



**Bosnia and Herzegovina joins the global effort marking the  
25th anniversary of the International Initiative  
for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators**

Bosnia and Herzegovina joins the global community in marking the 25th Anniversary of the International Pollinators Initiative, recognizing the critical role of pollinators for biodiversity, food security, and human well-being. We extend our sincere congratulations to the Convention on Biological Diversity on this important milestone, the 25th anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, adopted at COP-5 in Nairobi in 2000.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also proudly hosted the first Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Trialogue on Pollinators in Eastern Europe, held in Sarajevo in October 2017. This regional event brought together policymakers, scientists, and practitioners to establish a common agenda for action around pollinators as a driver for linking ecosystem services, agriculture, and rural development. The Trialogue provided a constructive space for intercultural understanding and interinstitutional coordination, reinforcing Bosnia and Herzegovina's role in promoting dialogue and cooperation on biodiversity and pollinator conservation across the region.

At the global level, there has been a well-documented decline in the abundance and diversity of some wild pollinator species, accompanied by data gaps for many others. Managed pollinator species, such as honeybees, have shown localized declines and significant seasonal losses of colonies, leading to reduced genetic diversity and local adaptation. Pollinators face multiple, interacting threats, from land-use change, intensive agricultural practices, pesticide use, and invasive alien species to climate change and the spread of pests and pathogens. These pressures call for urgent, coordinated responses that integrate traditional and scientific knowledge.

Although there remains limited documentation globally on the biodiversity, ecological, economic, and socio-cultural values of most wild pollinator species, Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes that pollinators are essential for maintaining biodiversity and ensuring food security. The production of honey, especially within protected areas, represents an important part of the local economy and a traditional practice that supports sustainable rural livelihoods. Many fruit and vegetable species, which are significant for domestic consumption and export, depend on pollinators. Therefore, protecting

pollinators means safeguarding food security and the livelihoods of rural populations, as over 60% of the country's population resides in rural areas.

While Bosnia and Herzegovina maintains rich forest ecosystems covering more than 60% of its territory and continues to expand sustainable tourism and organic agriculture, more efforts are needed to strengthen agro-environmental data collection, reduce pressures from pesticides, and enhance awareness of the vital role of pollinators in maintaining ecosystem health.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reaffirms its commitment to the objectives of the International Pollinators Initiative and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, emphasizing the importance of national and local actions that integrate pollinator protection into biodiversity conservation, agriculture, and sustainable development policies. The country emphasizes the importance of integrating pollinator conservation into biodiversity, agriculture, and sustainable development policies, recognizing pollinators as an irreplaceable bridge between nature and human well-being. By strengthening awareness, supporting sustainable practices, and enhancing cooperation at national and local levels, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to contribute to global efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators.