



SAFEGUARD

Overview of global policy opportunities and roadmap that maps Safeguard research processes and outputs onto policy opportunities.

Deliverable D6.3

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**Safeguard
Safeguarding European wild pollinators**



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Summary

Global organisations and Conventions have the power to influence governments and policies at national and regional levels. They rely on authoritative advice from the scientific community but opportunities to engage are sometimes complex with both direct formal and indirect or informal routes (i.e., through knowledge brokers and science-policy interfaces) available that need to be identified and navigated. This report explores modes of engagement which will allow Safeguard to position itself and interact with relevant policymakers to help build research impact on an international stage. This report will be periodically reviewed over the course of Safeguard and updated based on shifting policy priorities, further announcements of relevant events, and emerging Safeguard findings and outputs.

List of abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties
COP-MOP	Conference of the Parties – Meeting of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IAF	Integrated Assessment Framework
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
EU	European Union
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SPI	Science-Policy Interface
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWUE	Julius-Maximilians-Universitaet Wuerzburg
WBSG	IUCN-wild bee specialist group (WBSG)
WP	Work package

1. Introduction

Understanding the global policy environment in which Safeguard's research can contribute to achieving is integral core aim of slowing and/or reversing the declines in wild pollinators and is crucial to optimise knowledge transfer to policy. Safeguard research focuses primarily on European wild pollinators, but its findings, tools and recommendations stand to have implications at a much wider geographic range. Therefore, an awareness of the policy environment beyond Europe is essential. The biodiversity crisis is a key priority in the international policy agenda and the loss of pollinators has been highlighted as a particular concern, with an estimation that pollinators are responsible for up to \$577 billion in annual crop production annually and that wider ecosystem integrity is highly reliant on pollinator biodiversity (IPBES, 2016). For Europe, (and corrected for 2021) estimates of the value of pollination services is around €16.7 billion/year (Leonhardt, *et. al.* 2013).

High quality evidence from research is essential and can provide the foundations for policy change through recommendations of action and by informing solutions. However, only sustained environmental governance supported by strong political will can lead to impactful change that can help with the global crisis of biodiversity loss. This can only occur when there is clear communication and knowledge exchange between science and policy. Safeguard recognises the significance of engaging with various science-policy interfaces (SPIs), with one of its key objectives to “inspire the development of management and policy guidelines for the public and private sectors”¹. To do this, Safeguard has carried out a multi-level stakeholder mapping exercise to identify and prioritise interest groups (Deliverable 7.1, Kinneen *et al.* 2022), set out a clear plan for knowledge exchange (Deliverable 7.2, Metodiev & Karaboycheva, 2022) and now aims to evaluate the global policy opportunities to plan effective engagement strategies over the course of the project.

As a first step, this report aims to identify and collate relevant information about international pollinator-related policy initiatives, and to identify key potential entry points and events which will allow synergies between Safeguard research and various science-policy interfaces (SPIs). Considering the lifetime of the Safeguard project (2021-2025), we look to develop a roadmap to act as a guide and provide recommendations for opportunities and modes of engagement. These include holding ‘Buzzing tables’ (Task 7.4), attending and organising focused side events and presenting at highly relevant conferences and congresses to disseminate key findings to a policy audience. However, as the international policy sector can be dynamic with new policy priorities and initiatives emerging and with events organised at different frequencies, we also include recommendations for “active vigils”. In these instances, members of Safeguard WP6 and WP7 will continuously scan for upcoming events which the Safeguard members can engage with during the project lifetime. We will also periodically reassess the global policy environment and add relevant events as they arise.

In order to identify entry points for Safeguard research outputs into the international policy sphere, we developed a framework to assess policy initiatives, their pollinator-relevant goals, work and organisational structure(s), modes of engagement and “moments” or events (Figure 1). In section 2 of this report, we apply this framework to global pollinator-relevant policy initiatives, giving an introduction and summary of their key goals, a brief description on how they are run or operate, and then some key events and recommendations for entry points.

¹ <https://www.safeguard.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/Project/About.aspx>

This report focuses on global policies, those that act at an international level beyond the EU. For information on European-level policy priorities and recommendations for entry points please refer to D6.1: SAFEGUARD roadmap for engaging with the EU policy priorities and policymakers which accompanies an online policy roadmap highlighting relevant events at a European level.



