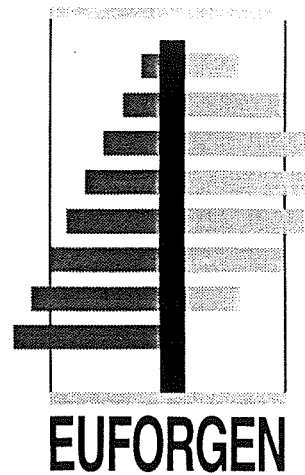
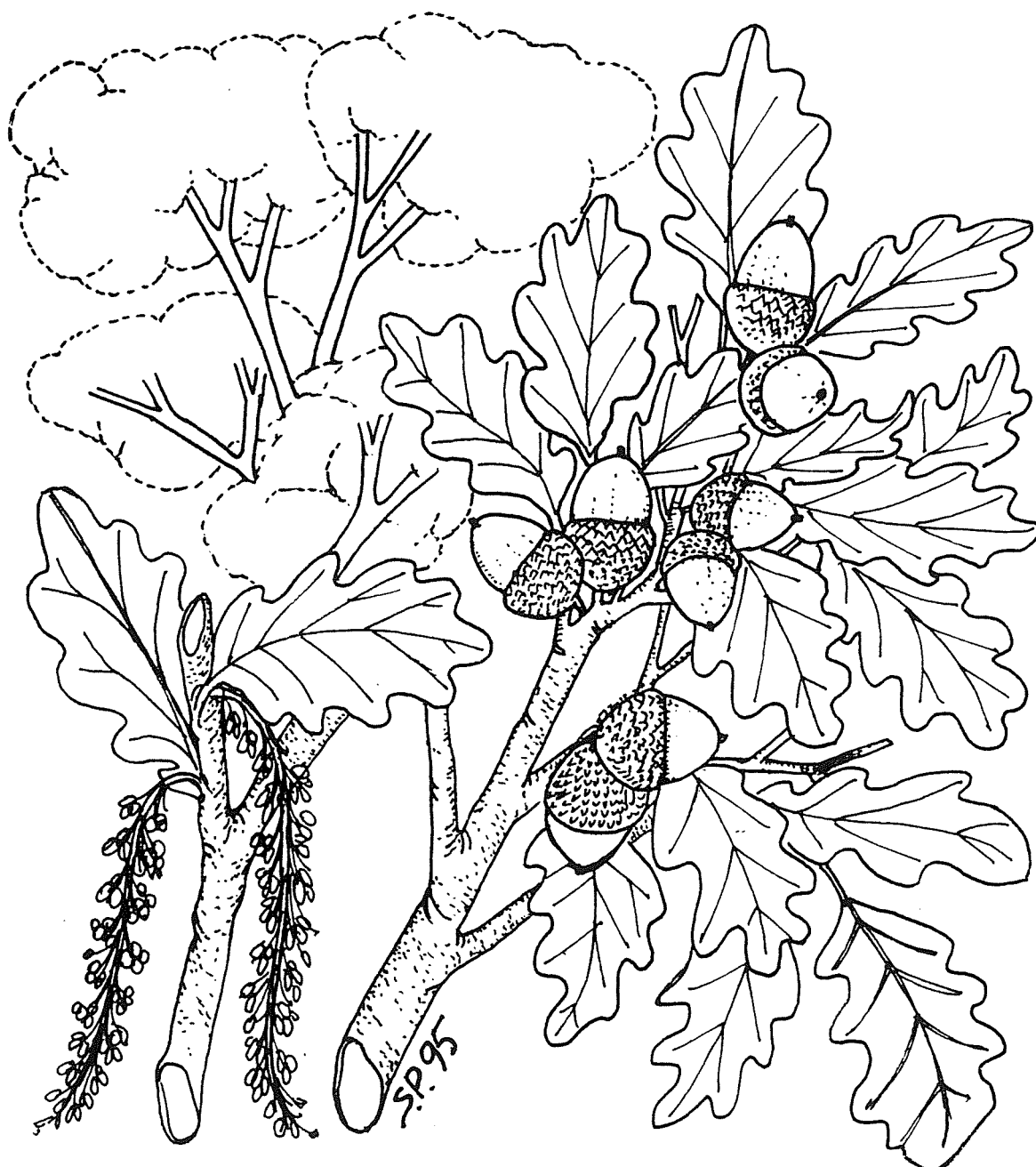


# Report of the Steering Committee

*First meeting*  
19 - 20 November 1995  
Sopron, Hungary



**J. Turok, C. Palmberg-Lerche, Cs. Mátyás,**  
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## Introduction

### *Opening remarks*

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) was opened by Professor Csaba Mátyás from the Department of Plant Sciences of the University of Sopron. He welcomed the participants and remarked that this meeting is taking place in a city with truly international character. The host University was founded upon one of the oldest forestry technical schools in Europe. Hungarian forestry is increasingly committed to the conservation and sustainable use of indigenous and introduced genetic resources. Csaba Mátyás expressed his wish to see a successful meeting.

