



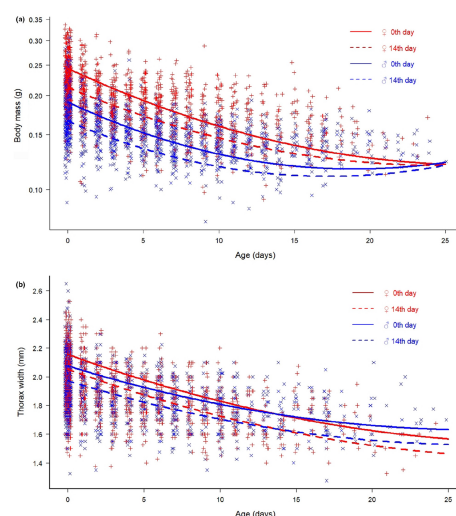
WELCOME TO **SAFEGUARD'S SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

Safeguard takes part in a new exhibition dedicated to pollinators in Sofia



On Wednesday, June 28th, 2023, the new temporary exhibition 'The pollinators we can't live without' was officially opened at the National Museum of Natural History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NMNHS) in Sofia. [Safeguard](#), along with the projects [B-GOOD](#) and [PoshBee](#), presented results related to the study of pollinators, the threats they are facing and the steps we need to take to preserve them.

[Read more](#)



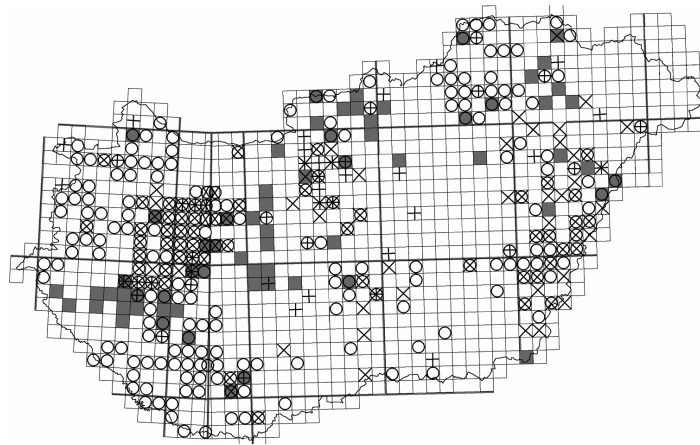
Safeguard study discovers a nonlinear decline in body mass and thorax width as natural butterfly population age

Recently, authors including Safeguard researcher Viktor Szigeti from the [Centre for Ecological Research](#) (OK) have published the first study documenting phenotypic senescence in a natural butterfly population, using in vivo measurements.

[Read more](#)

New Safeguard study presents updated distribution maps of bumble bees in Hungary

In a recent paper published in the [Journal of Hymenoptera Research](#) researchers investigate the effects of climate change, warming winters and changes in landscape structure on the distribution and frequency of *Bombus* (Hymenoptera, Apidae), the genus of bumble bees, in Hungary.



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Policy corner

Nature Restoration Law (NRL)

The last three months have been very active for the proposal, which includes Article 8 to reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030. In May the Parliament's PECH and AGRI committees rejected the proposal. After receiving more than 2000 amendments on the initial Commission's proposal, the ENVI Committee (leading on the file) failed to agree on the amended proposal and rejected it on 27 June, for lack of majority (44 vs 44). This outcome has triggered mixed reactions, as it sends a negative signal, while reactivating hopes for saving the initial ambition of the proposal at plenary (on forests, peatlands, and urban areas in particular).

Meanwhile, the EU Council reached an agreement on the proposal on 20 June. Now, all eyes are on the MEPs who will vote in Plenary on 11 or 12 July on the proposal. The stakes are high for the plenary, and every vote will count to make the proposal a success.

The Nature Restoration Law has been the centre of an extremely polarised debate, with the largest grouping of EU politicians, the European People's Party (EPP), claiming threats to food security and loss of livelihoods for European farmers.

Civil society on the other hand, was very vocal in its support of the proposal, with a joint letter signed by more than 3300 scientists; the "Restore Nature" coalition of more than 200 NGOs collecting over

900,000 signatures; and CEOs from more than 50 companies writing a letter in support of a strong proposal.

[Learn more](#)

[Open letter from scientists](#)

Sustainable use of pesticides regulation (SUR)

The proposal (adopted by the Commission in June 2022) sets legally binding targets at EU level to reduce by 50 % the use and the risk of chemical pesticides as well as the use of the more hazardous pesticides by 2030. It also sets rules about restricting use of pesticides in protected areas and other sensitive areas.

The Parliament's ENVI Committee discussed on 2 March its rapporteur's draft report, proposing to raise the EU-level reduction target to 80% by 2030 as one of the almost 3000 amendments tabled. Discussions are ongoing. The AGRI committee oversees drafting amendments on the SUR articles in relation to the CAP, while the ENVI committee retains competence on the rest of the package.

The ENVI Committee considered amendments to the draft report on 24 May. The agriculture committee will hold its vote on the file in July, followed by a vote in the environment committee in September. The Parliament plenary vote is scheduled for the week of October 2nd.

[Learn more](#)

New guidance on testing impacts of pesticides on bees

The European Food Safety Authority has published on 11 May the long-awaited update to its guidance on the impact of pesticides on bees, with a 10% threshold for maximum acceptable declines to honey bee colonies. The guidance outlines the studies that need to be generated by applicants with a new pesticide when a high risk cannot be excluded during an initial assessment.

There is not enough scientific evidence to agree on quantified thresholds for wild bee populations, but the guidance lays out an approach to require more higher tier studies that will provide more data, informing future assessments.

[Learn more](#)

[Revised guidance](#)



Insect taxonomic expertise in Europe is declining, according to an EU study

Recognising the need for assessment of the available taxonomic expertise on insects across Europe, [CETAF](#), [IUCN](#) and



Safeguard featured by project partner Institute for European Environmental Policy

In a recent article titled "[How IEEP and the Safeguard research project are supporting the EU](#)

[Pensoft](#) investigated the issue within the [European Red List of Insect Taxonomists](#), a large-scale initiative of the European Commission.

[Read more](#)

[pollinators initiative](#)" project partner [IEEP - Institute for European Environmental Policy](#) presents an overview of the Safeguard project and its purpose.

[Read more](#)



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