Figure 1 Framework to identify entry points to the international policy sphere for Safeguard's research. The first step involved identifying major global policy initiatives (column 1), followed by their key goals, how pollinators can be relevant (synergies with pollinators/pollination), and their modes of operation (strategies and work structure). This information was used to propose entry points (modes of engagement) and to identify key events (moments).

2. Global policy initiatives with relevance to pollinators

2.1. The United Nations (UN)

At the forefront of the global policy sphere lies the United Nations, an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1945, which brings together 193 member states with the broad aim to resolve issues that are not the responsibility of a single nation, or which cannot be solved by any individual nation. The work of the UN is based on guiding principles laid out in their Charter² and involves (i) maintaining international peace and security, (ii) protecting human rights, (iii) delivering humanitarian aid, (iv) promoting sustainable development and (v) upholding international law. As an organisation, it is structured as six main bodies under which a series of subsidiary organs, Commissions, other bodies, and specialised agencies lie³.

² <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

³ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/09/un_system_chart.pdf

The UN system contains several funds and programmes including their Environment Programme (UNEP), which may be the most pertinent entity to Safeguard. UNEP is the highest-level decision-making body concerning environmental issues and acts as an “authoritative advocate for the global environment”. It aims to help solve the three planetary crises: climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollutants by identifying global priorities and establishing campaigns. The Environment Assembly is the governing body of UNEP and meets every two years to set the agenda for global environmental policies and assessing progress towards environmental goals. It has set out its vision for reversing climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss in its Medium Term Strategy (MTS) For People and Planet (2022-2025). The importance of pollinators is included in the situational analysis within this MTS, quoting findings from the IPBES Pollination Assessment which highlighted the reliance of food production on pollinators.

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** which supports the global response to climate change, may also be relevant to Safeguard’s work but is not included as a focus of this report. This UN entity, established in 1992, has almost complete membership with 197 Parties signed up to it and is responsible for the design and implementation of different climate change treaties such as the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol. The UNFCCC secretariat meets 2-4 times a year and they also hold an annual COP. Climate COP 27 will be held in Egypt 6-18th November 2022.

Similarly, the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, while not a priority for this report, may have relevance to pollinators as they may play an important role in restoration and combatting desertification. The UNCCD regularly hosts events which may be good opportunities for Safeguard to engage to ensure pollinators are on their agenda. This year, they are holding **2022 Désertif’Actions** 5-8th October in Montpellier, which will be a gathering of NGOs, scientists, local communities, private and public sectors to debate their stance on land degradation, biodiversity conservation, climate change and their consequences⁴.

Events & opportunities: The UN holds a number of observances⁵ in the forms of “International days, weeks and years” which act as powerful advocacy tools to raise public awareness of particular issues and also which help mobilise political will. Observances relevant to Safeguard’s work and which could be used to promote the consortium’s work include:

World Wildlife Day – 20th March.

World Bee Day – 20th May.

International Day for Biological Diversity – 22nd May.

World Environment Day – 5th June.

It also observed a **Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020**, during which an emphasis was placed on setting targets to halt biodiversity loss. During this period, the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) proposed the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its twenty Aichi Targets (see Section 2.2.1), the CBD has produced the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – a draft of

⁴ <https://desertif-actions.org/en/homepage/>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-decades>

the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2020/2 - 2030, discussed below and Section 2.2.

Each year, the UN holds several summits and conferences related to their key issues.

Members of the Safeguard consortium should consider organising strategic knowledge exchange activities, especially the use of social media communications during UN observances to amplify those current events with the topic of pollinators. This may include engaging in relevant side events organised by other organisations and consortia who share common interests with Safeguard.

Keep an active vigil for UN events that are relevant to emerging Safeguard outputs. These are advertised on the UN website⁶ which is regularly updated.

2.2. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was proposed and opened for signature during the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and began to operate a year later. It has three main goals: to conserve biodiversity, to ensure the sustainable use of biological materials and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. To date, 196 parties have signed up to the Convention, which works on the basis of developing frameworks of decisions. The Convention has established two main protocols, the Cartagena and the Nagoya protocols, which concern biosafety and access to genetic resources and fair benefit sharing respectively. While not hugely relevant to the workings of the Safeguard project, they form two major outputs of the CBD and are discussed briefly below. These protocols contain regulations that must be abided by (i.e., legally-binding). Focused meetings on both protocols are held in conjunction with the main Conference of Parties (COP) of the CBD, these meetings are referred to COP-MOPs and are opportunities for Parties and delegates of the CBD to discuss and reform both protocols.

