



*Genetic Nature
Observation & Action*

GENOA News & Views

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Dear GENOA community members,

this edition of the News & Views brings you:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENOA at CBD COP17

GENOA will be represented at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17), taking place in Yerevan, Armenia, in October 2026, as part of the **Coalition for Conservation Genetics**.



The shared exhibition booth will showcase how conservation genetics can support the implementation of the KMGBF, with a particular focus on **genetic diversity indicators** and their application in national biodiversity monitoring and reporting. Under the message “*We help report genetic diversity indicators*”, our booth will serve as a hub for exchange, collaboration, and outreach, highlighting practical tools, scientific advances, and capacity-building opportunities that help countries integrate genetic diversity into biodiversity policy and practice.

We look forward to welcoming COP17 participants to learn more about GENOA and the growing global community working to ensure that genetic diversity is recognized, monitored, and conserved as a fundamental component of biodiversity.

[Click here](#) for a closer look at the booth visual.

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.**

DECODING THE CBD

Learn your CBD ABCs

We're counting down the 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.

- **SBSTTA - Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body known as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to provide the Conference of the Parties (COP) and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention.

As a subsidiary body of the COP, SBSTTA is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work. Multidisciplinary and open to participation by all Parties, SBSTTA comprises government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise. Its functions include: providing assessments of the status of biological diversity; providing assessments of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and responding to questions that the COP may put to the body.

[Twenty-eighth meeting of SBSTTA](#) just took place in Nairobi, Kenya, 27 July–1 August. How SBSTTA carries out its work is described in its [consolidated *modus operandi*](#) set forth in annex III of [decision VIII/10](#).

- **SBI - Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

In Decision XII/26, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to replace the [Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention](#), with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision XII/26.

The four functions and core areas of work of SBI consist of: (a) review of progress in implementation; (b) strategic actions to enhance implementation; (c) strengthening means of implementation; and (d) operations of the Convention and the Protocols. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serves as the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

[The seventh meeting of the SBI](#) is currently being held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4–12 August 2026.

- **DSI - Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources**

COP to the CBD and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol first addressed the issue of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources at their respective meetings held in December 2016.

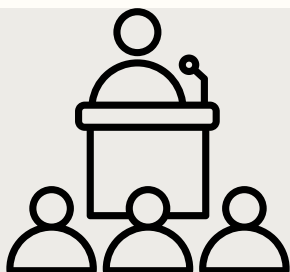
In December 2022, at its fifteenth meeting, the COP decided to establish a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources. Digital sequence information on genetic resources was also included in [Goal C](#) and [Target 13](#) of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

At its [sixteenth meeting](#), COP, with decision [16/2](#) adopted the modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including a global fund, as set out in the annex to the decision. The COP decided that the global fund will be known as the "Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources".

Check out the following links if you'd like to know more about this topic:

- [What has been done on DSI](#)
- [Relevant decisions, documents and notifications on DSI](#)
- [DSI resources](#)

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

