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Welsh Government

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The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales

A Summary of Consultation
Responses to the Draft Action Plan

July 2013



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Cover photos courtesy Vaughn Matthews, Michael J. Clarke, Jo Mullett,
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ISBN 978-1-4734-0349-9

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Introduction

The Consultation on the Draft Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales was launched on 9 April 2013 and was open for responses until 4 June 2013. A total of 6 questions were set out in a proforma within the consultation document and also provided on an online form for ease of email return. Responses were also received by direct email and post.

The great majority of responses were very positive about what the Welsh Government aims to do to reduce the decline in pollinator numbers and welcomed the approach proposed in the consultation document. Furthermore, details of many existing initiatives on different scales and associated issues, were contributed to our body of knowledge. A summary of the responses is given here, and full responses will be published online at www.wales.gov.uk/consultation

Responses

In total, 83 responses were received for this consultation. Of the responses, 69 % answered the questions found in the consultation. The remaining 31% provided ad hoc responses. The responses represented organisation groups as follows:

Private Individuals	39%
NGO's	36%
Research Institutions	10%
Public Sector	10%
Private / Commercial Organisations	6%

Of the 83 who responded 79% were from Wales.

Key Themes

All responses were carefully considered and there were several common themes:

- There was broad support for the vision, outcomes and areas for action proposed in the plan.
- Some common themes for action included reform of farming support and agri-environment measures, management of roadside verges, pesticides, raising public awareness and wild pollinators.
- Many responses called for more detailed actions with targets and milestones defined.

- The proposal for a governance mechanism for the plan was supported and there were many calls for funding to deliver the actions.
- Further research and the need to build an evidence base in Wales was mentioned by many respondents.

Summary of suggested actions

Table 1 shows the main suggested actions in response to those proposed in the consultation document, in order of popularity. This is not an exhaustive list – full responses will also be published online as stated above. Note that the outcomes and areas for action listed below have changed in the final published Action Plan for Pollinators in response to the consultation.

Outcome 1: Wales provides diverse and connected flowering habitats to support our pollinators

Area for Action 1: Promoting diverse and connected flowering habitats across farmland
Improve the options and uptake within Glastir
More efficient road-side cutting regimes and hedgerow management
Support and encourage farm diversification
Part-farm schemes for pollinators outside of Glastir
High Nature Farming principles should be explored
Farming intensification needs addressing
Reduce pesticide use
Correct the bias towards agriculture as the primary reason for the decline in pollinators
Strongly disagree with references to increasing regulation in the ‘Sustaining a Living Wales’ section

Area for Action 2: Promoting diverse and connected flowering habitats across the wider countryside
Focus on habitat creation, restoration and connectivity i.e. SINC
Guidelines for Local Authorities i.e. for road side verge management

Woodland planting
Creation and restoration of orchards
Need to deal with the issue of non-native invasive species

Area for Action 3: Promoting diverse and connected flowering habitats in our towns, cities and developed areas
Road side verge management to be adjusted and support and guidance for Local Authorities to be provided
Discourage garden sealing and support urban green spaces
Horticulture industry and garden centres to promote pollinator-friendly products and inform the public on the problems of Invasive Non-Native Species

Outcome 2: Wales' pollinator populations are healthy

Area for Action 4: Supporting UK action to promote healthy populations of pollinators in Wales
Reduce the use of pesticides, mainly neonicotinoids
Neonicotinoids are not the primary cause for the reduction of pollinator numbers

Outcome 3: Wales' citizens are better informed and aware of the importance and management of pollinators

Area for Action 5: Working to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and engage our citizens in their management
A National Awareness campaign is needed and the bringing together of experts and those able to share knowledge and experiences
Education at all levels i.e. pollinator packs for schools
Communicate effectively to landowners through Gwlad

Outcome 4: Wales has joined up policy, governance and a sound evidence base for action for pollinators

Area for Action 6:

Linking together Welsh Government policies to produce beneficial actions that are good for pollinators and therefore wider ecosystem health

The plan is very vague and lacks clear actions. It needs defined and measurable actions and targets

Adequate funding and clearly defined targets and actions

An integrated approach is needed

Area for Action 7:

Building an evidence base to support future action for pollinators

More funding is needed for monitoring, research and baseline data

Suggested Initiatives from Responses

Further specific initiatives were suggested, for example:

- Cutting regimes – work with councils to reduce the amount of road side verges being cut back.
- Wales in Bloom – change criteria to increase points for those that do things to increase pollinator numbers.
- Centre for Excellence to co-ordinate all expertise and existing initiatives to increase shared knowledge and awareness.
- Pollinator Packs in schools - Further work in schools to change the perceptions and attitudes of the next generation through running workshops and expanding the existing work of the EcoSchools Programme.
- Register for Pollinator Friendly Patches of land and to gain some recognition and protection for them for the future i.e. private reserves or conservation areas.
- Councils to promote bee keeping on all allotment sites
- Bee friendly seed packs and habitat creation packs could be sent out to Welsh households.
- Part-farm schemes which would be eligible to small-holders and farmers unwilling or unable to enter Glastir

Full List of Respondents

1. NGOs

Abergavenny & Crickhowell Friends of the Earth

Bees for Development

Buglife

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Butterfly Conservation Wales

Coed Cadw

Cymdeithas Eryri - Snowdonia Society

Denmark Farm Conservation Centre

Farmers' Union of Wales

Friends of the Earth Cymru

Garden Organic

Keep Wales Tidy

Margam Discovery Centre, Field Studies Council

Merthyr Tydfil & District Naturalists Department

Monmouthshire RDP Local Action Group

National Beekeeping Centre Wales

National Farmers' Union Cymru

National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales

National Parks Wales

National Trust Wales

North East Wales Biodiversity Network

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Pembrokeshire Beekeepers Association

RSPB Cymru

Wales Biodiversity Partnership Lowland Grassland and Heathland
Ecosystem Group

Wales Biodiversity Partnership Species Expert Group

Wales Biodiversity Partnership Urban Ecosystem Group

Wales Environment Link

Welsh Beekeepers' Association

Wildlife Trusts Wales

Private Individuals

Dr Adam Vanbergen

Amanda (Wheeler) Martin

Annie Paine

Anthony Griffiths

Carol Keys-Shaw

Carolyn Thomas

Chrissie Bussingham

Christina Davison

David Purdon

Debbie Harding

Di Webster

Dr Fiona Doonan

Fiona Lanc

Gwen Potter

Heather MacLehose

Ian Rabjohns

Ilyan Thomas

J Prince

Professor Jane Memmott

James Davies

John Mosedale

Dr Katherine Baldock

Kerry Lane

Les Wilkins

Liz Fleming-Williams

Lizzie Jones

Lynn Ashraf

Dr Lynn Dicks

Meryl Davies

Molly Lear

Nigel Mosse

Dr Oliver Prys-Jones

Peter Bissmire

Ray Woods

Professor Robert Paxton

Roselle Angwin

Salena Walker

Simon Potts

Dr Stephen Head

Susan Loose

Violet McLaughlin

2. Research Institutions

Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

Environment Systems

3. Private / Commercial Organisations

Atlas and Partners - Architectural Services

Country Land & Business Association

Matt Sutton Ecology

4. Public Sector

Countryside Section - Rhondda Cynon Taff

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Natural Resources Wales

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Next Steps

A final Action Plan for Pollinators was launched at the Royal Welsh Show on 23 July 2013 by Alun Davies AM, Minister for Natural Resources and Food.

The Action Plan includes a Draft Implementation Plan detailing a number of workstreams that will be progressed by the Pollinators Taskforce and within Welsh Government. WG will also work with the UK Government as they work towards a National Pollinator Strategy.

We recognise the excellent work that is currently being undertaken by many across Wales, and that the need for partnership, and the integrated approach that delivering for biodiversity demands, underpins all of the areas for action for pollinators.

The first step to implementing the Plan will therefore be to establish a Pollinators Taskforce. One of the key tasks for this group will be to produce best practice guidance for land managers and policy makers within the public and private sectors. A communications plan and awareness campaign will also be a priority, as will the identification of future resource needs and sources.