

Press Brief: Pollinators

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. 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 harmful to pollinators; promoting the best practices for pesticide use and 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.

What happened at the UN Biodiversity Conference?¹

The Conference of the Parties (COP) urged Parties and invited other governments to address the drivers of wild and managed pollinators' decline in all ecosystems. The COP also encouraged Parties and other governments to, *inter alia*, encourage farmers, beekeepers, land managers, urban communities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders to adopt pollinator-friendly practices and address direct and indirect drivers of pollinator decline at the field and local level. It also invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action 2018-2030 for the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

Important Links

- Decision 14/6. Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators: www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-06-en.pdf
- CBD: Agricultural Biodiversity Programme, Pollinators: www.cbd.int/agro/pollinator.shtml
- 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
- International Pollination Initiative: www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7179
- FAO: Biodiversity and Pollinators: www.fao.org/biodiversity/components/pollinators/en/

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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