

FORUM: Environmental Commission (EC)

QUESTION OF: Combating the threat to insect pollinators

SUBMITTED BY: United States of America

CO-SUBMITTERS: South Africa, Malta, ECE, Cameroon, Egypt, UNDP, Syria, Niger, Ukraine, Palestine, UNIDO, Canada, Indonesia, Liberia, Seychelles, Tunisia, Nauru, Lao PDR, Timor Leste, Republic of Korea

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE,

Emphasizing that about 75% of the world's food crops and nearly 90% of wild flowering plants depend on animal pollination,

Noting the annual value of global crops that rely on pollinators is estimated at around 577 billion USD,

Concerned that 16% of vertebrate pollinators and more than 40% of invertebrate pollinators are near extinction,

Further concerned that around 20,000 flowering plant species are endangered and there has been a 70% drop in key wildflowers since the 1980s,

Disturbed that the loss of key pollinators will increase crop prices to consumers and reduce profits to producers, resulting in a potential net loss of 160-191 billion USD globally,

Fully aware habitat loss due to irresponsible agriculture, mining, and human development decreases nesting sites for pollinators and limits area for foraging,

Keeping in mind air pollution's interference with the ability of bees to find flowering plants by their use of scent and the distance scent can travel on average has been reduced from 800 meters in the 19th century to just 200 meters today,

Recognizing that globalization has facilitated the spread of non-native animal and plant species as well as parasites and diseases, which have disastrous impacts on pollinator populations,

Appreciating the efforts of The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in its mission to protect pollinators worldwide,

Aware of the efforts made by NGOs such as Defenders of Wildlife and Beyond Pesticides to promote sustainable agriculture,

1. Encourages Member States to raise awareness on the issues imposed by the decline in the population of insect pollinators, through means such as but not limited to:
 - a) mass media, such as:
 - i. social media
 - ii. newspapers
 - iii. advertisements
 - b) including the discussion of these topics in public, private, and international schools of all grade levels, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - i. directly including said topics in relevant subjects such as geography
 - ii. sending UN professionals to speak on said subjects;
2. Recommends forming a week-long training program conducted by members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN that would help local beekeepers through:
 - a) education on negative effects on parasitic varroa mite, poor bee nutrition, and exposure to

- pesticides
- b) improving beekeeping practices
- c) improving beehive making;

3. Further encourages Member States in efforts to seek help on this topic to reduce the exploitation of natural resources, as it reduces habitat destruction of insect pollinators, in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) creating guidelines for MEDCs to further seek sustainable methods in the process of urban development in ways such as but not limited to:
 - i. installing environmentally appropriate renewable energy plants such as solar panels, hydroelectric dams, and windmills
 - ii. promoting a more sustainable lifestyle within their communities by reducing the usage of non-biodegradable consumable items, such as plastic bags and single-use plastic water bottles
 - b) researching, in collaboration with UN professionals and geoscientists, on potential solutions;

4. Requests Member States and UN professionals to protect terrestrial wildlife, thus promoting biodiversity and biotic pollination, through ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) supporting NGOs such as Defenders of Wildlife, by sending UN professionals in hopes of directly helping the process and motives of said NGOs
 - b) recommending schools to encourage ecological conservation in school activities that pertain to the protection of wildlife in ways such as but not limited to:
 - i. fundraisers for the Defenders of Wildlife
 - ii. direct service, entailing collaboration with relevant experts, towards the protection and conservation of terrestrial wildlife
 - c) sending UN professionals to public, private, and international schools in all grade levels to speak on relevant topics such as but not limited to:
 - i. the consequences and effects of poaching
 - ii. ways to protect terrestrial wildlife
 - iii. recognition of the efforts of the aforementioned NGOs in subclause;

5. Endorses the use of genetically modified organisms(GMOs) in crops in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) developing research programs in collaboration with scientists and experts on potential GMOs to mitigate against issues such as but not limited to:
 - i. excessive or incomplete pollination
 - ii. extreme weather, including droughts, floods, and cyclones
 - iii. invasive alien species
 - iv. the threat of pests
 - b) requiring researchers, under the supervision of UN experts, to ensure these GMOs are effective in the mitigation against the aforementioned issues
 - c) implementing said GMOs, prioritizing agrarian areas in countries which are heavily reliant on agriculture, after successful testing;

6. Further endorses Member States who are willing to act to reduce the usage of insecticides, especially neonicotinoids, in agriculture through means such as but not limited to:
 - a) requiring production of insecticides to be monitored by UN professionals to ensure a controlled production
 - b) enforcing all bans on the usage of neonicotinoids in ways such as but not limited to:
 - i. increasing security in trade and usage
 - ii. strengthening penalties suffered in the case of the illegal usage of neonicotinoids
 - c) recommending all Member States who do not have laws on neonicotinoids to consider imposing restrictions or bans on neonicotinoids

- d) recommending farmers to use alternatives to insecticides such as but not limited to:
 - i. integrated pest management (IPM)
 - ii. natural insecticides
 - iii. insect repellents;
7. Suggests the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) disseminate its guidelines for reducing the impact and spread of invasive species and diseases and emphasize:
 - a) the need for a risk assessment when importing and exporting animal species which should make note of the potential impacts of establishment and spread of the species on biodiversity, productive activities, and human health
 - b) the education and training of people involved in transporting, handling, selling, using, or keeping of live species and the risks and appropriate measures to deal with the release of non-native species
 - c) the need for proper cleaning and inspection of all cargo-carrying devices before exit and entry into a nation
 - d) the labeling of potentially invasive species and restricting its entry until it has been proven safe in that particular region;
8. Calls for FAO and UNEP to allocate funds for the support of existing pollinator initiatives—the International Pollinator Initiative, the African Pollinator Initiative, the North American Pollinator Initiative, the Oceania Pollinator Initiative—and for the creation of the South American Pollinator Initiative (SAPI) and the Asian Pollinator Initiative (API) with the goal of:
 - a) expanding the monitoring of pollinator decline, in the countries that are willing to be monitored, in order to establish a hierarchy of the most endangered species to inform policy priorities
 - b) funding research to discover the primary threats to pollinators in the countries that are willing to receive the information
 - c) creating a more efficient, well-coordinated program to combat pollinator decline in Asia and South America by lobbying organizations and governments to reduce habitat destruction;
9. Urges Member States to establish a national Pollinator Agricultural Educator Group (PAEG) as a new branch of the FAO in order to educate farmers on sustainable farming practices and the consequences of irresponsible agriculture which will operate by:
 - a) sending representatives of the FAO’s pollination conservation programs to countries who wish to create a PAEG so as to educate PAEG representatives on updated data regarding excessive pesticide use and efficient land use as well as discouraging monoculture
 - b) organizing collaborative meetings with farming communities to inform farmers about issues facing pollinator populations
 - c) creating incentives as decided by each national PAEG and its nation to reward farmers or land managers for pollinator-friendly practices, such incentives could include:
 - i. a tax reduction on income or land
 - ii. grants for materials and seeds
 - iii. land grants to expand pollinator-friendly farms
 - d) providing up-to-date farming equipment and resources to farmers who submit a request to the PAEG;
10. Encourages all member states, especially MEDCs, to invest in researching options for artificial pollination such as but not limited to:
 - a) attractions
 - b) mechanical pollination