



Newsletter

March 2026

Welcome to Safeguard's final newsletter

Discover how Safeguard has advanced the understanding and protection of Europe's wild pollinators - from key publications to policy impact.

Events

Safeguard final meeting



The Safeguard consortium came together one final time in Brussels on the 26th February. Partners met with policymakers and key stakeholders to share evidence-based insights and practical solutions for protecting Europe's wild pollinators.

Across four sessions, discussions ranged from the status and future of EU pollinator monitoring to the drivers of decline, land-management solutions, and landscape and urban interventions. The meeting closed with a look at future research needs and knowledge gaps, which underlined both the urgency of action and the importance of collaboration between science, policy, and practice.

[Learn more](#)

Safeguard buzzing table: Protecting and restoring pollinators in agricultural ecosystems

Safeguard hosted a hybrid workshop bringing together partners, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss the future of pollinator-friendly land and agricultural management.

The Buzzing Table session "*Protecting and restoring pollinators in agricultural ecosystems*" focused on protecting and restoring pollinators in agricultural ecosystems. INRAE presented findings on how the values and worldviews of key societal actors shape wild pollinator conservation decisions, followed by a panel discussion on how these insights can inform pollinator-friendly land and agricultural management.



[Learn more](#)

Bridging science and practice for pollinator-friendly management

A second workshop, *"Bridging science and practice for pollinator-friendly management"*, followed the Buzzing Table session, focusing on turning Safeguard's research on grasslands and arable land into actionable guidance for habitat management and policy under Natura 2000, CAP, and the Nature Restoration Regulation.

Safeguard partners shared findings on how research can inform pollinator-friendly management, complemented by a presentation on the [PollHab](#) project's efforts to support the European Commission in identifying and protecting pollinator species. The event closed with two parallel breakout discussions on protected areas and CAP recommendations for landscape-scale impact.



[Learn more](#)

New on Safe-Hub

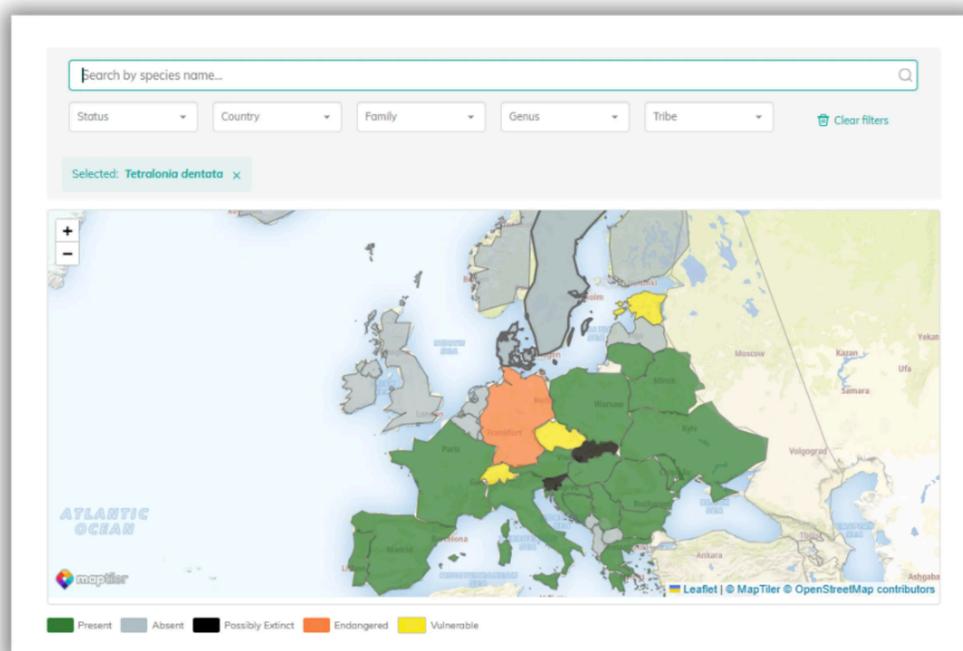
New features and results available on Safe-Hub

The Safeguard Knowledge Exchange Hub (Safe-Hub), the platform providing information and toolkits on pollinator conservation from numerous projects and initiatives, including Safeguard, has expanded its website with three new dedicated sections.

