ecologica

Integration of entomological knowledge in nature management

opportunities, practical considerations and caveats

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- Some practical considerations

- Selecting species that deserve attention
- Managing species data

Some practical considerations

- Entomologists specialize not only in species but also in e.g. ethology, ecology, taxonomy or physiology -> ask the right specialist!
- Insects are threatened but so are entomologists.
- Species specialists have tunnel vision. Weigh their input against other interests.
- Without explanation the nature managers intentions are not always fully understood.
- Beware of different interpretations of the term ‘rare’. Many insects are in fact ‘rarely found’.

Some practical considerations

- Insects do NOT always benefit from measures taken for other species. Both accidents and chances go unnoticed.
- Taking into account insects means working with incomplete data.
- All observations are of added value, including older observations.
- Exact coordinates are very valuable and so is information on the nature of the location.
- Species do not occur randomly… become familiar with microhabitats and acknowledge the added value of age and stability!

Some practical considerations

- When taking measures for insect diversity you can focus on
  - improving basic quality (bulk presence of common species)
  - protecting rare species

Species deserving attention

An ecological approach:

- Species depending on characteristic (micro)habitats
- Species that are vulnerable to management or other forms of disruption (e.g. immobile species)
- Species that are in decline (including Red List species)

Managing species data

Needed are:

1. Observations: species + location + date (+ circumstances)
2. Species-specifiek information: habitatpreferences, rarity etc.

Two possible next steps:

1. Selecting priority species (& priority microhabitats)
2. Mapping ‘qualities’

Managing species data

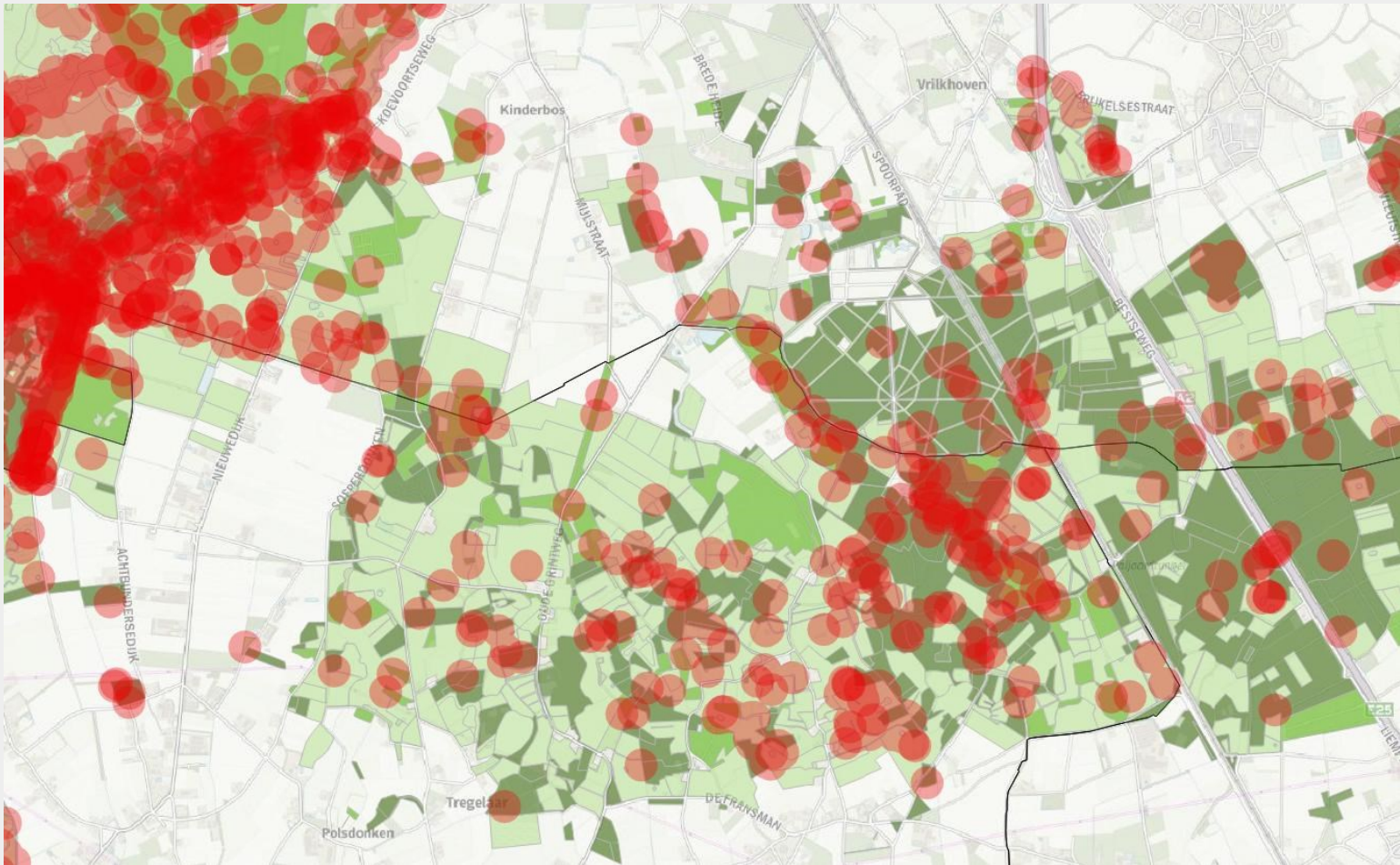
Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