Members of the CBD needed a mechanism in which to better inform their decision-making processes based on evidence and in this context, the CBD formed the **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**; SBSTTA is intended to act as an intergovernmental science advisory body for CBD Parties. SBSTTA was established under Article 25 of the Convention⁷ and regularly reports to the COP on its work. Its functions include assessing the status and trends of biodiversity and the measures taken to protect it and responding to questions and issues raised at COPs.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety – is a treaty concerning the transfer of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another. It was brought into force in 2003. The aim of the treaty is to protect biodiversity from potential risks associated with the movement of LMOs and it also considers risks posed to human health⁸.

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing – is a legal framework to ensure one of three main objectives of

⁶ <https://www.un.org/en/content/summits2022/>

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/?a=cbd-25>

⁸ <https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/text/>

the CBD (*the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources*)⁹. It came into force in 2014.

2.2.1. The International Pollinators Initiative Plan of Action 2018-2030

At its fourteenth meeting (COP 14, 2018), the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted the Plan of Action 2018–2030 for the International Pollinator Initiative and emphasized that the purpose of the Plan of Action was to “help Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations and initiatives to implement decision XIII/15”.¹⁷ The Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is responsible for developing this Plan of Action, with a final approval by Parties at CBD COPs. The purpose of the International Pollinator Initiative is to support countries and stakeholders to safeguard wild and managed pollinators and to promote the sustainable use of pollination services¹⁰. To do this, they have set four objectives:

- a) “In implementing coherent and comprehensive policies for the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels, and promoting their integration into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and strategies;
- b) In reinforcing and implementing management practices that maintain healthy pollinator communities, and enable farmers, beekeepers, foresters, land managers and urban communities to harness the benefits of pollination for their productivity and livelihoods;
- c) In promoting education and awareness in the public and private sectors of the multiple values of pollinators and their habitats, in improving the tools for decision-making, and in providing practical actions to reduce and prevent pollinator decline;
- d) In monitoring and assessing the status and trends of pollinators, pollination, and their habitats in all regions and to address gaps in knowledge, including by fostering relevant research”.

Within the same decision, it was noted that FAO would facilitate the implementation of the International Pollinator Initiative through guidance and technical advice to countries and support decision-making processes on pollination, including on the use of chemicals in agriculture, protection programmes for native pollinators in natural ecosystems, promotion of biodiverse production systems, crop rotation, monitoring of native pollinators and environmental education

The IPIs Plan of Action recommendations for pollinator research in **Annex 4.2 Research** which promotes:

- Participatory research on socioeconomic and environmental impacts of pollinator declines,
- Standardising protocols for pollinator research,

⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/abs/>

¹⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-22-sbi-2/sbstta-22-ipi-draft.pdf>

- Strong knowledge exchange strategies which share research findings and thus plug research gaps,
- Identifying pollinator-friendly practices in farming systems,
- Further research to identify risks to pollinators under climate change,
- Further research and analysis on pest management,
- Translating pollinator research into recommendations for specific practices, and;
- Strengthening synergies between scientific evidence, conservation practices, farming communities and traditional knowledge.

Events and Opportunities:

When designing this initiative, one key activity that was suggested was to encourage networking activities through regular conferences for the Initiative, web portals and social media etc.

Safeguard is well-placed and work packages are coordinated in such a way that may contribute to a number of the research goals set out in IPI's Plan of Action. Members of Safeguard should keep **an active vigil** to ensure they are ready to engage in any events and/or forums that are announced.

A member of the Safeguard Advisory Board coordinated the documentation of the IPI and their Plan of Action with additional expert advice from another Safeguard Team Member¹¹. Ensure Safeguard experts are available to contribute to any further developments of IPI's Plan of Action.

2.2.2. The UN CBD Conference of Parties (COPs)

Held every two years, the UN biodiversity conference of parties (CBD COP) is an important component of the CBD's work structure. It is also a clear opportunity for engagement for Safeguard.

COP 15 – The UN biodiversity conference, also known as COP 15, comprises two parts. The first was held in 2021 in Kunming, China.

