

Towards pollinator friendly cities

A glimpse at the Global and European policies



Network
Nature

It is in our nature to network – we will expand the wider NBS community and support you in implementing and amplifying your nature-based solutions.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

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ICLEI Europe

Why do we need robust policies specific to pollinator safeguard?

"We are in the midst of a species extinction crisis, but for many people that is intangible. Perhaps pollinators are the bellwether of mass extinction," said Dicks (Dicks et al. 2021).

According to bee experts at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, [a third of the world's food production depends on bees](#).

300% increase in pollinator-dependent food production over the past half century, with an annual market value that may be as much as US\$577 billion

Some drivers of decline: Habitat loss, intensive farming practices, changes in weather patterns (also air pollution), the excessive use of agrochemicals such as pesticides.

Relevant policies must step in!

Relevant targets from GBF



- Target 11** Restore, maintain, and enhance contributions to people, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches
- Target 9** Ensure that the management and use of wild species is sustainable, thereby supporting especially those most dependent on biodiversity
- Target 7** Reduce pollution risks and negative impact of pollution “*from all sources*” to non-harmful levels by 2030, including reducing excess nutrients lost by at least 50% including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use, reducing the “*overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals*” by at least 50% including through integrated pest management, and working towards “*eliminating plastic pollution*”
- Target 6** Eliminate, reduce, or mitigate impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity
- Target 4** Ensure urgent management actions to stop human-induced extinction of species and restore genetic diversity

The GBF is not a legally binding international treaty, but it is nonetheless expected to affect national policies, regulations, and plans globally as governments seek to give effect to their new biodiversity commitments.

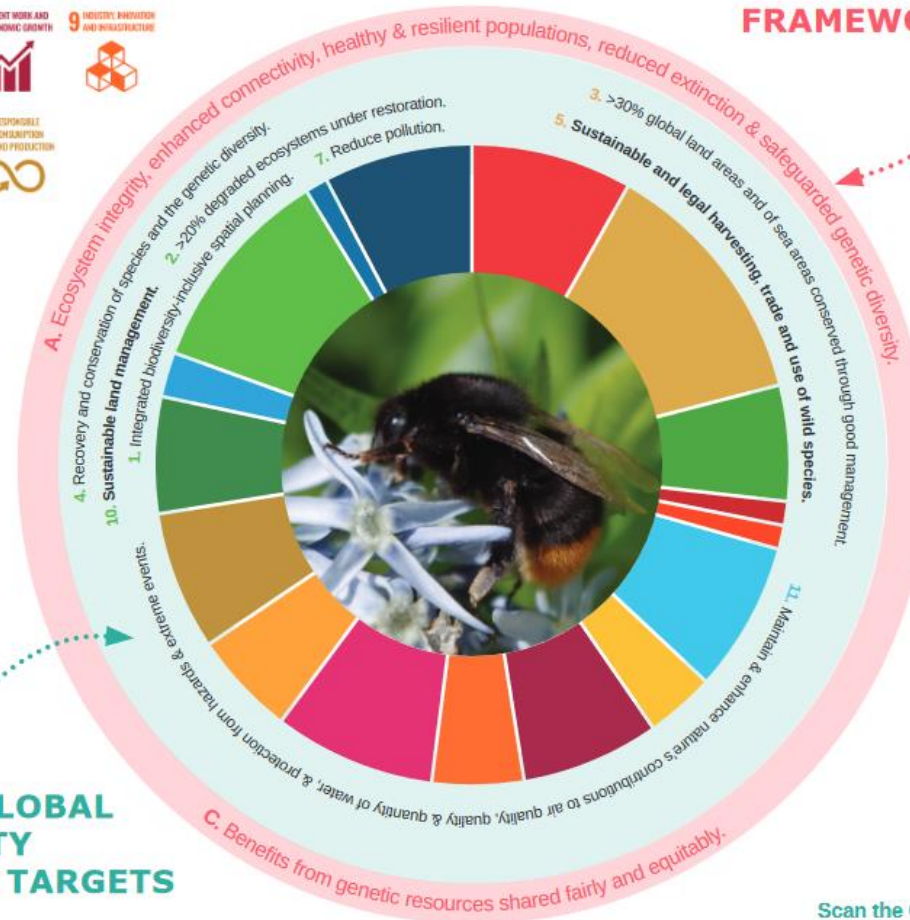
The GBF, already (aspirationally) described as the “*Paris Agreement for Nature*,” could potentially be a game changer!

As a next step and before the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) in 2024, all countries must prepare **updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** and **National Biodiversity Finance Strategies**.

SDGs & GBF – Synergies with Pollinators



POST 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK GOALS



POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS

Photo credit: Dinkum | commons.wikimedia.org



Scan the QR code for further reading and information on our methods.

EU Green Deal – what's in it for Pollinators?

