

[View in browser](#)



Safeguard's policy brief featured on CORDIS

POLLINATORS ARE CRITICAL FOR THE SDGs AND VICE VERSA

SAFEGUARD
Safeguarding European wild pollinators

KEY MESSAGES

1. Pollinators play a critical role in Life on Land (SDG 15) and Zero Hunger (SDG 2). They are also linked to 9 of the 17 SDG targets across 14 of the 17 SDGs.
2. Pollinators contribute to at least 7 out of 17 SDGs and 11 out of 17 SDG directly related indicators.
3. Pollinators can contribute to other SDGs, beyond SDG 15 and SDG 2, in interconnected ways such as Clean Water & Sanitation (SDG 6) due to the vital ecosystem services they provide and No Poverty (SDG 1) through their role in diversifying increased revenues and increasing yields.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Many SDGs cannot be achieved without good protection and sustainable management of pollinators.
- Pollinators, biodiversity and SDGs go hand in hand. So, synergize your policies for them.
- Policies for SDG 2, Zero Hunger, must include pollinators as a critical agricultural area which should be sustainably managed to ensure food and nutritional security. Agricultural practices should be made fit for the purpose.
- The restoration of most terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15, Life on Land) depends, at least in part, on the role of pollinators to maintain diverse and healthy plant communities. Related policies should therefore support concrete actions to protect and enhance diverse pollinator assemblages.
- Pollinators play an indirect, but important, role contributing to a wide range of SDGs (e.g. 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 12) and so policymakers should consider the conservation and sustainable management of pollinators when formulating policies to support these SDGs.

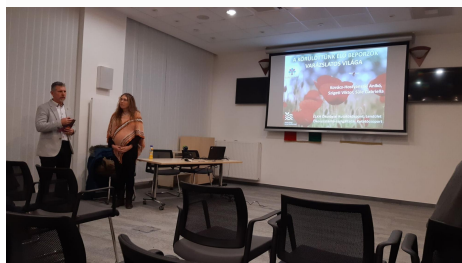
LEGEND

Circular bar plot depicting SDGs weighted according to median relevance to society across 16 countries. Relevance scores between pollinators and each SDG were assigned by a panel of 17 experts with links to the Post-2020 biodiversity targets represented in the outer ring.

[safeguard.biodiversity.university.ac.uk](#)
@Safeguard2022
@SafeguardProject
University of Reading

Recently, an article titled '[Pollinators, biodiversity and sustainable development go hand in hand](#)' was published on the European Commission's platform [CORDIS](#). The piece presents [Safeguard's policy brief](#), highlighting the vital relationship between pollinating insects and the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

[READ MORE](#)



The magical world of pollinators around us

On 17. January 2023, Safeguard partner Dr. Anikó Kovács-Hostyánszki of the [Centre for Ecological Research \(OK\)](#) gave a public presentation in Budapest, Hungary. The presentation titled 'The magical world of pollinators around us' focused on the results of an ongoing monitoring study in the bee pastures of the Hegyvidék Municipality (Budapest, XII. district).

[READ MORE](#)

Let's take a look back at Safeguard's 2022 highlights!



[WATCH HERE](#)

Welcome to Safeguard!



Safeguard is happy to welcome Willem Proesmans to the project team!

Willem Proesmans is a biologist who obtained his PhD at Ghent University on the role of small forest fragments for wild pollinators in intensive agricultural landscapes. After that, he started a postdoc at the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAe) in Dijon, studying how plant-pollinator interactions affect pathogen transmission between pollinator species. His main interests are ecology, diversity and taxonomy of bees. Currently, he mainly works on community ecology and species interactions, with a special emphasis on wild pollinators and plant-pollinator networks.

We're happy to have you with us, Willem! Good luck on your Safeguard journey!



Policy Corner

Revision of the Pollinator Initiative

Nature Restoration Law proposal

On 24 January 2023, the Commission adopted its “[new deal for pollinators](#)”, in the form of the revision of the Pollinators Initiative. This long-awaited communication provides increased ambitions and pathways for reversing the decline of pollinators and tackling the causes of their decline. The initiative will be supported by a set of **42 actions to be achieved by 2030**. The initiative includes important actions for solving current knowledge gaps with the finalisation of a standardised methodology for an EU pollinator monitoring scheme (EU-PoMS), the commitment for systematic collection of data on major threats to pollinators by 2026 and the mapping of key pollinator areas to become the focus of restoration and conservation by 2025.

[Read more](#)

Proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products (SUR)

In June 2022, the European Commission adopted proposals for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, which includes the new Sustainable Use of Pesticide Regulation (SUR). The regulation involves EU-wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030. However, these plans have not been popular among some Member States, who officially requested a further impact assessment from the European Commission on 27 December. The Commission has to submit the necessary data at the latest six months after the request came into force.

[Read more](#)

The text is currently with the co-legislators: in Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), which appointed César Luena as rapporteur on 12 July 2022. The ENVI committee has been the rapporteur's draft report in January 2023. The debate has been quite active and heated on targets, revealing a fracture within the Parliament on the desired level of ambition of the law. More than 2,000 amendments have been submitted by MEPs, so the final decision of the Parliament will be followed with attention. The EU aims to adopt the legislation by the end of the year.

[Read more](#)

European Court of Justice restricts the use of emergency pesticide authorisations

EU pesticide rules do not allow member states to authorise the sale of seeds treated with banned nicotinoid pesticides, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled, in what green groups have hailed as a landmark judgement. Following this ruling, France backed down on extending the exemption allowing beet growers to use these banned pesticides. However, The Spanish agriculture ministry has given sugar beet growing exceptional authorisation to use neonicotinoid pesticide thiamethoxam this year, despite the ECJ ruling.

[Read more](#)



Safeguard AGM2 in Sofia

Safeguard's second Annual General Meeting is coming up!
Stay tuned for updates on our social media channels!

