



*Genetic Nature
Observation & Action*

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Dear GENOA community members,

this edition of the News & Views brings you:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open call to contribute to WG1 O1.2 subproject

The GENOA WG1 O1.2 subproject is seeking volunteers to help evaluate how genetic diversity conservation is addressed in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

No prior experience is required. Participants will search NBSAPs for a predefined set of keywords and record the results—a straightforward task that takes about one hour per report. We ask volunteers to assess 3–4 reports (approximately 4 hours in total). Reports are available in several languages, including English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Russian, Norwegian, and Swedish.

Those interested in co-authorship can contribute further through data analysis, manuscript development, or figure preparation.

[Click here](#) to read more about further details and how to join this subproject.

Call for Volunteers: Help Shape a GENOA Policy Brief

The **GENOA WG1 O1.3 subproject team** is preparing a policy brief based on its assessment of national reports submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The goal is to have the brief ready for upcoming GENOA webinars and, ultimately, **COP17**, where it will serve as a key communication resource for policymakers and stakeholders.

To support this effort, we are looking for **creative volunteers**, to help develop a policy brief template and contribute to the design, layout, visualisation, and communication of the final document. Experience in graphic design, science communication, policy writing, or data visualisation is welcome, but enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute are equally important.

This is an excellent opportunity to collaborate across working groups, gain experience in policy-oriented communication, and help translate scientific findings into impactful messages for decision-makers.

If you would like to contribute, please get in touch with **Isa-Rita Russo** (russoim@cardiff.ac.uk) or **Belma Kalamujić Stroil** (genoa.costaction@gmail.com). **We**

welcome volunteers who can assist with template development, visual design, content presentation, and preparation of the final policy brief.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

IUCN Europe statement on environmental protection in Europe

IUCN Europe has recently published a statement on environmental protection in Europe: <https://iucn.org/news/202607/iucn-europes-statement-environmental-protection-europe>

This is closely linked to the context briefly presented during the WG1 training school: [the current wave of environmental policy "simplification" initiatives](#), including the Omnibus proposals and related measures. Many NGOs, researchers, and Members of the European Parliament have raised concerns that these efforts risk weakening environmental and social standards (see e.g. [this paper from Science](#)). The debate has become highly political and polarised, but the implications for EU environmental legislation are real. The [proposed removal of the LIFE Programme from the next EU budget](#), alongside the so-called "[NGO scandal](#)" narrative promoted by far-right political groups, is part of this wider context.

The response from NGOs and other stakeholders has been significant, [including complaints to the European Ombudsman, which has already identified cases of maladministration](#). At the same time, pressure from civil society has helped slow down some proposals. For example, the Nature Restoration Regulation has so far remained untouched, although its implementation still lacks dedicated funding (for our sector, this legislation is as significant as the Birds and Habitats Directives).

These developments will shape the policy environment in which biodiversity targets, monitoring frameworks, funding opportunities and conservation action are implemented, and we believe it is important to share them with the broader GENOA community.

We kindly thank Alice Albertini for bringing up this important topic.

DECODING THE CBD

Learn your CBD ABCs

We're counting down days until CBD COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia, and it's time to crack the CBD code! New to biodiversity policy? We'll help you decode the jargon. Already fluent in CBD-speak? Put your knowledge to the test. In this section, we explain some of the most common acronyms found in CBD documents.

- **KMGBF - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the [fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP15\)](#) following a four year [consultation and negotiation process](#). This historic Framework, which supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans, sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework's key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030.

The implementation of KMGBF is guided and supported through a comprehensive package of decisions also adopted at COP15. This package includes a monitoring framework for the GBF, an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing implementation, the necessary financial resources for implementation, strategic frameworks for capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation, as well as an agreement on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

In adopting KMGBF, all Parties committed to setting national targets to implement it, while all other actors have been invited to develop and communicate their own commitments.

To download the official text of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework see [decision 15/4](#).

- **NBSAP - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan**

NBSAP is a strategic policy document that countries use as a tool to develop and implement strategies to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. This plan outlines national priorities, actions, and commitments to address biodiversity loss, aligning with global goals such as GBF.

The requirement to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making, and mainstream issues across all sectors of the national economy and policy-making framework, are the complex challenges at the heart of the CBD.

NBSAPs submitted after COP 15, in line with KMGBF, are available on the [Online Reporting Tool](#).

- **NFP - National Focal Point**

A national focal point is the person or institution designated by a government to represent the Party between meetings of the COP in its routine dealings with the Secretariat in matters involving the

Convention. These dealings include such activities as communications, dissemination of information, representation at meetings, responding to various request, collaboration with other stakeholder groups, monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention.

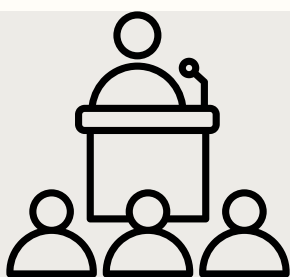
Each country that is a Party to the CBD establishes NFP for the CBD. Normally, the focal point is nominated by a higher authority within a government such as the environment ministry to act as liaison with the Convention, its organs and back through appropriate body(ies)/ministries and other groups within a Party. In addition to the primary NFP, [additional focal points](#) may be nominated for specific functions, following decisions of the COP. Several other types of focal points have been established by the COP.

In the absence of multiple focal points acting in various roles with respect to the CBD, the national focal point, by default, assumes the entire role and responsibilities associated with the Convention.

If you do not know who the NFPs are in your country, please visit the [Country Profiles](#) to view national contacts by country.

To learn more about the role of NFPs, read [the Terms of Reference](#) adopted at COP8.

UPCOMING EVENTS



[7th European Conservation Genetics Meeting](#)

August 26-28, 2026

Antwerp, Belgium



[7th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity](#)

November 17-20, 2026

Bruges, Belgium

Questions?

Reach out to us at genoa.costaction@gmail.com

Are you organizing an event? Did you receive an award? Are you looking for collaborators on a publication? If you have any news or information you'd like to share with the GENOA community, write to us and we will share it.

Email us



GENOA COST ACTION

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