



## WHY DO FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES MATTER?

Forests provide a vast array of products, socioeconomic benefits and ecosystem services. Sustainably managing forests 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, the genetic diversity of forest trees is facing several threats such as habitat destruction, fragmentation, poor silvicultural practices and inappropriate use of forest reproductive material. Forest management practices can make a big difference in how forest genetic resources are conserved and used, and thus the genetic component should be carefully considered in planning and practice.

## EUFORGEN'S MANDATE

EUFORGEN was established in 1994 after a resolution by the first FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference. This FOREST EUROPE mandate has been continued and consolidated over the next three decades.

**1990, 1st Ministerial Conference:** resolution to establish the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme.

**2015, 7th Ministerial Conference:** commitment to “continuing pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources through EUFORGEN”.

**2021, 8th Ministerial Conference:** updated pan-European indicator for sustainable forest management 4.6 Genetic Resources.

**2024, 9th Ministerial Conference:** countries “welcomed the progress in implementing the “Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe” launched by EUFORGEN to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of European forests”.

Today, EUFORGEN continues to be an implementation mechanism of FOREST EUROPE.



EUFORGEN is hosted by the European Forest Institute



## EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME

## INTRODUCING EUFORGEN

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is an international cooperation programme that promotes the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe as an integral part of sustainable forest management.

EUFORGEN:

- **Facilitates** knowledge sharing and communicate with key stakeholders;
- **Coordinates** the implementation of the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe;
- **Promotes** the sustainable use of forest genetic resources in European forests.

## COLLABORATION ACROSS EUROPE

EUFORGEN serves as a platform for pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources (FGR). Member countries contribute to EUFORGEN activities and outputs, formulate joint recommendations, and promote national implementation of strategies and guidelines for dynamic conservation and appropriate use of FGR under changing climate conditions.

## FUNDING & OPERATION

EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries. A Steering Committee, composed of a National Coordinator nominated by each member country, oversees and directs the work.

EUFORGEN operates through working groups and discussion platforms 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.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

EUFORGEN harnesses the experience of working for 30 years in pan-European collaboration for forest genetic resources.

- **Coordinating countries to optimise conservation of forest genetic resources** at European level and to scale up these efforts to the entire species' distribution ranges.
- **Strengthening national conservation efforts** and contributing to the development of new programmes and policies.
- **Enabling European countries to develop a common vision** for conserving and sustainably using forest genetic resources, creating strategies and guidelines.
- **Establishing and maintaining a robust system** to monitor progress of forest genetic diversity conservation.

## HARMONISING INFORMATION

EUFORGEN developed, maintains, and is continuously upgrading the European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS), a unique system which enables countries' reporting in a harmonised and reliable manner the status of conservation of FGR in Europe. EUFGIS supports the identification of gaps in conservation of forest tree species at European level and the setting of priorities to fill these conservation gaps.

• [eufgis.org](http://eufgis.org)

