



Managing the northern progression of common ragweed using citizen science

The case of the Walloon region (Belgium)

Arnaud Monty

&

Adrien Delforge

Arnaud.monty@uliege.be







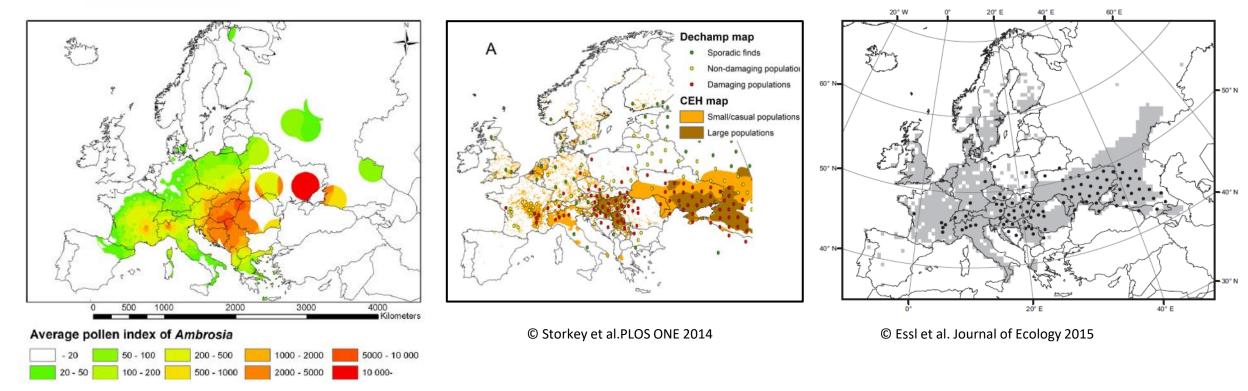
Plan

- > Southern Belgium: tackling ragweed at the beginning of the invasion
- > The Walloon Ragweed Observatory
- > The central role of citizen science:
 - where are the populations?
 - what are the introduction pathways?
- > Can we slow down the curve?







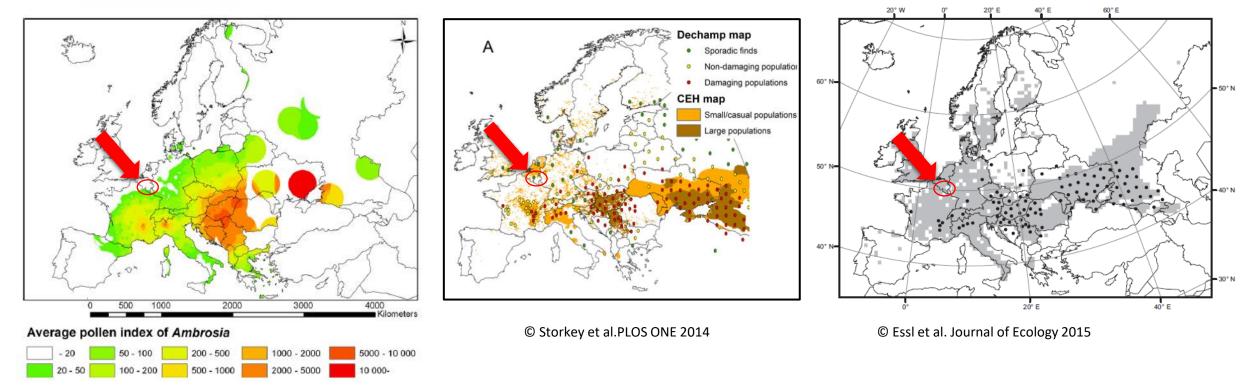


© European Aeroallergen Network database (https://ean.polleninfo.eu)









© European Aeroallergen Network database (https://ean.polleninfo.eu)







Biotechnol. Agron. Soc. Environ. 2017 21(1), 12-21



Northern range edge equilibrium of Ambrosia artemisiifolia L. not achieved in Western Europe

William Ortmans, Grégory Mahy, Arnaud Monty

University of Liège - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech. BIOSE department. Biodiversity and Landscape Unit. Pa Déportés, 2. BE-5030 Gembloux (Belgium). E-mail: ortmans.w@gmail.com

