

FORUM: Environmental Commission (EC)

QUESTION OF: Combating the threat to insect pollinators

SUBMITTED BY: Costa Rica

CO-SUBMITTERS: Belgium, Viet Nam, Mauritania, Norway, Pakistan, Nepal, Spain, Cape Verde, Iraq, Togo, Jamaica, Switzerland, Hungary, Philippines, Canada, Mexico, Mali, Solomon Island, El Salvador

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE,

Defines pollination as the process of transporting pollen from one organism to another which refers to the required natural processes for the reproduction and other several operations of floral species,

Stresses the need to protect the diversity of both pollinator species—bees, moths, wasps, mosquitos all being examples of pollinators with distinct ecological niches—and the flora which they pollinate,

Recognizes pesticide use, light pollution, climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, agricultural practices such as monoculture growing, and similar non-ecological based human activities as the primary causes of pollinator decline, with total pollinator biomass decreasing 6% annually,

Acknowledging the economic catastrophe and severe food insecurity that would result from further pollinator decline, with global pollination worth at least \$235 billion a year, according to Food and Agricultural Organization,

Bearing in mind that the International Pollinator Initiative, Plan of Action between 2000 and 2015 was adopted by the UN to monitor the decline of insect pollinators, the causes, and their impact as well as the economic aspects to the states such as the economic impact over the general capacity and productivity,

1. Calls upon all member states of the Environmental Commission to participate in an annual forum on combating threats against insect pollinators as a part of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in order to collaborate and discuss policy implementation, including:
 - a) creating Certified Wildlife Habitats in densely populated, metropolitan areas to promote citizen involvement in increasing biodiversity and thus combatting the daily threats to insect pollinators
 - b) synthesizing the latest scientific research and other pollinator health reports to create an internationally recognized report on pollinator health, including newly discovered factors impacting pollinators, as well as the newest strategies to combat their major threats
 - c) setting applicable goals for the global community such as updating pesticide legislation and decreasing the usage of pesticides by approximately 5 percent a year and review the achievements every 3 years to reset goals;
2. Recommends the formation of a UN-based team which will be named as United Nations Combating Threats to Insect Pollinators (UNCIP) which will work collaboratively with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to:
 - a) administer the annual forum on combating threats to insect pollinators at the UNCBD
 - b) form an agenda addressing these specific threats such as decreased biodiversity and how they may be tackled through special meetings with a member state's related environmental and agricultural organizations
 - c) advocate for increased research to determine invasive species and the mechanisms by which they function
 - d) providing necessary assistance and guidance to farmers about protecting pollinator health by writing and publishing an accessible, online curriculum on agricultural best practices

3. Urges the creation of an education campaign on the importance of global pollinators by FAO to be carried out:
 - a) in school systems worldwide, beginning with primary education, through visits to local entomological museums, field trips to nature reserves as available, and other classroom activities
 - b) with a strong online presence, by using sponsorships on social media platforms to reach a wide audience to educate on the importance of global pollinators and the statistics of their decline
 - c) on the level of local governments, hopefully by increasing accessibility to native plants and thus their abundance in urban and peri-urban areas by offering a tax-free incentive for native plant seed;
4. Urges member states to phase out the use of large-scale monocultures to prevent the over-exhaustion of bees by providing tax incentives to be decided upon by individual member states for farms that either use crop-rotation or give their soil full crop-cover and therefore increase biodiversity,
5. Urges all member states to reduce the use of pesticides by means such as but not limited to:
 - a) incentivizing accordance with the International Code of Conduct on Pest Management by creating a distinction for abiding farms, similar to that of LEED certification for buildings
 - b) researching and determining the amount of pesticide that should be used with the help of all member states and according to data from World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO
 - c) banning pesticides that contain neonicotinoid chemicals, specifically clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam, which have been identified as toxins that directly harm pollinator health
 - d) promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by educating member states through the education campaign and convention on combating the threats to global pollinators
 - e) increased research toward the development of genetically modified, pest resistant crops by providing grants to students interested in studying genetic engineering;
6. Calls for the creation of an international ranking of pesticides based on their adverse environmental impact as determined by the International Chemical Safety Card information, consisting of the following three categories:
 - a) extremely hazardous and completely banned
 - b) acutely hazardous and strictly regulated
 - c) slightly hazardous and regulated;
7. Encourages local governments to set minimum prices or tariffs on imported honey to prevent the undercutting of local honey markets, so that beekeepers can prevent the over-exhaustion of their colonies and improve their health;
8. Recommends farms increase biodiversity by reserving at least 2% farmland as a flora buffer area to be enforced by:
 - a) expanding the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to include the fostering of native plant communities
 - b) encouraging local governments to include buffer zone regulations as a part of their agricultural ordinances
 - c) increasing research to determine which plants can most efficiently boost the nutrient uptake of pollinators
 - d) educating the agriculture industry during the annual forum on Combating Threats to Pollinators on specific species to include in their wildflower buffers, as determined by the location of their farms;

9. Strongly urges countries to acknowledge the role light pollution plays in the decline of global pollinator health by:
 - a) decreasing and restricting the unnecessary use of bright light
 - b) increasing the use of motion sensors and time-sensitive lights
 - c) in new developments, using only lighting that is imperative for safety, such as using footlights on sidewalks rather than lamp-posts
 - d) encouraging local municipalities through alliances such as Green Mayors to adopt a model lighting ordinance as laid out by the International Dark Sky Association, with key elements including:
 - i. increasing citizen awareness of the effects of light pollution on pollinator health through government-sanctioned public programming on radio, television, and social media
 - ii. dividing land use into 5 light zones, ranging from pristine rural areas to major cities, and outlining best practices for each area
 - iii. categorizing types of light into backlight, uplight, and glare, and determining ways to shift most light use to the backlight category
 - e) Encourages any new efforts to further comprehend the threat to artificial light at night and anthropogenic radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation so as to further understand and develop adequate solutions;
10. Urges all member nations to ban the use of neonicotinoids in herbicides, to prevent health issues in humans and insect pollinators;
11. Resolves to stay actively seized on the matter;