



*Genetic Nature
Observation & Action*

GENOA News & Views

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Dear GENOA community members,

this edition of the News & Views brings you:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. GENOA Mentorship & Career Development Surveys

DECODING THE CBD

2. Learn your CBD ABCs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENOA Mentorship & Career Development Surveys

GENOA is exploring the development of a mentorship and career-development programme connecting Young Researchers and Innovators (YRIs) with senior researchers.

We kindly invite GENOA members to share their perspectives by completing one of two short surveys:

- **For GENOA YRIs:** Tell us about your career priorities, support needs and mentoring preferences by completing [this form](#).

- **For GENOA Senior Researchers:** Share your expertise, mentoring interests and availability to support YRIs by completing [this form](#).

It will only take **2-4 minutes** to complete the survey. Your input will help shape a practical and relevant mentorship framework for GENOA!

DECODING THE CBD

Learn your CBD ABCs

October is here and COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia is just around the corner! Now it's high 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. If you missed them, make sure to check our previous editions for more CBD terms.

- **BBNJ - Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction**

The term applies to marine biodiversity of “areas beyond national jurisdiction”. This refers to the high seas and the international seabed area (the “Area”). Together, these areas amount to over 2/3 of the ocean and over 90% of the habitat on Earth that is occupied by life. The high seas are parts of the ocean that are not included in the internal waters, the territorial sea, or the exclusive economic zone of coastal States (the exclusive economic zone may extend up to 200 nautical miles from the coast), or in the archipelagic waters of archipelagic States. The Area refers to the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, that is beyond the continental shelves of coastal States (which extend to 200 nautical miles from the coast and, in some cases specified in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, even further). These different areas (also called maritime zones) are set out under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The [Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction](#), also known as the “BBNJ Agreement”, is the first comprehensive, cross-sectoral ocean treaty in decades. It was

adopted on 19 June 2023, following nearly twenty years of negotiations, and entered into force on 17 January 2026.

The BBNJ Agreement covers four main issues: marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

- **IPLCs - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

The CBD does not define the terms indigenous and local communities or Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples does not adopt or recommend a universal definition for Indigenous Peoples (Decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/13).

As used in the IPBES global assessment, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is a term used internationally by representatives, organizations, and conventions to refer to individuals and communities who are, on the one hand, self-identified as indigenous and, on the other hand, are members of local communities that maintain inter-generational connection to place and nature through livelihood, cultural identity and worldviews, institutions and ecological knowledge.

- **SB8j - Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)**

In [decision 16/5](#), the COP to the CBD established the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8j), replacing the [Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8\(j\) and Related Provisions of the Convention](#).

Article 8(j) requires Parties to take account and respect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of IPs and LCs. [The programme of work on Article 8\(j\) and related provisions](#) is the primary tool for Parties to the CBD to fulfill commitments recognizing the contributions and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as outlined in Articles 8(j), 10(c), 17.2, and 18.4.

The first meeting of the SB8j took place from 27 to 30 October 2025, in Panama City, Panama.

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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