Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

Director of the Department for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (DCBIO)

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Government of Brazil

"As the initial proponent of this initiative, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators which continues to play an critical role to promote the conservation of bees and all the other important groups of pollinators to sustain the essential ecosystem service of pollination without which the survival of virtually all plants in natural ecosystems and the harvest of a significant proportion of crops depend on globally. Without pollinators food security of humans and wildlife including adaptation to climate change is at risk. I congratulate all the great efforts of governments, organizations, conservationists, farmers and experts to implement the IPI and its Plan of Action for 2018-2030 in different parts of the world, including here in Brazil, but my message is that we need to do even more. I welcome also the commitment of FAO to implement an International Pollinators Platform to provide technical support to all countries as needed and encourage parties to the CBD to increase their efforts. Unfortunately, pollinators continue to be at risk globally due to the use of chemical pesticides, spread of diseases, deforestation and climate change. Unless governments and business step-up to implement their responsibilities the collapse of biodiversity and food security will remain a global challenge."

Leandro Freitas

Researcher at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden & Coordinator of the National Institute of Science and Technology – Pollination

"Pollinators contribute to the productivity of 75% of agricultural crops worldwide and are even more important in natural environments, as more than 85% of angiosperms are pollinated by animals. Furthermore, global projections indicate that for half of these species, the absence of pollinators would result in a drastic decline in fruit and seed production. The tropics host the majority of species and interactions between plants and pollinators, and Brazil, in particular, has a strong community of researchers in the field, characterized by a collaborative spirit and a diversity of research approaches. One of the outcomes of this engagement dates back to the launch of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (IPI), when standardized protocols were applied to measure pollinator diversity and their contribution to crop production in various regions of the country. Participation in subsequent initiatives became more diversified, notably including the global assessment on pollinators, pollination, and food production published in 2016 under the IPBES, followed by the national version in 2019 - the result of a partnership between BPBES and REBIPP. The 25 years since the launch of the IPI have brought many advances in scientific knowledge about pollination and pollinators, both in theoretical frameworks and empirical findings. It's also worth highlighting progress in data compilation and availability, as well as in the training of new researchers in the field. However, the most significant advancement has been in the dissemination of knowledge about pollinators to the broader public. The idea that pollinators are essential for food production and the functioning of natural ecosystems is now recognized by various sectors of society, gaining space in the media and public interest — something that was previously seen basically in relation to charismatic groups such as birds and mammals. On the other hand, we have also witnessed, during this period, an intensification of the vulnerability of pollinator species and associated plants, as a result of human impacts on biodiversity and ecological processes as a whole. Habitat loss due to the conversion of natural vegetation areas, climate change, invasive species, and the use of agrochemicals are the main threats to plant-pollinator interactions. The effects go beyond the loss of existing interactions, jeopardizing the continuity of evolutionary trajectories established over millions of years between flowers and pollinators. Even if technological solutions were developed to replace pollinators in agricultural crops — which is not yet a concrete possibility - the effects of the loss of pollinators and plants in natural ecosystems would remain irreversible. In this sense, the founding goals of the IPI remain current, relevant, and urgent. This moment of well-deserved celebration calls for the continuation of initiatives in support of pollinator conservation."

Mauro de Oliveira Pires

President of the Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation

"Brazil's immense biodiversity and agricultural strength depend on a silent alliance: our pollinators. Bees, butterflies, bats, and other insects are essential for ecosystem health and for over one-third of our food production.

Our Protected Areas are fundamental sanctuaries for these species, providing vital refuge, and our Permanent Protection Areas (APPs) serve as natural ecological corridors. Together with the sustainable practices of traditional communities and family farmers, they form a crucial network for pollinator survival.

Recognizing this, Brazil established the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Insect Pollinators (PAN Insetos Polinizadores). This plan unites researchers, government bodies, and civil society to mitigate threats and promote conservation policies based on social participation and scientific evidence.

Over the past decades, ICMBio has advanced this work through research in Protected Areas, habitat management, threat reduction, and deep engagement with local communities. We are committed to turning science into effective, on-the-ground action.

But this is a global mission, and we all have a role to play. Citizens must help by planting native flowers, supporting pesticide-free agriculture, and advocating for conservation policies.

Protecting pollinators is safeguarding our food, our ecosystems, and our future. Join us in this critical campaign for life on Earth."