National Red Lists in Europe

National Red Lists (NRLs) for pollinators are an important tool that helps assess the conservation status of pollinating species at the national level, and provides the foundation for science-based conservation policy. That is why facilitating their development has been a main objective of the Safeguard. We aimed to standardise and improve conservation assessments across European countries by promoting the application of the methodology of the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#) to develop national and regional Red Lists for European pollinators.

The new map depicts the level of threat facing different pollinator species across European countries, and offers a clear picture of where interventions are most urgent.



Explore

Policy corner

The page is structured into two main sections:

- The Policy briefs and recommendations section gathers evidence-based policy briefs that synthesise the latest scientific findings on pollinator conservation from Safeguard.
- The Policy workshops section showcases outcomes from stakeholder dialogues and policy-focused events organised by Safeguard.



Explore

Database

Between 2021 and 2026, Safeguard has produced a number of new datasets, and in order to ensure the long-term uptake of these results, this new page has been established, providing brief information and linking to the primary source of each dataset.



Explore

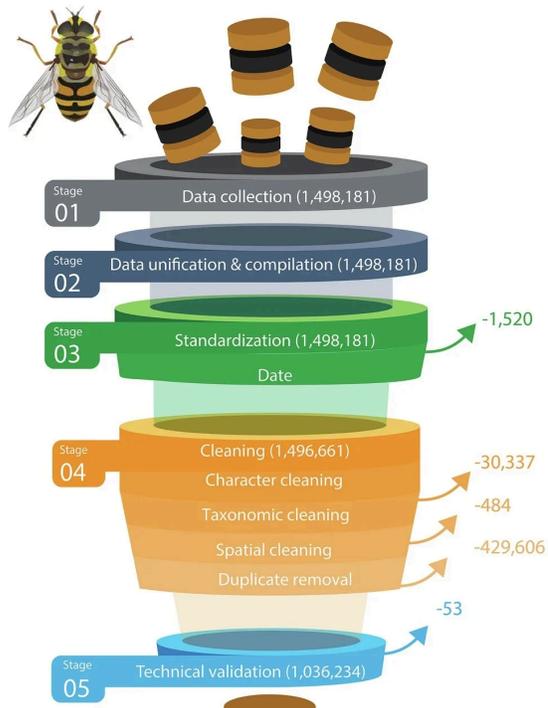
Publications

Synthesised database of wild bee and hoverfly records in Europe

A Safeguard research team recently released two synthesised databases of wild bee and hoverfly records across Europe. The databases comprise more than 4.34 million records for wild bees and 1.04 million records for hoverflies, covering 97% of European bee fauna (2,083 species) and 97% of European hoverfly fauna (886 species).

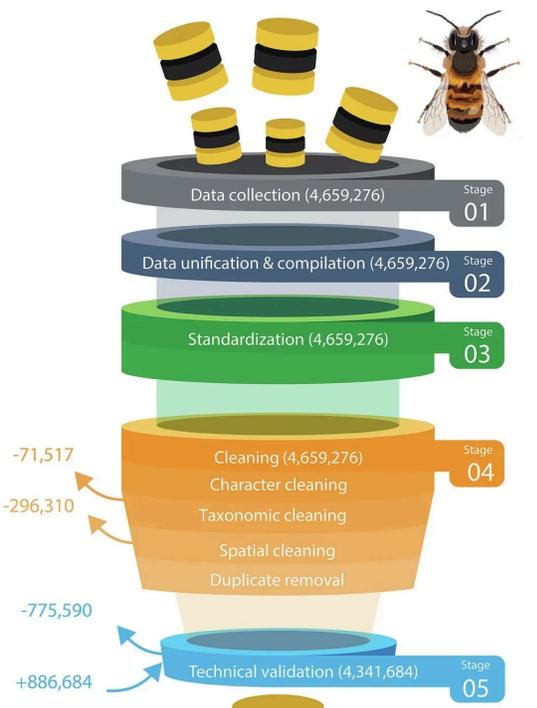
The lack of accessible and verified spatial and temporal occurrence records has long hindered efforts to understand and prevent the decline of wild bees and hoverflies. These new databases aim to provide an essential resource for future assessments of population status and trends, habitat associations, and broader conservation initiatives to protect wild pollinators across Europe.

