



Ministry
of Justice



Home Office



CPS

MoJ Sustainable Operations

Pollinator Strategy for bees and other
pollinators.



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Contents

1	Introduction	4	
	1.1	Vison Statement	4
	1.2	Strategy	5-6
2	Stakeholder and Partner Engagement	7	
3	Pollinators	8-9	
	3.2	Pollinators	8
	3.3	Principles, Drivers	8-9
4	Key reference and Access Information	10	

1 Introduction

More than seventy five percent of the Earth's flowering plants depend on bees, butterflies, hoverflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators. This amounts to more than 1,200 food crops and 180,000 different types of plants, plants which help stabilize our soils, clean our air, supply oxygen, and support wildlife.

One out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of the efforts of pollinators, including many fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Bees for example contribute £651 million to the UK economy annually.

¹Recent research also found that 85 per cent of the UK's apple crop and 45 per cent of the strawberry crop relies on bees to grow. Alone those two crops brought in £200 million to Britain in 2012.

A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower to the female part of the same or another flower. The movement of pollen must occur for the plant to become fertilized and produce fruits, seeds, and young plants. Some plants are self-pollinating, while others may be fertilized by pollen carried by wind or water. Many flowers are pollinated by insects and animals, such as bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, birds, flies and small mammals, including bats.

1.1 Vision Statement

“The Ministry of Justice is committed to halting the overall loss of biodiversity across its estate by 2020, in line with our Strategy and Policy for Biodiversity, we shall set out how we intend to work with our partners and the lead Agencies on pollinators, how we shall work towards creating a landscape that will support a diverse broad spectrum of habitats, which supports a healthy diverse population of pollinators, and how we shall connect to local and national communities so that our native pollinator species can thrive and survive”

¹Centre for Agri-Environmental Research (CAER) at the University of Reading. “Bee economy in GBP”

1.2 Strategy

Over the next 5 years we aim to deliver against the following 5 key areas:

Supporting pollinators on our rural estate –

- Working with our Executive Agencies, ²Affiliated Partners, our FM providers and our MoJ Ecology network; we will increase where operationally practicable the quality and quantity of habitat for pollinators, and in all other areas we will actively encourage and support local and national voluntary initiatives to provide food, shelter and nesting sites for pollinators.
- Minimising the risks for pollinators associated with the use of pesticides, through best practice, including Integrated Pest Management ³(IPM).

Supporting pollinators across our urban, inner city & town estate –

- Working with our large estate Executive Agencies, Affiliated Partners, our estate maintenance Facility Management (FM) providers and the MoJ Ecology network, to promote simple land management changes, to increase where operationally practicable the quality and quantity of habitat for pollinators in food, shelter and nest sites.
- Encouraging good practice, to support pollinators with our diverse network of lead partners, through specialist and professional networks, through innovative and community lead initiatives and projects.
- Encouraging staff and offenders to look at wildlife gardening, managing window boxes, hanging baskets, raised borders and organic allotments.
- Minimising the risks for pollinators associated with the use of pesticides, through best practice, including Integrated Pest Management ³(IPM).

²Affiliated Partners- DfE, TNA, DECC, DCLG.

³(IPM) is a toolkit of management actions and techniques to control pests, weeds and diseases, and to ensure low pesticide input and or targeted used to reduce the impacts on the environment.

Enhancing our biosecurity measures across our estate –

- Working with the Animal and Plant Health Agency and other lead community partnerships, we will implement a biosecurity policy, and encourage our rural estate to strengthen resilience and adaptation towards improving bee keeping husbandry and plant disease management at our environment sensitive sites; and tree and shrub nurseries.

Raising awareness to the importance of pollinators and their requirement to survive and thrive –

- Implement awareness training for our staff and offenders on pollinators and supporting habitat creation, in the Biodiversity Awareness Course; and provide a platform for our partners to share knowledge and new research across our estate.
- Encourage and implement voluntary projects/initiatives which highlight the importance of pollinator/wildlife corridors and reduce the causes of ⁴fragmentation on a ⁵landscape scale.

Collecting and improving on data capture and biological surveying of pollinators across the MoJ estate –

- Encourage our Executive Agencies, affiliated partners and MoJ Ecology network to implement long term monitoring programmes through accurate data recording, through our partnership with the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), and our national and local lead partners.
- Support the drafting and implementation of simple, practical data gathering forms and biological surveys that will interface with our national and local partners and form a foundation for practical delivery actions.

⁴Fragmentation of habitats is the process by which habitat loss results in the division of large, continuous habitats into smaller, more isolated remnants.

