

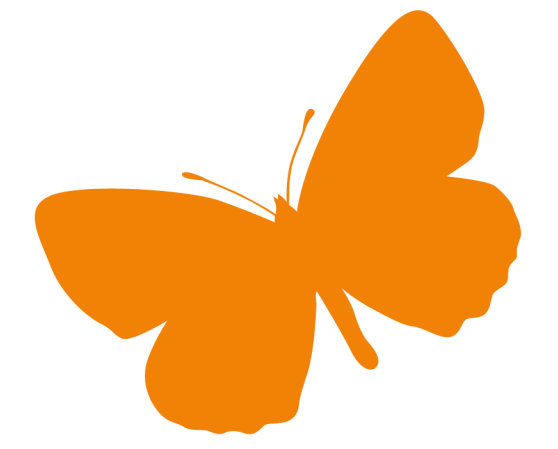
# The National Action Plan: the French experience concerning *Maculinea* conservation

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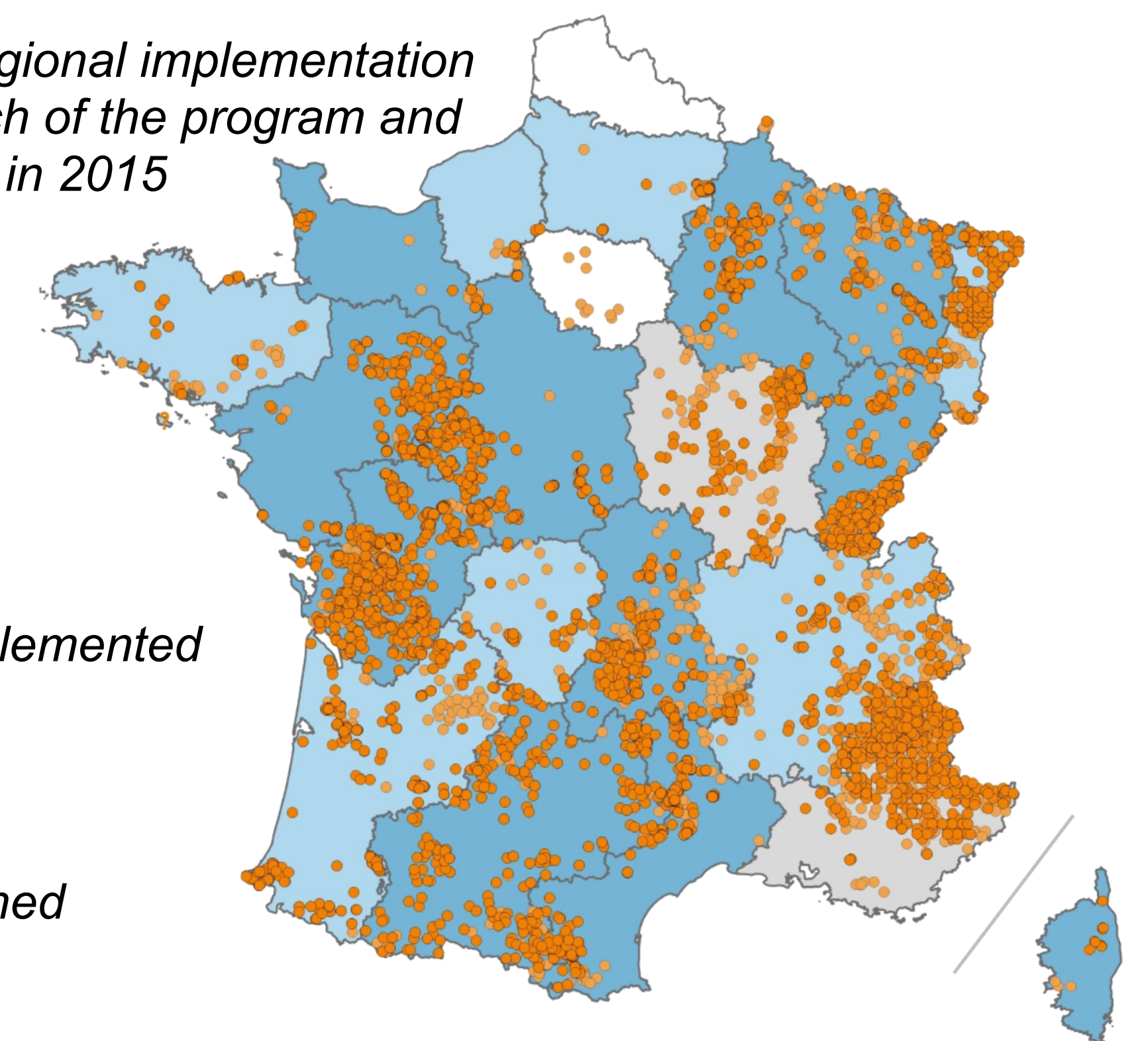


Since 1996, France has started a specific countrywide program to conserve its most threatened species. In order to promote their study and incorporation in the government policies, a National Action Plan (NAP) for the 4 *Maculinea* species present in France has been implemented since 2011 and until 2015.

