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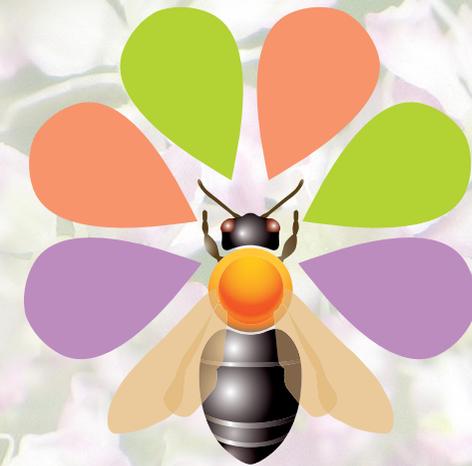


Project duration  
February 2010–January 2015



## Project partners

-  University of Reading (UK)
-  Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ (Germany)
-  Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden)
-  Alterra BV (The Netherlands)
-  Aarhus University (Denmark)
-  University of Leeds (UK)
-  Universität Bayreuth (Germany)
-  National Institute of Agronomic Research (France)
-  Federal Department of Economic Affairs (Switzerland)
-  Finnish Environment Institute (Finland)
-  Lunds Universitet (Sweden)
-  Spanish Council for Scientific Research (Spain)
-  University of Tartu (Estonia)
-  Pensoft Publishers Ltd (Bulgaria)
-  University of Bern (Switzerland)
-  University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences (Serbia)
-  University of Mons-Hainaut (Belgium)
-  Uniwersytet Jagiellonski (Poland)
-  University of Pisa (Italy)
-  University of the Aegean (Greece)



# STEP

## Status and Trends of European Pollinators

Pollination is an essential ecosystem service, vital to the maintenance both of wild plant communities and agricultural productivity. Pollination services depend on both domesticated and wild pollinator populations, and both may be affected by a range of recent and projected environmental changes, with unknown consequences.

The overall aim of STEP is to assess the current status and trends of pollinators in Europe, quantify the relative importance of various drivers and impacts of change, identify relevant mitigation strategies and policy instruments, and disseminate this to a wide range of stakeholders.



# Project Objectives



Document the status and trends of pollinator and animal-pollinated plant populations;

Determine and analyse the multiple pressures that are driving changes in pollinators and animal-pollinated plants at scales ranging from single fields to landscapes to the whole of Europe;

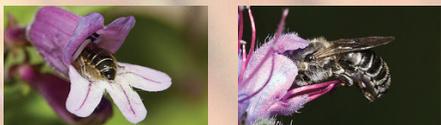
Assess the impact of changes in pollinator populations and communities on wild plants and crops and changes in floral resources on pollinators;

Evaluate and synthesize strategies to mitigate the impacts of changes in pollinators and animal-pollinated plants;

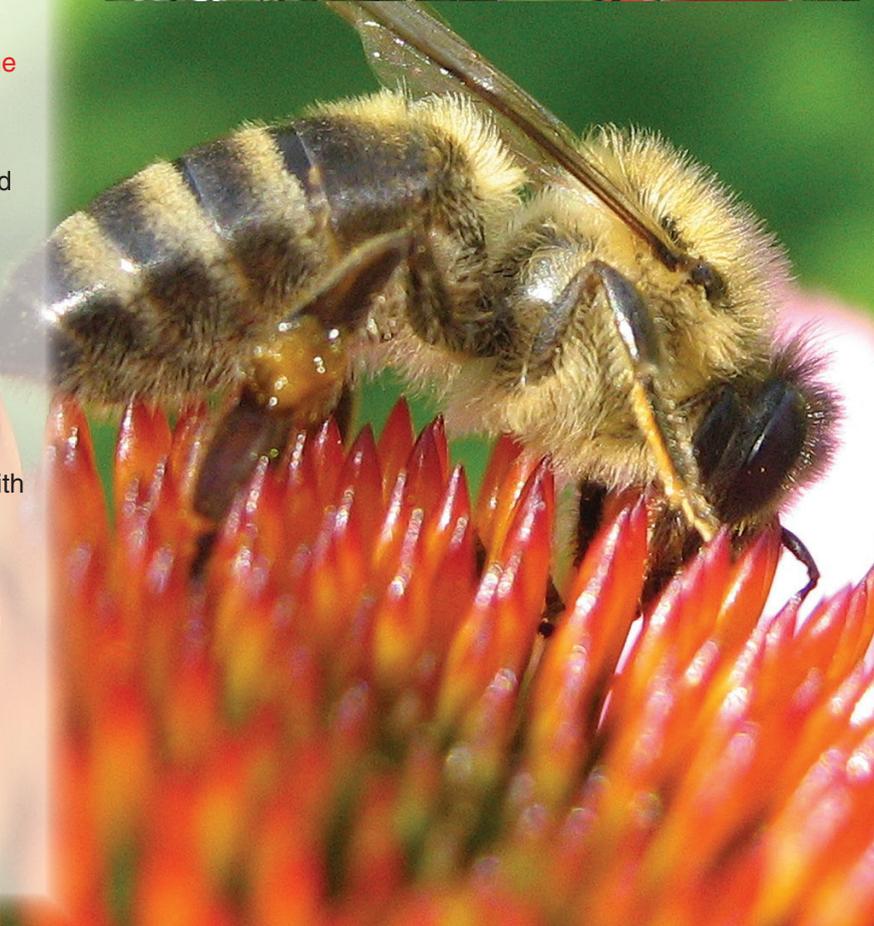
Assess how multiple drivers affect pollinators and animal-pollinated plants at local and landscapes scales using focused empirical tests and observations;

Analyse and improve the interface between the scientific knowledge-base on pollinator change assessment and policy instruments to reduce pollinator/pollination loss and mitigate its effects;

Develop communication and educational links with a wide range of stakeholders and the general public on the importance of recent shifts in pollinators, the main drivers and impacts of pollinator shifts and mitigation strategies through dissemination and training.



<http://www.step-project.net>



# Approach



The proposed work will document recent trends in pollinators and insect-pollinated plants, assess the role of different drivers in causing such trends, assess the ecological and economic impacts of these changes and of potential mitigation actions that may be taken, and integrate and disseminate our findings to a wide range of stakeholders. STEP will take an inclusive approach by considering the widest range of pollinator taxa including both managed pollinators (honeybees and some bumblebee and solitary bee species) and wild pollinators (bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies and butterflies) as all these groups contribute to different aspects of pollination services of Europe's crops and wild flowers.



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