



WHY DO FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES MATTER?

Forests provide a vast array of products, socioeconomic benefits and ecosystem services. Sustainably managing forest maintains these benefits for human well-being in the long term. Conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources is an important element of sustainable forest management.

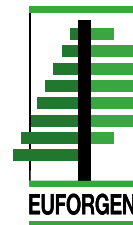
Genetic diversity ensures that forest trees can survive, adapt and evolve under changing environmental conditions. Genetic diversity is also needed to maintain the vitality of forests, cope with pests and diseases, and preserve forest biological diversity at species and ecosystem levels.

However, forest genetic resources are facing several threats such as habitat destruction, fragmentation, poor silvicultural practices and inappropriate use of forest reproductive material. Special attention should be given to conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources in practical forest management.

WHAT IS EUFORGEN?

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is a collaborative effort to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe. EUFORGEN's original mandate was set out in a 1990 resolution of the first Forest Europe conference, which was re-emphasised by the Ministerial Resolution 2 at the seventh conference in Madrid in 2015.

The signatory countries committed to “continue pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)”.



EUFORGEN Secretariat c/o Bioversity International
Via dei Tre Denari, 472/a - 00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Rome, Italy - Tel. (+39)066118387
euf_secretariat@cgiar.org
www.euforgen.org
twitter @EUFORGEN



EUFORGEN is coordinated by Bioversity International

EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME

Photo credits (CC-BY-SA) - *Pinus sylvestris*: UOULU / Tanya Pyhjärvi, Finland;
Abies pinsapo: Wikimedia; *Acer pseudoplatanus*: EUFORGEN/M.Bozzano.
Drawings: Claudio Giordano and Giovanna Bernetti.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe as an integral part of sustainable forest management, and to serve as a platform for pan-European collaboration in this area. More specifically it aims to:

- **Collate, maintain and disseminate** reliable information on forest genetic resources.
- **Coordinate and monitor the conservation** of forest genetic resources.
- **Develop guidelines and analyses** on topics and issues relevant for the more effective use of forest genetic resources.

HOW WE OPERATE

EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries. The Steering Committee, composed of National Coordinators nominated by all member countries, oversees the work of the Programme.

EUFORGEN operates through working groups and workshops that bring together scientists, policy makers and managers to exchange information, discuss needs and develop strategies and methods for better management of forest genetic resources in Europe. During Phase V (2015-2019) EUFORGEN has three working groups on:

- **Guidelines and decision support tool** for better incorporating genetic aspects into production and use of forest reproductive material.
- **Revision of the indicator on genetic resources** of the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.
- **Decision support tool for the management** of the genetic conservation units network.

OUTPUTS

EUFORGEN has produced several outputs, such as:

- **Pan-European strategy** for genetic conservation of forest trees.
- **EUFGIS information system** providing geo-referenced information on the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe and access to detailed data on genetic conservation units of forest trees in different countries.
- **Technical guidelines** for genetic conservation and use of forest trees.
- **Interactive website** with a section on forest genetic resources and related topics and more than 100 pages on tree species with maps of their distribution showing location of genetic conservation units and other related resources.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

EUFORGEN has helped strengthen national efforts on conserving forest genetic resources in Europe and contributed towards developing new programmes and policies. Furthermore, EUFORGEN has served as a platform for developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation and research projects and as a science-policy-practice interface to communicate with various stakeholders involved in conservation of tree diversity in Europe.

