



Welcome to Safeguard's Holiday Newsletter!

Right before the festive season, we are excited to welcome you to our Holiday Newsletter to explore recent project publications and developments, as well as EU biodiversity policy updates. Enjoy!

Project Publications

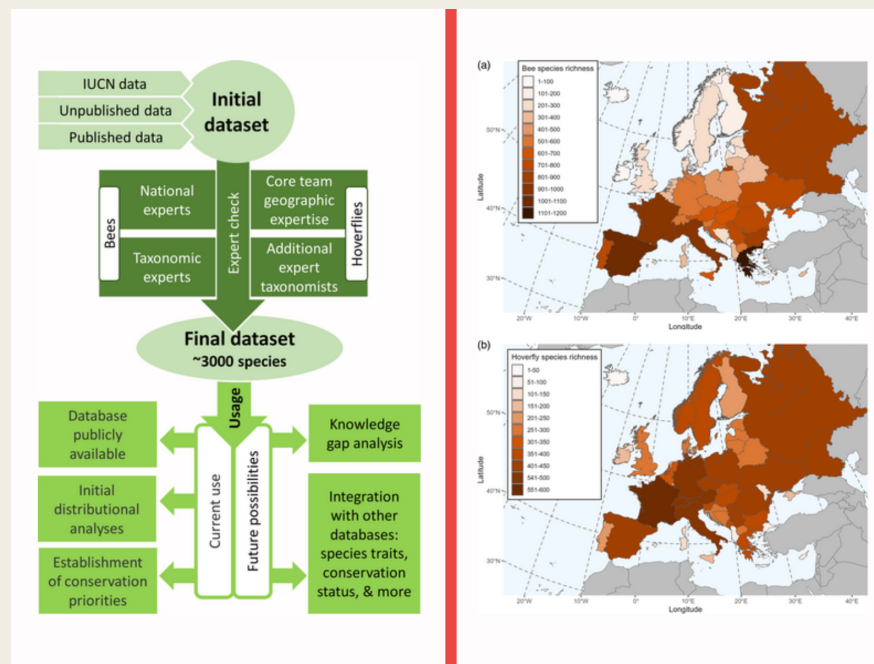
Guidance for monitoring pollinators in urban habitats



IEEP partners Laure-Lou Tremblay and Evelyn Underwood, have recently developed guidance for cities to monitor pollinators in urban areas. It sheds light on different aspects of the process cities might need to go through to implement monitoring schemes.

[Learn more](#)

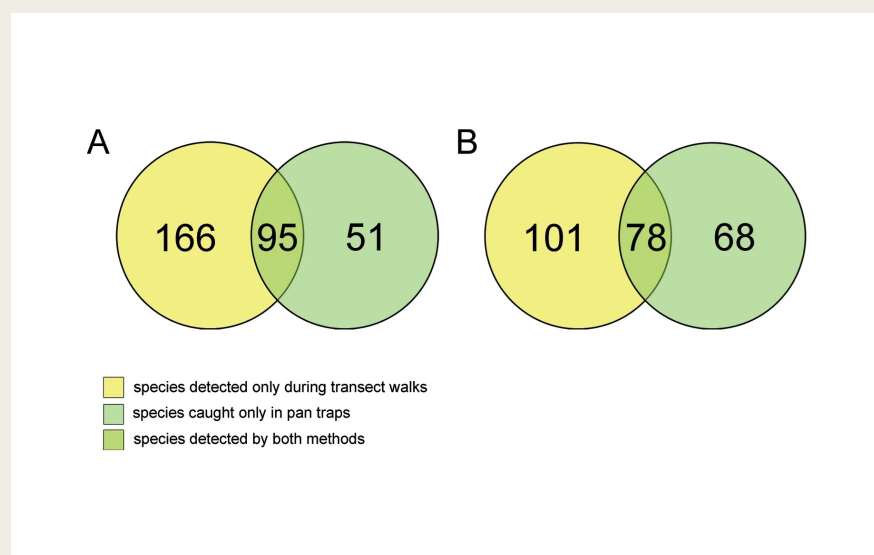
Updated list of 3000 European bee and hoverfly species



Recently, an updated list of around 3000 European bee and hoverfly species, co-authored by Safeguard partners, was published in the journal *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, aiming to contribute to pollinator conservation. The paper presents the current state of the knowledge of pollinator distributions at the European, country and sub-national levels for both bees and hoverflies. The list reflects the species' current distributional status in the form of present, absent, regionally extinct, possibly extinct or non-native.

