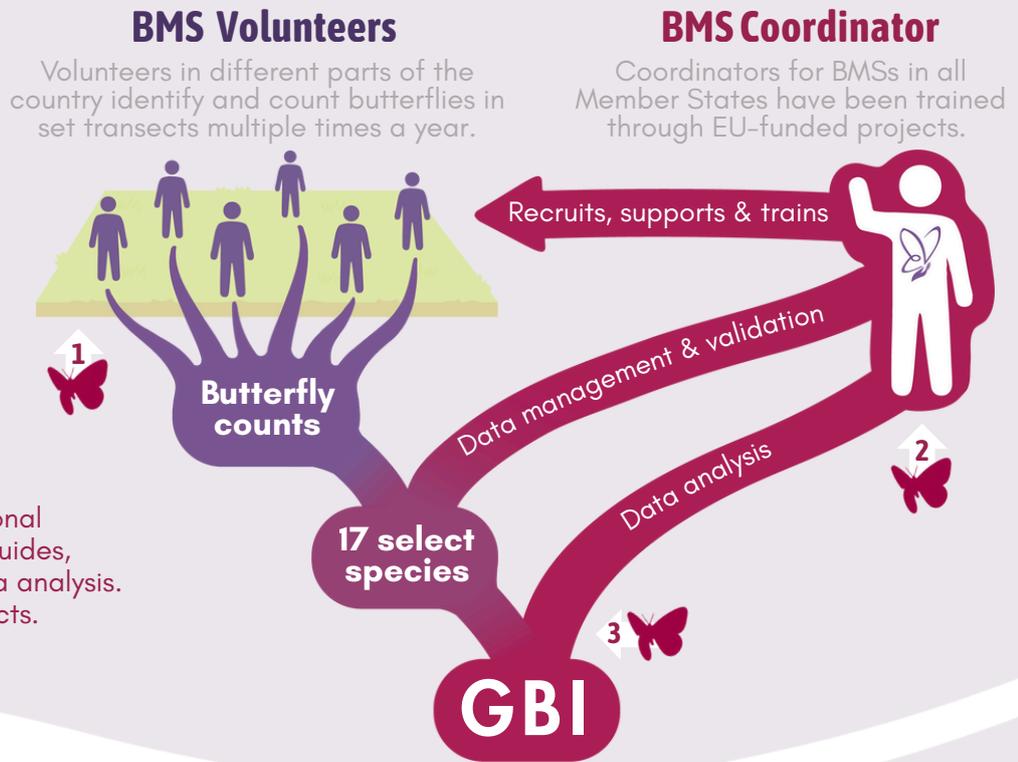
- The NRR requires EU Member States to monitor and implement measures to increase the trends of at least 2 of the 3 indicators of agricultural ecosystem health named in Article 11(2), one of which is the GBI.
- Member States must specify the indicators they will monitor in their national restoration plan draft.



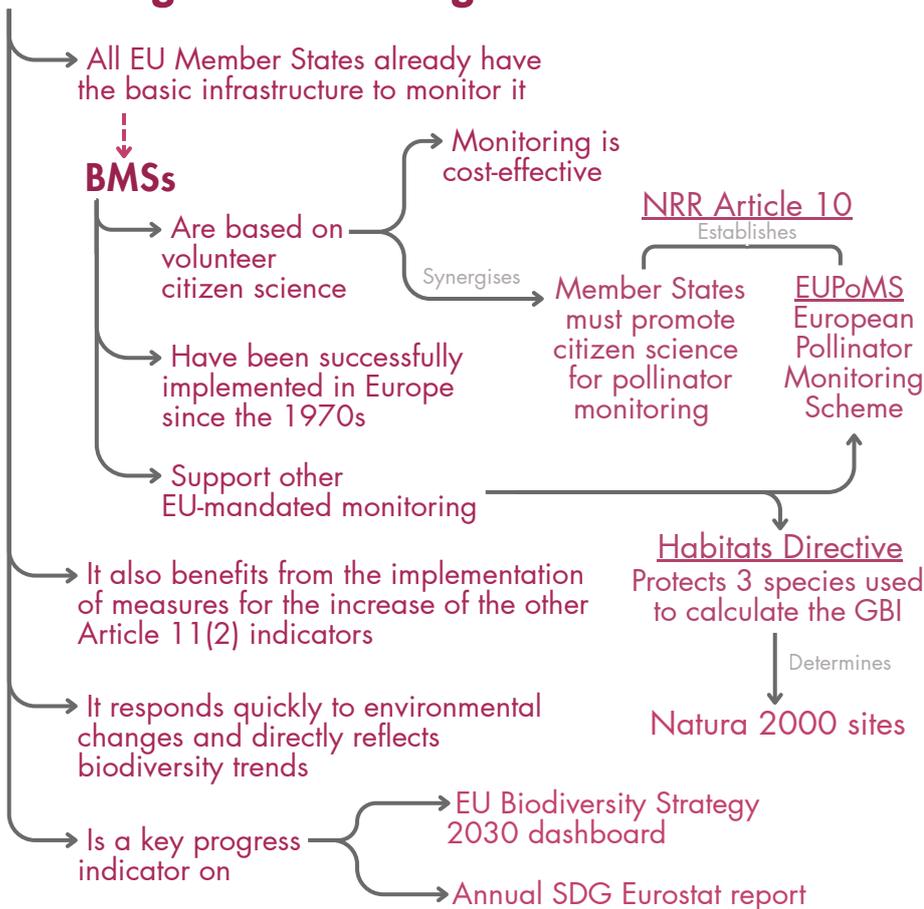
Calculating the GBI

The GBI is calculated using butterfly count data gathered through Butterfly Monitoring Schemes (BMSs). All EU Member States have one or more active BMSs, which form part of a unified network created by Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE), the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme or eBMS.

- BCE provides free support to national BMSs, including: 1) identification guides, 2) workshops, and 3) tools for data analysis. This support is funded by EU projects.



Advantages of selecting the GBI



Sustainable coordination

Most BMS coordinators work voluntarily, even though Member State funding of coordinators leads to better-developed BMSs.

The Netherlands has one of the most successful BMSs in Europe. Its stability is largely due to the efforts of its two coordinators, both of whom are funded by the Government.