Following the first part of COP 15, the Kunming declaration was signed by Parties. In this declaration, commitment 7 is particularly relevant to Safeguard as commits to *strengthening the sustainable use of biodiversity for meeting the needs of people*. Pollinators are vital to this, so it is imperative that they are explicitly included in targets for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Part 2 of COP 15 will continue to establish this framework, so Safeguard should remain vigilant to mention of Pollinators at this meeting.

Events and Opportunities: UN Biodiversity COPs are held every two years. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed COP 15, originally intended to be held in 2020. Further complications created by international travel regulations split COP 15

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-22-sbi-2/sbstta-22-ipi-draft.pdf>

into two events. The first part was held in Kunming, China (see above) and the second part of COP 15 will be held 7-19th December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. Registration to attend COP15 is now open. The CBD also invites governing bodies and organisations accredited to the Convention to organise **side events**, which can focus on specific topics or **exhibition stands**. Applications to host a side event must be submitted before 30th September 2022 and you must seek accreditation prior to submitting your application.

Safeguard representative(s) should consider attending COP 15 and look out for relevant side events but consider co-organising a specific side event for COP 16. Given that COP 15 is fast-approaching and to be held relatively early in Safeguard's timeline, we recommend priority be given to engaging with COP 16 in 2024.

Several Safeguard partners are involved in organising a pollinator-specific side event for COP 15. The event will surround the future of pollination initiatives and potential impacts on policy, featuring representatives from Promote Pollinators, IUCN WBSG, and the FAO project on Poli-LAC (a regional pollination project to start in 2023 in 4 countries: Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru). The preliminary format for the event is three talks with an opportunity to showcase and advertise policy briefs. This **joint event is proposed by FAO, IPI and Promote Pollinators**.

2.2.3. Strategic plans for Biodiversity

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Following COP 10 of the CBD which was held in Nagoya, Japan in 2010, the CBD adopted their Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020). As part of this Plan, they set the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**, twenty ambitious targets to conserve biodiversity. Recent assessment of progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets found none of them fully achieved and good progress on only four of 20 targets (IPBES, 2019). Several have relevance to pollinators. An important target which mandated that all CBD parties develop and implement **National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBSAPs)** by 2015 was Target 17 under Goal E of the Plan. NBSAPs "have been updated in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by 170 countries, 85% of CBD Parties" (SCBD, 2020, GBO 5)

Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 - by 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan)

These NBSAPs are policy instruments designed to achieve the goals of the CBD at national scale. Specifically, they aim to assess the state of biodiversity, to identify drivers of loss and to develop plans and strategies that conserve and promote the sustainable use of biological diversity. Several nations have included pollinator-specific

action plans within their NBSAPs as pollinators contribute to the success of other Aichi Biodiversity Targets too (e.g., Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7 & 14, see below).

***Aichi Biodiversity Target 7** - By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.*

***Aichi Biodiversity Target 14** - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.*

2.2.4. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The CBD is in the process of finalising a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will outline a set of goals to help achieve the **2030 biodiversity targets** and its longer-term **2050 Vision of living with nature**. This framework is currently in draft format, but 22 goals have been established¹². The fourth meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) was held in June 2022.

Within this framework there are 22 urgent-action targets to be achieved by 2030.

***Target 9:** By 2030 support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].*

***T9.1** Sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity, including soil biodiversity, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives.*

***Monitoring elements (MEs):** Trends in pollinators (1 of 5 MEs).*

***Indicator(s):** Red List Index (pollinating species).*

Events and Opportunities: A meeting of the Informal Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was announced 26th August 2022 and will be held 26-30 September 2022 in Montreal, Canada.

The Fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will precede COP 15 and be held from the 3rd to 5th December 2022, in Montreal Canada.

Keep **an active vigil** for similar meetings and events throughout the course of Safeguard.

A Red List Index of pollinator species has been chosen as an indicator of T9.1, Safeguard can directly contribute to this as WP 1 is working on producing red lists of European pollinators.

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/079d/0d26/91af171843b6d4e9bee25086/wg2020-04-l-02-annex-en.pdf>

2.3. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body established to improve the links between policy, industry, non-governmental organisations, scientific and Indigenous communities. It aims to gather and disseminate expert knowledge from both sides of the science-policy interface (see Figure 2) concerning the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the sustainable use of biodiversity and long-term sustainable development. IPBES is considered an independent body under the auspices of UNEP, and it has strong collaborative partnerships with UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP and FAO. These institutional connections are formal recognition of the role these UN entities had in the establishment of IPBES, and an acknowledgement of the relevance of their mandates to work carried out by IPBES.

