

The secretariat of Promote Pollinators is pleased to provide this two-pager as a contribution to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework discussions. It does so in close collaboration with a group of leading scientists and authors of the IPBES thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production (IPBES 2016). With this submission we respond to CBD notification 201-075 and follow up on the draft recommendations of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-23); we welcome the attention on pollinators in the draft recommendations¹. We also welcome the suggestion to connect the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to other UN-conventions. With this submission we are suggesting ways to further develop possible targets and related indicators for pollinators and pollination in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Why should pollinators and pollination be integrated in the post 2020 framework?

1. Pollinators and pollination are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, beyond their role in agricultural and food production systems. They are particularly relevant to the livelihoods and culture of indigenous peoples and local communities². This has already been recognized by all Parties to the CBD.

- Conservation. Approximately 90% of all flowering plant species worldwide are dependent on pollinators for their propagation; hence their vital role in underpinning and conserving biodiversity is undeniable.
- Sustainable use. Three-quarters of the leading global food crop types are reliant, to varying degrees, on pollinators for production (quality and quantity). Without pollinators there is substantially less sustainable use of our biodiversity.

2. Pollinators and pollination services are linked to many of our global societal goals. For example, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pollinators and pollination services are more directly linked to SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 15 Life on Land and more indirectly linked to SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being, SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG 13 Climate action etc. It is envisaged that pollinators and their services will undoubtedly be linked to many of the goals and targets of the upcoming post-2020 biodiversity framework, both directly and indirectly.

3. Pollinators, pollinator habitats and pollinator products are sources of inspiration for art, education, literature, music, religion, traditions and technology (i.e. culture and knowledge). Therefore, the protection and promotion of indigenous and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to pollinators and pollination enriches and improves our lives and deserves to be safeguarded.

4. The importance of pollinators and pollination to nature and to human wellbeing is easy to understand and communicate, hence can be an ambassador for our work. Adults and children, men and women worldwide know and understand the story of pollinators. Bees play an important role in the culture and economy of many countries and people. Pollinators are close to the heart of many, and are thus politically relevant. A specific target will help communicating the relevance of our work.

Pollinators in the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Pollinators and pollination could be reflected in the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework through targets on status, on pressures and on actions:

¹ CBD/SBSTTA/23/L8, section C 'species' par 33, Section 2, 'regulating services of nature', par 139 - 141

² Recalling decision III/11, annex III, decision V/5, decision VI/5, decision XIII/15 and decision XIV/6

1. Targets on status. A number of NBSAPs already include indicators related to pollinators/pollination services. A target for pollinators and pollination should build on these in order to avoid an additional national reporting burden. We believe target for good status, or ‘no further loss’ of pollinating organisms (to be adapted at national level) would connect well with several already existing pollinator targets in NBSAP’s and would also be an important proxy for ecosystem health and functioning.

2. Targets for pressures.

- a) A more sustainable agricultural system in which the practice is primarily based upon the services of the ecosystems, rather than on external inputs. For example, through integrated landscape management, agro-ecology and -forestry, an intensified implementation of Integrated Pest Management, sustainable soil management, or the practice of diversified cropping systems. This would also positively affect the local economy of small-scale farmers and the health of workers in the agricultural sector and the population living in the agricultural area.
- b) The avoidance of land use change, specifically loss and degradation of flower-rich habitats such as grasslands and shrublands, and the loss of a mosaic of smaller-scale native habitats within productive working landscapes. Specific targets here could include no net loss of grassland and shrub habitats, or restoration of native habitats to a minimum of 20% of the area of all working landscapes globally³.

3. Targets on actions can be part of national or regional policies, reflected in NBSAP’s and other biodiversity related plans. Better protection of pollinators starts with good policies at national and regional level. This has been recognized by the members of Promote Pollinators that have all declared they will establish national pollinators strategies. Relevant elements of these national pollinator strategies could be integrated into updated NBSAP’s. Proposed targets & indicators:

- a) Sufficient incentives for pollinator-friendly habitats including through sustainable agricultural practices such as agro-ecology (see target 2a). Indicator: (growing) percentage of farmers implementing IPM and/or producing under standards for sustainable production;
- b) Policy support for improved decision-making, husbandry and monitoring around sustainable use of managed pollinators, to reduce risks from pests, pathogens and invasive species. Indicator: have the main pests for managed pollinators been identified and have a set of related response actions to address been established;
- c) The avoidance or reduction of environmental pollution that is harmful to wild and domestic pollinators, including appropriate risk management measures, and the development of alternatives to their use. Indicator: has environmental legislation on harmful substances been established, is it enforced, and is the level of adherence growing towards a desired level;

All these targets can be simply followed and will not lead to a bureaucratic burden. They may be further refined where appropriate. A combination of these type of targets would obviously be the most complete option. A good example for this is the monitoring scheme that has been developed for the European Pollinators Initiative⁴.

Overall, we believe that a strengthening of the implementation, monitoring and accountability system of the strategic framework will be an essential element for the realization of our goals. To this end it is important to establish methodologies for efficient monitoring of progress in a quantitative way, and -based on these-baselines for the assessment of success. We look forward to a joint further exploration of this important topic in the development of the post-2020 targets.

About Promote Pollinators

Promote Pollinators is a network of countries that is established as a Cancun commitment in 2016, in response to the publication of the IPBES Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production. We have

³ Also supported by CBD/SBSTTA/23/L.8 Annex II, section B, p 28.

⁴ [European Pollinators Initiative](#)

the mission to better protect pollinators. 27 States and the EU have become a member by signing our declaration. For further information see www.promotepollinators.org.