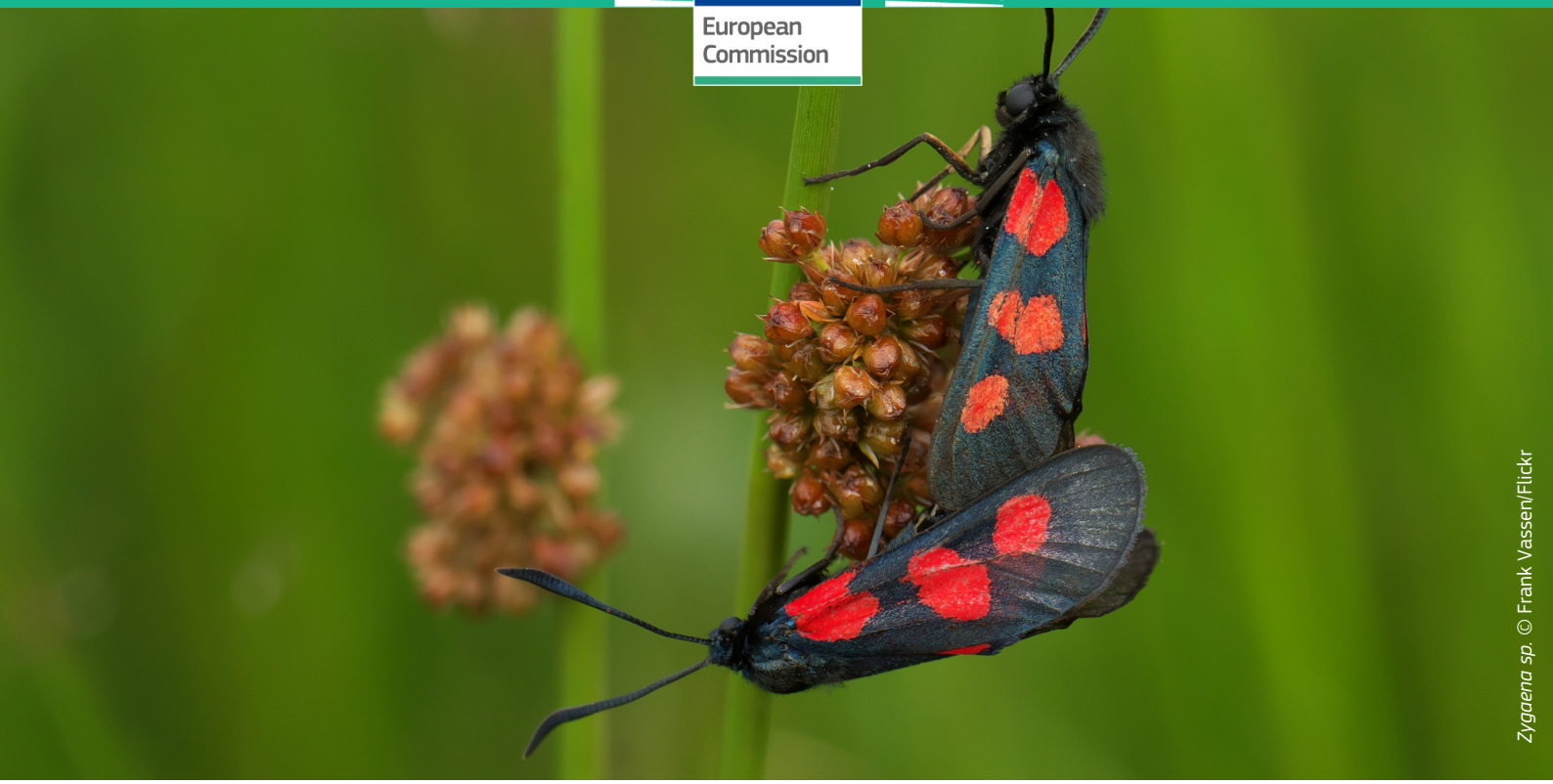

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Business and nature working together: action by the energy sector to protect wild pollinators

What about pollinators?

Pollinators – such as bees, hoverflies, moths, butterflies and beetles – are declining dramatically around the world, and Europe is no exception. With pollinator populations being essential in underpinning the stability of pollinator services over time, this decline of pollinators puts managed and natural ecosystems functioning at risk.

Why should your business care?

There is growing recognition from a wide range of stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, customers and financial institutions, that biodiversity, including the protection of wild pollinators, needs to be integrated into government, financial and corporate policies and into the operations of companies within the energy sector.

Figure 1. A snapshot of the diversity of wild pollinators

The risks that energy developments and the associated transmission grid poses to biodiversity should be carefully managed and taken into account early in the design process, in order to avoid the raise of stakeholders concerns. In addition, when taking biodiversity and pollinator actions, the sector can benefit from the ecosystem services provided by nature for free in the form of vegetation controlling erosion, slope stabilisation and protection against natural disasters which enable cost savings, and enjoy an enhanced reputation, preferential access to funding and reduced project development times.

The energy sector can also turn the reversing of pollinator decline into an opportunity. Restoring pollinator populations to healthy levels will help prevent economic losses, provide other environmental and social benefits and assist the company in building/maintaining a good rapport with the public.

What can your business do?

The energy sector is well placed to contribute towards stopping the decline of wild pollinators. The energy sector should:

- decide strategically where to locate the business, thereby avoiding impact on biodiversity-rich areas;
- prevent and mitigate possible negative impacts during energy production activities, while aiming for biodiversity enhancement, following the mitigation hierarchy principles;
- develop an asset strategy in which biodiversity impacts are considered from an early stage, including:
  - a baseline inventory;
  - all activities that may have impacts on wild pollinators and broader biodiversity;
  - defining appropriate goals for pollinator habitat and other biodiversity features, to ensure restoration in line with regional and/or national biodiversity conservation objectives;
  - monitoring and evaluating the impacts of actions on wild pollinators.
- partner up with NGOs, local nature authorities and/or academics when drafting and implementing actions for pollinators, and evaluating their impacts;
- collaborate across the sector and its stakeholders to put available knowledge into practice;
- raise awareness of the role of pollinators to its stakeholders and encourage them to partake in actions that promote pollinator conservation.


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