



Action Programme for Insect Protection

(approved by the German Government 4th September 2019)

Summary

Insects are an integral component of biodiversity and play an important role in our ecosystems. However, both abundance and species diversity of insects have declined considerably in Germany in recent decades. The wider public has been paying very close attention to insect decline and it is a frequently discussed topic. The public has high expectations that policymakers counteract this development comprehensively and swiftly.

With the present Action Programme for Insect Protection (*Aktionsprogramm Insektenschutz*) the German Federal Government aims to comprehensively combat insect decline. The programme's objective is to reverse the trend of declining insect abundance and species diversity.

In order to address the key drivers of insect decline and restore living conditions for insects in Germany, the action programme relies on the swift implementation of concrete measures within nine areas of action.

The action programme sets out the following key measures:

- Binding statutory requirements under an **insect protection act** (*Insektenschutz-Gesetz*) and parallel statutory ordinances with regard to changes to nature conservation law, phytosanitary law, legislation on fertiliser use, and water law
- **An additional €100 million per year** to promote insect protection and expand insect research, to be made available by the competent departments
- **Protection and restoration of insect habitats** in all areas of the landscape and in urban spaces with special consideration to be given to transition and boundary habitats (ecotones)
- Clear guidance on **environmentally and ecologically compatible applications of pesticides** and a **significant reduction in the deposition of pesticides and other harmful substances** in insect habitats
- **Mitigation of light pollution and insects' attraction to light**
- **Promotion and support of civic commitment for the benefit of insects** in all areas of society

The action programme comprises federal measures. In order to halt insect decline, additional support at the level of the regional states (*Länder*) and the municipalities will be required as well as active support by society at large.

The Federal Government will report regularly on progress made on the achievement of set goals and on the implementation of measures under this action programme. Additionally, a high-level roundtable on insect protection will be established for regular exchanges between civil society stakeholders on the action programme's progress and the state of implementation of its measures.