HOVERFLY database



- **1,036,181** hoverfly row data
- 97% of the European hoverfly fauna

WILD BEE database

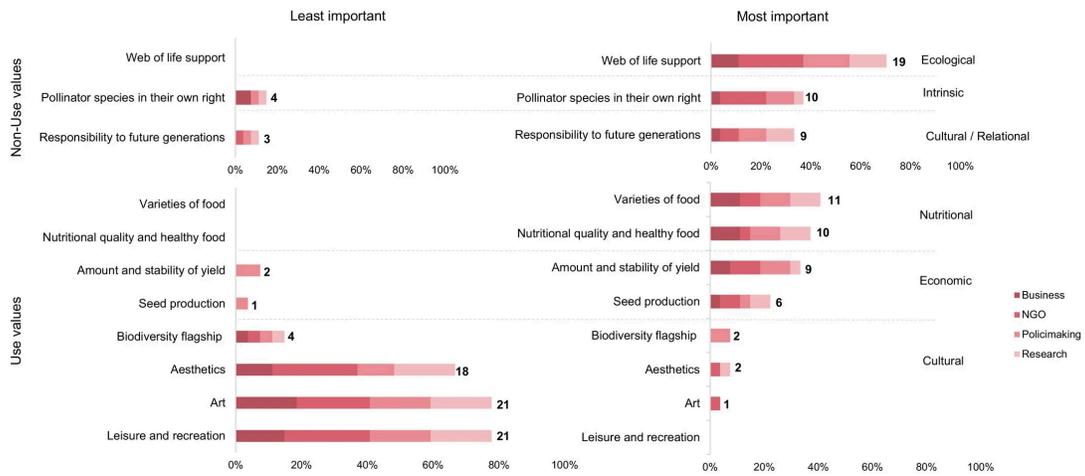


- **4,341,684** bee row data
- 97% of the European bee fauna

- **5,377,865** row data.
- **97%** of the European bee and hoverfly fauna

[Learn more](#)

Worldviews and values of key societal actors influencing decision-making around nature: The case of wild pollinator conservation in Europe



