Orchisauvage.fr : An ambitious participatory science project supporting the knowledge and conservation of wild orchids

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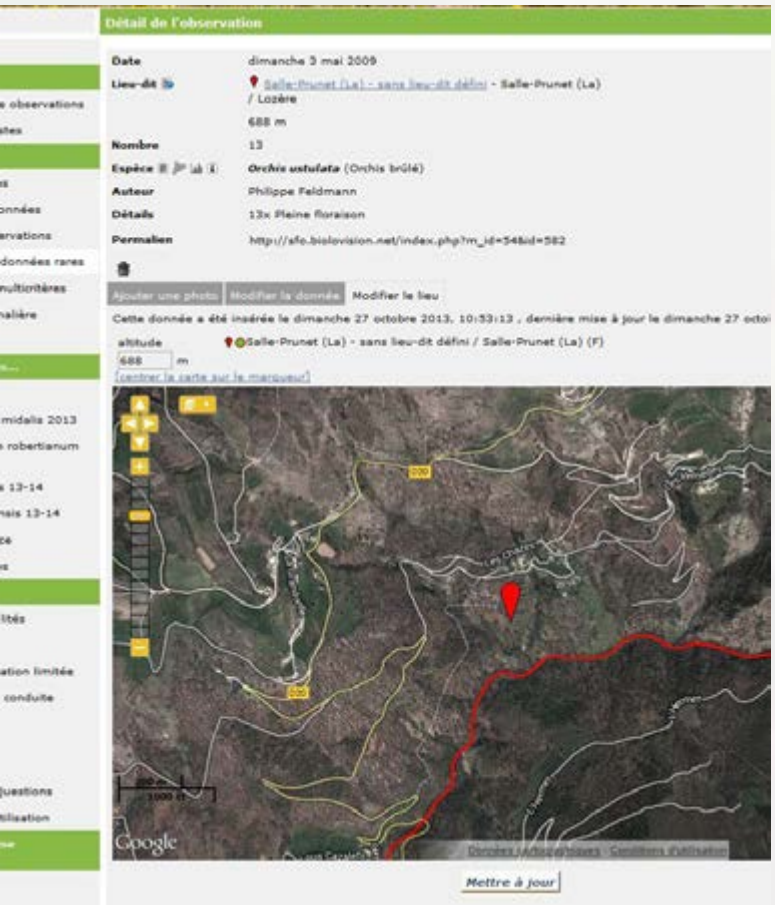
A new approach on interactions between science and society, thanks to orchids…



- Evolution of relationships between scientists, conservationists, observers, citizen, managers and civil society
- Citizen are going from the status of data providers used by others to responsible actors of their use with a real feed-back
- Allows a novel capacity of reaction in case of threats
- Requests new type of governance supporting ethical use of collected records

What is it? A Website that allows to collect and share wild orchids' records

Open to everyone

Based on a user-friendliness and participative concept developed by *Biolovision* in Europe and first implemented in France for birds by the network *Visionature* (LPO) including IT tools development (Appli NaturaList)

Participation, sharing, transparency, respect, quality of records (validation committee) and security for biodiversity (precision of location)
Initiated and owned voluntary by an NGO (SFO)

multicriteria search and exports

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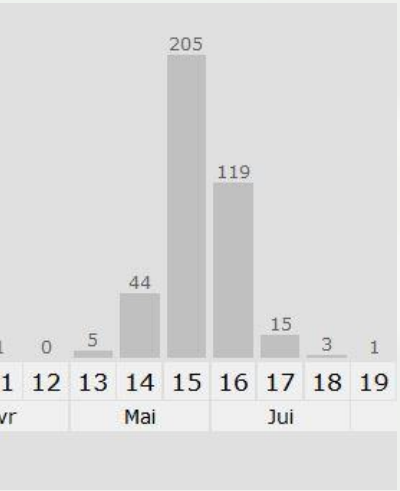
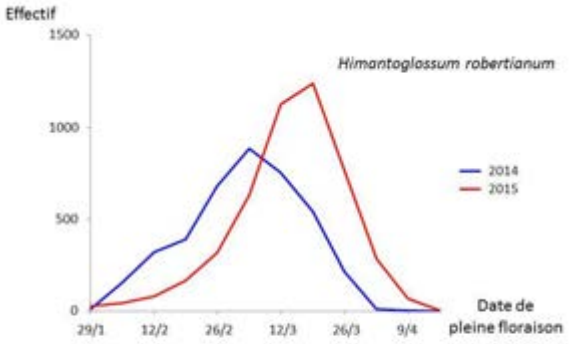


