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UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Investing in biodiversity for people and planet



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Pollinators and Biodiversity

Pollination is one of the most important mechanisms in the maintenance and promotion of biodiversity and life on Earth. Pollinators and pollination are critical for food production and human livelihoods, and directly link wild ecosystems with agricultural production systems.

Presently, the abundance, diversity and health of pollinators and the provision of pollination are threatened by direct drivers, including: habitat fragmentation and land use change, intensive agricultural practices, pesticides, parasites and diseases, invasive alien species and climate change. Fortunately, the current decline of pollinators and pollination has increased awareness of the value and appropriate management of this important ecosystem service. Moving towards more sustainable actions such as diversifying the agricultural landscape with different crops and conservation of natural areas; growing native and wildflowers in parks, gardens and agricultural landscapes to provide food and home for pollinators; reducing the use of pesticides and promoting alternative forms of pest control, can offer key strategic responses to risks associated with pollinator decline. Practices based on indigenous peoples and local knowledge can be a source, in addition to science, of solutions to current challenges by supporting an abundance and diversity of pollinators.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), together with governments and other specialised organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), seeks to address the loss of wild and managed pollinators and protect and support all ecosystems, including those beyond agricultural and food production systems, particularly to the livelihoods and culture of indigenous peoples and local communities. Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators and pollination are keys to achieving more sustainable food systems.





Pollinators at the UN Biodiversity Conference¹

Noting the importance of pollinators and pollination for all ecosystems, including those beyond agricultural and food production systems, the UN Biodiversity Conference will focus on stimulating global action, and on fostering conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and of pollinators beyond food production.

Global Action: The Conference will adopt the Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators, and also, through the engagement of businesses, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other relevant actors, involved in production landscapes, to address the drivers of loss of wild and managed pollinators in all ecosystems.

Beyond Food Production: The Secretariat is also requested to finalize the report on the relevance of pollinators and pollination to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, beyond their role in agriculture and food production in partnership with relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities.

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Important links

- CBD: Agricultural Biodiversity Programme, Pollinators: www.cbd.int/agro/pollinator.shtml
- COP 6 Decision VI/5 Agricultural Biological Diversity: www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7179
- International Pollinators Initiative: The São Paulo Declaration on Pollinators: www.cbd.int/doc/case-studies/agr/cs-agr-pollinator-rpt.pdf
- CBD: Key issues for pollination and pollinators: www.cbd.int/agro/pollinatorkeyissues.shtml
- Implications of the IPBES assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production for the work of the Convention: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-15-en.pdf
- Annotated Provisional Agenda COP XIV, Item 23: www.cbd.int/doc/c/698f/93d1/5192dd42dc281674c59ee7d9/cop-14-01-add1-en.pdf
- International Pollination Initiative: www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7179
- FAO: Biodiversity and Pollinators: www.fao.org/biodiversity/components/pollinators/en/
- IPBES (2016): Summary for policymakers of the assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production: www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/downloads/pdf/ipbes_4_19_annex_ii_spm_pollination_en.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=28363
- SBSTTA 22 meeting documents, sustainable use of pollinators: www.cbd.int/recommendations/sbstta/?m=sbstta-22

¹ Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing; 17-29 November 2018

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