

Simon Potts

Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, University of Reading, UK.

Co-chair of the United Nations Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) global assessment of 'Pollinators, pollination and food production'



Key research and expertise

Over the past 30 years, I have worked with researchers, farmers, policymakers and NGO's on pollinator conservation and the management of pollination services in Europe, Africa, Asia and North and South America. During this time I have published more than 160 peer-reviewed papers on a wide range of topics, such as:

- Assessing the status and trends of wild and managed pollinators;
- Understanding the drivers of pollinator declines, including land use change, climate change, agricultural intensification, pesticides, pathogens and their interactions;
- Developing and testing management practices and policy responses to mitigate pollinator declines;
- Quantifying the benefits provided by pollinators in terms of food production, economic value, and social and cultural values.

For the last 2 years, I have worked for the United Nations to Co-chair an expert group of 100 scientists to produce the first global assessment of "Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production" for the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). I am an advisor to the UK government, European Union, Convention on Biological Diversity, and United Nations on evidence-based policy related to pollinators. I also work closely with industry and NGO's to develop best practices to help safeguard pollinators and the services they provide.

Focus on S. Potts's publications:

Potts S.G. et al. (2016) Safeguarding pollinators and their values to human well-being. **Nature** 540: 220-229

Stanley D.A., Garratt M.P.D., Wickens J.B., Wickens V.J., Potts S.G., Raine N.E. (2015) Neonicotinoid pesticide exposure impairs crop pollination services delivered by bumblebees. **Nature** 528: 548-550

Kleijn D., Potts S.G. (2015) Delivery of crop pollination services is an insufficient argument for wild pollinator conservation. **Nature Communications** 6:7414

Settele J., Bishop J., Potts S.G. (2016) Climate change impacts on pollination. **Nature Plants** 2: 16092

Dicks, L.V., Potts S.G. (2016) Ten policies for pollinators. **Science** 354: 975-976

Kerr J.T., Pindar A., Galpern P., Packer L., Potts S.G., Roberts S.P.M., Rasmont P., Schweiger O., Colla S.R., Richardson L.L., Wagner D.L., Gall L.F., Sikes D.S., Pantoja A. (2015) Climate change impacts on bumblebees converge across continents. **Science** 349: 177-180

Garibaldi L.A., et al. incl. Potts S.G. (2013) Wild pollinators enhance fruit set of crops regardless of honey-bee abundance. **Science** 339: 1608-1611

Biesmeijer J.C., Roberts S.P., Reemer M., Ohlemueller R., Edwards M., Peeters T., Schaffers A., Potts S.G., Kleukers R., Thomas C.D., Settele J., Kunin W.E. (2006) Parallel declines in pollinators and insect-pollinated plants in Britain and the Netherlands. **Science** 313: 351-354

Potts S.G., Biesmeijer J.C., Kremen C., Neumann P., Schweiger O., Kunin W.E. (2010) Global pollinator declines: trends, impacts and drivers. **Trends in Ecology and Evolution** 25: 345-353

Godfray H.C.J., Blacquiere T., Field L.M., Hails R.S., Petrokofsky G., Potts S.G., Raine N.E., Vanbergen A.J., McLean A.R. (2014) A restatement of the natural science evidence base concerning neonicotinoid insecticides and insect pollinators. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B** 281: 20140558

Baldock K.C.R., Goddard M.A., Hicks D.M., Kunin W.E., Mitschunas N., Osgathorpe L.M., Potts S.G., Robertson K.M., Scott A.V., Stone G.N., Vaughan I.P., Memmott J. (2015) Where is the UK's pollinator biodiversity? The importance of urban areas for flower-visiting insects. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B** 282: 20142849

Senapathi D., Potts S.G. (2015) The impact of over 80 years of land cover changes on bee and wasp pollinator communities in England. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B** 282: 20150294

Kennedy C.M., et al. incl. Potts S.G. (2013) A global quantitative synthesis of local and landscape effects on wild bee pollinators in agroecosystems. **Ecology letters** 16: 584-599

Potts S.G., Roberts S.P.M., Dean R., Marris G., Brown M., Jones R., Settele J. (2010) Declines of managed honeybees and beekeepers in Europe. **Journal of Apicultural Research** 49: 15-22

IPBES (2016). **The assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production.** S.G. Potts, V. L. Imperatriz-Fonseca, and H. T. Ngo, (eds). Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bonn, Germany