Description of the subject. The geographic distributions of a species, be it native or alien, is expected to be limited at some Received on June 16, 2016; accepted on February 21, 2017. point by environmental conditions. In this situation, a range edge equilibrium (REE) takes place, i.e., populations occurring beyond the edge have a growth rate reduced below replacement. The occurrence of REE has never been tested for an invasive beyond the edge have a grown rate reduced below replacement. The occurrence of KEE has never been tested for an invasive species. In Western Europe, the invasive weed Ambrosia artemisiifolia L. has spread in most parts of southern and central species. In western Europe, the invasive weed Amorosia ariemistipula L. has spread in most parts of southern and central France, where it can be found in very high densities in sunflower fields, but seems to be limited in its northwards expansion. It is currently unknown whether the range has reached a limit or not. Information about how the species responds to sunflower

Objectives. This work addressed two questions: Has the northern part of A. artemisiifolia invaded range in Western Europe

reacned RED: Flow 15 A. ariemisiyona performance innuenced by sunnower competition?

Method. Plots were established in an agricultural field ca. 250 km north to the current invaded range, in Belgium. We planted A. artemisifolia seedlings with or without sunflower competition. The following year, the population growth rates and the soil

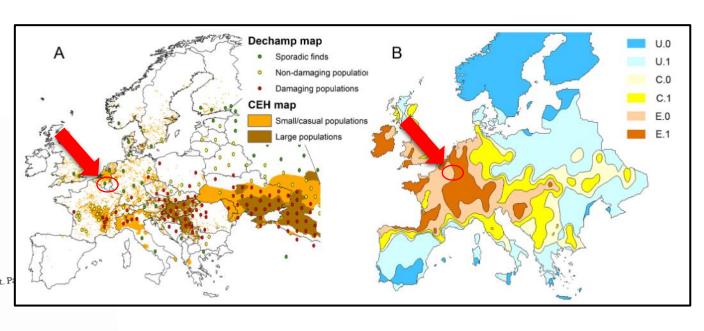
seed Dank were assessed.

Results. The species established populations with relatively high growth rates and soil seed bank. Sunflower competition did

not have a significant impact on plant performance.

Conclusions. The results invalidate the hypothesis of equilibrium at the current margin of A. artemisiifolia invaded range, and

suggest a significant potential for invasion northwards. **Keywords.** Geographical distribution, invasive species, interspecific competition, field experimentation, ecological factors,

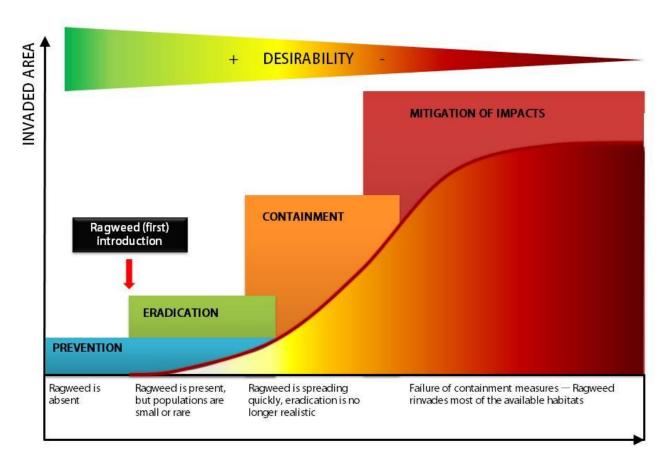


© Storkey et al.PLOS ONE 2014







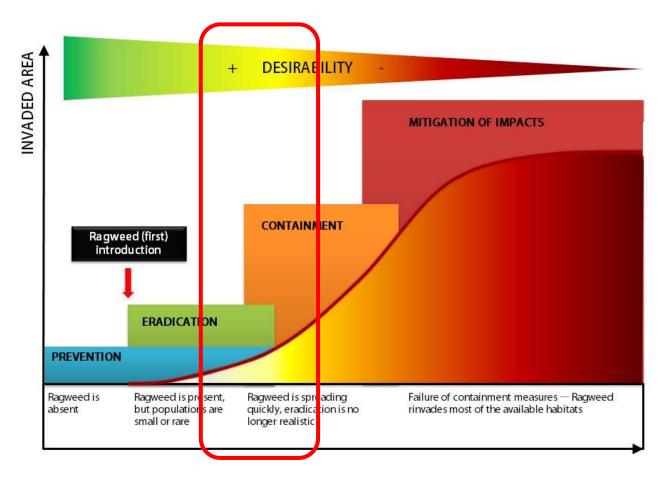


TIME









TIME







The Walloon Ragweed Observatory

- Control is more efficient and less expensive early in the invasion process
- The potential impacts are high
- BUT we needed more information about the situation

→ Support from the regional authorities →









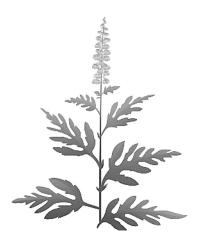


Information, training, social media, etc.