Dr Emile Frison welcomed the participants on behalf of IPGRI. He stressed the world's growing concern about plant genetic diversity, including forest trees, and referred specifically to the process initiated by the Strasbourg and Helsinki ministerial conferences. As a result of the work of the follow-up committee of Strasbourg Resolution 2, a survey on the needs and priorities was conducted and the species networks concept was conceived. In this respect, EUFORGEN appeared to be a very timely effort. Now, with 24 participating countries and more countries having stated their intention to join, EUFORGEN has already succeeded in being a true pan-European programme on forest genetic resources.

The Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources organized by FAO in Leipzig in 1996, is part of the effort to strengthen the overall collaboration in the field of agrobiodiversity. Emile Frison also stressed the importance of the Conference to future activities and commitments to be made by EUFORGEN and European forestry expertise. He said there were new opportunities to be taken in deciding on future guidelines of the Programme. Emile Frison praised the good collaborative spirit of EUFORGEN networks, and reaffirmed the strong commitment of IPGRI in providing guidance and assisting in the development of this country driven Programme.

Ms Christel Palmberg-Lerche addressed the meeting on behalf of FAO. She reminded the participants FAO had recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and gave a brief explanation on the role FAO takes to implement scientific and technical recommendations. Christel Palmberg-Lerche underlined the links between FAO, IPGRI and other international organizations and how they complement each other. Both FAO and IPGRI assist in the execution of country driven programmes and priorities as determined by institutions in the countries.

The FAO Forestry Department, which is closely involved in the management of the Programme, provided advice and assistance during the establishment period of EUFORGEN. Christel Palmberg-Lerche welcomed the support of EUFORGEN in activities of mutual concern, and expressed the expectation that this support would lead to concrete results and increased collaboration between European countries in the conservation and better use of forest genetic resources, a big challenge for this new Programme.

### *Election of Chair and Vice-Chair*

Prof. Csaba Mátyás from Hungary was elected to chair the meeting and Dr Michel Arbez from France was elected Vice-Chair.

### *Adoption of the Agenda*

The proposed Agenda of the meeting (see Annex) was adopted with one modification regarding discussion of an action plan. The Steering Committee considered it relevant to make recommendations, but not to adopt an action plan arising from the meeting.

## **EUFORGEN reports**

The EUFORGEN coordinator, Dr Jozef Turok presented a progress report on activities carried out during the first year of the Programme. He stressed the importance of this meeting as an opportunity to develop strong collaboration among national coordinators with a firm connection to the coordinating secretariat.

In his report (see Annex), Jozef Turok briefly described the history of EUFORGEN, and mentioned that 24 countries were participating in the Programme. Further countries are expected to join in the near future. Observers from several interested countries also participated in this first Steering Committee meeting (see Annex).

The main activities of EUFORGEN have concentrated on three 'pilot' species networks. Jozef Turok presented objectives and workplans developed at first network meetings, listed countries participating in the different networks, and described task achievements. Three reports of the network meetings have been published. No meeting has yet been held on the fourth 'pilot' network on noble hardwoods, but attending members and common concerns were identified.<sup>1</sup>

The coordinator's report emphasized close collaboration of IPGRI and FAO, particularly within the EUFORGEN Management Committee. EUFORGEN has been actively involved in the preparatory process of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

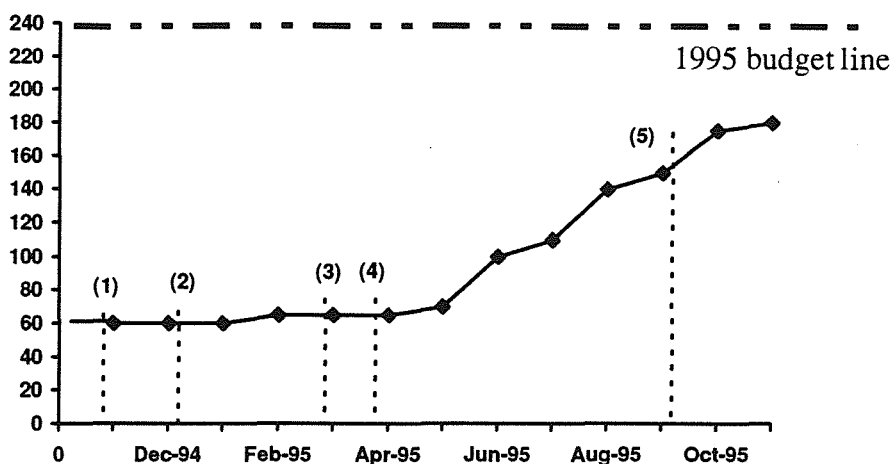
The financial report (see Annex), summary table of funds balance and a table listing paid contributions (funds received) was presented. Figure 1 was shown to illustrate development of cumulative member contributions, as compared to the

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<sup>1</sup> The first noble hardwoods network meeting will be organized in Escherode, Germany, in March 1996. To help identify the noble hardwood species of prior interest to the majority of countries, an informal workshop will be held immediately before the network meeting.

targeted 1995 budget line, and the organization of the five network meetings (1-5) in the first year of the Programme.

Figure 1.



The progress report and the financial report were adopted by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee commended IPGRI and FAO for the work being done in the preparation, coordination and management of the Programme.

## EUFORGEN Document

The Steering Committee reviewed the objectives of EUFORGEN, its organizational structure, and the role of the different bodies. An updated version of EUFORGEN Document (IPGRI/FAO, Rome, September 1993) was introduced at the meeting by the EUFORGEN coordinator and different aspects were discussed.

In the discussion on principal objectives, EUFORGEN was supported as a mechanism of the Starsbourg Resolution 2 for implementing international cooperation, but it was recognized that decisions on forest genetic resources, their management and financing, are the responsibility of national programmes.

During the discussion, effective liaison between the coordinating secretariat and sponsoring ministries, and the maintenance of regular contacts with network members in each country were emphasized as being important duties of the national coordinators. The international coordinating secretariat should, among others, be maintaining close links with the national coordinators.

The role of the Steering Committee to carry the overall responsibility for the Programme was confirmed. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would meet every three years and that additional *ad hoc* meetings would be organized if there is a strong need to convene within a shorter time period. The Steering Committee requested a financial report from the coordinating secretariat at the

end of each year. A detailed financial report should be sent to all members of the Steering Committee one month in advance of each regular Steering Committee meeting. Voting procedure at Steering Committee meetings was discussed and the secretariat was **requested** to communicate the convention used in IPGRI and the CGIAR system in general.

The reviewed version of the EUFORGEN Document was adopted by the Steering Committee (see Annex). It replaces the original version and serves as a basic general reference document.

### Input of EUFORGEN to the preparatory process of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources

The Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will be organized by FAO in Leipzig, Germany, 17-23 June 1996. The Conference will review world status and priorities in the conservation of plant genetic resources, including the genetic diversity of forest trees. EUFORGEN has contributed as an information manager to the country-driven preparatory process in the field of forest genetic resources in Europe.

European countries provided information through a Questionnaire on forest genetic resources, sent in March 1993 by FAO's Forestry Department to Heads of Forest Services in all FAO member countries. At the request of FAO, countries have also prepared national reports on plant genetic resources, according to guidelines elaborated by FAO in close consultation with IPGRI. The staff of IPGRI's Europe Office was closely involved in drafting the resulting regional synthesis report on plant genetic resources in Europe, and the EUFORGEN coordinator contributed to the parts dealing with forest genetic resources. Unfortunately, in some of the country reports received, forestry issues were missing, or were not adequately addressed, presumably due to the fact that Conference focal points, nominated by the countries, were generally located in the agricultural sector, not in forestry and were therefore often institutionally separated. This gap in country coordination had contributed to an increased general bias towards crop genetic resources in the country reports.

The Regional Meeting on Plant Genetic Resources in Nitra, Slovakia, in September 1995 was the most important event in the preparatory process in Europe. Delegates from 35 countries, as well as observers from several international NGOs, the European Commission, FAO and IPGRI participated in that meeting. An advanced draft version of the report on the regional preparatory meeting was distributed and briefly discussed at the Steering Committee meeting. The recommendations for the Global Plan of Action, to be presented at the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, concerned in particular national programmes, collaboration in the field of plant genetic resources at a national, regional and subregional level, privatization of public collections, complementarity between *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation,



underutilized species, inventories of plant genetic resources, research and training, and international collaboration.