Policy areas:

- Biodiversity – protecting fragile ecosystems
- Climate action – climate neutrality by 2050
- Farm to fork – sustainable food systems
- Eliminating pollution
- Sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable industry
- Cleaner Construction Sector, etc.



Targeting biodiversity loss issue in EU

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 under the umbrella of EU Green deal is the proposal for the EU's contribution to the international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework.

1. Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea
2. Launching an EU nature restoration plan ([EU Nature Restoration Law](#))
3. Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative change (e.g. Funding)
4. Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge

In the EU



1 in 3
bee, butterfly and hoverfly
species is in decline



1 in 10
bee and butterfly species is
threatened with extinction



Around 4 out of 5
crop and wild flowering plant
species depend on animal
pollination

Other initiatives under the European Green Deal, such as the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Forest Strategy, the Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change [8](#), help to tackle threats to pollinators.

Science and policy for a new deal for European Pollinators

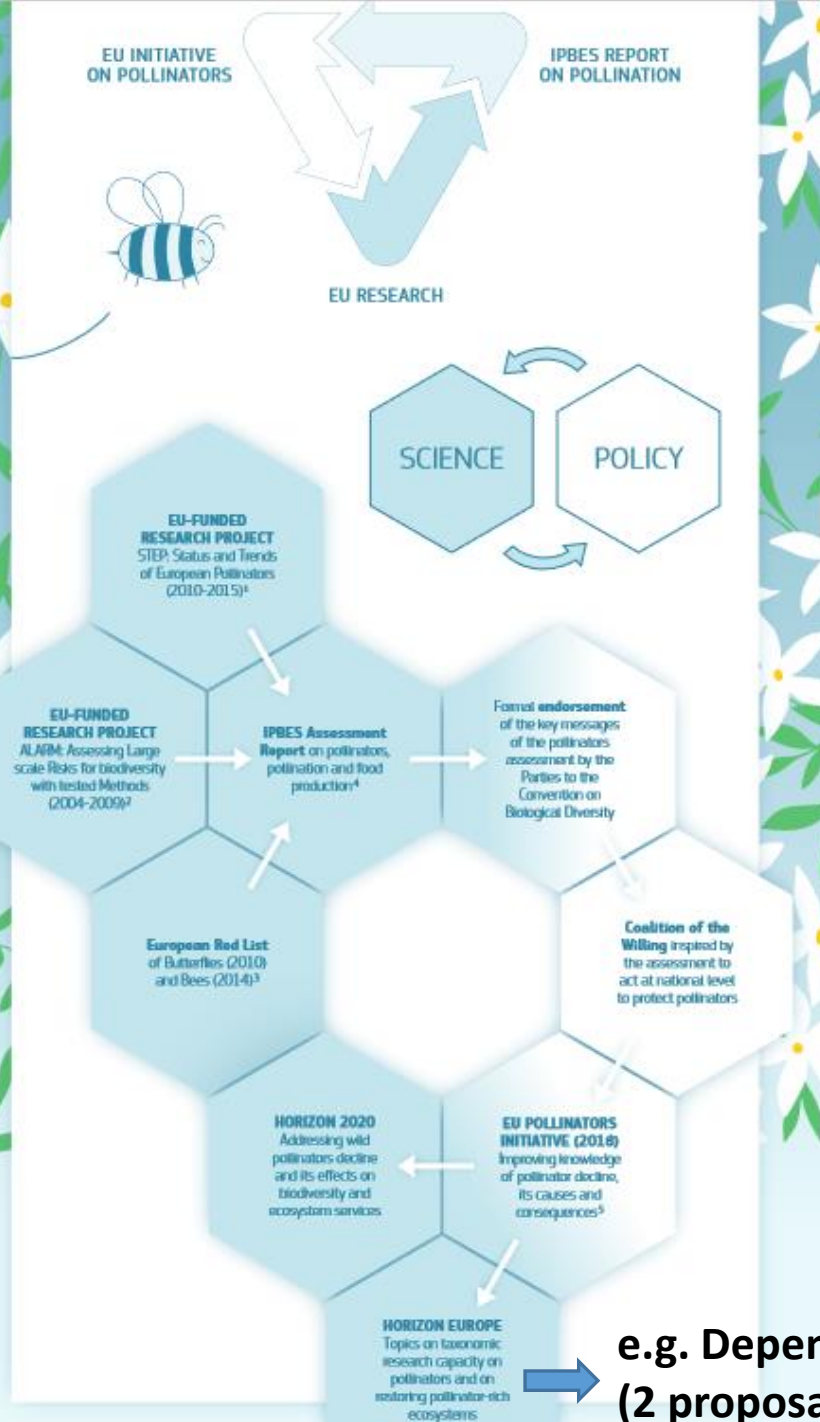
EU actions on pollinators (the EU Pollinators Initiative) aims to:-

1. improve knowledge of pollinator decline, its causes and consequences
2. improve pollinator conservation and tackle the causes of pollinator their decline
3. mobilise society and promote strategic planning and cooperation at all levels

The actions in the revised Pollinator initiative will support and complement the national restoration measures required under the proposed new law and will benefit from the legally binding target to reverse pollinator decline by 2030.

