



EU POLLINATORS INITIATIVE

A review of Member States actions to tackle the decline of wild pollinators

MALTA



STRATEGY



INITIATIVES



Rural



Urban



Private sector



NATIONAL RED LISTS

Threatened species



RAISING AWARENESS



Citizens



Schools children



Farmers & beekeepers

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No strategies for wild pollinators or similar plans have been identified.

There is no red list that includes pollinators. The first published checklist records a total of 95 species belonging to five bee families: Andrenidae (17 species), Apidae (34 species), Colletidae (6 species), Halictidae (15 species) and Megachilidae (23 species).

Bee (Apidae) occurrence records and abundance data are available online. Data are derived from museum collections and a systematic, ecological study investigating plant-pollinator interactions and point observations. MCAST (Malta College of Arts Science and Technology) has engaged in research activities on bees in collaboration with research institutions from France, Belgium and Austria.

Friends of the Earth Malta organises courses aimed at providing aspiring beekeepers and those interested to learn more about bees and pollinators with practical information, scientific background and knowledge from local beekeepers with years of experience. In addition, the Malta Beekeepers' Association has held an exhibition to draw attention to the threats to the Maltese honeybee. However, there are no awareness raising initiatives focused on wild pollinators.



STRATEGIES FOR WILD POLLINATORS OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR PLANS

No strategy for wild pollinators has been identified.



IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF POLLINATOR DECLINE, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

RED LISTS ON POLLINATORS AND DATA ON POLLINATOR POPULATIONS

The first published checklist (Balzan et al 2016) records a total of 95 species belonging to five bee families: Andrenidae (17 species), Apidae (34 species), Colletidae (6 species), Halictidae (15 species) and Megachilidae (23 species). There is no red list that includes pollinators.

POLLINATOR MONITORING SCHEMES

Bee (Apidae) occurrence records and abundance data are available (Balzan et al 2016). Data are derived from museum collections and a systematic, ecological study investigating plant-pollinator interactions and point observations. Publications with historical data and new species records for Malta are available online (2017 and 2016).

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

MCAST (Malta College of Arts Science and Technology) has engaged in research activities on bees in collaboration with research institutions from France, Belgium and Austria.

TAXONOMICAL EXPERTS ON POLLINATORS

None identified (other than MCAST).



INITIATIVES TACKLING THE CAUSES OF POLLINATOR DECLINE

ACTION PLANS ON SPECIES AND HABITATS

None identified.

FARMER AND LANDSCAPE INITIATIVES, AS WELL AS LOCAL LEVEL STRATEGIES

None identified.

MEASURES ON PESTICIDES

No specific measures were identified. The revised national action plan for sustainable use of pesticides 2019 to 2023 sets no overall objective for protection of biodiversity, although there was wording referring to biodiversity in the previous plan. The national guidance on integrated pest management does not currently make any reference to protection of bees, and the revised action plan tasks the government agency with revising the guidance.



RAISING AWARENESS, ENGAGING SOCIETY-AT-LARGE AND PROMOTING COLLABORATION

TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS

Friends of the Earth Malta organises the [BeeAware course](#), a collection of lectures and practical sessions aimed at providing aspiring beekeepers and those interested to learn more about bees and pollinators with practical information, scientific background and knowledge from local beekeepers with years of experience.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND MATERIALS ON WILD POLLINATORS

None identified.

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGNS

None identified.

PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES FOR WILD POLLINATORS

None identified.

APICULTURE SECTOR INITIATIVES FOR WILD POLLINATORS

The Malta Beekeepers' Association has held an [exhibition](#) to draw attention to the threats to the Maltese honeybee. The Maltese honeybee, *Apis mellifera ruttneri*, is a subspecies of the western honeybee that has naturalized and adapted to the environment of the Maltese Islands. It evolved as a different subspecies when the Maltese islands were cut off from mainland Europe. However, they do not have any initiatives that focus on wild pollinators.

REFERENCES

Balzan, Mario V, Pierre Rasmont, Michael Kuhlmann, Denis Michez (2016) The bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) of the Maltese Islands. Zootaxa 4162(2):225. DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.4162.2.2

Cassar LF (2018) A revision of the butterfly fauna (Lepidoptera-Rhopalocera) of the Maltese Islands. Il Nat Sicil 42:3–19

Educational materials

None available.