

How to get involved?

As an **individual**:
start your own pollinator garden plot



As a **ROTARY/ROTARACT club**:
support the creation and maintenance of municipal or school pollinator plots

As a **school**:
make pollinator gardens part of your biology curriculum



As a **municipality**:
initiate, set up and sustain community pollinator gardens or pollinator parks;

The Pollinator and Environmental Protection Project of ROTARY Cyprus has been initialized by the ROTARY and ROTARACT Clubs of Nicosia-Aspelia, Cyprus.

The project is run by a **Pollinator and Environmental Protection Task Force**, with members from various ROTARY and ROTARACT Clubs in Cyprus and the Technical University of Cyprus.



The project has been entered as a **Rotary Showcase Project** at Rotary International (https://map.rotary.org/en/project/Pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=2357F55A-3E46-42D5-8B5E-770229218506).

For more information, please visit the **project website**: <http://rotary-cyprus.org/projects/the-pollinator-project/>

or contact: Manfred A. Lange, RC Nicosia-Aspelia; Email: m.a.lange@cyi.ac.cy

Rotary Club Of Nicosia
Aspelia



The Pollinator and Environmental Protection Project of ROTARY Cyprus



Safeguarding pollinators and environmental integrity from the impacts of climate change on Cyprus

Photo: M. Lange

Get involved and take action!

Cyprus
Rotary
District 2452



What is pollination and why is it important?

Pollination is an essential part of plant reproduction and is required for the continuation of a species.

Some plants are able to pollinate themselves.

Large majority of plants (85%) require pollination by an animal.

Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180 000 different plant species and more than 1 200 crops.

One out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators.

Pollinators support healthy ecosystems.

Pollinators are threatened by climate change and pollution.

What are the main pollinator species?

Pollinator animal species include (main species in **bold**):

- ◆ Ants
- ◆ **Bats**
- ◆ **Bees**
- ◆ **Beetles**
- ◆ Birds
- ◆ **Butterflies**
- ◆ **Flies**



Photo by J. Hoffman;
National Wildlife Photo
Contest; <http://www.uanr.org/blogs/blogcore/>



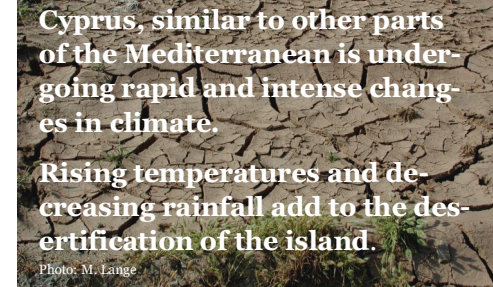
A wild bee feeds on a
flower. © Faundo
Arriazabalaga / European
Pressphoto Agency

In Cyprus, a total of 369 different species of wild bees are found. They are particularly important for plant pollination. Some **21** species are only found on the island (endemic species).



One of the Cypriot species
(*Megachile cypriota*). Photo
by A. Varnava; Varnava et al.,
2020

What are the threats to pollinators and the environment and how can we protect them?



Cyprus, similar to other parts of the Mediterranean is undergoing rapid and intense changes in climate.

Rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall add to the desertification of the island.

Photo: M. Lange

Extensive use of agrochemicals and pollution from various sources causes a steady loss of biodiversity.

The “urban heat island effect” intensifies warming in cities and leads to serious risks to human health of urban inhabitants.

What to do?

Raise awareness on the value of pollinator species; protect their habitats.

Create pollinator gardens and parks in schools and municipalities.

Promote green roofs on public and private buildings and aim to advance green cities and municipalities in Cyprus.



Source: wildflower.org;
PHOTO Paul Bardagly



Photo by Dr. Bill May;
US Forest Service;
<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/animals/>