Together, the proposal for a Nature Restoration Law and the new action framework under the EU Pollinators Initiative constitute a game changer for pollinator conservation at EU level: **a new deal for European pollinators.**

e.g. Dependence of society and the economy on pollinators 22 February 2024
(2 proposals to be funded from Horizon Europe for 13mil each)



Pollinator-friendly Cities



A guide for pollinator-friendly cities:


How can spatial planners and land-use managers create favourable urban environments for pollinators?

Some Recommendations for local authorities:-

1. Preserve existing pollinator habitats
2. Restore, create and connect pollinator habitats
 - Improve the condition of soil
 - Create nesting and hibernating habitats for wild pollinators
 - Adjust mowing practices
 - Prevent and manage the use of chemical pesticides in line with SUPD
 - Control invasive alien species
 - Grow a pollinator-friendly, native seed mix
3. Raise awareness through community engagement and environmental education
4. Monitor urban pollinators

Also, recommendations for policymakers – read [here](#)

NBS Projects bringing best practices and innovative strategies to promote Pollinators





Multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral partnership led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, The City of Edinburgh Council, The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, The University of Edinburgh, Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Objective: a long-term vision to ensure that nature is at the heart of the city's future; create and connect high quality and biodiverse green spaces, transform low productivity spaces (i.e. brownfields, private gardens)

Activities:


- **Nature in your Neighbourhood** (enriching biodiversity of community grasslands; **Square Metre for Butterflies** (working with businesses to create habitat for pollinators on rooftop gardens and green roofs); **Tree Time Edinburgh** (tree sponsorship or donations by residents to plant new trees); **Pollinators Pledge** (residents commit to support pollinators in their gardens and other private green spaces)
- deliver environmental education campaigns,
- evaluation and monitoring.



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Integrated approach to nature and biodiversity:

- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Edinburgh's Open Space Strategy
- Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020
- Edinburgh Design Guidance



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Pollinator Highway, Tallinn



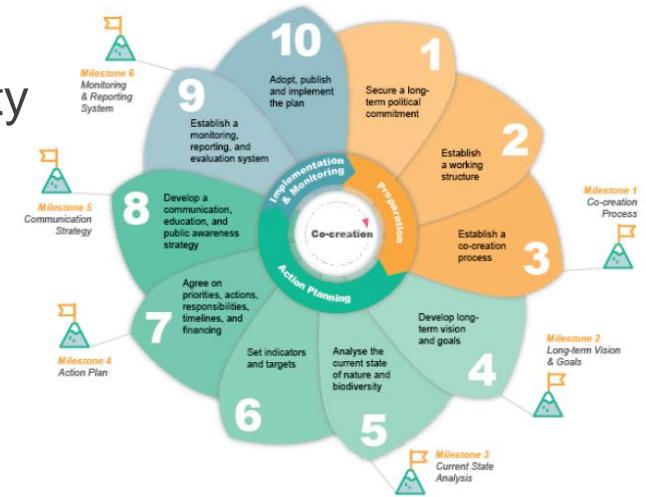
Way forward

EU #NatureRestoration law

Requires Member States to “reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030 and achieve thereafter an increasing trend of pollinator populations, measured every three years after 2030, until satisfactory levels are achieved”.

The EU PoMs aims to establish pollinator monitoring systems in all Member States by 2026, and then bring together the data to feed an EU pollinator indicator by 2030.

Urban Greening Plans should manifest as part of an integrated, overarching city strategy, that tackles biodiversity loss, reduces the impacts of climate change and addresses the social dimensions of urban greening; it should be issued at high level (i.e. mayor), be action-oriented and perform as a comprehensive implementation plan with clear targets, timelines, and responsibilities.



Welcome to EU Pollinator Information Hive

Information on the conservation of wild pollinator species in the EU

All around Europe people are making efforts to address the dramatic decline of pollinators. We all need to work together to tackle the challenge effectively. This platform aims to facilitate information sharing – on the problem and what is being done across the EU to solve it – and collaboration between stakeholders.

Whether you are a citizen, scientist, civil society activist, farmer, forester, beekeeper, business, or a representative of public authorities, this site will help you to find useful information and contacts.

Browse the sections below and learn what is done across the EU to halt the decline of wild pollinators, and get inspired on how you can help.

Want to get fully involved? Check the map and find interesting initiatives around you! [Or let us know about a project!](#)

This page is still a work in progress and will be updated regularly

[Visit our policy page](#)

[Visit our communication page](#)