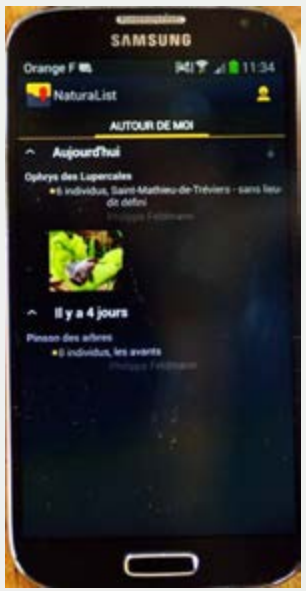
Phenology of *Ophrys aveyronensis*

- A rapid development
  - 150 000 records, 1 500 registrated observers (new and younger) and 14 000 uploaded pictures since its launching (February 2014)
  - Many new informations on distribution, phenology, or status useful for knowledge and conservation:
    - Already used for conservation actions
    - On line maps, multicriteria searching, exports available to participants

Keys to success: high level of commitment



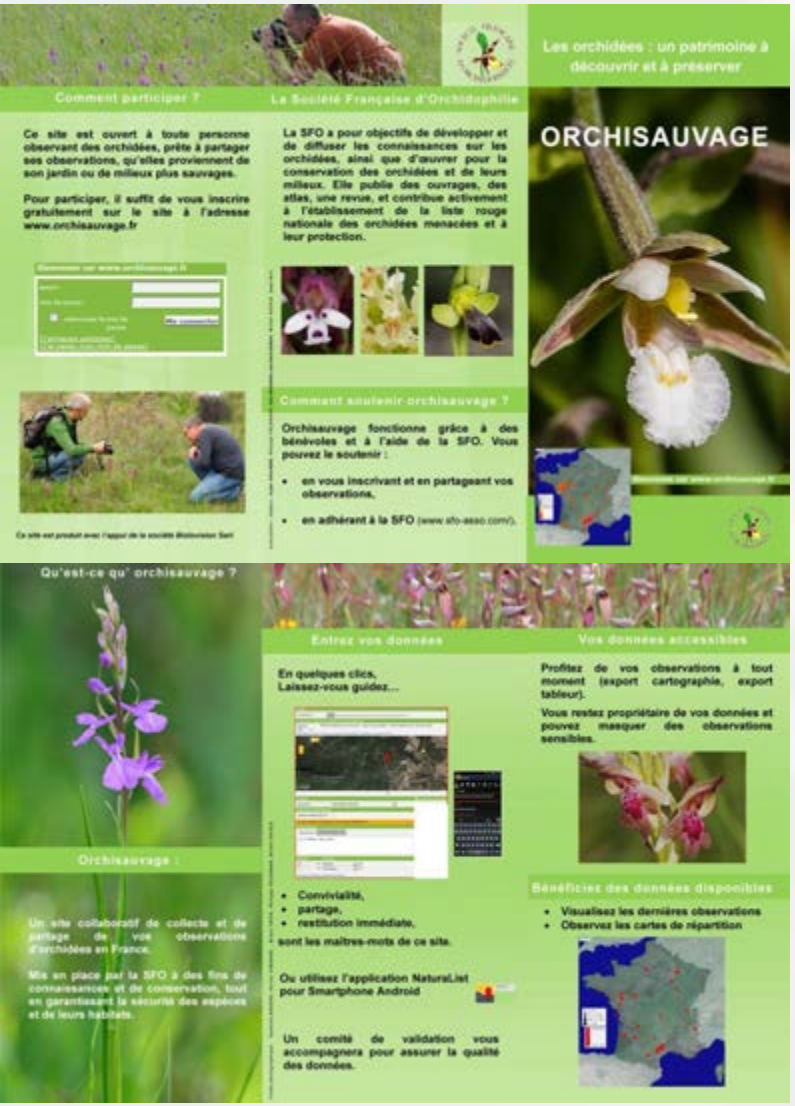
Flowering peaks of *Himantoglossum robertianum* in 2014 and 2015



