



SAFEGUARD

Safeguarding European
wild pollinators



safeguard.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de



[@safeguard-pollinators.eu](https://twitter.com/safeguard-pollinators.eu)



Safeguard Project

**PRACTICE
ABSTRACT**

Restoration of forests supports the conservation of pollinators in intensively managed agricultural landscapes

Forests are crucial habitats for pollinators, providing nesting sites, shelter, and opportunities for reproduction. To compensate for ongoing forest clearance at the regional scale, afforestation efforts are being focused on areas where forests are scarce, particularly in intensively managed agricultural lowlands.

Our study aimed to:

- 1 Compare pollinator communities in restored forest patches with those in natural forest remnants, which serve as benchmarks for successful restoration;
- 2 Identify the local forest characteristics and landscape variables that influence pollinator diversity in forested areas.

Source

Gazzea, E., Gobbo, D., Mei, M., ... et al. (2025). Restoration of forests supports the conservation of pollinators in intensively managed agricultural landscapes. *Biological Conservation*, 302, Article111008. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2025.111008>

Our key findings indicate that:

- 1 Restoring forests in intensively managed, forest-poor agricultural landscapes has strong potential to support diverse pollinator communities;
- 2 Successful forest restoration should aim to create conditions that allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, encouraging the growth of a diverse understory of flowering plants;
- 3 A less dense canopy and abundant floral resources are generally associated with higher pollinator diversity;
- 4 Planting diverse tree species benefits hoverflies, while maintaining or enhancing connectivity between forest patches is crucial for butterflies;
- 5 Compensatory afforestation must be implemented carefully, always prioritising the conservation of existing natural forest remnants.



The Safeguard project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101003476