



Newsletter

January 2026

Welcome to Safeguard's newsletter

Get the latest updates on project developments, events,
and publications and stay informed on EU biodiversity policy news!

Events

Save the date: Final Safeguard conference to take place in February

After four and a half years of research and collaboration to safeguard European wild pollinators, the Safeguard project is coming to a close. To mark this milestone, a final Safeguard conference will take place on **26 February** in **Brussels, Belgium**, with the option to participate online.

SAFEGUARD FINAL CONFERENCE



26 February 2026



Brussels, Belgium + Online



SAFEGUARD



Funded by
the European Union

[Learn more](#)

Join Safeguard workshop on pollinator-friendly land management



TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES WITH POLLINATOR RESEARCH: A DISCUSSION FOR LAND AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS



25 February 2026



10:00-16:30 (CET)



Brussels, Belgium and online



SAFEGUARD
Safeguarding European
wild pollinators



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



This full-day Safeguard hybrid workshop is dedicated to **pollinator-friendly management** in protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and agricultural landscapes. Participants will explore how

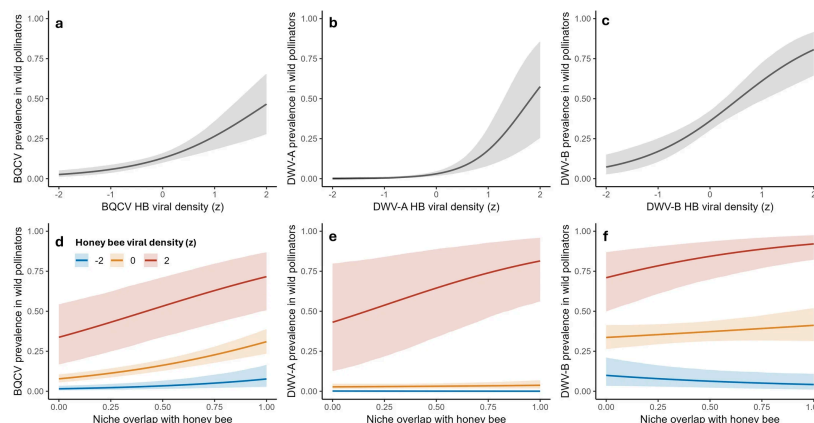
research, EU policy, and practice can come together to support pollinator recovery. The workshop will take place right before the Safeguard final conference, where results and future steps will be presented and discussed.

[Learn more](#)

Publications

What drives viral spill-over from honey bees to wild pollinators? A new Safeguard study offers answers

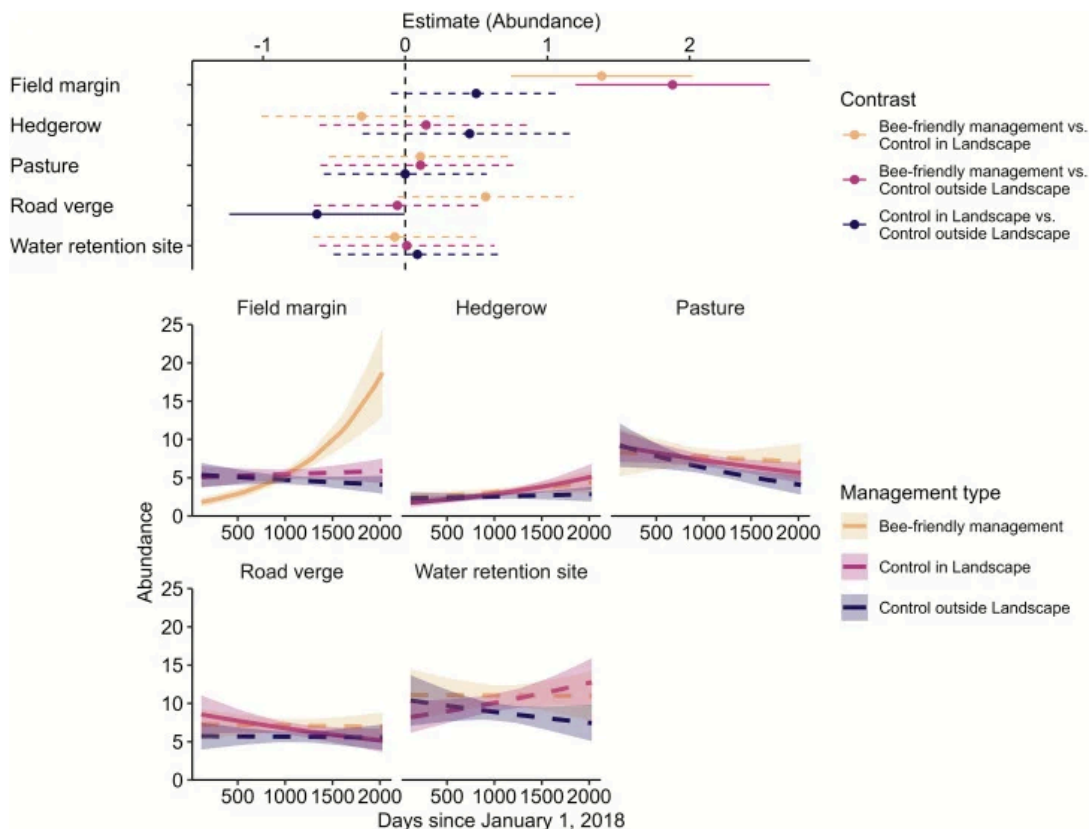
A new Safeguard study examines the direct and indirect mechanisms that shape viral pathogen transmission between managed honey bees and wild pollinators. The findings confirm that honey bees are the dominant reservoir hosts of viruses such as BQCV and DWV, and the primary drivers of viral prevalence in wild pollinators. However, the study shows that viral density within honey bee colonies matters more than honey bee density itself. This suggests that **improving hive management** and **colony health** to control pathogens is more effective for reducing transmission risks to wild pollinators than limiting honey bee numbers alone.