- >100.000 recent observations
- Selected: 12.580 observations of 154 ‘interesting species’ from 11 species groups
- All combined with synchronized data on habitat preferences
- Total time spent: ±13 days

Managing species data

Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

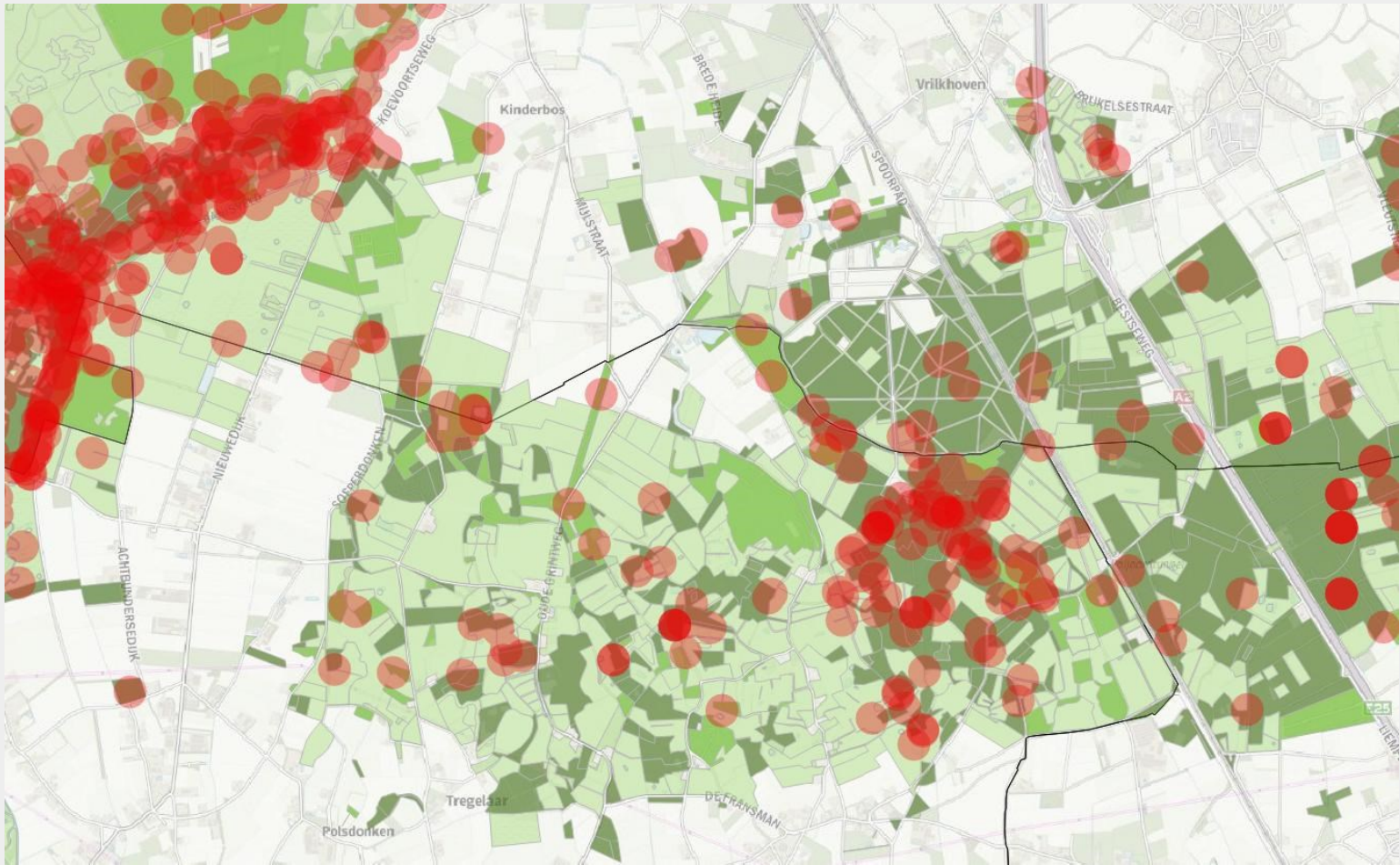
- Protected forest(edge)-species



Managing species data

Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

