

Managed and wild bees: enemies or allies?

Alexis Beaurepaire^{1,2}, Charrière Jean-Daniel¹, Dietemann Vincent^{1,3}

1. Swiss Bee Research Centre, Agroscope, Bern – Liebefeld, Switzerland; 2. Institute of Bee Health, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland; 3. Department Ecology Evolution, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland.

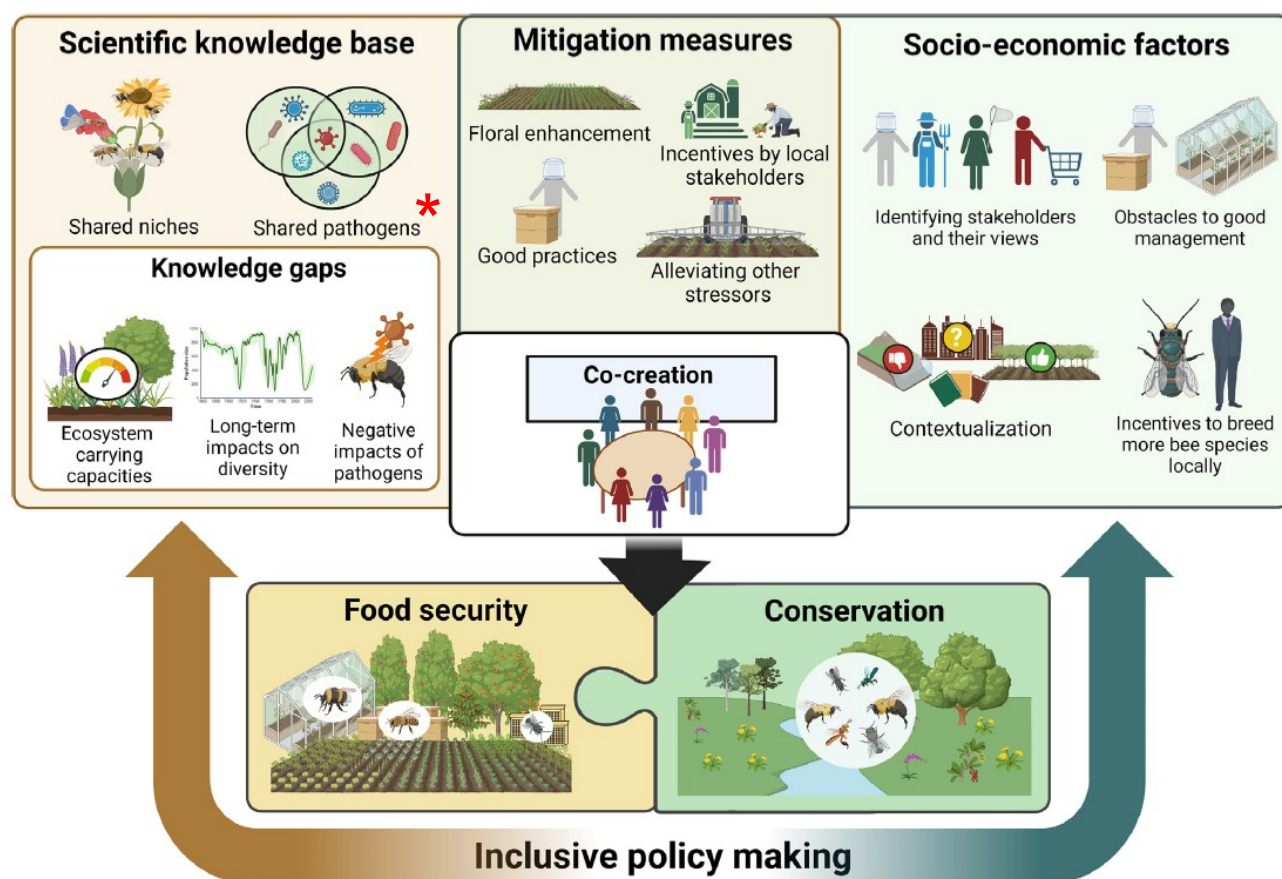
Introduction

Many pollinators are declining, calling for appropriate mitigation policies to ensure ecosystem functioning, food security and human well-being.

There is consensus that factors such as pesticides and land management cause these declines. The role other potential stressors remain controversial^{1,2}. For example, competition for resources with and pathogen transmission from managed bees are increasingly considered as contributing to wild bee declines, generating conflicts among beekeepers, farmers, conservationists and scientists.

To reconcile wild and managed bee proponents, we advocate increased communication and collaboration between stakeholders to co-create policies integrating local ecological and socioeconomic dimensions.

We propose using modern analytical tools to improve our understanding of bee interactions in different contexts, alongside stakeholder engagement to reconcile managed and wild bee proponents².



Trends in Ecology & Evolution

Figure 1. Guidelines towards inclusive bee policy-making. Inclusive policy-making to better integrate food security and conservation needs can be developed by taking into account both available and missing knowledge in a co-creation process considering socioeconomic factors. Figure created with Biorender.com.

Discussion

Following these guidelines will help promoting the dialog between wild and managed bee proponents, prioritizing the most impactful measures, and co-create consensual and contextual measures which can be used for policy-making to the benefit of all pollinators.

1. Dicks et al. 2021. A global-scale expert assessment of drivers and risks associated with pollinator decline. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 5, 1453–1461
2. Beaurepaire et al. 2025. Avenues towards reconciling wild and managed bee proponents. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 40, 7–10

* see Poster P177 by Anja Probst et al. 'Risk of virus transmission...'



Contact: vincent.dietemann@agroscope.admin.ch



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