Further to the outcomes of the Regional Meeting, and recognizing that EUFORGEN was set up as a pan-European programme to implement Resolution 2 of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, held in Strasbourg in 1990, and that this role was endorsed by the second Ministerial Conference in Helsinki in 1993, the Steering Committee **recommended** that EUFORGEN, in close collaboration with FAO, IUFRO and other relevant organizations, be considered as the platform for the implementation of the forest genetic resources components of the Global Plan of Action in Europe.

It was also recognized that strategies and methodologies applicable to the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources differed decisively from those applicable to crop genetic resources. The Steering Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that national delegations to the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources include forestry expertise. The Steering Committee **requested** that national coordinators draw the attention of authorities in their respective countries to this need; and **recommended** that FAO include specific mention of forest genetic resources in invitation letters and background materials submitted to each country. In this regard, the Steering Committee noted that involvement of both crop and forest genetic resources experts in the Conference would be of mutual benefit in elaborating overall strategies.

FAO undertook sending a copy of the Questionnaire from the year 1993 "National Plant Genetic Resources Activities for Forestry Species" to the country representatives who were present, either for review, or in the case of countries which had not responded, for provision of the information requested. An information system, based on replies to this Questionnaire from FAO member countries, has been created in the Forestry Department of FAO, for use *i.a.* in the preparations for, and follow-up to, the Leipzig Conference.



## European Forest Genetic Resources Workshop

The European Forest Genetic Resources Workshop was organized immediately following the Steering Committee meeting on 21 November 1995, which focused attention on the discussion and development of the European forestry input to the Global Plan of Action. The participation of representatives and resource persons from four European countries, not members of EUFORGEN, to the Workshop was made possible thanks to financial support from the FAO Secretariat of the Conference. The report of the Workshop will be published separately in 1996. The Workshop recommendations were forwarded to FAO in December 1995.

### Need for new networks for additional species

Based on the results of an international survey, conducted by the follow-up committee of Resolution 2, four 'pilot' networks were established. The selected species, not only reflected national priorities for the conservation of most threatened genetic diversity at a species level, but also different types of ecogeographical and genetic distribution patterns and reproductive systems.

During the past year it became obvious that there is a need to open the Programme to new species. Further to the recommendation arising from the Steering Committee meeting, regarding EUFORGEN's role in the international context, it was felt that additional flexibility in the networks would provide the basis for a comprehensive and broadly conceived instrument of cooperation.

The need to establish new networks for additional species was raised and several proposals discussed. The species based approach was considered by the Steering Committee as effectively covering all aspects of gene conservation in forest trees. It was agreed to open the networks to include other than the 'pilot' species. The widening of the scope of the networks should be understood as an objective. The pace at which this objective is implemented, and the species to be considered, should be decided by the networks themselves. The need to ensure operational efficiency of existing networks prior to broadening them was stressed. The following expanded or new networks were suggested:

- *Picea abies* (extension suggested towards other 'social', and especially boreal conifers)
- *Populus nigra* (extension suggested towards other broadleaved fast growing species of the riparian forest)
- *Quercus suber* (extension suggested towards other evergreen oaks of the Mediterranean region)
- Noble hardwoods (no extension suggested)
- 'Social' broadleaves (new network including central European *Quercus* species and *Fagus sylvatica*)

The possibility of establishing 'horizontal' gene conservation networks of common interest to the species was discussed. Methodology of gene conservation in forest trees, *in situ* conservation, and study of genetic adaptation were mentioned as possible examples of tasks of such networks. It was felt by members of the Steering Committee that network establishment, at this stage, would not strengthen the role of EUFORGEN in contributing to general activities in the area of forest genetic resources in Europe, and that this role is best accomplished with the species specific networks.

It was suggested that the mechanism for determining the number of networks to which attending members can be nominated from each country be modified. The number of networks per country was thus increased by one (see EUFORGEN Document in Annex). The total number of network meetings which can be held annually depends on the budget. The objective of the coordinating secretariat to organize four meetings per year was noted by the Steering Committee.

### National and international commitments on forest genetic resources

Representatives of all countries described briefly their concepts and activities on forest genetic resources. Differences in approach are considerable, and several European countries reported on their experience of having established, or establishing a formal national strategy.

The Steering Committee **recommended** that each country establish a national strategy for the conservation of forest genetic resources. Strategies on forest genetic resources, established by each country, within a regional framework to ensure complementarity, and coverage from a biological point of view, should be elaborated in accordance with perceived national needs, institutional possibilities and financial and resource related realities.

Appropriate legislation was emphasized by the Steering Committee as a prerequisite for the success of national strategies. The information on current legislation was obtained from European countries by the follow-up committee of Resolution 2. It was **recommended** that the coordinating secretariat compile the available information on legislation in the field of forest genetic resources and ensure that the information be properly analysed and distributed to participating countries.

The fact that 24 European countries joined EUFORGEN within its first year shows that there is strong interest in collaboration in the area of forest genetic resources in Europe. It also illustrates that the region is prepared to make a formal commitment to the management of its genetic resources. This is particularly important in view of the role of EUFORGEN as the platform in facilitating international collaboration on forest genetic resources in Europe. The coordinating secretariat was **requested** by the Steering Committee, as part of follow-up evaluation of the implementation process, to send annual progress reports on EUFORGEN to the coordinators of Resolution 2 in all signatory countries.

Participants, from Germany, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey, who attended the meeting as observers, expressed their strong interest in the work of EUFORGEN and its networks. The Steering Committee welcomed these countries to join EUFORGEN as soon as possible.

During the session, representatives of each country summarized the networks of greatest interest and mentioned priorities for further EUFORGEN activities. In this context, the role of EUFORGEN in promoting and supporting long term national commitments on the conservation of forest genetic resources was recognized.

EUFORGEN is a programme based on the principle of mutual benefits and solidarity among countries. This implies costs in various forms of inputs in kind to the Programme. Examples of contributions in kind made to the networks by different countries were mentioned and thanks given by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee stressed the links between the conservation of forest genetic resources, silviculture and forest management, and the desirability of ensuring the participation of practical foresters in the activities of the EUFORGEN networks. Further research is needed to improve silvicultural management in order to secure long term maintenance of genetic diversity.

In a broader discussion, it was also acknowledged that protected areas would potentially contribute towards the conservation of genetic resources within the framework of an overall conservation strategy for given target species. Rules governing the collection of reproductive materials (for conservation and research purposes) from strictly protected areas should be carefully reviewed, in collaboration with competent authorities, to maximize benefits for all concerned.

Special reference was made to minor forest species. The Committee stressed the need to pay attention to minor species which were in danger of extinction or genetic erosion. The coordinating secretariat was **requested**, in agreement with other institutions, to identify how international cooperation might contribute to the conservation of threatened minor species in Europe. Exchange of experiences among countries is probably needed most. It was pointed out that complementary mechanisms to networking (*e.g.*, workshops) could be used to increase benefits of operations and to identify the needs in this group of species.

The Steering Committee considered that gene conservation activities should, while focusing on indigenous species, also include non-indigenous species as important subject of interest within the framework of EUFORGEN networks.

### Interaction with other regional programmes

The Steering Committee stressed that the collaboration with IUFRO and other relevant international organizations should be based on the principle of complementarity and that synergy should be created towards the effective conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. The International Union of

Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO), with its working groups on provenances, breeding and genetic resources, as well as the traditional species oriented working groups, provides a solid scientific and research base from which EUFORGEN could benefit. As a matter of fact, informal contacts with IUFRO have been established and many officers from the different IUFRO working groups participated in the Steering Committee meeting and/or are involved in activities of the networks.

Collaboration with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, which are concerned with nature protection including gene conservation, such as the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, WWF and IUCN was briefly discussed. The Steering Committee advised EUFORGEN to address relevant organizations, inform them about the ongoing activities, and seek their collaboration in the coorganization meetings *etc.*

The Steering Committee agreed that, compared to other international initiatives, EUFORGEN had the mandate for a specific task of the transformation of a political decision into concrete operational activities in the European region.

The organization of joint meetings of the *Quercus suber* network, with the FAO programme 'Silva Mediterranea', and of the *Populus nigra* network, with FAO's International Poplar Commission sessions, has been beneficial to EUFORGEN. Steering Committee members felt collaboration with FAO statutory bodies should be continued.

EUFORGEN networks should serve as fora for the development of joint project proposals to the European Commission and other funding agencies. An example from the *Quercus suber* network was mentioned.

## Promotion of public awareness about forest genetic resources

An important objective of EUFORGEN is the promotion of public awareness of the importance of forest genetic resources. Increased public awareness about the genetic potential of forest trees, and their ecosystems, can contribute to their conservation and better use. Information, specifically oriented to policy makers, can also help obtain increased support for research and the implementation of practical measures.