⁵Landscape scale conservation is a concept that has arisen in response to both the challenges of climate change and a perceived excessive focus on site based conservation.

2 Stakeholder and Partner Engagement

We believe that it's essential to engage with our stakeholders, partners, staff, custodial and non-custodial offenders as well as local communities, so that they can understand the importance of pollinators; and how they can make a difference to our ecosystem services.

We will therefore engage with our partners and stakeholders at every opportunity through education, training and practical projects that demonstrate positive value for pollinators; and embed learning and skills for offenders, which will positively change lives and improve our understanding of how we can help reduce the decline of our native pollinators by:

- 2.1 Establishing national and locally led pollinator projects that focus on both pollinators and habitats, which will support a diverse range of environments through a wide-ranging landscape.
- 2.2 Increasing wider opportunities for our staff and offenders to volunteer, whilst improving our understanding how pollinators interact with our environment, in cities, towns and the wider rural landscape.
- 2.3 Raising awareness of good practice and positive lead community projects, which will transpose positive action for pollinators across our diverse and rich estate.
- 2.4 All community and social engagement biodiversity projects across the MoJ estate, must have embedded where possible our strategy for pollinators; as well as demonstrating the projects credentials towards reducing the decline of pollinators and their supporting habitats.

NOTE: This pollinator policy was issued to the Government's lead on pollinators, and the Government's wildlife advisors as well as our specialist lead partners for pollinators. Contributions received have been added to the policy where this has been relevant, realistic and meaningful to the MoJ Estate and affiliated partners.

3 Pollinators

Maintaining a national database for pollinators, and linking through climate change adaptation will be one of our primary aims; and together with our key lead partnerships and local conservation projects, this will:

- Improve the quality of existing habitats for pollinators.
- Identify vulnerable and fragmented habitats for action;
- Realise a national pollinator strategy that will highlight the importance of our native invertebrates, such as bumblebees, butterflies and beetles; working with our partners and stakeholders; such as Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Buglife and the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species etc. we will work towards embedding our strategy across the whole of the MoJ, Government Shared estate and advising our Affiliated Partners.

3.1.1 All sites on the MoJ estate designated or otherwise; that have identified active pollinators, will be encouraged to implement an impact pollinator survey, which will be recorded on the MoJ “Other species” database and recorded additionally through the NBN.

3.1.2 All maintenance and new build projects must as a pre-requisite identify all projects which are liable to impact pollinators; and shall have undertaken a ⁶EclA.

3.1.3 All contractors and FM providers, working or providing services for MoJ must demonstrate that they have a current biodiversity strategy, which incorporates pollinators.

⁶Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA) is the formal process used to predict the ecological consequences (positive or negative) of a plan, policy, program, or project prior to the decision to move forward with the proposed action.

3.2 Principles, Policy and Drivers

In addition to our policy for reducing loss of biodiversity, especially at our designated sites, we are fully aware of our partner's targets, which we intend to actively manage through Memorandum's of Understanding, and local and national Site Management Plans/Agreements. Our overall ambitions and principles for pollinators, while we deliver our Biodiversity strategy will support both ⁷Biodiversity 2020 (b2020) and the UK's Pollinator Strategy.

Through:

- 3.1.1 Agreeing practical, responsible site management plans/agreements with our lead partners for pollinators;
- 3.1.2 Supporting and encouraging local MoJ staff to draft and implement action plans for pollinators at all designated and biodiversity significant sites, supporting both the UK and MoJ Strategy for pollinators;
- 3.1.2 And with regards to maximising MoJ's contributions to Species on b2020 Outcome 3: "By 2020, we will see an overall improvement in the status of pollinators and where practicable to have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species", linked to referencing action on species listed under ⁸NERC Act 2006 Section 41;
- 3.1.3 And where consistent with this, engage with local and national community pollinator partners, through social and community action planning, and active species orientated projects.

⁷ Biodiversity 2020 is the ambitious biodiversity strategy for England which builds on the Natural Environment White Paper, and provides a comprehensive picture of how England is implementing its international and EU commitments.

⁸ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006 s41) Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006).

4 Key reference, Links and Access information

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/409431/pb14221-national-pollinators-strategy.pdf

<http://bumblebeeconservation.org/about-us>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206957/pb13921-thpb-progress-report.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bee-health#national-bee-unit>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bee-health#controlling-bee-pests-and-disease>

www.buglife.org.uk/b-lines

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz>

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/campaigns/get-britain-buzzing>

Further information

For further information or advice on this policy, please contact the Sustainable Operations Team at: SDenquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk