



*Genetic Nature
Observation & Action*

GENOA News & Views

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No. 48



Dear GENOA community members,

this edition of the News & Views brings you:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VMG call open in WG1 under the O1.1

COST Action GENOA (CA23121) invites applications for a **Virtual Mobility Grant (VMG)** under **Working Group 1** to support activities under the sub-project O1.1 necessary to **extend the existing compilation of legally binding national (and sub-national) legislation** relevant to wild species in nature conservation, forestry, fisheries and crop wild relatives to additional EU Member States and other COST countries. The work will focus specifically on **identifying relevant legal documents**, including their title, country, date and, where possible, a link or other reference to the original document. At this stage, **the VMG does not include screening or analysing the documents for references to genetic diversity, specific actions or targets**. The work may make use of AI-assisted tools, online legal databases and machine translation where appropriate, and applicants do not necessarily need to have knowledge of all relevant national languages.

The virtual mobility can take place **between 21 September and 15 October 2026**, with funding of **up to €1,500 per grant**. Applications are open to eligible COST Action participants from COST Full/Cooperating Member Countries and Near Neighbour Countries.

Application deadline: September 16th, 2026 23:59 CEST.

Results: two working days upon receipt of the applications

Applications must be sent only via the e-COST platform

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact WG1 subgroup co-leads **Sabrina Träger** (sabrina.traeger@botanik.uni-halle.de) and **Aleksandra Biedrzycka** (biedrzycka@iop.krakow.pl) or **WG1 lead Christina Hvilsom** (christina.hvilsom@sund.ku.dk) prior to submission. For full call details and eligibility criteria, please consult the official call text below.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the call.

VMG call open in WG1 under the O1.3

COST Action GENOA (CA23121) invites applications for a **Virtual Mobility Grant (VMG)** under **Working Group 1** to support activities under the sub-project O1.3 necessary to

investigate the relationship between reported genetic diversity activity and activity taking place in practice, using a targeted sample of Parties identified through the global 7th National Reports (7NRs) assessment. Importantly, the study will not assume that 7NRs under-report activity. It will test whether apparent gaps in reporting reflect limited activity in practice, activities that are underway but not sufficiently advanced for reporting, or a lack of visibility of existing scientific and conservation work within national reporting processes. The successful applicant will work with the WG1.3 project team, who will identify a targeted sample of Parties based on patterns emerging from the global 7NR assessment.

The virtual mobility can take place **between 21 September and 15 October 2026**, with funding of **up to €1,500 per grant**. Applications are open to eligible COST Action participants from COST Full/Cooperating Member Countries and Near Neighbour Countries.

Application deadline: September 16th, 2026 23:59 CEST.

Results: two working days upon receipt of the applications

Applications must be sent only via the e-COST platform

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact WG1 subgroup co-leads **Jessica da Silva** (j.dasilva@sanbi.org.za) and **Maciej Konopiński** (konopinski@iop.krakow.pl) or **WG1 lead Christina Hvilsom** (christina.hvilsom@sund.ku.dk). For full call details and eligibility criteria, please consult the official call text below.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the call.

GENOA at the 7th ECGM

GENOA members actively participated in the **7th European Conservation Genetics Meeting**, held in Antwerp, Belgium, from 26 to 28 August 2026. The meeting brought together researchers, students, and practitioners from across Europe under the theme “Genomes for the Future: Using Genetic Insights to Understand, Predict, and Restore Biodiversity.”



During the conference, GENOA researchers showcased the Action's ongoing work through several oral and poster presentations, as well as panel discussions, highlighting advances in genetic diversity monitoring, biodiversity conservation, and the implementation of genetic indicators in policy and practice. **Click [here](#) to read the abstracts of the oral and poster presentations from the meeting.**

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to promote GENOA's mission of improving the use of genetic data for biodiversity monitoring and conservation across Europe. Discussions throughout the conference reinforced the importance of integrating genetic diversity into management, restoration, and policy frameworks, aligning closely with GENOA's objectives.

During the meeting, GENOA also co-organized the art exhibition **Evolving Narratives**.



The exhibition featured works by **nine artists**, accompanied by artist talks that bring artistic perspectives into conversation with conservation genetics. If you missed it, [click here](#) to view the exhibition online.

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 edition, we continue to explain the acronyms behind different types of CBD documents.

- **L - Limited Distribution**

This suffix denotes limited distribution documents. It refers to a draft document containing proposals, draft resolutions, or preliminary decisions. These documents are compiled during Conferences of the Parties (COP) or working group meetings and are distributed to delegates for negotiation before a final, official text is formally adopted. They are usually translated. The distribution in hard copy is limited to those likely to be immediately interested in the work of the body concerned (however, these documents are usually available on the secretariat web site).

- **INF - Information Series**

This is an **information document** used to share background research, reports, or expert views rather than establish legally binding rules.

They provide data, case studies, or technical updates (such as indicator reviews or synergistic reports) for meeting participants. Unlike official decision or recommendation documents, an INF document carries **no formal legal weight** and does not require a binding vote or adoption by member parties. They are typically labeled with a code designating the body, meeting number, and serial order—for example, CBD/COP/16/INF/5.

- **REC - Recommendation Document**

REC document is an official **Recommendation document** issued by a working group or subsidiary body of the CBD. These documents serve as formal, negotiated drafts and policy guidance created by groups like the *Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)* or the *Working Group on Digital Sequence Information*. They contain recommendations that are sent directly to the COP to be voted on and adopted into international law. They lay out global definitions and frameworks for biodiversity conservation, genetic resources, and benefit-sharing. You will see them formatted as CBD/WG2020/REC/3/1 or CBD/WGDSI/REC/2/1.

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

This newsletter was produced within the COST Action "Genetic Nature Observation and Action" (CA23121), supported by [COST \(European Cooperation in Science and Technology\)](#).