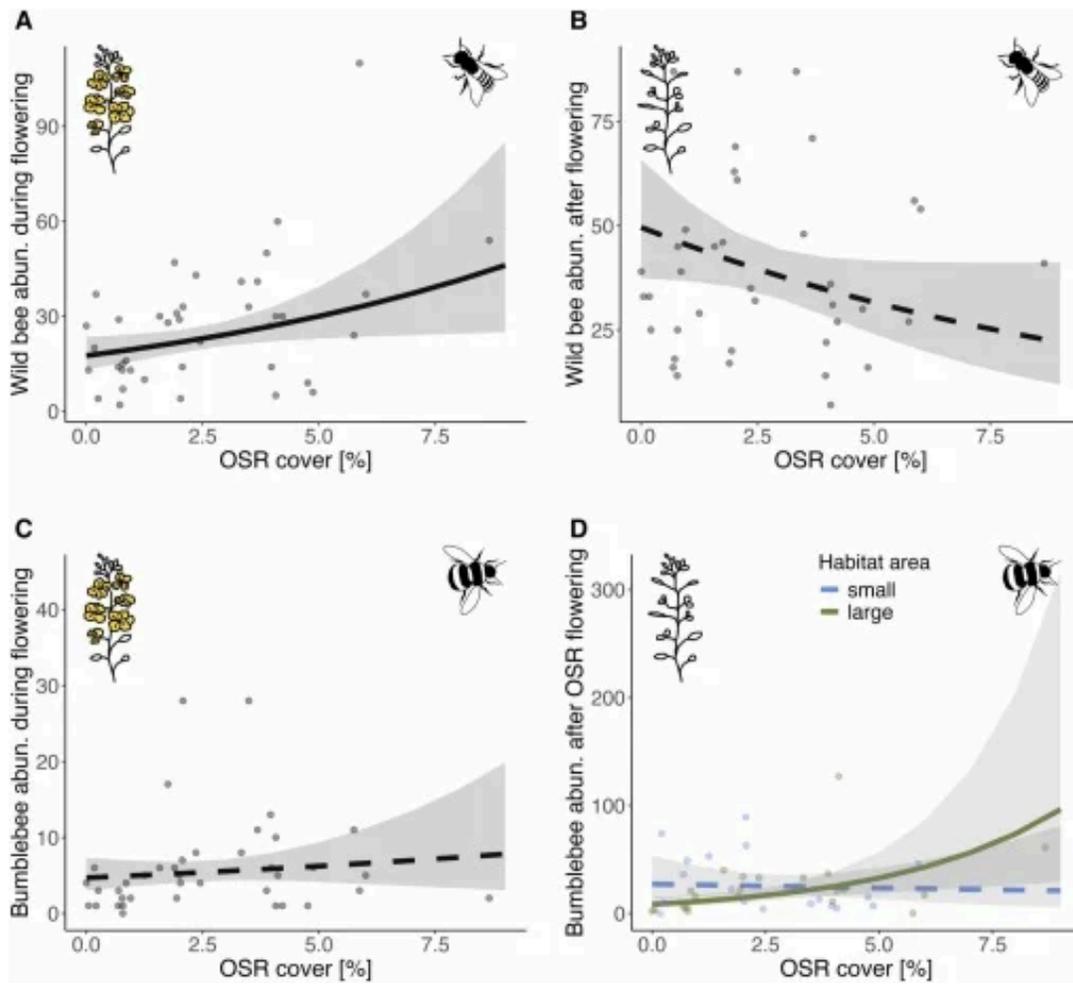
A Safeguard research team from [INRAE](#), [the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences \(SLU\)](#), and [the University of Reading](#) collaborated on a study examining the worldviews and values of key stakeholders, including businesses, NGOs, research institutions, and policymaking bodies, involved in wild pollinator conservation in the EU.

The study found broad agreement on the intrinsic value of nature, while also pointing to the potential to appeal to a wider range of values, including relational values such as moral responsibility, to strengthen the impact of conservation policy.

The study has also been featured by the [European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment \(DG-ENV\)](#).

[Learn more](#)

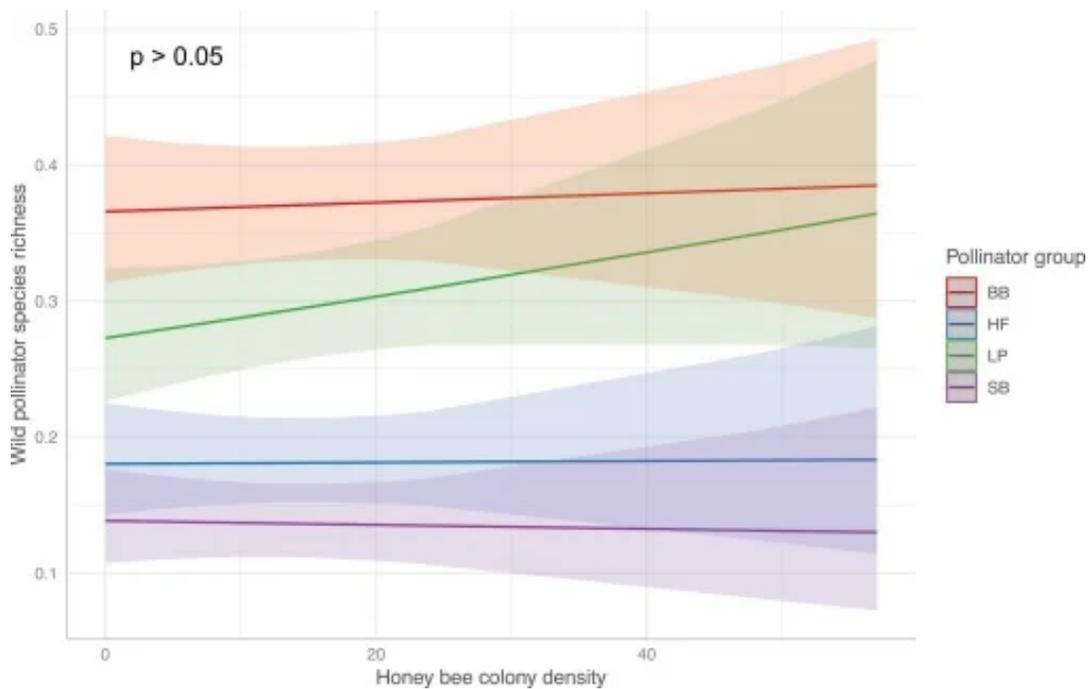
Landscape-level oilseed rape cover shapes seasonal patterns of wild bee abundance in conservation areas