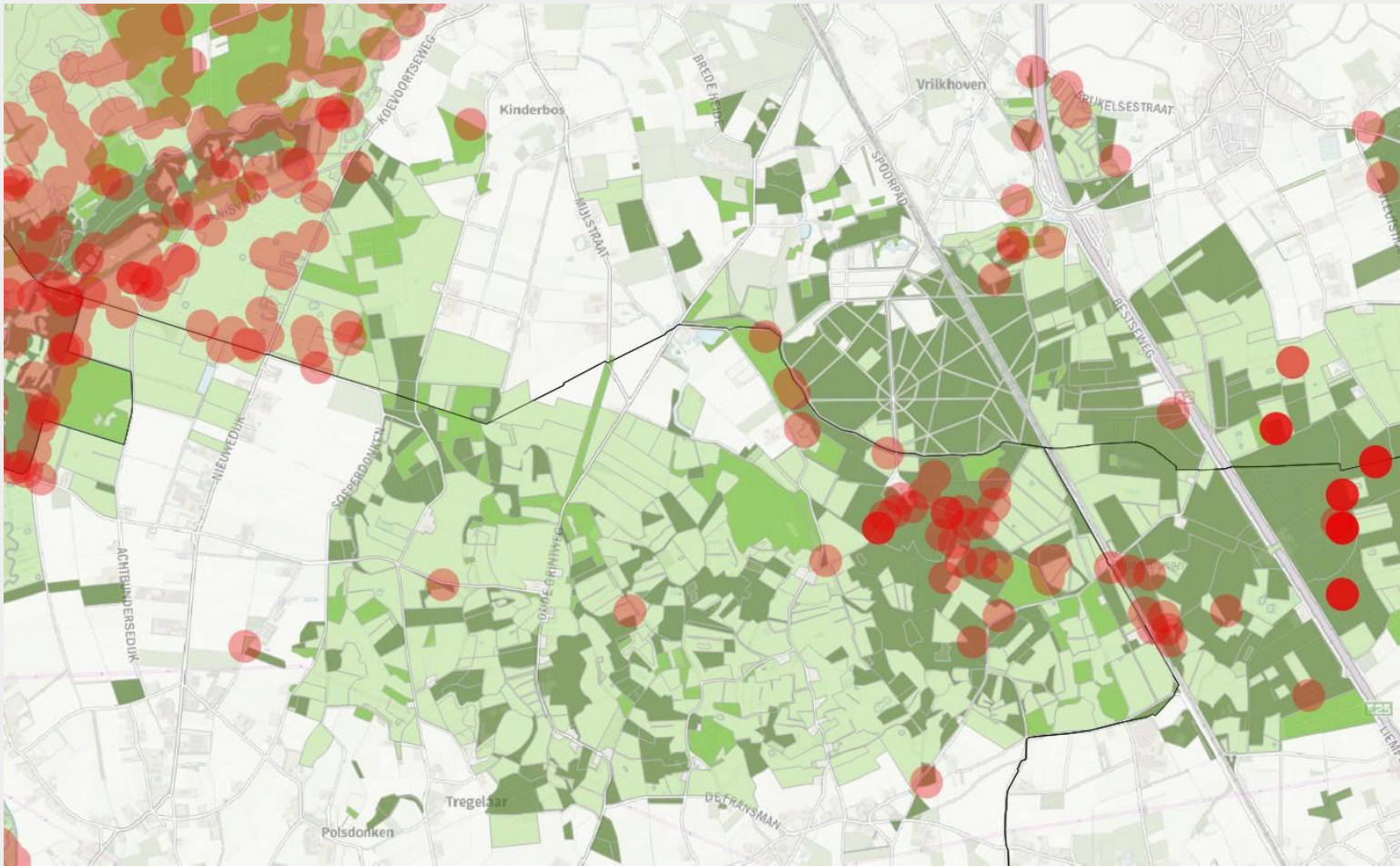
- Species of moist/wet forests



Managing species data

Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

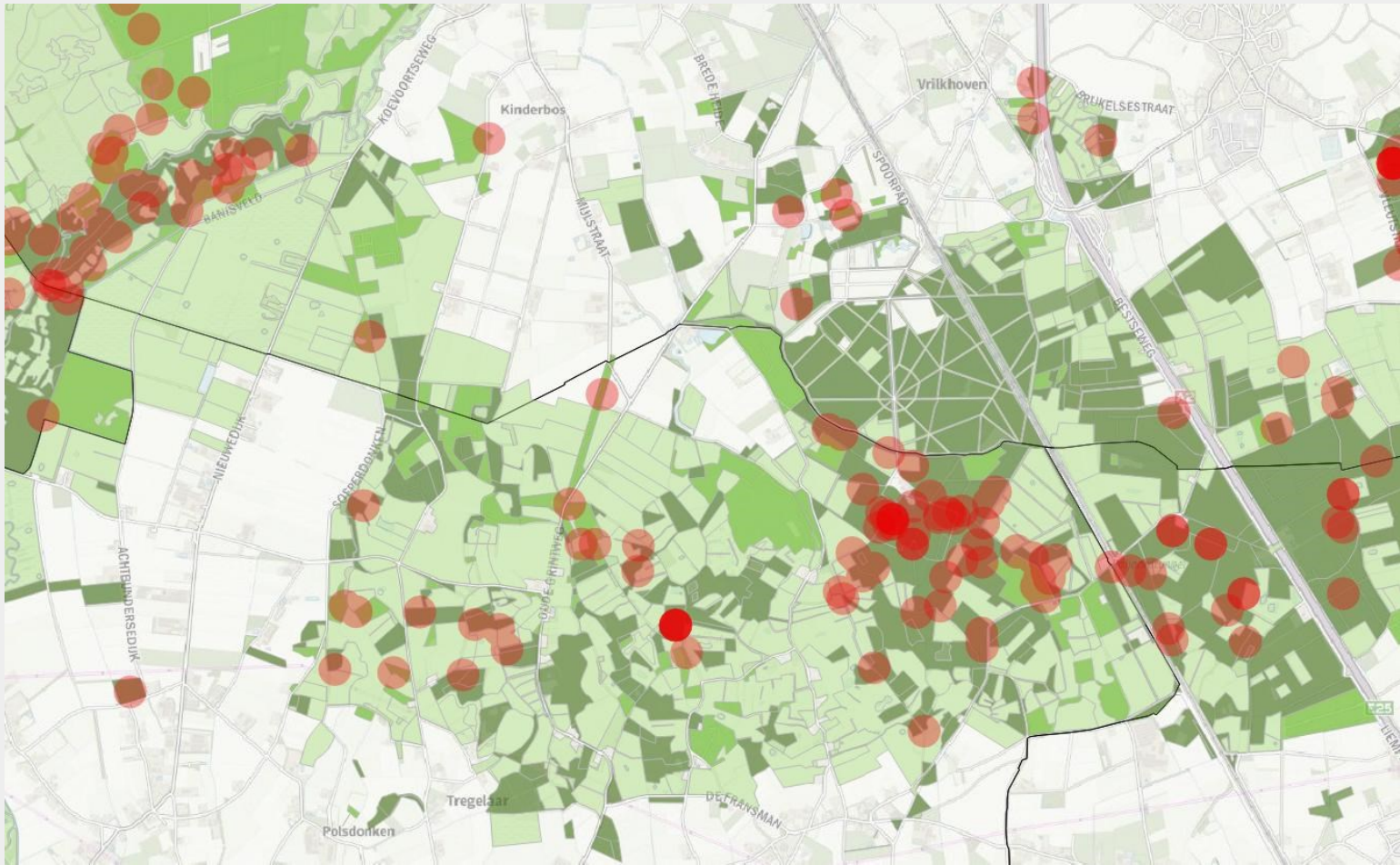
- Species of structurally varied forest(edge)s