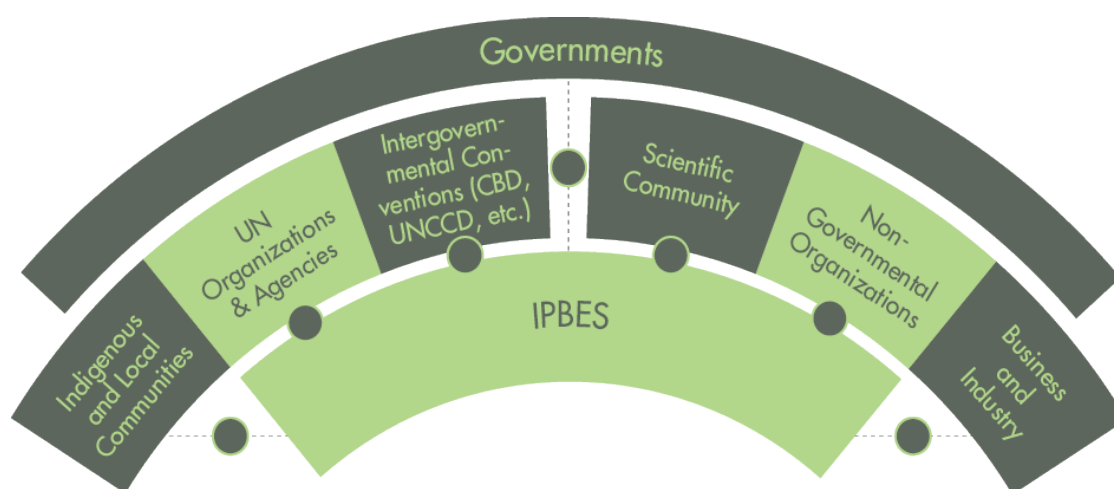


Figure 2 A schematic showing how IPBES acts as platform to gather expertise from a wide range of interest groups and how it harnesses this to build and influence policy in government. Source: <https://ipbes.net/about>

The plenary, made up of representatives of almost 140 IPBES member States meets annually to discuss activities and decide on themes and priorities. The organisations' work centres around carrying out assessments of knowledge on specific themes, supporting policy, building capacity and catalysing the generation of knowledge.

Pollination is one of IPBES' priorities, and their first thematic assessment published in 2016 was on *Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production*. This report was chaired by a member of the Safeguard consortium, and many of the lead and contributing authors were also from the project. The assessment process critically assessed all available knowledge over a 2-year period by taking a systematic approach to analyse the quantity, quality, and balance of available evidence. The resulting assessment report formed the first critical evaluation of global knowledge to inform enhanced policy responses to pollinator declines and deficits in pollination service, by identifying policy-relevant findings and options for decision-making in government, the private sector and civil society, as well as demonstrating how pollination contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since then, IPBES has published reports on biodiversity and climate change (2021), biodiversity and pandemics (2021), sustainable use of wild species (2022), invasive

alien species (2023) and a methodological assessment on the diverse values and valuation of nature (2022) and they are currently working on their 2030 work programme which includes two thematic assessments and one methodological assessment:

- **Nexus assessment**¹³ – an assessment that links biodiversity, water, food, and health in the context of climate change. This assessment supports IPBES' goal of assessing the state of knowledge on biodiversity and nature's contribution to people in support of *sustainable development*. Pollinators may be an important component to consider for this topic, and Safeguard's research from its policy-facing WP may be particularly relevant. This is discussed further in section 2.5 of this report which highlights the importance of pollinators to achieving the UN SDGs.
- **Transformative change assessment**¹⁴ – a thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and what can help achieve transformative change. This assessment report considers the social, cultural, economic, institutional, technical and technological factors that can bring about transformative change for conservation. Research from Safeguard's WP 3, which aims to '*Assess the environmental, socio-cultural and economic values and impacts of pollination services and pollinator-targeted interventions*', may be highly relevant to this report and could provide a pollinator-oriented perspective.
- **Business and biodiversity assessment**¹⁵ – a methodological assessment of the relationship between biodiversity and nature and people and business. This assessment will identify criteria and indicators for measuring the dependence and impact of biodiversity and business. Given pollination provides a valuable link between biodiversity and food production, this is another area where perhaps Safeguard's research and/or experts could contribute data and recommendations.

