

# POLLINATOR CONSERVATION

## Action based on evidence

A Knowledge Exchange project funded by the Natural Environment Research Council



Steve Falk

### Why conserve pollinators?

- Insect pollinators – bees, butterflies, hoverflies, flies and others – pollinate fruit crops and oilseeds, improving their quality or yield.
- In the UK, this pollination service is worth approximately £430 million (8% of total crop market value).
- A recent study estimated that two-thirds of this pollination service is provided by wild pollinators rather than managed honey bees.
- Wild pollinating insects include many well-loved species such as bumblebees, butterflies and moths.
- Pollinators are important to wildflowers. An estimated 88% of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators to some extent.

At Cambridge University, we are bringing together a large group of people with an interest in pollinator conservation, including businesses from food, farming and retail sectors, Government and NGO representatives and researchers. These people will form a Pollinator Conservation Delivery Group. They will collectively identify **shared priorities** for **action** to conserve pollinators, based on the latest scientific knowledge.

### A rapidly advancing knowledge base

In the UK, the Insect Pollinators Initiative is spending £10 million on nine large research projects between 2011 to 2014 to try and understand why pollinators are declining and what should be done about it. There are many other pollinator research projects around the world. Key questions for scientists are:

- How important are different pollinator groups for pollinating particular crops?
- What aspects of rural and urban landscapes are most important to pollinating insects?
- How do parasites, pathogens and pesticides impact on pollinators?

By focussing on knowledge exchange, the Pollinator Conservation Delivery Group will ensure that knowledge emerging from this research directly informs pollinator conservation. It will also help researchers to appreciate issues of importance in policy and practice.

### The Pollinator Conservation Delivery Group will work with scientists to organise knowledge and prioritise actions in five areas:

<b>Status</b>	Understanding the status of pollinators - which groups are declining and where?
<b>Threats</b>	Understanding threats to pollinators
<b>Basic science</b>	Answering key questions about pollinator biology
<b>Policies</b>	Influencing policies to help conserve pollinators
<b>Responses</b>	Actively reducing threats or providing for pollinators' needs

# The Pollinator Conservation Delivery Group — what's involved?

If you have a professional interest in conserving pollinators, you are an 'end-user' of pollinator research and **we would like to hear from you**. You might represent farmers or food producers relying on the pollination service, retailers interested in promoting sustainable farming systems, conservationists or policymakers charged with protecting and enhancing wildlife or ecosystem services, or funding organisations wishing to take cost-effective decisions.

There are two levels of involvement — the Expert Group and the full Delivery Group.

Expert Group	Full Delivery Group
About 10 academics, policymakers, conservationists	30-40 end-users and academics (incorporating the expert group)
People who know about pollinators	People doing pollinator conservation
In regular contact, with annual one- or two-day meetings	Meet at one- or two-day workshops to list and prioritise actions
<b>What do we know?</b> <b>What do we need to know?</b>	<b>What should be done?</b> <b>Which actions take priority?</b>



David Green/Butterfly Conservation



To be involved contact :

**Dr Lynn Dicks**  
 Conservation Science Group  
 Department of Zoology  
 University of Cambridge  
 Downing Street  
 Cambridge CB2 3EJ  
 Email: lvd22@cam.ac.uk  
 Tel: 01223 769018

End-user organisations already taking part:

**Waitrose**

**ASDA**

**BULMERS**

**The co-operative farms**



**syngenta**  
GLOBAL

**NATURAL ENGLAND**



**BULMER FOUNDATION**  
 Planning for tomorrow, acting today