

**COST Action CA18201: "An integrated approach to conservation of threatened plants for the 21st Century"**

**Management Committee Meeting, January 22 2024 at 11:00-13:00 CET, on-line**

**Minutes - DRAFT**

**zoom link: <https://upr-si.zoom.us/j/8115662408?pwd=S0IQSnVLbzBXUTNITG12Z3ZpWFBPdz09&omn=82506103335>**

1. Welcome to participants, verification of the quorum and adoption of agenda  
Chair Živa Fiser welcomed participants to the MC meeting. Agenda was adopted. Quorum (26 members) was not reached with 24 members present (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey).
2. Information to the MC
  - a) Recap of the minutes of the last meeting, e-votes and matters arising since the last meeting  
Summary of minutes from last meeting in Coimbra was approved and are available on Google Drive of Action.  
There were 2 E-votes passed since the last MC Meeting:
    - Increase the daily allowance for the Final Conference in Izola and cap the long distance travel amount
    - Increase the daily allowance for the WG5 meeting in Brussels
  - b) Budget status: summary from the Grant Holder  
Grant Holder Manager summarized the final budget from Grant Period (GP) 4 and outlined the main expenditures. For Grant Period 5, she summarized the budget, the main expenses and funds still available for activities.
  - c) Information about the Final Conference  
Final conference will take place in Izola Slovenia 12.-14.2.2024. It will be 2 days event. The agenda is available on the Action website. There was a call for abstracts for both oral and poster presentations. There will be two keynote speakers – Andrea Pieroni and Silvia Castro. Last GP a major dissemination product was a children's booklet, and the authors will be available. Several participants have cancelled due to travel difficulties. Therefore, if you would like to attend, please reach out to Action Chair.
3. Follow up and discussion
  - a) Progress of each Working Group  
WG leaders gave an update of activities and the status of the activities in the MOU. For activities which are not yet completed, WG Leader provided the date when it will be available.  
WG1 – Presenter Silvia Castro  
WG2 – Sandrine Godefroid  
WG3 – Peter Glasnovic  
WG4 – Justyna Wiland-Szymanska and Baiba Pruse  
WG5 – Phil Aravanopoulos
  - b) Science Communication Activities  
Sandro Lanfranco and Joao Loureiro, Assistant Communication Manager, presented an update on Communication Activities. There has been one meeting since the last Grant Period. The Action has published 16 articles and are available in the Google Shared folder and on the

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Action website. Scientific output from the Action has grown over Grant Periods 1-4. Several popular articles have been translated or published in other languages such as Italian, German, and Slovene. There have been short articles, news, reports, events, and videos. The CITES species survey was launched to the Italian Botanical community. Social media overview has been presented, including analytics.

c) Grant Awarding by the Action

Aida Dervishi, Grant Awarding Coordinator, presented a summary of grants. 95 6645 EUR in total grants were awarded during all GPs to date. The demographics of applicants is as follows: applicants-58, Female-43, Male-15. The Grants were distributed in the following categories: VM 17, STSM 32, ITC-DCG 9. In GP4, 11 STSM were from ITC. WPB planned 1 STSM and 1 VM for GP5. The grant call will open after the Final conference, so we will know the budget better.

d) Progress on MoU Objectives, deliverables, and Goals

Action Chair provided progress on the 21 Deliverables. 16 Deliverables have been completed and 5 are in progress/almost finished.

#### 4. Planning

a) Revision of Work and Budget Plan of the current GP (if applicable)

The Action ends on 14.4.2024, therefore, there is not a lot of discussion needed. Action Chair discussed the remaining activities in GP5 and the potential for an open call for Grants. There is some funding for Dissemination activities such as open access fees for scientific publication. We plan to publish the management guidelines for endangered species. There is a small budget to translate the children's booklets to another language. Reach out to Baiba Pruse for more information.

b) Draft plans for the following 3 months

The Action has planned for the following 3 months

- Final Conference & CG meeting
- Open call for grants (STSM, VM) - 3000 eur
- Dissemination - adaptations of children's book to other languages - 1200 eur
- Publication of management guidelines - 3000 eur
- Scientific publications - 5200 eur for open access fees

#### 5. Monitoring and Reporting to the COST Association - preparation of the final report

Preparation of the final grant report is due 14 May 2024, one month after the end of the Action.

Action Chair requested that Action participants provide any activities, such as publications, related projects or impacts to include in the report.

For the Final Report, the Chair requests input and shares the [Google drive](#) to contribute.

#### 6. AOB

The Chair opens the meeting to the MC for any other business. Michael Kiehn thanked the Chair and WG Leaders for the great work that has been done and what has been achieved.

#### 7. Summary of MC decisions

There were no votes during the MC Meeting.

#### 8. Closing

Action Chair thanks everyone for participating in the Action and creating a great experience.