→ Engage in citizen science



Naturalists – Farmers – General public



















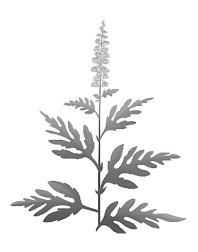






Citizen science through existing platforms or direct contact



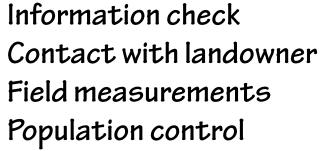




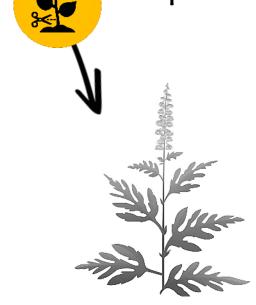




























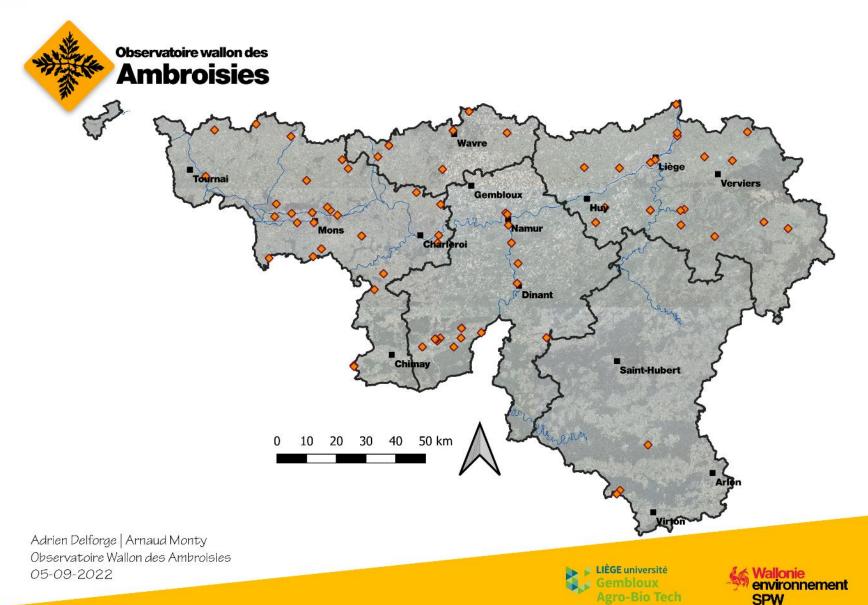


Engagement: Naturalists > General public > Farmers

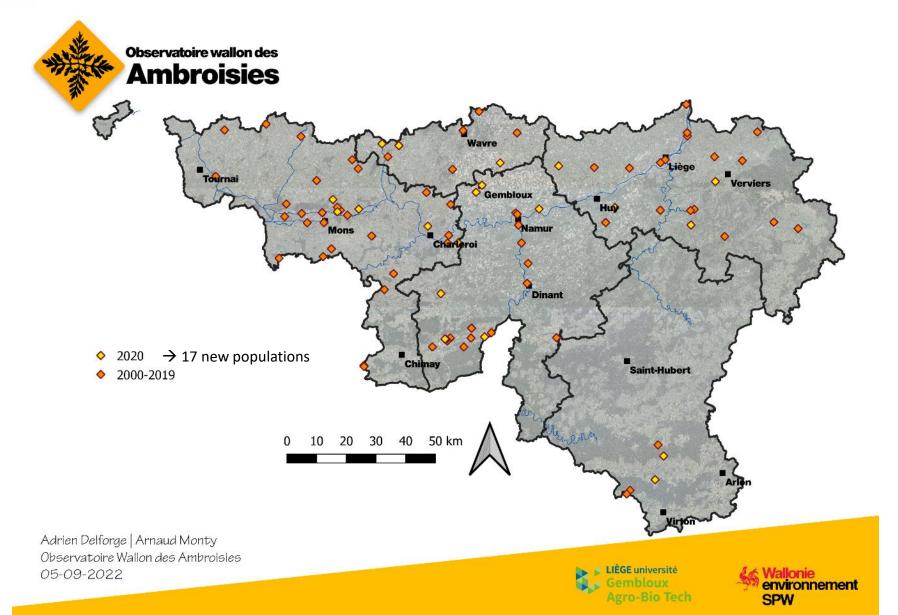




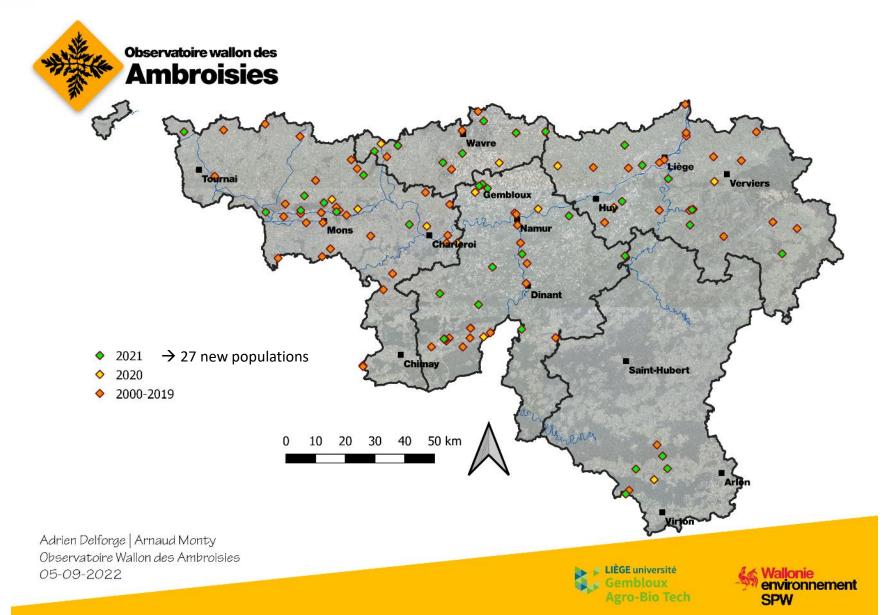




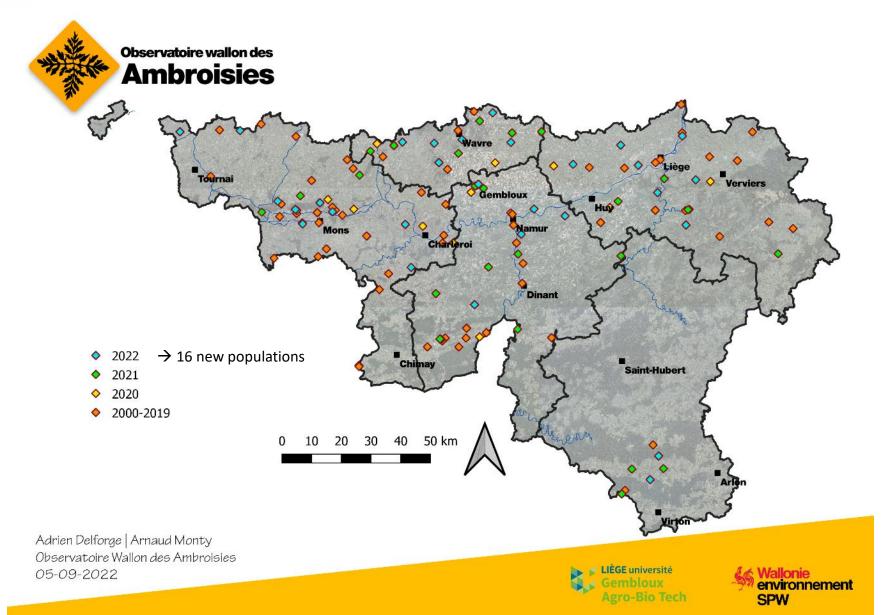






















The central role of citizen science: what are the introduction pathways?