Events and Opportunities: None currently listed.

IPBES-10 plenary will be held in the second quarter of 2023, with the exact date and location to be confirmed in due course.

Keep an active vigil. With specific attention given to upcoming assessment reports where safeguard partners could contribute as authors, and/or put forward evidence for inclusion. IPBES launches open calls for nominations of experts to participate in their assessments.

The Safeguard project includes members which were involved in IPBES pollinators report, and it is important that they remain visible as frontrunners in pollinator research through their activities with the consortium. IPBES has opportunities for individuals to contribute to

¹³ Nexus assessment | IPBES secretariat

¹⁴ Transformative change assessment | IPBES secretariat

¹⁵ Business and biodiversity assessment | IPBES secretariat

their ongoing assessments, as an author, contributing author, expert reviewer, or review editor. They also welcome contributions of expertise, data and other resources. To get involved IPBES recommend you register as a stakeholder on the Open-ended Network of IPBES stakeholders¹⁶, this online network includes details of upcoming events and webinars which may be of relevance to Safeguard researchers. It may also be possible for Safeguard to host an event on this platform in order to engage with the IPBES community.

2.4. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO is a specialised agency of the United Nations which focuses on combating world hunger by acting as a forum for discussing and setting international agreements, it also provides reports and technical information concerning sustainable development. Pollination is an important topic for FAO given its vital role in food production. They have produced a number of manuals¹⁷, reports¹⁸, and policy analyses¹⁹ related to pollination. Pollination is also included in their Strategic Objective, and they have launched their Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture.

As mentioned in above, in Section 2.2.1, FAO is responsible for facilitating the IPI.

Events and Opportunities: **World Bee Day** is hosted by FAO and held annually on May 20th.

Global Conference on Sustainable Plant Production Innovation, efficiency, and resilience. 2-4 November 2022. A meeting of FAO members, farmers, scientists, development agencies, civil society, opinion leaders, private sector and policymakers. A number of the themes of this conference are highly relevant to Safeguard, e.g., Natural resource management, Integrated Pest Management, farmers and policies.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 50 10-13 October 2022.

Integrated Pest Management webinar – in collaboration with Promote Pollinators – online 9th September 2022. Further details can be found in section 2.8.1 of this report.

Several of these events are invitation-only, so it is important the Safeguard researchers remain visible through knowledge exchange activities (producing publications, policy briefs, hosting symposia, Buzzing tables etc.). **Keep an active vigil** for advertised

¹⁶ <https://onet.ipbes.net/>

¹⁷ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9201EN>;
<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I9184EN>; <https://www.fao.org/3/i5527e/i5527e.pdf>
<https://www.fao.org/3/i4242e/i4242e.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.fao.org/3/i3821e/i3821e.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.fao.org/3/i3821e/i3821e.pdf>

webinars and working groups in which Safeguard can contribute.

2.5. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

During its General Assembly in 2015, the UN laid out its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. Within this mission, the UN outlined a series of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to be achieved by 2030. There are 17 overarching goals which have broad aims, see Figure 3 from eradicating poverty, achieving gender equality, clean water and sanitation and safeguarding life on land. Under these SDGs, there are a further 169 sub-targets which are associated with 248 indicators to ensure progress can be monitored towards each goal.

SDG ‘moments’ are held during the UN’s annual General Assemblies, these are opportunities for reflection on achievements or challenges towards reaching the SDGs. Currently, there is a framework of Voluntary National Reviews, whereby countries can evaluate their progress towards the SDGs if they so wish, however, following the second SDG moment which took place at the UN’s General Assembly in September 2021, there was a call for renewed engagement and more involved responses from governments.

The importance of pollinators and pollination to the United Nations SDGs has been recognised by a number of authors (Patel et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2020). Links can be drawn between pollinators and a number of goals, with perhaps some more obvious than others, for example the relationship between pollinators and life on land is well established with 75% of major crops reliant on pollination and up to 94% of wild plant species benefiting from insect pollination (Vanbergen et al., 2013). Others may be less obvious but important nonetheless, for example, crops pollinated by animals are valuable sources of key nutrients needed for good health and wellbeing and nutrient content is impacted by the quality of pollination service.



