

**Pollinators and pollination under pressure: problems and progress with this predicament**  
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Roughly one third of the food we eat depends on pollinators. Economically sustainable yields for 75% of global crops are byproducts of pollinator foraging activity (most importantly bees), moving between flowers collecting food and also carrying pollen to facilitate seed, fruit and nut production. Beyond crops, almost 90% of flowering plant species worldwide rely on animal-vector pollination, making pollinators an essential part of natural ecosystem function and wider cultural values. Reports of global pollinator declines raise concerns for agricultural productivity, food security and reduced natural biodiversity. Declines seem to be driven by multiple, potentially interacting environmental stress factors. These include the loss and fragmentation of habitat, increased agrochemical exposure resulting from agricultural intensification, impacts of parasites and pathogens, invasive species and climate change. In this presentation I will review the evidence for, and impacts of, pollinator declines and discuss potential strategies to enhance pollinator health and sustainable agricultural production. Pollinators are beautiful, fascinating, diverse and essential creatures that we simply cannot afford to lose.