The Steering Committee agreed that national programmes play the most important role in raising public awareness. National coordinators and members of networks are encouraged to submit and monitor articles about forest genetic resources in the national press. IPGRI can provide briefing material and advice, in particular it can collect and distribute information on experiences of each country. Conferences, workshops and excursions are effective tools, and the networking structure of EUFORGEN may provide these more publicity and coordinate their organization. The invitation of journalists to the EUFORGEN network meetings offers another opportunity for raising public awareness.

Examples of public awareness work in several countries were presented. A video from the Netherlands showed a way to present the importance of indigenous genetic information and its conservation regardless of national boundaries.

IPGRI has long experience in the promotion of public awareness. Publications, such as the Newsletter for Europe, In Defence of Diversity, Geneflow and others, give increasing attention to the genetic resources of forest trees, and emphasize the value of international collaboration. Committee members felt that IPGRI publications on EUFORGEN and forest genetic resources best address relevant decision makers in each country. The Steering Committee **recommended** that the coordinating secretariat produce an information leaflet on recent developments of EUFORGEN and distribute it to the national ministries.

### Communication between IPGRI and national coordinators

IPGRI's Newsletter for Europe, established in 1994, is intended to be a vehicle for the exchange of information and views among the plant genetic resources community. This newsletter has a regular section on EUFORGEN and forest genetic resources. The Steering Committee **recommended** that short contributions from the national programmes on forest genetic resources be sent to IPGRI for publication in the Newsletter. The mailing list should include all relevant institutions concerned with the genetic resources of forest trees. Each country will send the coordinating secretariat a list of national institutions interested in receiving the newsletter.

The Steering Committee **requested** that the EUFORGEN coordinator submit an annual report, including financial aspects, and a mid-year report on progress made to all national coordinators and to country officials requiring an information copy. Each national coordinator will inform the secretariat of the number of requested copies and/or the recipients of the progress reports.

### Final wrap-up

After revision by the Steering Committee, a list of recommendations of the meeting was adopted.





## ANNEXES

### **Agenda**

*Sopron, Hungary, 19-20 November 1995*

1. Opening of the meeting:  
Introductory remarks by representatives of the host country, IPGRI and FAO  
Election of the Chair  
Adoption of the Agenda
2. EUFORGEN reports:  
Presentation of the progress report by EUFORGEN coordinator  
Presentation of the financial report by EUFORGEN coordinator  
Discussion and adoption of the reports
3. EUFORGEN Document:  
Review of the objectives and the organizational structure of the Programme  
Discussion and adoption of the EUFORGEN Document
4. Need for new networks for additional species
5. Input of EUFORGEN to the preparatory process of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources
6. National commitments on forest genetic resources and the role of EUFORGEN
7. Interaction with other regional programmes
8. Promotion of public awareness about forest genetic resources
9. Communication between IPGRI and national coordinators
10. Final wrap-up session

### ***Progress report of the coordinator***

Representatives of all signatory countries to Resolution 2 of the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (1990) committed themselves to create or strengthen a collaboration framework for national gene conservation activities. The conference recommended the development of a flexible mechanism coordinating the conservation efforts of individual countries. A follow-up committee of Resolution 2 initiated an international survey on the

present status of forest genetic resources in Europe and prepared the basis for collaboration in pilot networks. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), then proposed the establishment of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). The Programme was endorsed by the second Ministerial Conference (Helsinki in 1993) and became operational in October 1994. The position of EUFORGEN coordinator was filled in January 1995.

At the end of the first year of EUFORGEN (October 1995), 24 countries were members of the Programme. A further five countries are expected to join in the near future. The participation of four countries from the Former Soviet Union in EUFORGEN activities was made possible in the framework of an INTAS-funded project.

The main activities of the Programme are concentrated into four pilot species networks. Two meetings of the networks on *Quercus suber* and *Populus nigra* and the first meeting of the *Picea abies* network have been held. Three reports of the network meetings were published, and additional two network publications are in print. The networks have chosen a similar approach to many common problems and tasks with the species concerned. Their activities focus on inventories of genetic resources, development of joint databases and lists of descriptors, identification of common research needs, efforts to submit joint project proposals, development of joint conservation strategies and guidelines, and promotion of the establishment of national gene reserve forests, and complementary measures, as part of national conservation programmes.

The first meeting of the *Populus nigra* network (3-5 October 1994 in Izmit, Turkey), organized within the framework of the International Poplar Commission, was attended by participants from 11 countries. Creation of a European database was initiated, using the experience of IPGRI in developing lists of descriptors for agricultural crops. Among other tasks of the workplan, joint development of an identification sheet and inventory of *Populus nigra* genetic resources were agreed upon. Reference clonal material was exchanged among network members. The report, published and distributed in July 1995, gives an overview of the current extent to which black poplar is threatened in Europe, and of measures undertaken towards its genetic conservation in 10 countries. A proposal was also included for passport data as well as selected relevant bibliographical references for the species.