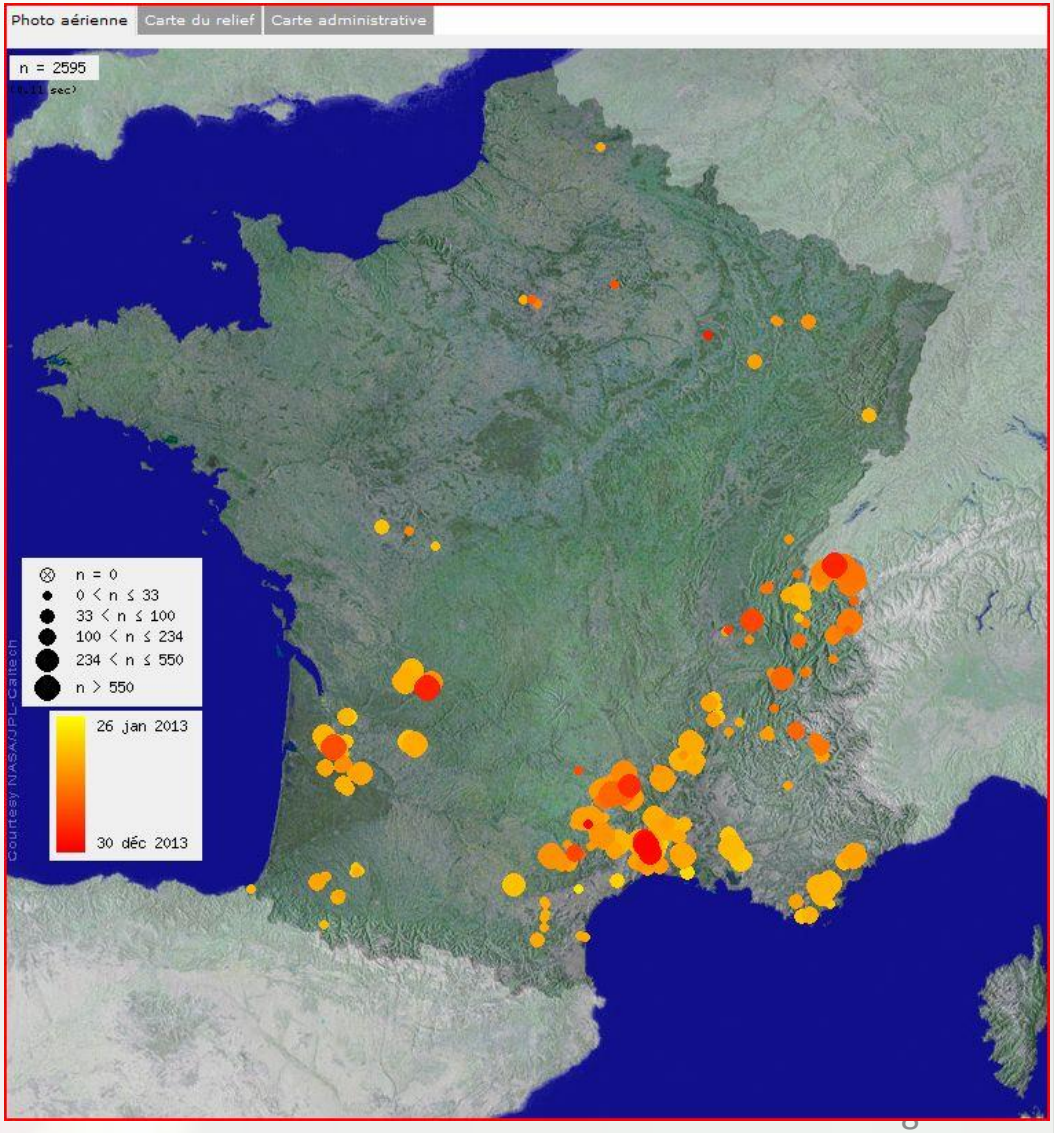
- One likely hypothesis of this rapid success, is that it provides welcome adapted services to citizens

- Citizens are central to the project
  - Ethics are quite clear
  - They decide freely how their records can be shared and used, even…. by scientists
  - How to involve them more in all steps?

Which future and the way forward?



- How can we improve these services? In order to:
  - to maintain and develop the participation
  - to provide new tools to the citizens for them to easily get, analyze and use the information
- This has to be built by the observers
  - Their participation, through on line tools, and with thousand of people, is challenging

And now, play on!

- http://www.orchisauvage.fr
- English, German and Dutch language versions soon available