



Andrena marginata © Peter Stronach

# Business and nature working together: action by the extractives 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 extractives sector.



Figure 1. A snapshot of the diversity of wild pollinators



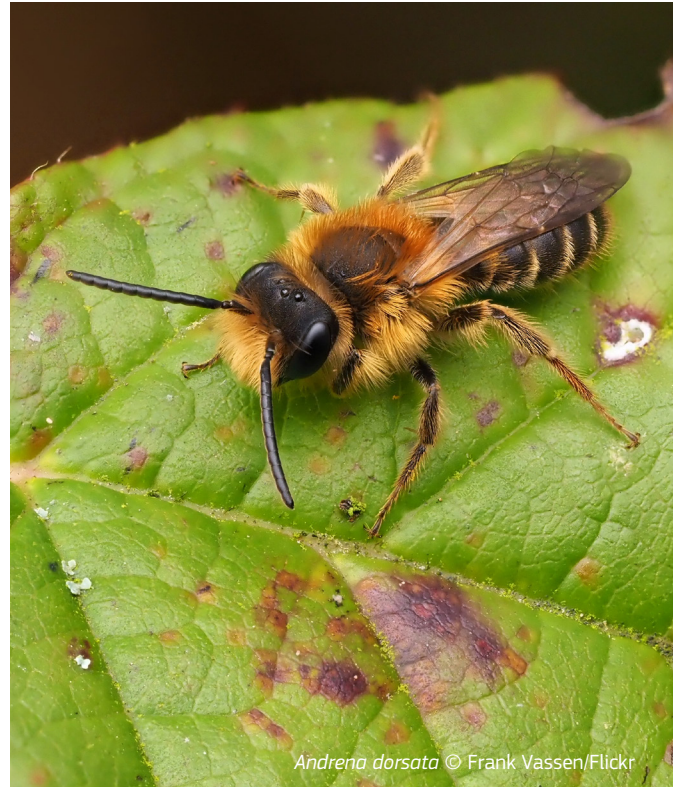
The risks that extractive activities pose to biodiversity should be carefully managed and taken into account before the extraction process starts. When taking biodiversity and pollinator actions, the sector can benefit from the ecosystem services provided by nature for free in the form of dispersion of seeds and natural revegetation, which are important aims of rehabilitation projects. In addition, these actions could lead to easier access to land and reduce compliance costs.

The extractives sector has plenty of opportunities for ecosystem restoration and the creation of new and temporary habitats over the lifetime of its operations. 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 extractives sector is well placed to contribute towards stopping the decline of wild pollinators. The sector should:

- ▶ decide strategically where to locate the business, thereby avoiding impact on biodiversity-rich areas;
- ▶ prevent and mitigate possible negative impacts during extractive 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.



- ▶ create biotopes before, during and after extractive activities e.g. creating species rich grasslands or allowing spontaneous revegetation;
- ▶ ensure pollinator habitat and biodiversity in the afterlife of extractive activities;
- ▶ partner up with NGOs, local nature authorities and/or academics when drafting and implementing actions for pollinators, and evaluating their impacts;
- ▶ raise awareness of the role of pollinators to its stakeholders and encourage them to partake in actions that promote pollinator conservation;