



Ministry of Climate and Environment Republic of Poland

Undersecretary of State
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25th anniversary of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators

For many years in Poland efforts have been underway to increase the number and strengthen the honeybee population. Supported initiatives include establishing and rebuilding bee colonies, purchasing hives and equipment, purchasing and planting honeybee-bearing trees and shrubs, establishing and rebuilding bee hives, purchasing bee protection products and materials, and purchasing new beekeeping equipment. As a result, the number of bee colonies has increased, and activities related to the promotion of beekeeping are conducted in many places as part of various educational campaigns.

However, it should be clearly noted that these activities have led to a direct link in public awareness between the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and the establishment of insect farms—for example, bee apiaries—and the economic exploitation of other insects. Thus, a dangerous process, from the point of view of biodiversity protection, has begun, of pushing out from public awareness the fundamental role that populations of wild pollinating insects play in maintaining the stability of the Earth's ecosystems.

Recent scientific research indicates that the decline of wild pollinator populations is driven not only by habitat loss, environmental pollution, and climate change, but also by competition from managed pollinators, primarily honeybees. The intensive exploitation of habitat resources by managed bees reduces the availability of food for wild species, contributing to their further decline. The presence of managed honeybees also increases the risk of transmitting pathogens to wild pollinators, which are not subject to systematic veterinary monitoring, as is the case with managed bees. Furthermore, the honey plant species preferred by beekeepers often do not support wild pollinator populations; moreover, they are often invasive species that contribute to biodiversity loss. Certain bee species specialize in pollinating various native flowering plants, so their presence ensures ecosystem stability, especially in the face of ongoing climate change.

The Pollinator Working Group is working on preparing a Wild Pollinator Conservation Strategy, which will guide actions supporting both the sustainable use of farmed insects and wild pollinators. This document will also be used in the

development of a national nature restoration plan (prepared to implement the objectives of the EU Nature Restoration Law).

To properly protect wild pollinator populations, we should focus on activities including:

- research on wild pollinator populations – to determine which species require support and which actions are effective,
- protection of existing habitats – e.g., financial support for the creation of protected areas, financial support for active pollinator protection in existing protected areas,
- removal of invasive species that threaten native plants and insects,
- removal of concrete surfaces in cities and creating green spaces exclusively with native plant species,
- creation of ecological corridors with native trees, shrubs, and perennials that connect habitats and allow insects to migrate,
- education consistent with current scientific knowledge.