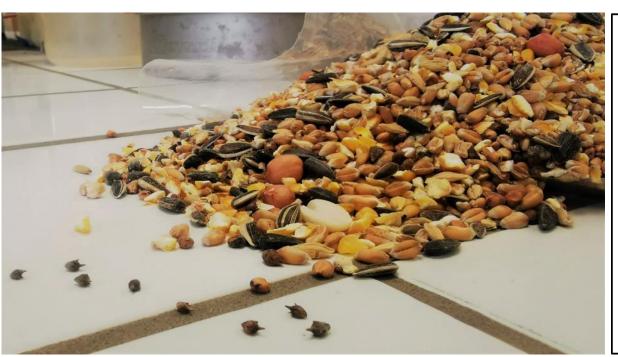


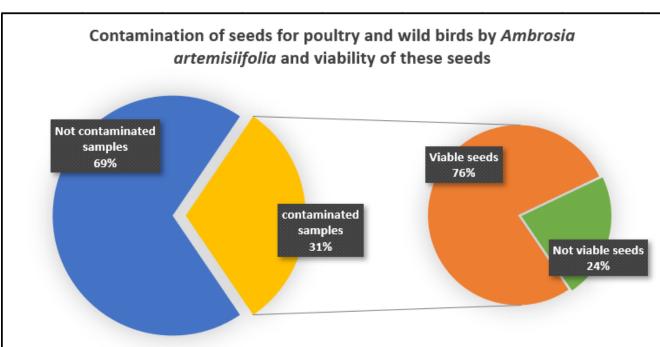






The central role of citizen science: what are the introduction pathways?

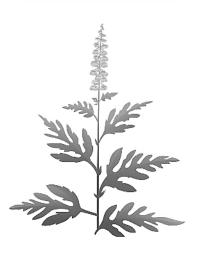










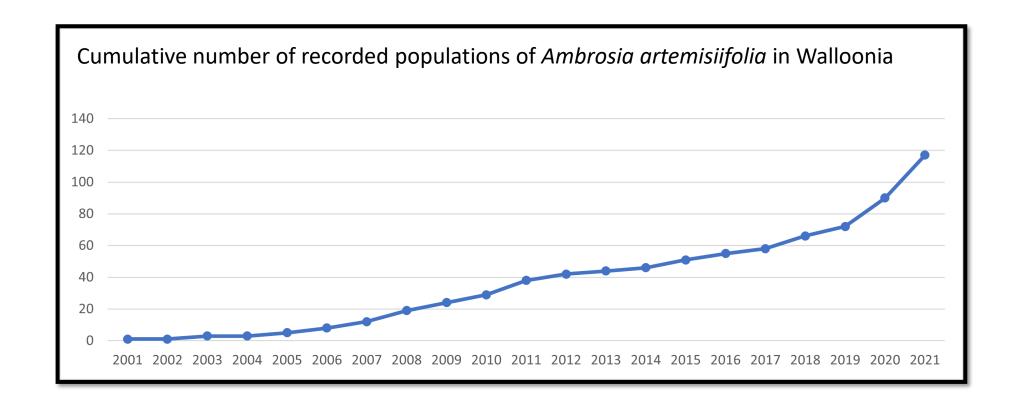












NB:

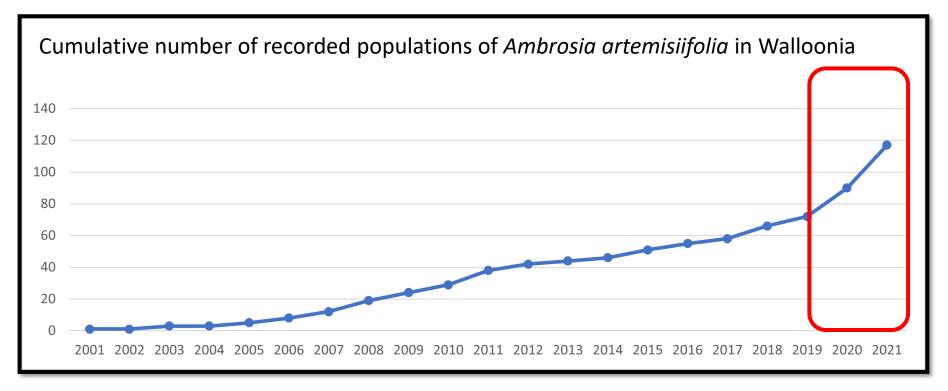
We ask people to record...