[Learn more](#)

New records for the Serbian wild bee fauna (Hymenoptera, Anthophila)



In a recent study, researchers, amongst whom Safeguard partners Ante Vujčić and Andrijana Andrić of the University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences (UNSPMF), present new records for the wild bee fauna (Hymenoptera, Anthophila) of Serbia. Published in the *Journal of Hymenoptera Research*, this new study not only presents new records of bee species in Serbia and confirms some old ones, but also provides additional information about European distribution, required for new assessment at the European level.

[Learn more](#)



Policy Corner

Agreement reached between Parliament and Council on the Nature Restoration Law

On 9 November the Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on the Nature Restoration Law (NRL). Although not as ambitious as the original proposal, key aspects such as the restoration of agricultural land or forest ecosystems are part of the agreement – going beyond the habitats covered by the EU habitats directive. The text sets legally binding targets (Articles 4 and 5) to restore the habitats and species covered by the EU nature directives both inside and outside the Natura2000 network – and to ensure that these areas do not significantly deteriorate. The requirement will be measured by efforts directed at the habitats and species, but Member States have the flexibility to choose which they prioritise first and are directed to prioritise restoration within Natura 2000 sites until 2030.

The ambition of Article 8 on pollinators has been consolidated in the final text. Member states shall “by timely putting in place appropriate and effective measures, improve pollinator diversity and reverse the decline of pollinator populations at the latest by 2030”. There is strengthened support for monitoring and research in the final article, thanks to the inclusion of paragraphs and stronger wording to ensure the quality of data collected by Member states and the exchange of information.

Although Article 9 on agro-ecosystems has been reintegrated into the text, it is significantly weakened by turning it into an obligation of ‘aiming to establish measures’ and not a results-based legal obligation.

On 29 November, the ENVI Committee MEPs backed the EP/Council deal (53 in favour, 29 against). To conclude the legislative process, the law will need to be approved in the European Parliament’s plenary, tentatively scheduled for the Strasbourg plenary session on 26-29 February 2024.

Restoration of pollinator populations

*1. Member States shall, and achieve thereafter an increasing trend of pollinator populations, measured **at least** every **six** years after 2030, until satisfactory levels are achieved, as set out in accordance with Article 11(3).*

*2. The Commission **is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 20 to supplement this Regulation concerning the establishment and the update of a science-based method for monitoring pollinator diversity and populations. The Commission shall adopt the first of those delegated acts establishing such method by ... [12 months from the entry into force of this Regulation].***

*3. The method referred to in the paragraph 2 shall provide a standardised approach for collecting annual data on the abundance and diversity of pollinator species **across ecosystems**, for assessing pollinator population trends **and the effectiveness of restoration measures adopted by Member States in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article.***

3a. When using the method referred to in paragraph 2, Member States shall ensure that monitoring data comes from an adequate number of sites to ensure representativeness across their territories. Member States shall promote citizen science in the collection of monitoring data where suitable and provide adequate resources for the performance of these tasks.

3b. The Commission and the relevant Union agencies, in particular the EEA, EFSA and ECHA, shall, in accordance with their respective mandates, coordinate their activities concerning pollinators and provide information to support Member States in the fulfilment of their obligations under this Article upon their request. To that end the Commission shall, inter alia, set up a dedicated task-force and disseminate in a coordinated manner relevant information and expertise to the Member States.

[Learn more](#)

Parliament votes against the Sustainable use of pesticides regulation

On 22 November, the Parliament voted in plenary to reject (299 votes against, 207 in favour and 121 abstentions) the proposal to set 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. The proposal had faced continuous pushback from farm and agribusiness lobbies and conservatives since the adoption of the proposal by the Commission in July 2022. Green MEPs chose to vote against the proposal because they considered that it was no longer adequate to give farmers the tools they needed to fulfil the EU ambitions. Most notably, the amended text lowered the national pesticide reduction target to 35% instead of 50%. Green MEP Sarah Wiener, lead of the SUR file for the ENV Committee, summarised the results as “it is a very dark day for the society as a whole and for the environment — and also for farmers”.

The two most likely next steps are that the EU executive chooses to withdraw its own proposal or that EU ministers decide to continue working on the file regardless of the outcome of the European Parliament’s vote.

[Learn more](#)

EU Pollinators Initiative – EU Parliament wants more ambition

On 23 November 2023, the European Parliament released its resolution on the revised Pollinators Initiative, which calls for increased action and funding to reverse pollinator decline. The resolution strongly supports pollinator research and monitoring, via the rolling of a standardised EU pollinator scheme, encouraging capacity building in Member States and developing a specific pollinator indicator to be included in the CAP by 2026. The Parliament calls out on the Commission and the Member States to increase compliance of the CAP with the Pollinators initiative, and to create a specific chapter within CAP strategic plans laying out concrete measures aimed at protecting wild pollinators. As regards funding, MEPs calls on the Commission to establish a legal basis and lasting financial framework for the following initiatives: SPRING, INSIGNIA, EMBAL, LUCAS, STING and eLTER , and to facilitate the integration of EMBAL and INSIGNIA, as well as the future EU pollinator monitoring scheme, into the eLTER.


[Learn more](#)





Project Developments

Safeguard open-access collection in the Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO) journal

Safeguard has recently released an open-access collection in the Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO) journal. It will not only increase the discoverability, visibility, and recognition of the research outcomes, but also set a comfortable digital environment for knowledge exchange, collaboration, sharing, and re-use of research.




In this collection

Papers published: **14**

Documents added: **15**

Printed version: **Paperback**



Learn more

Safeguard at the XII European Congress of Entomology



Between 16 and 20 October 2023, entomologists from around the globe gathered in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, for the XII European Congress of Entomology (ECE 2023). The event featured lectures from international experts, numerous symposia, oral and poster sessions, as well as satellite seminars and various exhibition booths.

Representatives of Safeguard’s partner Pensoft Publishers took an active part in the event with an exhibition table, where attendees could learn more about Safeguard’s mission, objectives, and results and receive further information from the project’s one-pager and policy brief.


Learn more

Safeguard at the EU Pollinator Week 2023

EU Pollinator Week 2023


Scientific Conference

Advancing Knowledge and Environmental Risk Assessment for Bees and Other Insect Pollinators

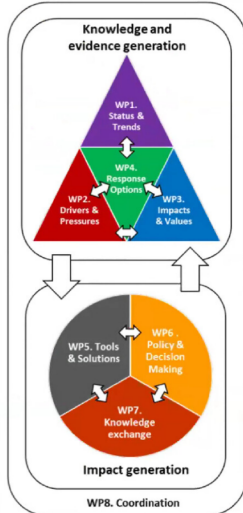


Ignasi Bartomeus

“Safeguarding European wild pollinators: Trends, impacts and conservation”



Knowledge and evidence generation



Impact generation

WP8. Coordination

This year's EU Pollinator Week featured a diverse set of presentations and debates on pollinator-relevant scientific, technical, and political topics. The three-day event took place on 28-30 November 2023 in online, in-person, and hybrid formats. Among the key speakers at the event was also our project partner Ignasi Bartomeus of The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), who presented briefly the project by outlining its mission, key results, and work plan.

[Learn more](#)

Coming Up

TRAIT-BASED EFFECTS OF PLANT INVASION ON FLORAL RESOURCES, HOVERFLIES AND BEES

Szűcs, V., Feneš, A., Botta-Dukát, Z., Kuhlmann, M., Potts, S. G., Roberts, S., Sillóczy, Z., Tórk, E., Kovács-Hosztánszki, A.

Background

Pollinating insects are drastically decreasing, one reason being their reduced floral food resource availability. The spread of invasive species is one of the five most important causes of biodiversity loss. Invasive plant species dominate the landscape, reduce diversity and make habitats more homogeneous. In many cases, they also reduce the range of available flowers, thus helping some compatible pollinator species while displacing the food resources of others. In general, the impacts of invasive plant species on native vegetation and pollinator insects are often varied and dependent on their specific traits.

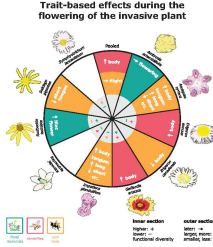
Objective

The study aims to reveal the trait-based patterns of plant invasions on floral resources and pollinators using 10 case study examples of invasive plant species.

Key Messages

- Invaded areas are similar to crop fields such as rapeseed or sunflowers: during their blooming period, they provide significant amounts of food for the pollinating insects, while beyond of their flowering period, these areas are extremely poor in resources of pollinators.
- The invasive plants dominate the area with their green vegetation mass for most of the year, while only blooming for a short period of time. In contrast, natural habitats have more diverse resources throughout the year.
- Two invasive species with deep flowers maintain more long-tongued and also larger-bodied bees, while a species with shallow flowers had more smaller-bodied bees.

Trait-based effects during the flowering of the invasive plant



Source

Szűcs, V., Feneš, A., Botta-Dukát, Z., Kuhlmann, M., Potts, S. G., Roberts, S., Sillóczy, Z., Tórk, E., Kovács-Hosztánszki, A. (2023). Trait-based effects of plant invasion on floral resources, hoverflies and bees. *Insect Conservation and Diversity*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/icad.12649>

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

Stakeholder summaries of key Safeguard publications

Making Safeguard publications understandable and available to stakeholders is an essential part of the project's dissemination efforts. This is why we developed a collection of Stakeholder Summaries of key Safeguard publications, that will be presented one by one each week starting in January 2024. Stay tuned!



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