

Statement from H.E. Jean Rummenie

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With the 25th anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this milestone. The global decline of pollinators such as bee, butterfly, and hoverfly populations is a major concern. Their conservation is vital for food security, the economy, and the functioning of natural ecosystems. The production of many fruit and vegetable crops depends on pollination, which highlights the important role pollinators play in food production and food security. Pollinators also play a crucial role in many ecosystems, and healthy populations of wild bees, hoverflies, and butterflies have a significant impact on the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. In the Netherlands, about 80 percent of trees and plants depend on pollinators for reproduction.

Next to our involvement in the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (IPI), the Dutch National Bee Strategy was established in 2018 at the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, in response to the observed decline of pollinator populations in the Netherlands and worldwide. The National Bee Strategy is a network organization that now includes more than one hundred partners committed to sustainably promoting and preserving pollinators in the Netherlands. I am pleased that various organizations are working with great enthusiasm, perseverance, and creativity to ensure the survival of bees, bumblebees, butterflies, and hoverflies in the Netherlands. I see this as an important instrument for creating and supporting societal initiatives for pollinators, as well as for developing and sharing knowledge.

I therefore also encourage and welcome the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, to ensure further global cooperation on sustainable pollinator conservation. More action at the local, national, and global level is necessary to reverse the negative trend of pollinator populations and to contribute to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. This should be done in collaboration with key stakeholders such as civil society, knowledge institutions, governments, the private sector and citizens.