People record all species more often...







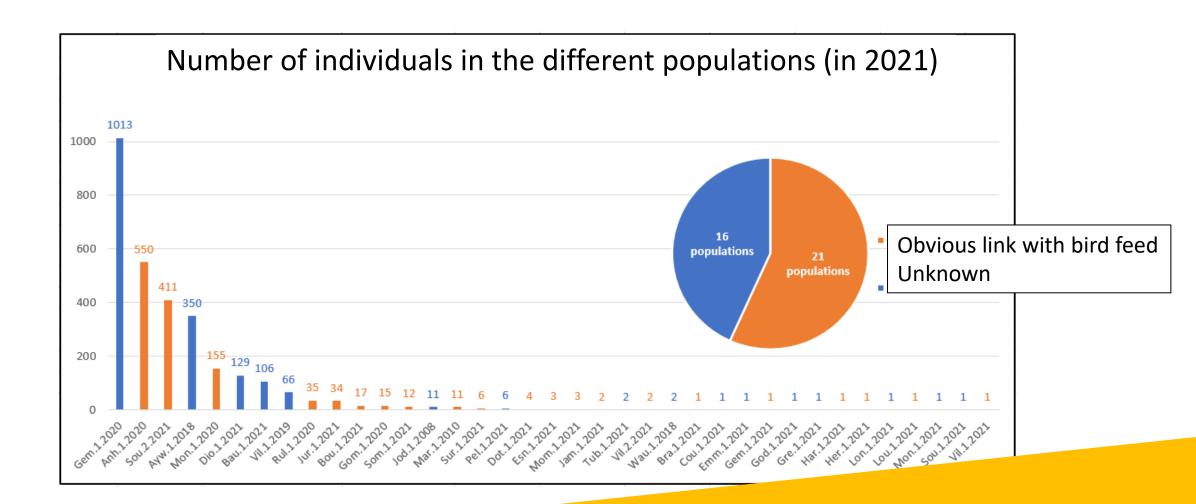


All plants were removed!





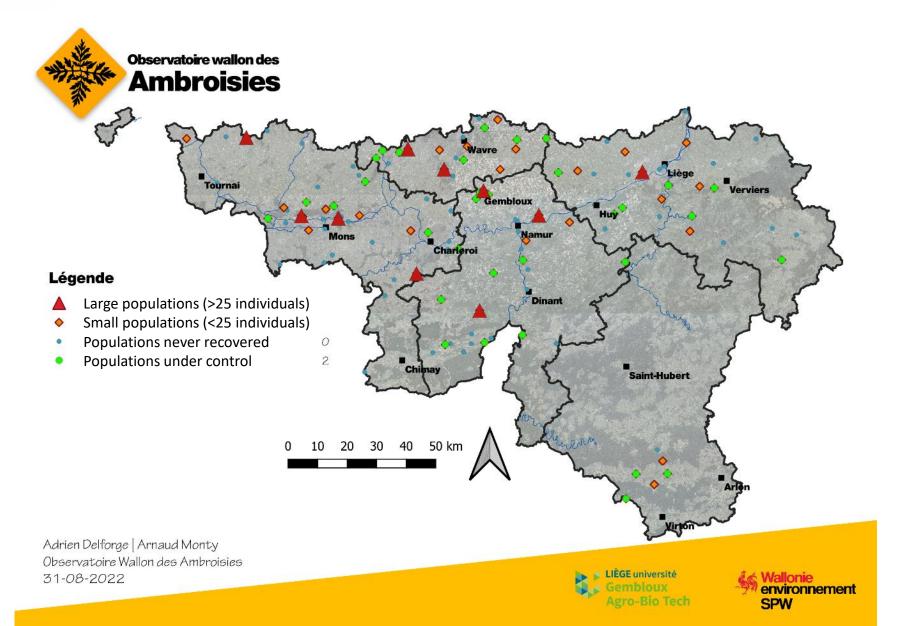














Take home message

- Citizen science: not so easy, but it works...
- ➤ Nature enthousiasts are easier to engage
- Quantitative analyses not straightforward





Take home message

- > Citizen science: not so easy, but it works...
- ➤ Nature enthousiasts are easier to engage
- > Quantitative analyses not straightforward

Thank you for your attention!