

AForGeN Strategic Meeting

23.6.2018, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. Report by Christian Rellstab, WSL.

1) Silver fir genome project (SFGP)

- **Past and present:** David Neale and Elena Mosca report on updates of the SFGP. Sequencing and automatic annotation was done by CNAG. Elena Mosca is now putting the pieces of the puzzle together.
- The manuscript is planned to be submitted to Molecular Ecology Resources. Kostya Krutovsky suggests GigaScience as an alternative. The main goal is to publish the resource, and one focus will be shade tolerance genes.
- Kati Csilléry reports on the ongoing experiment to create controlled crosses for a genetic map. The WSL tree was used as mother, the pollen comes from an *Abies cephalonica* from Italy (Nicola La Porta, FEM). If everything works fine, an estimated maximum number of 3700 hybrid seeds can be expected in autumn. If possible, an intra-specific cross should follow next year.
- **Future:** Several members show interest in continuing (=financially supporting) the project.
- Kostya Krutovsky suggests adding long reads to improve the reference assembly.
- Felix Gugerli reports from ultra HMW DNA extraction for Bionano: first tests at MPI Plön (Kristian Ullrich et al.) look quite successful. First attempts with Bionano are running. General discussion about the pros and cons of the different platforms for long-read sequencing.
- Berthold Heinze suggests the development of a SNP panel for the community, done with re-sequencing.
- Kati Csilléry raises the option of exome capture for detecting SNPs.
- Suggestion from David Neale: Sequence 10 megagametophytes from across the species range at CNAG for around 50'000 Euros for SNP discovery, with individual billing as before.
- Who would be putting things together in the future? Elena Mosca's contract is ending soon.
- Discussion of how to support the project: individual contributions, a common project (e.g., DFG sequencing grant), individual national projects, etc.
- **Conclusion:** two main working groups will be formed: 1) Re-sequencing and SNP discovery (leader: Michela Troggio); 2) Improvement of the current genome with long reads and transcriptomes (leader: Felix Gugerli).

2) AForGeN business meeting

- The 2018 meeting will be organized by Bruno Fady and held in the French Alps (either western French Alps or Mont Ventoux).
- David Neale and Felix Gugerli resign as IUFRO coordinator deputies and members of the AForGeN steering committee. Therefore, two new members have to be elected. The candidates are: Westergren, Csilléry, Rellstab, Hansen, Kersten, Mosca. Elected were Marjana Westergren and Christian Rellstab.