

## The Asian Hornet: a threat to our ecosystem



The Asian hornet, an invasive wasp species, poses a serious threat to honeybees and the entire ecosystem. Its rapid spread reduces pollination, disrupting plant reproduction and biodiversity. In some parts of Europe, where it thrives, vegetation species are already in decline. Native insects, including bees and bumblebees, lack defenses against this predator, further endangering their populations.

Watch this video: [Giant Hornets Massacre European Bees](#)

It is an unequal battle. Beekeepers are becoming discouraged, and we need to support and encourage them. While eradicating the Asian hornet in Flanders is unrealistic, controlling its growth remains essential.

## Global Grant Project: “Save our bees”.

Rotary, GoodPlanet NPO, and beekeeping associations are partnering to support beekeepers and to limit the Asian hornet's impact through a four-pillar action plan:

- 1. Educational Program**  
GoodPlanet NPO will develop a digital educational package about bees and the Asian hornet, distributed to 4,000 schools. Train-the-trainer sessions will enable volunteers and Rotarians to expand awareness to families and communities.
- 2. Selective Traps**  
Approximately 2,000–4,000 traps, produced by a sheltered workshop, will target Asian hornet queens during their peak season. Each queen caught prevents a nest that could consume over 11 kg of insects annually, mostly honeybees. Instructions and follow-up programs will ensure long-term use.
- 3. Nest and Hornet Registration**  
A campaign with Vespa Watch and local authorities will encourage public reporting and registration of Asian hornet sightings and nests for quicker detection.
- 4. Nest Extermination Equipment**  
The project will fund equipment to destroy nests up to 30 meters high and train volunteers to assist where local governments lack resources.

### Project Budget: USD 75,000

Rotary clubs are invited to support this grant through cash or DDF contributions. Any amount will be welcomed. Submission is planned for the end of January 2025.

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