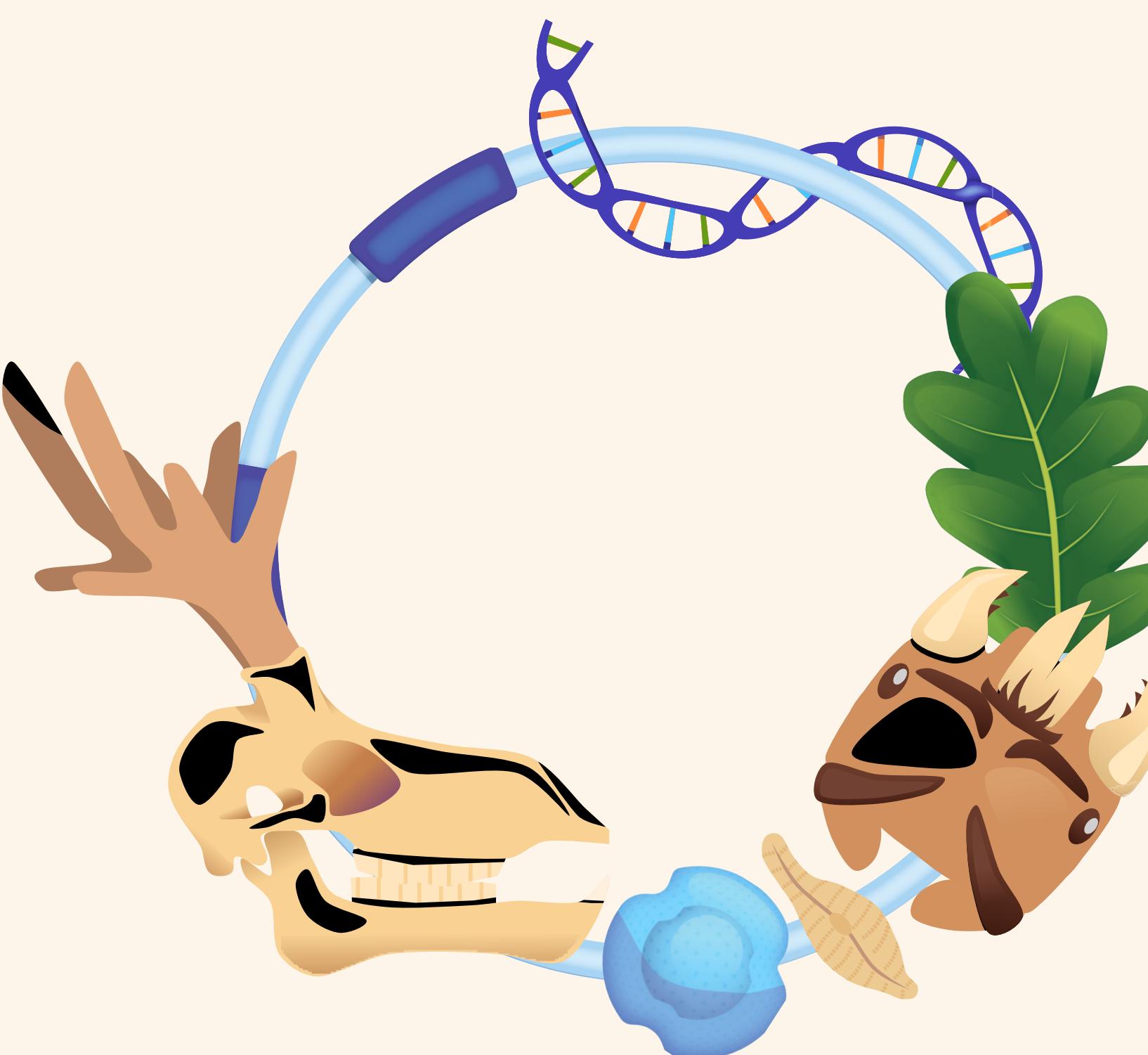


Open Palaeoecological Data - analysing the past, building foresight (PalaeOpen COST Action CA23116)