A Safeguard research team from the [University of Würzburg](#) investigated how winter oilseed rape (OSR) affects pollinator communities in nearby semi-natural habitats across 40 calcareous grasslands in Germany. While OSR's spring flowering can temporarily boost wild bee abundance through spillover into adjacent grasslands, the benefits are short-lived and vary between bee groups. The findings underline that mass-flowering crops and semi-natural habitats are not interchangeable - calcareous grasslands remain essential for pollinator conservation, serving as critical nesting and foraging habitat throughout the season.

[Learn more](#)

Responses of wild pollinators to honey bee colony presence and habitat restoration in calcareous grasslands



A Safeguard study from researchers at the [Estonian University of Life Sciences](#), the University of Würzburg, and the [Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research](#) examined whether managed honey bees compete with wild pollinators for floral resources. By using transect walks across 30 sites on the coastline and islands of Estonia, the team found that honey bee colony density had no significant effect on the abundance or species richness of wild pollinator groups. At current colony densities in the region, managed honey bees do not appear to pose a threat to wild pollinator communities.

[Learn more](#)

Policy corner

Safeguard releases 3 new policy briefs

The Safeguard project wraps up its four-and-a-half-year run with three new policy briefs and adds one more contribution to wild pollinator conservation in Europe.

How to design cities for pollinators and people

This brief presents findings from the project and explores how they can be applied in urban planning and decision-making to both protect wild insect pollinators and enhance health and well-being in cities. Developed by [IEEP](#), it is intended for policy- and decision-makers in towns and cities, local public authorities, planners, project developers, and professionals responsible for the design, implementation and management of green spaces in public areas.



Policy Brief

How to design cities for
pollinators and people

Alice Albertini, IEEP (aalbertini@ieep.eu) & Evelyn Underwood, IEEP (eunderwood@ieep.eu)

Read

Strengthening Pollinator Conservation in EU Protected Areas and Natura 2000 sites

The brief outlines the main scientific findings on pollinator conservation from within and beyond Safeguard, alongside key policy recommendations and best management practices for protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. Also produced by IEEP, the brief provides concrete guidance for specific audiences, including those working on Natura 2000 and nature restoration planning, Common Agricultural Policy support, and the management of protected areas.



Shaggy solitary bee (*Panurgus calcaratus*)

Policy Brief

Strengthening Pollinator Conservation in EU Protected Areas and Natura 2000 sites

Auriane Flottes de Pouzols & Evelyn Underwood (Institute for European Environmental Policy)



Read

Rolling out the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme: European pollinator database, research, and training from Safeguard and other EU projects

The brief was developed by Safeguard partners [IUCN](#) and [IEEP](#), and explores the resources needed to implement the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (EU-PoMS) effectively. These include Safeguard's European pollinator database, updated Red Lists, research syntheses, trait and distribution data, and training resources — all contributing to the EU's goal of halting pollinator decline by 2030.



