

WILD BEE Specialist Group

Invitation to join us



The IUCN Bumble Bee Specialist Group (BBSG) has recently transitioned to be part of a wider IUCN Wild Bee Specialist Group (WBSG, <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/invertebrates/wild-bee>).

OUR AIM: The WBSG aims to foster the conservation of wild bees and their habitats around the world by promoting and strengthening regional and global networks of specialists, conducting assessments of their conservation status, raising awareness among the public and policy makers, and engaging in practical conservation actions at local, regional and global scale.

OUR TARGETS: We are developing the webpages, targets and SSC data which will take a few weeks. We have proposed a set of 7 [targets](#) covering assessments, planning, conservation actions, networking and communications. These targets also align with previous BBSG plans and we will have a bumblebee-specific target to continue the planned work of the BBSG (target 2: support ongoing work of the Bumble Bee Sub Group). The Bumble Bee Specialist Group will no longer formally exist, however, we recognise it is important to keep it as a distinct entity and so it will now be the Bumble Bee Sub Group.

OUR INVITATION TO JOIN: From March onwards, we are initiating discussions with members of BBSG, and also inviting new members to join and expand the taxonomic coverage, to co-develop regional representation and teams to work on specific targets. **We welcome everyone to participate in this process and as a first step we have set up a short online survey (10 minutes) to understand what your interests are** in terms of regional activities and also which targets you would like to contribute to. Please feel free to share the survey with anyone else who may be interested.

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/PNQB MJZ>

OUR LEADERSHIP: We are also looking for volunteers to lead both regions and targets. We have chosen to start with 6 broad regions but will look to potentially set up sub-regions to best serve members and target delivery. This will be a key task for the new regional leads. The regions set up by the BBSG will remain in place for target 2, but will not apply to the WBSG as a whole as we need a different regional structure.

There will also be opportunities to refine targets and propose new ones, but first we want to build up the membership and leadership. We very much look forward to working with all.

Rémy Vandame and Simon Potts (WBSG co-chairs)