

Nigeria joins Promote Pollinators and adopts national action plan

On Thursday 25 July, Nigeria joined the international coalition Promote Pollinators. Signatories commit to taking action to protect pollinating species threatened with extinction by adopting a national strategy. Nigeria immediately takes this into effect: subsequent to the signing, a national action plan was reviewed and adopted.

The declaration was signed by federal officials in the Federal Ministry of Environment in Abuja, during a daylong forum. Afterwards, participants at the daylong forum tabled for review and subsequent adoption the Pollinator Friendly Land Degradation Neutrality Country Action Plan. This plan was produced from the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) third “Anglophone Africa Regional Triologue: Bright Spots for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Pollinators and Food Security” workshop held from May 28 to 30, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

According to Mr Sikiru Tihamiyu, a Deputy Director in the Forestry Department who signed the declaration, the project is about pollinators and how it relates to land degradation: “The idea behind the project is that, for any crop to yield, there must be pollination. There are different types of pollination such as insect and wind pollination. But, in most cases, insect pollination is more effective, that is insects moving from one flower to another for nectar. No matter how good your crop is, if there is no pollination, it will not yield.”

The Pollinator Friendly Land Degradation Neutrality Country Action Plan is championed by BES-Net under the IPBES, and is gradually being implemented in Nigeria. During the workshop in Kenya a national team of experts was established, to which professionals, academia, NGOs, and community development people across Nigeria have been asked to contribute. “This is a starting point and it will continue to expand down to different states,” Mr Sikiru Tihamiyu precludes.

Promote Pollinators

The [IPBES assessment report on pollinators](#) concludes that pollinators play a key role in the conservation of biological diversity, ecosystems, food production and the global economy. It also concludes that the effects of current human activities hamper animal pollination. For this reason, a group of countries has started actively cooperating in an international coalition on the protection of pollinators, named Promote Pollinators. Members of Promote Pollinators are committed to:

- Taking action to protect pollinators and their habitats by developing and implementing national pollinator strategies;
- Sharing experience and lessons learnt;
- Reaching out to seek collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders;
- Developing research on pollinator conservation; and
- Mutually supporting and collaborating with each other.

Any country that is willing to join Promote Pollinators is welcome to do so. There is no formal procedure, except for signing the declaration. Read more on www.promotepollinators.org.

This press statement was sent by the secretariat of Promote Pollinators on 1 August 2019. Contact: info@promotepollinators.org.