A species of hoverfly (*Cheilosia chloris*) | ©Frank Vassen

Policy Brief

Rolling out the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme:

European pollinator database, research, and training from Safeguard and other EU projects

Facundo Odriozola (IUCN), Evelyn Underwood (Institute for European Environmental Policy) & Maria Puchalska (IUCN)

Read

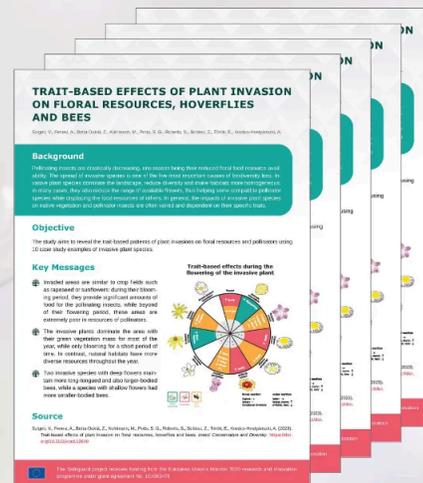
Explore more Safeguard outputs

Stakeholder summaries

As part of our commitment to protect wild pollinators across Europe, Safeguard has generated a substantial amount of project publications rich in practical applications. To ensure these outcomes are clear and accessible to relevant audiences, the project introduced a collection of 12 stakeholder summaries. Each summary captures the study's context, purpose, findings, and key lessons, distilling complex research into practical insights.

Stakeholder Summaries of key project publications

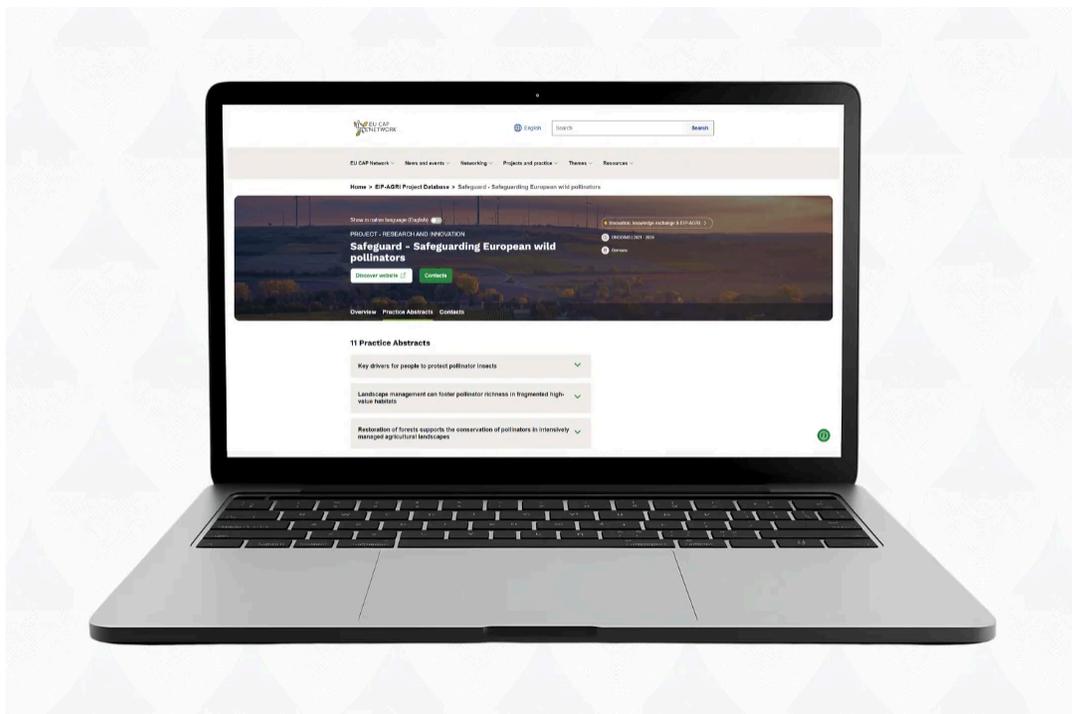
#SafeguardSummaries



Learn more

Practice abstracts

Throughout the project, a collection of 11 practice abstracts was developed and published on the [EU CAP Network website](#). The series offers practical recommendations to tackle key challenges in pollinator conservation. The abstracts covering topics ranging from landscape management in fragmented and intensively farmed habitats to plant-pollinator interaction networks and pollinator-promoting interventions translate Safeguard research into actionable guidance.



[Learn more](#)

**A heartfelt thank you to all partners, contributors,
field researchers, and supporters who made
Safeguard possible.**

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Safeguard

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