

Promote Pollinators warmly welcomes two new members during SBSTTA-23

On Thursday the 28th of November 2019, Promote Pollinators, the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators, warmly welcomed two of its newest members during SBSTTA-23 in Montreal, Canada. Morocco and Switzerland, who joined the coalition earlier this year, presented themselves and explained their motives. In addition, the secretariat presented Promote Pollinators' new website. The meeting was hosted by Mrs. Frederieke Quispel, Deputy Head of Mission of the Netherlands embassy in Ottawa.

The twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-23) at the ICAO Building in Montreal, Canada was the backdrop for this special event. On Thursday the 28th of November at 18:00 pm, the secretariat of Promote Pollinators hosted a Sign-Up Event to welcome its newest members. By signing the declaration last year, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Morocco and Switzerland affirmed their intent to take action and implement a national strategy to protect pollinating species threatened with extinction. During the Sign-Up Meeting, Morocco and Switzerland presented themselves.

Morocco joined the coalition on the 10th of May this year. Dr. Rachid Mrabet, director of research at INRA, elaborated upon the current situation of pollinators in Morocco. He then told us about the IKI-project [Conservation of Pollinator Diversity for Enhanced Climate Change Resilience \(2017-2022\)](#), for which Morocco is the benchmark country. The aim of this project is to conserve pollinator diversity to enhance the climate change resilience in an economically self-sustaining way, using the Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) approach. To conclude with, Dr. Mrabet pointed out how Morocco works towards the creation of a National Strategy for Pollinator Protection, and what are the country's aims and expectations for the future.

Subsequently, Head of the Swiss Delegation Mr. Norbert Bärlocher took the stage to address the importance of pollinators and elaborate upon the motives of Switzerland for joining the coalition. After his speech, he handed over the signed declaration to Mrs. Quispel. The Swiss delegation then addressed the topic of insect decline in Switzerland, pointing out some alarming facts and figures. Next the existing plans of action, such as the Phytosanitary products action plan, the Bee health national plan, and the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and plan of action were explained, and the ongoing work to better protect pollinating species was addressed.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Lisa Boendermaker, assistant to the Promote Pollinators secretariat took the opportunity to present the renewed website (www.promotepollinators.org), and then it was time for celebratory drinks.

Promote Pollinators

The [IPBES assessment report on pollinators](#) concludes that pollinators play a key role in the conservation of biological diversity, ecosystems, food production and the global economy. It also concludes that the effects of current human activities hamper animal pollination. For this reason, a group of countries has started actively cooperating in an international coalition on the protection of pollinators, named Promote Pollinators. Members of Promote Pollinators commit to:

- Taking action to protect pollinators and their habitats by developing and implementing national pollinator strategies;
- Sharing experience and lessons learnt;
- Reaching out to seek collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders;
- Developing research on pollinator conservation; and
- Mutually supporting and collaborating with each other.

Any country that is willing to join Promote Pollinators is welcome to do so. There is no formal procedure, except for signing the declaration. Read more on www.promotepollinators.org.

This press statement was sent by the Promote Pollinators secretariat on the 29th of November 2019. Contact: info@promotepollinators.org.

