

International coalition to promote pollinators expands

Following 22 other parties, Belarus, Estonia and Norway have shown their intent to protect pollinating species threatened with extinction. To affirm themselves to this commitment, on 14 November they will sign the *Declaration of the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators*. The sign-up event takes place during the fourteenth *UN Biodiversity Conference* in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. The European Union will also sign the declaration. The Dutch ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is instigator and pioneer of the international coalition on the protection of pollinating species, operating as *Promote Pollinators*.

Pollinating insects, like bees and butterflies, are indispensable for biodiversity, ecosystems, food production and the global economy. But climate change, the derogation and pollution of our soil, water, and air, changes in the landscape and changing land-use have negatively affected and decreased the natural habitat of pollinating insects. Consequently, they are no longer able to find enough food, and have no place to settle for reproduction. As a result, many pollinating insect species show a decline in number, and are sometimes threatened with extinction. No less than 35% of our fruits and vegetables, important food sources for the human race, depend on pollination for growth.

[Promote Pollinators](#) was established in order to place the protection of pollinators (insects, but in some continents also birds and bats) on the World's political agenda. Following on the recommendations from IPBES, the coalition underlines that drawing up and implementing national strategies will contribute to this goal. Therefore, signatories promise to undertake action to protect pollinators and their habitats through a national strategy of their own. Members of the coalition share their experiences and knowledge about new methods, innovations and successful practices they encounter whilst developing and implementing their own national strategy. In addition, coalition members work together with a broad selection of stakeholders, and investigate the best ways to preserve as many pollinating species (and habitats) as possible. In this way, *Promote Pollinators* aspires to be both a source of knowledge and an instigator of new policies.

The *UN Biodiversity Conference* ([cop cbd](#)) is a biannual international 'biodiversity summit', where over 190 countries share knowledge and make agreements to counteract biodiversity loss. Besides the Sign-up event in Sharm-el-Sheikh, the *Promote Pollinators* secretariat facilitates a working session for members of the coalition, aspiring members and observers on 18 November. On 25 November, pollination and pollinating insects will be discussed in the Rio Conventions' Pavilion.



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