[Learn more](#)

New Safeguard study evaluates the effectiveness of landscape-level collaborative conservation

In a first-of-its-kind Safeguard study, a research team from Wageningen University evaluates the ecological effectiveness of a landscape-level collaborative conservation initiative targeting wild bees. Overall, the combined effects of bee-friendly management implemented by a range of actors within the initiative resulted in **significant positive trends in bee abundance and species richness**. At the same time, the study highlights several key challenges associated with such approaches. The authors emphasise the importance of prioritising **long-term ecological monitoring** and creating **meaningful, sustained relationships** with participants.



[Learn more](#)

Pollinator-promoting interventions explained in a new Safeguard infographic



A research team led by Safeguard partners has examined the effects of **urban pollinator-promoting interventions** across Europe. In total, nine intervention types were analysed. To make the findings more accessible for citizens and policymakers, the main insights on **five intervention types** have been turned into an engaging infographic. It summarises the positive effects of each type of intervention, as well as potential drawbacks, and provides practical recommendations for implementation.

[Download](#)

New report: Safeguard and BioAgora collaborate on a game-based policy workshop



In September, the Safeguard and BioAgora projects collaborated on a **game-based policy workshop** that took place in Brussels. The event brought together 24 participants representing different groups of stakeholders. The goal of the game was to design a **pollinator-friendly landscape** in a virtual environment. Participants could apply different interventions and decide how to combine them. At the end of the game, they provided feedback and reflected on the game's purpose. A **detailed report** covering the event is now available on the Safeguard website.

[Learn more](#)

Safeguard 2025 highlights video



Throughout 2025, the Safeguard project continued its efforts to protect wild pollinators across Europe. Our new video highlights key achievements from the year, including research outputs, a policy brief, new website features, and participation in major events. A heartfelt thank you to our partners for their dedication and to everyone who has supported our work over the past four and a half years.

[Watch](#)

Policy corner

EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme

The Nature Restoration Regulation requires EU Member States to monitor pollinator abundance and diversity using a science-based methodology. This monitoring is intended to provide reliable data that can help assess progress towards the Regulation's goal of reversing pollinator decline by 2030. Under Article 10(2) of the Regulation, the European Commission is authorised to establish

and update the methodology for pollinator monitoring. The Commission provides a standardised, science-based method for monitoring pollinator diversity and abundance.

[Learn more](#)

New IUCN Red List assessments of bees and butterflies

Recent IUCN Red List assessments, funded by the European Commission, reveal a significant decline in the conservation status of Europe's pollinators - especially wild bees and butterflies. These assessments, the most comprehensive in over a decade, show that about 10% of wild bee species in Europe are now threatened with extinction, more than double the number reported in 2014.

Improved data collection has exposed growing risks for key pollinating groups such as bumblebees and cellophane bees, with one uniquely European mining bee now classified as Critically Endangered. Butterflies face similar challenges: 15% of species are threatened, over 40% of endemic species are at risk or near-threatened, and one species from Madeira has been confirmed extinct.

These trends are driven mainly by habitat loss caused by intensive agriculture, forestry, and land abandonment, which erode traditional flower-rich landscapes, alongside pollution from fertilisers and pesticides. Climate change is further intensifying pressures, with rising temperatures, droughts, and wildfires now affecting more than half of threatened butterfly species across southern, Alpine, and Boreal Europe. While warmer conditions are harming cold-adapted bees such as bumblebees, some species benefit from higher temperatures, highlighting the increasingly complex challenges facing Europe's pollinators.

