



DivSeek Connect

The Newsletter of DivSeek International Network

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WELCOME to DIVSEEK CONNECT

This is the first issue of our newsletter *DivSeek Connect*. This and future editions will include content for and from members, observers, and anyone with an interest in the work of the **DivSeek International Network**. Periodic news items also appear on our [website](#).

- **Please send *any* content (with images!)** to info@divseekintl.org, with 'Connect' in the email subject.

Graham King, *Executive Director and Editor*

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Future Issues: please submit **any** content to info@divseekintl.org, including:

- DivSeek Member profiles
- Thematic showcase and timely topics
- Did you know?
- Job Vacancies

Introducing *DivSeek Connect*



This is the first issue of what will become our regular newsletter for sharing information about DivSeek International Network members, initiatives and progress towards our common strategic goals. We are keen to receive content from *any* Member or Observer organisation or individual, as well as from our increasing network of stakeholders.

We would really appreciate any input into making DivSeek Connect a key tool for increasing the visibility and engagement about issues relevant to sharing information about plant genetic resources. If you or your staff, post-grads or others wish to contribute expertise or gain experience and help in preparation of content, please contact us at info@divseekintl.org.

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NEWS from our REGIONAL & THEMATIC HUBS

In 2020 DivSeek International Network established 11 pilot **Regional and Thematic Hubs**. These are independent groupings based in Africa, North and South America, Australasia, Europe and India. Led by teams of independent researchers, the hubs provide a framework to identify opportunities for formalization of inter-regional collaborations, leveraging of regional capacity and supporting the training needs of young researchers.



NEW: Each Hub now has its own dedicated webpage – content will be added as it is received.

More information and summary reports on the first year of activities is [available here](#)

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DIVSEEK WORKING GROUPS

Genomics

A priority list of curatorial needs that could be addressed through genetic...



Phenomics

The aim of this working group is to develop and implement technologies...



Policy

The impact of genomic characterization on gene bank internal operations...



The DivSeek **Working Groups** provide a focus for addressing our major Strategic Goals, by identifying specific objectives and activities. To date the Groups have focused on sharing information and expertise for Genomics, Phenomics, and Policy relating to Plant Genetic Resources. As DivSeek moves forward there is opportunity to establish time-limited **task-specific teams** to tackle issues that address gaps in current capability for the Plant Genetic Resource community and associated stakeholders. In future issues of *DivSeek Connect*, more targeted information will be shared on progress and challenges ahead.

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TIMELY TOPICS -

TK/BC Labels to recognize Traditional Knowledge & Bio-Cultural provenance

The Traditional Knowledge (TK) and BioCultural (BC) Labels were developed by Dr. Jane Anderson and Māui Hudson, who recently presented a [Divseek webinar \(July 2021\)](#). The **TK Labels** are *digital markers* that establish proper attribution, access, and use rights for traditional knowledge. The TK Labels are designed to be customized by Indigenous communities to reflect ongoing relationships and authority including proper use, guidelines for action or responsible stewardship and re-use of traditional knowledge. The **BC Labels** are *digital markers* that focus on accurate provenance, transparency and integrity in research engagements around Indigenous data. The BC Labels help Indigenous communities define community expectations and consent about **appropriate use** of collections and data. They connect data to people and environments over time.



In addition, TK & BC **Notices** are specific tools for institutions and researchers which support the recognition of Indigenous interests in collections and data.

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NEW INITIATIVES

Introducing DivSeek *Concept Notes* (launched Nov 2021)

We are launching the DivSeek International Network **Concept Note** system as a mechanism to identify, highlight and elaborate issues on *any* topic relating to the Mission and Goals of DivSeek. **Concept Notes** may be proposed by anyone associated with a DivSeek Member or Observer organization, as well as others recognized within the Plant Genetic Resource (PGR) and associated stakeholder communities.

Concept Notes may be proposed for community interaction and feedback. We have seeded the process with a template and an example *Concept Note*.

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+ preview of *DivSeek Commons* (launching Jan 2022)



We are soon to launch the **DivSeek International Commons**, as an "Ecosystem of Open Data Resources, Standards, Analysis Tools and Best Practices for Plant Genetic Resources (PGR)". The pilot will be launched at the DivSeek 2022 AGM on Jan 18th. As well as web resources, we are establishing an open GitHub repository and discussion forum. The overall aim of *DivSeek*

International Commons is to act as a community-wide focus to bring together relevant efforts around the world aimed at harmonising the exchange of information about Plant Genetic Resources. In particular we hope the **Commons** will encourage development and use of interoperable informational tools for the continuum from PGR curation to end-use.

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UPCOMING WEBINARS

Tuesday December 14: Dr. Gayle Volk, Plant Physiologist USDA/ ARS National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation, Fort Collins, CO USA. "**Online learning for plant genetic resources conservation and use.**"

Have webinar questions, or suggestions for the 2022 season?

Please contact webinar coordinator [Chris Richards](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUR 2022 ONLINE AGM & ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOPS - Jan 18th – 19th 2022

Unfortunately, we had to shelve our plans for a 'hybrid' in-person/online event, as it was clear so few were travelling to PAG in San Diego. We have therefore reconvened the **DivSeek AGM and associated roundtable Workshops**, which will now take place as follows:

AGM/Update/New initiatives Workshop A	Tue Jan 18th	13:00-14:50 EST (UTC-5) 15:10-17:00 EST (UTC-5)
Workshop B Workshop C	Wed Jan 19th	13:00-14:50 EST (UTC-5) 15:10-17:00 EST (UTC-5)

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The AGM will include presentation of 2021 progress on Strategic Plan objectives, updates from our regional Hubs, and new initiatives, including launch of *DivSeek Commons*. In addition, we are now **calling for 3-minute 'flash talks'** from Members, Observers and Hubs - *please contact* info@divseekintl.org by Dec 16, 2021

Each workshop (A-C) will include presentations and discussion, and focus on topics aligned with the three major Goals and associated Objectives relating to Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) as outlined in the DivSeek Strategic Plan (2021-26).

Workshop A	Catalysing advanced conservation, management and traceability of PGR
Workshop B	Adding value and facilitating wider use of PGR
Workshop C	Increasing awareness and education about biodiversity and relevance of PGR

Sessions will be recorded and available to members/observers.

For those travelling to PAG in San Diego, don't miss:

- Plant Animal Genome workshop (San Diego) "**DivSeek Genebank Genomics**" - Jan 8: 10-12am PST

NEWS FROM OTHER NETWORKS

In 2021, DivSeek International Network became a recognised [Global Engagement Organization](#) with **AG2PI** ([Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative](#)). AG2PI host a range of [workshops and activities](#) relevant to the DivSeek Community. In 2022 we look forward to DivSeek being more active within AG2PI.



DivSeek Connect

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