Palaeopen



Stefan Engels, Xavier Benito and PalaeOpen Core Group members

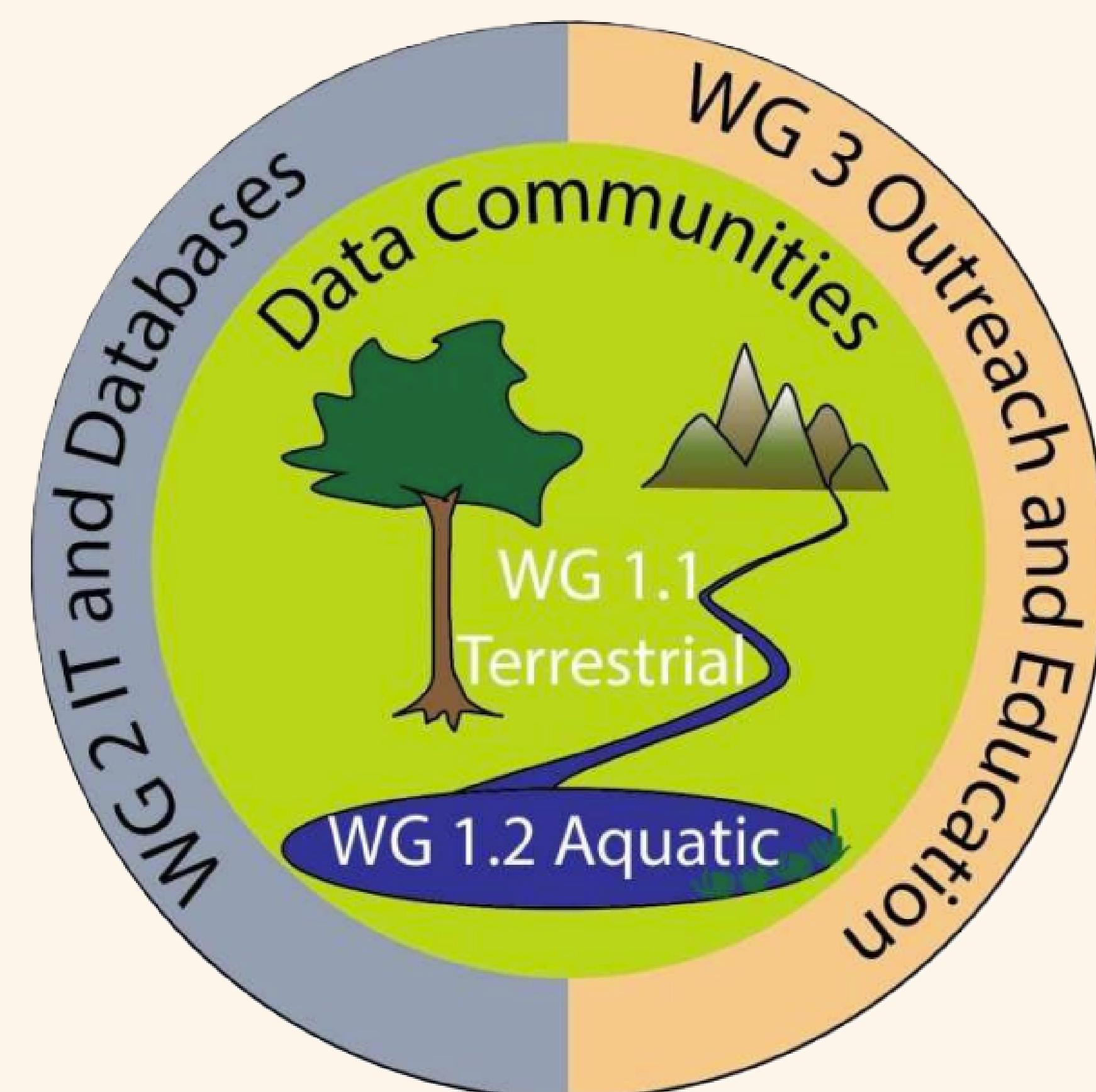
The problem that will be addressed

Restoring and managing nature during times of rapid environmental change requires knowledge of ecosystem response to climate and land use change on timescales of decades to millennia. Different palaeoecological disciplines and communities have collected relevant, site-specific multi-proxy data during the last decades. However, many palaeoecological datasets are currently not publicly available, and those that are publicly archived are dispersed across different repositories or databases. As a result, the taxonomies and metadata of the available datasets are not harmonized, limiting the potential of paleoecological analyses for ecosystem dynamics and interactions at large scales.

The project aims

The PalaeOpen COST Action aims to meet the challenge of bringing palaeoecological data into the public domain to make them relevant to nature conservation. The action will:

1. Develop multidisciplinary palaeoecological research
2. Unlock palaeoecological data
 - A. Data mobilisation and harmonisation
 - B. Coordination of community databases and repositories
3. Disseminate outreach and education
 - A. Develop communication with nature protection stakeholders
 - B. Make data usable to practitioners and in education
 - C. Develop education tools



Activities so far

During the 1st year of the Action (2024/25) 272 researchers and practitioners became members of the project, representing a total of 36 countries. Multiple meetings were organised, focussing on e.g. individual proxies (NPPs, chironomids, diatoms, palaeofire), on database development, and on the development of a research agenda (Open Scientific Meeting). The first Short-Term Scientific Missions were supported, allowing Early Career Researchers to expand their skill set and network. You can read more on these STSMs in the blogs found here: https://palaeopen.github.io/grants/stms/stms_blog_posts.html



Participants of the Open Science meeting (Prague, 2025)

Get involved!!!

The PalaeOpen project will run until Oct 2028. The goals for the next project year are:

- Training in data stewardship (data upload and taxonomic harmonization)
- Establishment of new Neotoma constituent databases
- Generation of outreach and education materials

Learn more about the Action and **join the network**:

- <https://palaeopen.github.io/>
- <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23116/>

Don't know how to get started? Email the relevant Working Group lead



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