Figure 3 The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a call for action by all nations to work together for people, the planet and prosperity. Source: <https://www.un.org/en/sustainable-development-goals>

As part of the Safeguard project, researchers at the University of Reading are carrying out an expert elicitation exercise with top-level pollination specialists from around the globe to quantify the importance of pollinators to the UN SDGs. This will not only form a key deliverable D6.4: Report on the relevance of pollinators across the SDGs, it will also produce a publication. Preliminary results have found that pollinators can be mapped onto 59 sub-targets across 14 of the 17 SDGs.

Events and Opportunities: The UN is holding an “SDG moment” 23rd September 2022 during its General Assembly, in which World leaders will have the opportunity to share their perspectives and plans for achieving progress towards the SDGs. These moments are held annually.

Keep an active vigil. Look for opportunities to present results of D6.4 to audiences of policymakers as well as the scientific community. In addition to producing a peer-reviewed publication and internal deliverable, consider developing a policy brief regarding the importance of pollinators to the SDGs. Hosting a webinar, perhaps in collaboration with Promote Pollinators, would also be a great opportunity to present and discuss the results of this task.

2.6. IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an important partner within the Safeguard project. This organisation is an environmental network and membership union which aims to provide knowledge and tools to support nature conservation.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is a valuable biodiversity indicator that was first established in 1964 to determine the status of species. The Red List records information on species ranges, population sizes, habitats, ecology, uses, threats and conservation actions, and is therefore a powerful tool to inform policy and focus conservation efforts. The IUCN plans to use their Red List to create a “Barometer of Life”, to achieve this they are aiming to assess 160,000 species, currently 146,500 species have been evaluated²⁰. Invertebrates have been identified as a knowledge gap in the current Red List, and the IUCN is taking steps to rectify this by prioritising specific taxonomic groups which include some pollinator groups such as bumblebees and butterflies. Safeguard can make an important contribution to this data deficient group through work from WP1 which will reassess the status and trends of European pollinators following the IUCN Red List process.

The IUCN have a number of specialist groups which may be highly relevant and useful to engage with as a route to policy reform. For example, the **IUCN-wild bee specialist group (WBSG)**. This group has >600 members and aims to foster the conservation of wild bees and their habitats around the world by promoting and strengthening regional and global networks of specialists, conducting assessments of their conservation status, raising awareness among the public and policy makers, and engaging in practical conservation actions at local, regional and global scale. The WBSG is co - chaired by Simon Potts, with many safeguard partners also members. As part of the wider group there are a number of regional (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America common North America, Oceania) and thematic groups. One of the WBSG thematic groups focuses on policy, and safeguard will work closely with this group in order to

²⁰ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/about/barometer-of-life>

maximise their engagement with global policy. Some of the planned activities include joint policy workshops, policy briefs, and position statements.

Events and Opportunities: IUCN Leaders Forum “*Building nature-positive economies and societies*” Jeju, Republic of Korea, 13 – 15 October 2022. This is the first of a new series of events in which IUCN aims to bring together global leaders more frequently to discuss key topics.

Safeguard partners are contributing to the Red List of wild bees, hoverflies and butterflies (Task 1.6) and will be promoting the outputs of these assessments to key policymakers once complete.

Safeguard partners will promote and disseminate project outputs to the various regional and thematic groups of the WBSG (and broader IUCN community), including webinars and uploading relevant safeguard outputs to the various WBSG online libraries.

Safeguard members of the WBSG Policy group will propose joint events between WBSG and Safeguard.

2.7. Other global policy initiatives with opportunities for engagement

Several NGOs operate at a global scale and are at the forefront of policy advocacy and it would be beneficial to ensure Safeguard engages with them throughout the course of the project.

2.7.1. Promote Pollinators

Promote Pollinators is a highly relevant NGO and partner to Safeguard and with global reach in the policy world. Formerly known as the Coalition of the Willing, it is a network of member States and observers established in 2016 in response to the IPBES Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production. Their mission statement includes a commitment to following the recommendations published in the IPBES report, and a dedication to emphasize the importance of pollinators for nature and humanity²¹. As a coalition, they believe in country-led governance that can foster policy reform and measures to protect pollinators and restore their habitats. To achieve this, member nations of Promote Pollinators pledge to establish national pollinator strategies. They actively collaborate with scientists, including members of the Safeguard project, to ensure they are fully informed and then nurture communication and collaboration between their members to allow the exchange of knowledge and experience. Promote Pollinators regularly host events and release statements in response to pollinator-relevant policies. In response to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, they published a two-pager summarising their contribution, which includes arguments for why pollinators should be integrated into the framework²².

