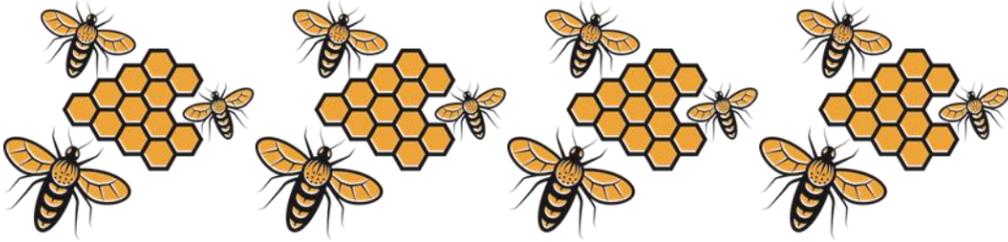


BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BEES? EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION AND WHY 'WILDER' LAWS ARE NEEDED

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INTRODUCTION

Bees are increasingly coming under attack. Along with other species in the world, their habitat is being compromised and their numbers are declining. Yet as part of the interconnected eco-system they are valuable and important not just for themselves but also for biodiversity and for us! My research looks at the concept of 'Wild Law' and the Rights for Nature. My choice in focusing on bees here is just a very small but vastly important example of how we need to recognize that Nature should have Rights for its own value and ultimately for our survival!

WHY ARE BEES SO IMPORTANT?

Bees, like bats, are pollinators. Bees pollinate **80%** of the world's plants including **90** different food crops. 1 out of every 3 or 4 items of food we eat is courtesy of the bees! **50%** of the vegetables and fruit in our supermarkets would not exist without bees.

To name a few:

- Kiwi fruit
- Okra
- Potato
- Strawberries
- Cashew Nuts
- Celery
- Starfruit
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Papaya
- Watermelon
- Oranges



The decline of bees are indicators of ongoing environmental damage that is likely to impact broadly on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides (Goulson and Nicholls 2016)

THREATS TO BEES?



EMF/5G – Ongoing research but some reports have indicated that there is a possible link to EMF and potential harms on other pollinators such as bats.



PESTICIDES –

Agricultural intensification and the heavy use of pesticides and herbicides.



LOSS OF HABITAT – Removal of hedgerows and increasing industrialization and development on green spaces.

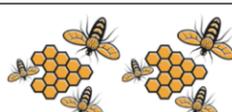
WHAT IS BEING DONE TO PROTECT BEES?

Some Government Initiatives:

The National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England November 2014
Government's 25 Year Environment Plan
Ban of Neonicotinoid in England 2021

Some Community Initiatives:

Plant a Bee Garden with wildflowers
Go Chemical-Free in your garden
Become a Citizen Scientist
Provide Trees for Bees
Create a Bee Bath
Build Homes for Native Bees



CONCLUSION

'Wild Law' and Rights for Nature means recognizing the value and importance of our non-human natural world and taking a more eco-centric and less anthropocentric view of it. Our current human-centred view is not considering this value and importance and hence Nature is suffering. We need to re-consider our actions and not think only of human interest and benefit all the time. If we do not take these steps, ultimately everything and everyone loses out. We need stronger eco-centric environmental laws that puts Nature at the heart and more community involvement with education as key.

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