[Learn more](#)

Consultation on plant protection products – uniform principles for their evaluation and authorisation

On 4 September 2025, the Commission opened a public consultation on a draft amendment to Commission Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 laying down uniform principles for the evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products, with a particular focus on risks to birds, mammals, bees, and drinking water. The consultation closed on 9 October 2025 and received mixed responses from stakeholders.

BeeLife highlighted an equity gap in the draft proposal. The organisation argues that allowing up to a 10% loss in honey bee colony strength as an acceptable risk places a disproportionate burden on beekeepers compared to crop producers. BeeLife called for the recognition of pollinators as both economic and ecological assets and proposed stronger exposure assessments, post-authorisation monitoring, and alignment with One Health and ecosystem services approaches.

Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) welcomed the initiative to update the Uniform Principles and expressed strong support for ensuring that pesticide risk assessments are based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge and sensitive testing methodologies. The organisation emphasised that robust, science-based risk assessment is essential to protect human health and the environment, and submitted targeted technical suggestions to strengthen the proposed amendments further.

Copa Cogeca acknowledged the objectives of scientific progress and harmonisation but raised concerns about the highly technical nature of the proposal and the short consultation period. They warned that increased data requirements and stricter assessment criteria could lead to greater administrative burdens, longer authorisation timelines, reduced product availability, and additional

challenges for farmers, particularly in relation to Integrated Pest Management.

[Learn more](#)

Social media

Follow Safeguard on LinkedIn, Bluesky and YouTube

Safeguard maintains an active online presence on LinkedIn, Bluesky, and YouTube. We use these platforms to share the latest project results, developments, and insights, engage with stakeholders, and support informed discussion on pollinator conservation.

[Follow us to stay up to date](#)



Featured

The SHOWCASE project ends its run and publishes a handbook



After 5 years of delivering insight and innovative tools, facilitating the agricultural sector's transition towards more sustainable farming, the SHOWCASE project ends its run. The project also released its final handbook, titled *"Farming with Biodiversity"*, which serves as a practical and evidence-based guide to help farmers, advisors and policymakers work together to make European agriculture both profitable and nature-positive.

[Learn more](#)

The PollinERA project publishes its first-ever policy brief



The brief is titled *"Reforming EU chemical risk assessment: from regulatory bottlenecks to systems solution"* and addresses one of the project's central objectives: the need to improve the way environmental risks to

pollinators are currently assessed. To ensure transparency, it is accompanied by a technical evidence document.

[Learn more](#)

The MAMBO project releases its third policy brief

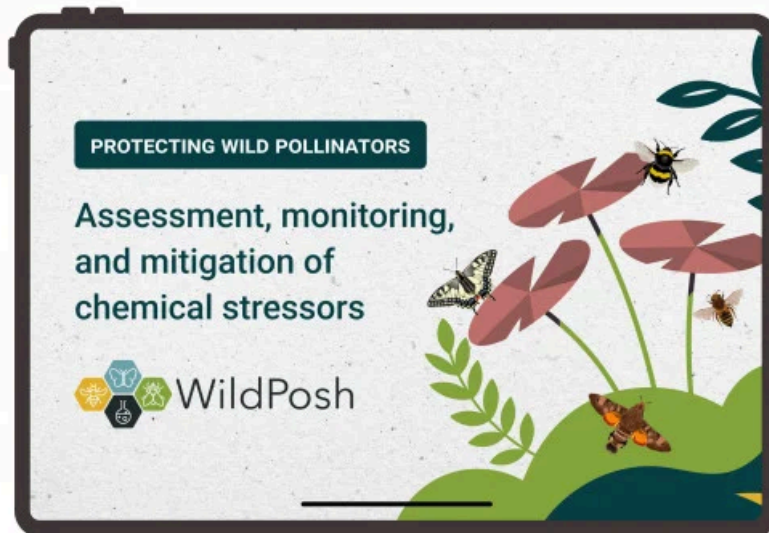


MAMBO

The new policy brief is titled *"Integration of novel technology in pollinator monitoring"*. It outlines MAMBO's innovations, highlights emerging opportunities, and recommends actions for integrating these tools into EU PoMS.

[Learn more](#)

WildPosh releases an animated introductory video



The WildPosh project recently released its animated introductory video on YouTube. The video was developed by project partner Pensoft Publishers, marking their very first animated production. The video presents the project and outlines its background, objectives, and role in improving the health of wild pollinators across Europe. It also explains how WildPosh studies the impacts of pesticides on pollinators, characterises their populations and develops integrated risk assessment tools.

[Watch](#)

BioAgora features Safeguard on its Synergies page



Safeguard has been added to the BioAgora Synergies page, alongside other EU-funded projects dedicated to biodiversity research. The section offers information about Safeguard's objectives

and provides the opportunity to visit the project's website, follow it on social media, or subscribe to the newsletter.

[Learn more](#)

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