Events and Opportunities: Promote Pollinators is hosting a joint event with FAO on September 9th at 15:00 CEST, this webinar is focused on

²¹ <https://promotepollinators.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/507/2021/10/Mission-statement-Promote-Pollinators.pdf>

²² <https://promotepollinators.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/507/2019/12/Promote-Pollinators-Two-pager-CBD-post-2020-framework-1.pdf>

integrated pest management (IPM) as a method of reducing the use of pesticides, a major concern to pollinators. Safeguard researchers are directly contributing to this event as invited speakers.

Promote Pollinators is also co-organising a side event at COP 15 in collaboration with FAO and IPI. Specific details to be confirmed.

2.7.2. EU Pollinator Week

Each year the Commission hosts an EU pollinator week which typically includes a series of keynote presentations, consultation workshops and other events. Safeguard members have been regular participants in EU pollinator week and will endeavour to do so in future years, taking opportunities to put forward and highlight evidence emerging from the project.

Events and Opportunities: Consider hosting thematic webinars on specific topics where safeguard can inform global policy makers, release joint good practise guides etc.

2.7.3. Apimondia

Apimondia, a global NGO focused on apiculture, states their primary aim as coordinating the exchange of knowledge and facilitating discussions between beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders and legislators²³. One way in which they fulfil this objective is by organising bi-annual conferences. While Apimondia primarily focus on apiculture, which is outside the remit of Safeguard, they often host webinars and meetings which do fit the research interests of the consortium. For example, in May of this year, they held a congress "*Apis Silvatica*" in which they invited scientists including Safeguard partners who have studied wild honeybees to attend. Pollination and bee flora is also one of their key themes,

Events and Opportunities: Apimondia Congress 2022 – 24-28th August 2022, Istanbul, Turkey.

Keep an active vigil for other upcoming events. While not specifically policy-facing, Apimondia invite and promote the engagement of a policymaking audience. It therefore may be a useful opportunity to present safeguard findings.

Take home messages and recommendations for Safeguard

Policymakers are key stakeholders in the Safeguard project and have been identified through the stakeholder mapping exercise (D7.1) and the stakeholder advisor board. These present an opportunity for Safeguard to increase its impact and contribute to impactful changes that will help conserve pollinators across Europe and beyond. When identifying global policy initiatives, their diverse modes of engagement and entry points became apparent. This is an important consideration, and Safeguard could benefit from considering different modes of communication in their knowledge exchange strategy, e.g., peer-reviewed publications, policy briefs, invited expert opinions, and

²³ apimondia.org

ensuring Safeguard is visible through organised side events, seminars and webinars at relevant conferences and congresses.

There is an evident disconnect between farmer knowledge and experience and policymakers (Gemmill *et al.* 2021), perhaps Safeguard can help plug this gap. Research carried out by WP 3 which assesses the environmental, socio-cultural and economic values of pollinators, may be useful here. Task 3.7, in particular, identifies barriers, motivations and room for manoeuvre: an appraisal of the wider set of factors that keep pollinator-unfriendly practices in place.

Across all WPs, Safeguard should produce high impact publications of results covering a broad geographical area. This information is key to informing policies on wild pollinator conservation, so it is important to ensure these findings are presented in a diverse array of situations. Not just academic conferences but also through attending congresses by these large policy-focused global organisations.

Safeguard will also produce an Integrated Assessment Framework, which will include several policy relevant tools which operate at different geographic scales – local, national and EU. This will be valuable to policymakers beyond just Europe in terms of pollinator-relevant policy and decision making.

Throughout this report, we have identified key events and opportunities for engagement, a lot of which are shortly upcoming, and it therefore may not be possible for Safeguard to actually get involved. We ask the reader to consider these events as suggestions only, and instead endeavour to find and engage with similar events in the future. Over the brief course of writing this report different events emerged at different times, we stress that it is important that Safeguard regularly checks for new opportunities and events over the course of the project, and hope this report acts as a useful first step in identifying which global policy initiatives with which to remain vigilant.

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