Members of the network met for the second time from 10 to 12 September 1995 at Casale Monferrato, Italy. The meeting was attended by 13 participants from 9 countries. According to the workplan of the network, several documents (identification sheet for *P. nigra*, descriptor list for *P. nigra* clones and guidelines for *ex situ* field collections) were prepared by task coordinators and discussed at the meeting. These documents will be published within the report of the meeting in early 1996. It was decided to establish a core collection of clones representing the whole black poplar distribution area in Europe. Common research topics were

listed and the possibility of the network to submit a joint project proposal to the EU discussed.

Participants from 4 Mediterranean countries, and experts from Germany and Sweden, participated in two meetings of the *Quercus suber* network held in Rome (1-3 December 1994 and 26-27 February 1995). The present level of threat of *Quercus suber* and possible ways towards the conservation of its genetic resources were discussed. Following recommendations of the initial network meeting held within FAO Silva Mediterranea programme at the end of 1994, representatives from countries working for the conservation of that species met again and focused on the development of joint project proposals which were later submitted to the European Union. Besides a research project into the assesment of genetic variation, a second project should provide the conceptual basis for coordinated activities of the group, and exchange of material. The report of the network meeting was published in November 1995.

The first *Picea abies* network meeting (15-19 March 1995 in Stará Lesná, Slovakia) was attended by participants from 9 countries. The agenda centered on the identification of common problems and needs, compilation of a list of descriptors and on the set-up of a European database. Current criteria for the designation of genetic resources, and research needs, in that field were discussed. The main goal and number of objectives for network activities were defined. The approved workplan of the network considers publication of the Technical Guidelines for Norway Spruce Genetic Resources Conservation as a priority as well as the identification of contact persons in all countries of the distribution area. The report of the meeting was published in June 1995 and includes reports on the status of conservation activities in 13 European countries.

The close collaboration of IPGRI and FAO has facilitated the role of EUFORGEN in contributing to overall initiatives and strategies for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe. EUFORGEN has been actively involved in the preparatory process of the Fourth International Technical Conference of FAO. The Programme was presented and referred to as an example of multilateral regional collaboration at the Boreal Forest Genetic Resources Workshop in Toronto, Canada, in June 1995. The coordinator had the opportunity to present EUFORGEN at the Regional Meeting on Plant Genetic Resources held in Nitra, Slovakia, in September 1995. At this meeting, EUFORGEN was recognized as the platform to facilitate the collaboration on forest genetic resources in Europe. The European Forest Genetic Resources Workshop in Sopron, immediately following the Steering Committee meeting, will provide countries with the opportunity for a strong forestry-focused input into the process leading up to the Conference. The regular collaboration with FAO Forestry Department, particularly within the Management Committee, has enabled EUFORGEN to organize jointly the first network meetings. Support for the Programme was also given through its presentation at the Ninth FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, in October 1995.

**Financial report**

for the period 1 October 1994 - 31 October 1995 (in US\$)

**Table 1. Summary**

Details	Current period		
	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
Personnel costs	102,917	62,810	40,107
Network meetings	73,667	24,023	49,664
Steering Committee meetings	16,250	0	16,250
Travel	14,083	3,230	10,853
Communications & contingencies	9,750	9,206	544
Publications	15,167	4,651	10,516
Overhead (indirect costs) 13%	30,333	13,510	16,823
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>262,167</b>	<b>117,430</b>	<b>144,737</b>
Total	262,167	117,430	144,737
Funds received		174,975	
Funds balance		57,545	

Details	Total budget	Cumulative expenditure	Available balance
Personnel costs	475,000	62,810	412,190
Network meetings	340,000	24,023	315,977
Steering Committee meetings	75,000	0	75,000
Travel	65,000	3,230	61,770
Communications & contingencies	45,000	9,206	35,794
Publications	70,000	4,651	65,349
Overhead (indirect costs) 13%	140,000	13,510	126,490
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,210,000</b>	<b>117,430</b>	<b>1,092,570</b>
Total	1,210,000	117,430	1,092,570
Funds received		174,975	
Funds balance		57,545	

Note: IPGRI's direct contribution to EUFORGEN was US\$ 8,000. This amount was used to cover the travel expenses incurred for the coordinator's participation in meetings. Besides that, IPGRI and FAO (Forest Resources Development Service) contributed in kind by providing time of professional staff and by covering their travel expenses to network meetings and to the first Steering Committee meeting.

