



More Than Weeds – a year in pavement flora

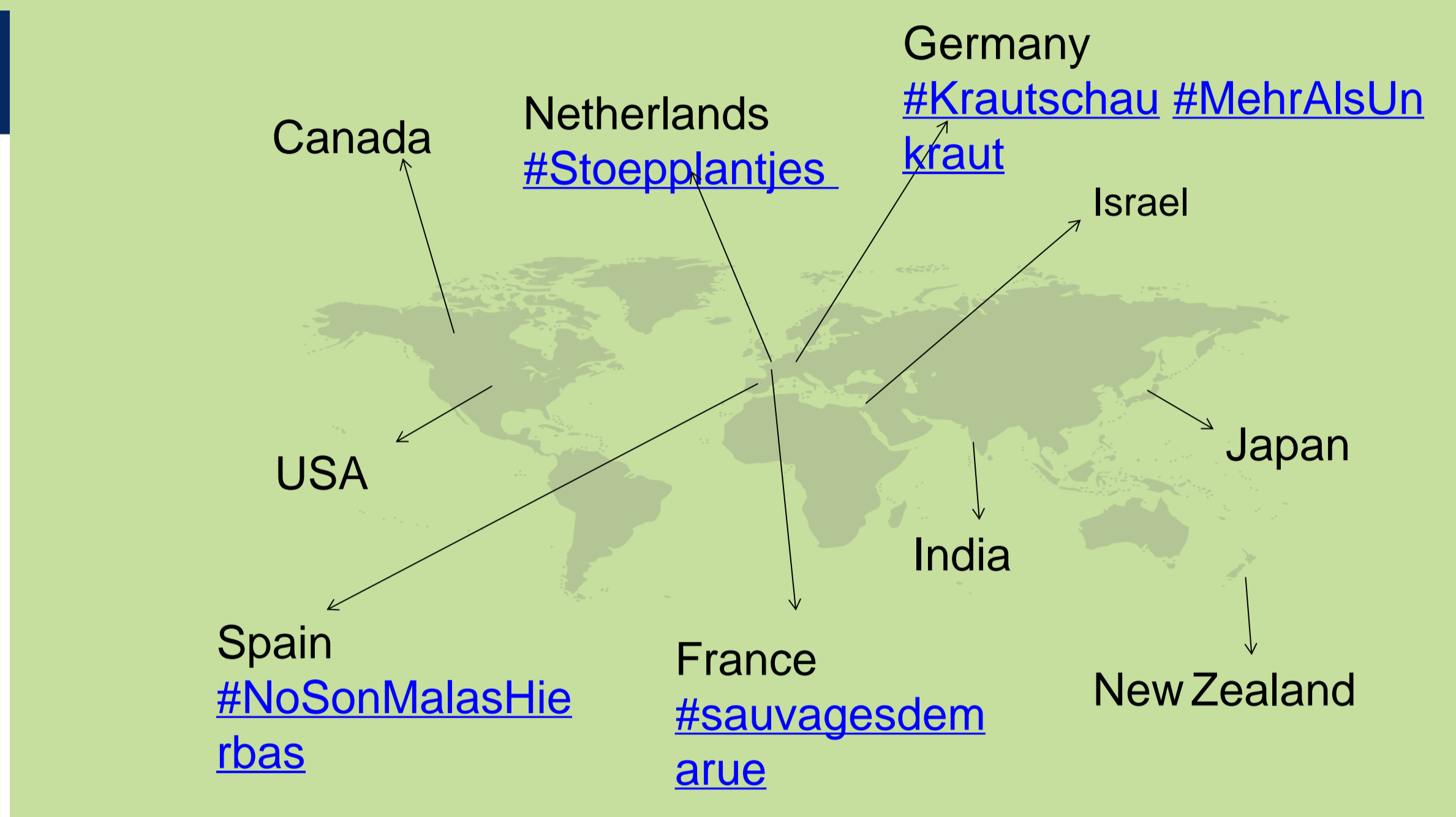
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“More Than Weeds” was launched in November 2019. In May 2020, an article was published in *The Guardian*, leading to coverage in **over 15 countries**.

Was this an effect of COVID-19, with less spraying in streets & more time to enjoy nature?



The project has been **fighting plant blindness** by bringing “weeds”, forgotten plants to the light, including in mainstream press, and through social media.



Successes:

- **Botanical chalking:** education & community
- **Awareness-raising activities:** social media, talks, virtual walks, radio programmes...
- **Advice & plant identification** for community groups, councils etc.



Future:

- More awareness-raising
- A **guidebook**
- **Guidance** for better management of urban plants
- **Cross-discipline work:** artists, landscapers, historians...



Hope to develop research on urban flora (evolution & historical links, insect abundance & diversity, impact on trees, roles of plants in cities...)

- ... But many **questions** → can traditional recording data be used (lack of precision)?
- link with the Urban Flora of Scotland project
- funding