Managing species data

Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

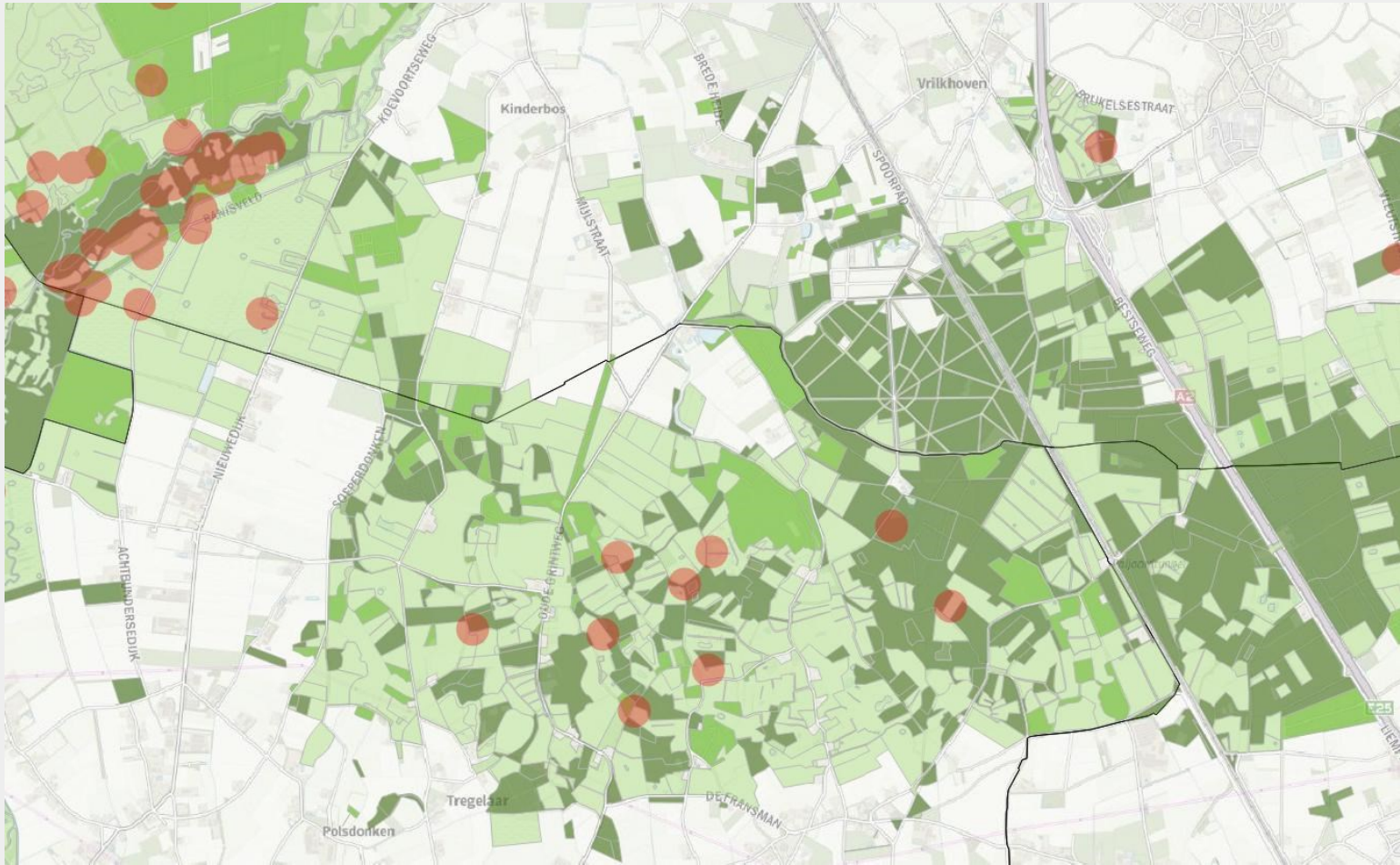
- Species dependent on dead wood



Managing species data

Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

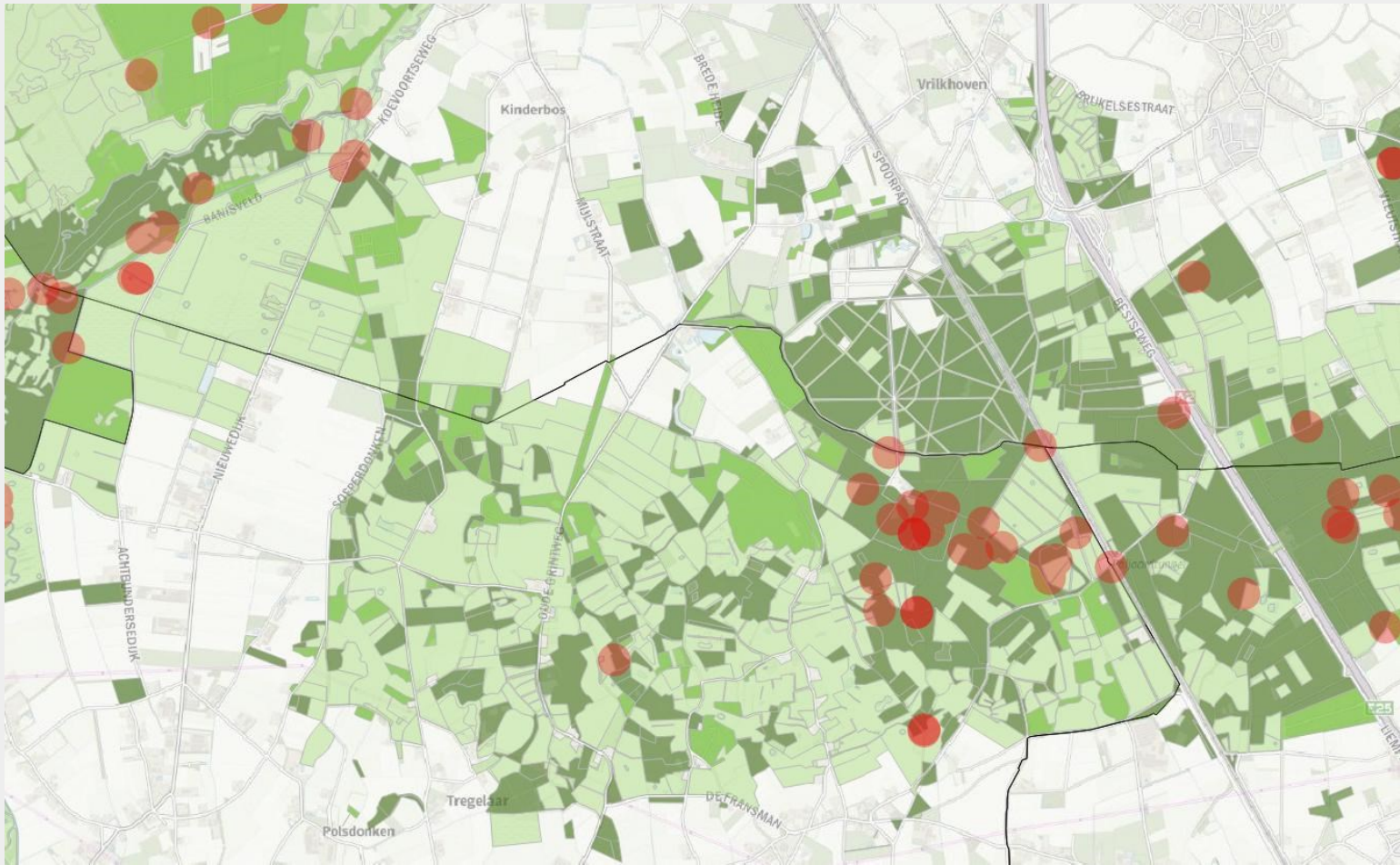
- Forest-species sensitive to disturbance



Managing species data

Example: loam forests in Het Groene Woud

- Rare forest(edge)-species



Conclusion

Nature managers (/ policy makers /ecologists):

- Be aware of the field of expertise of the specialist.
- Communicate your intentions.
- Taking into account insects is valuable and possible.
- Insects are obscure but that’s no problem
- Insectdata is incomplete; also no problem
- Focus on characteristic, threatened species and their microhabitats.
- Map qualities.