## Program implementation and database completion

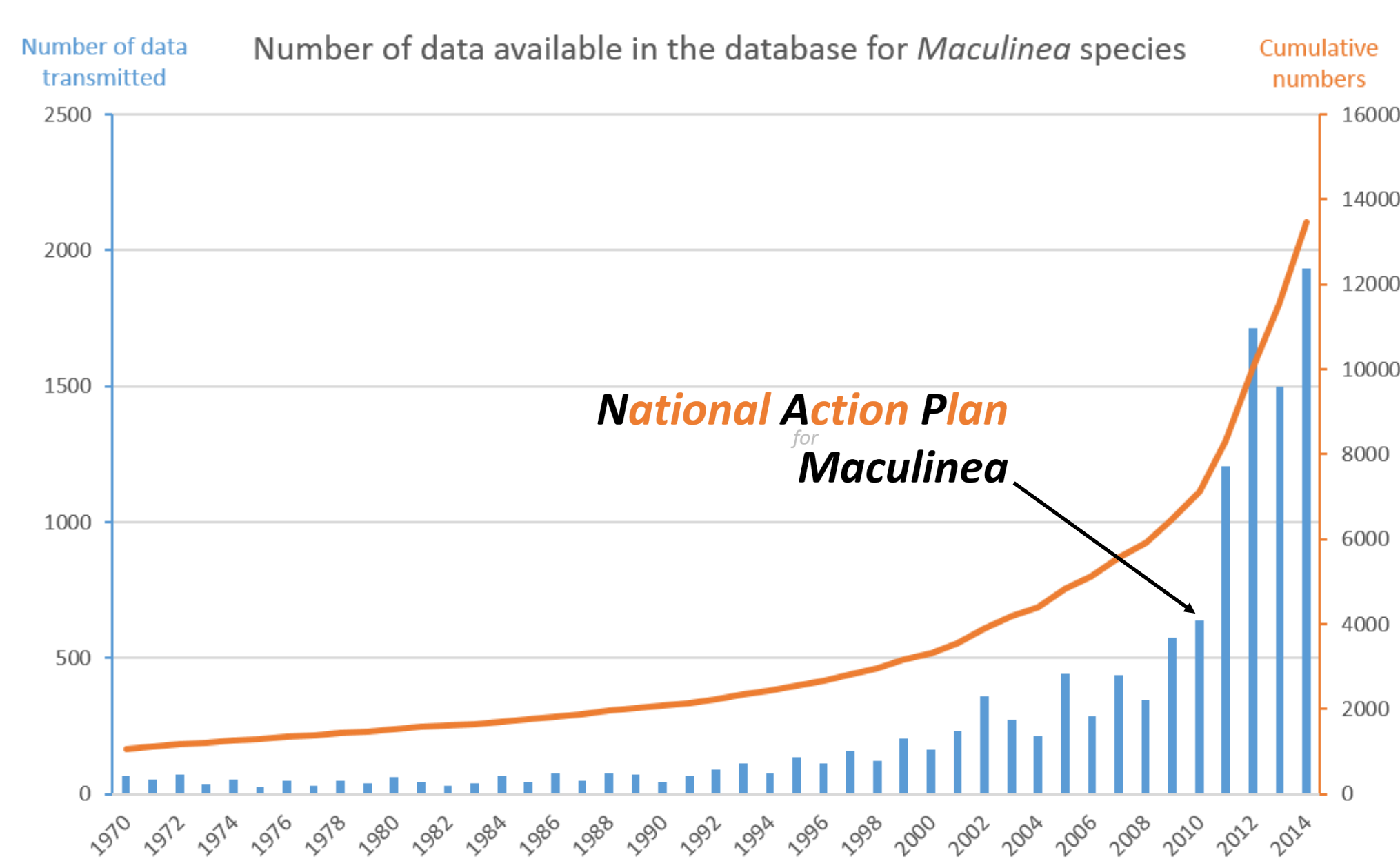
With more than 6,000 *Maculinea* data transmitted since 2011 (1,325 new data per year in average), the implementation of the NAP has significantly increased the species distributions knowledge. Distribution maps drawn during the drafting of the NAP have been recently updated.

Current state of the regional implementation 5 years after the launch of the program and *Maculinea* distribution in 2015



© Opie - PNA *Maculinea* (2016)

This allows French governmental agencies to avoid habitat destructions when evaluating development projects.



Local action plan:

- approved and implemented
- being drafted
- still pending
- region not concerned
- data 1995-2015
- data before 1995

With 90% of the administrative regions involved, this plan is now well implemented locally. Out of the 13 main actions, several major projects have well turned out: six are achieved and six are still in process, including those promoting connectivity between populations.

## A national protocol for host ants studies

Before the NAP, only a few *Myrmica* ants studies were implemented in the country. Considering the issues and to ensure national consistency, a national protocol to increase knowledge on host ants was developed in 2014. This protocol has filled important gaps on host ants which were hitherto only marginally considered in studies due to the lack of framework documents or referents.



Thus, more than 50 sites have been studied all over the country, providing essential information on their overall geographical distribution and local explanations for *Maculinea* disappearances.

## To a method for assessing the conservation status of *Maculinea* habitats

The populations of *Maculinea alcon alcon* located in Auvergne are among the most important in France and also in Europe. In order to increase the knowledge about this species and to provide guidelines for conservation management, the specialists work on several qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess the conservation status of its habitats. 31 stations have been already sampled. The first results propose an evaluation grid allowing to obtain on each stations an accurate diagnosis. Indicators will be confirmed and refined with a second sample assessed in 2016.



After a one year assessment (2016), a new NAP could be launched with new aims. The fulfilment of the primary objectives, e.g. increasing the knowledge and structuring the network of French lepidopterists, bodes well for the long-term establishment of favorable conservation management actions for *Maculinea* and their habitats.



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