Table 2. Total funds received

EUFORGEN contributions		
Country	1994	1995
Austria	---	10000
Belarus	---	
Belgium	---	
Croatia		
Czech Republic	---	5000
Denmark	10000	
Finland	10000	10000
France	30000	
Hungary	---	5000
Italy	---	30000
Latvia		5000
Lithuania		
Malta	---	
Moldova	---	
Monaco		
Netherlands	10000	10000
Norway	5000	
Poland	---	5000
Portugal	4975	5000
Slovakia	---	
Spain	---	
Sweden	---	10000
Switzerland	10000	
Ukraine		
TOTAL for the reported period		174,975



## **EUFORGEN Document**

### **Introduction**

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is a collaborative programme among European countries aimed at ensuring the effective conservation and the sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe. It was established to implement Resolution 2 of the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The Resolution 2 set forth the creation of "an instrument for cooperation on conservation of genetic diversity of European forests".

*"To facilitate and extend the efforts undertaken at national and international levels, a functional but voluntary instrument of international cooperation should be found without delay from among the existing relevant organizations to promote and coordinate:*

- 1.1. in situ and ex situ methods to conserve the genetic diversity of European forests;*
- 1.2. exchanges of reproductive materials;*
- 1.3. the monitoring of progress in those fields."*

A follow-up committee of Resolution 2 initiated an international survey on the present status of forest genetic resources in Europe and prepared the basis for collaboration in pilot networks. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), then proposed the establishment of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). The Programme was endorsed by the second Ministerial Conference (Helsinki in 1993) and became operational in October 1994.

EUFORGEN is financed by participating countries and is coordinated by IPGRI, in collaboration with the Forestry Department of FAO. The basic principle of EUFORGEN is that the actual activities of the Programme be carried out by institutions of the participating countries as contributions in kind to the Programme in the framework of species- or species group-specific conservation networks and that the pooled resources remain minimal to cover only the overall coordination and the cost of meetings (including the cost of participation by network members). The collaboration in networks results in an "added value" over the individual national programmes and scientists.

### **EUFORGEN networks**

EUFORGEN operates through networks in which forest geneticists and other forestry specialists work together to analyze needs, exchange experiences and develop conservation objectives and methods for selected species. The networks also contribute to the development of conservation strategies for the ecosystems to

which these species belong. Network members and other scientists and forest managers from participating countries carry out an agreed workplan with their own resources as inputs in kind to the Programme.

The four pilot networks initiated by the follow-up committee to Resolution 2 were:

- *Picea abies*
- *Quercus suber*
- *Populus nigra*
- Noble hardwoods

Networks for other species will be developed if a sufficient number of countries join the Programme. The priorities for the development of networks should be discussed by the Steering Committee of EUFORGEN.

The networks aim to:

- carry out inventories of the situation regarding the genetic resources of the species concerned;
- develop jointly European databases and lists of descriptors;
- identify common research needs;
- develop and submit joint project proposals;
- promote the establishment in each country of gene reserve forests and complementary *in situ* and *ex situ* measures;
- develop long term conservation strategies and guidelines;
- contribute to raising public awareness.

Two different levels of involvement of countries in the networks will be distinguished: attending members, whose participation in the network meetings will be financed by the Programme, and corresponding members who would provide and receive information to the network but not attend the meetings. Both attending and corresponding members of a network will receive the meeting's report and are expected to facilitate the implementation of recommendations given therein. Attending and corresponding members will be listed and their contributions published in the reports. This structure contributes towards maintaining network meetings as reasonably small and therefore dynamic, and ensures that each country has its (attending or corresponding) representative for a species. This would, furthermore, contribute towards respecting the budget which allows for a maximum of 15 countries in each network meeting.



To determine the number of network meetings to which a country can nominate attending members, a mechanism dependant on the country's yearly contribution was proposed. The following guideline should be used:

<b>Yearly contribution (US\$)</b>	<b>Number of networks to which attending members can be nominated</b>
2,000	2
5,000	3
10,000	3
30,000	4

Attending and corresponding members are nominated by the national coordinators. The network members should be identified according to the concerns and interests of individual countries, and from those institutions which are recognized as playing (or being prepared to play) a major role for the species concerned. It is understood that this structure is flexible and that modifications have to be made whenever additional networks are established.

Network participants meet (attending members) and exchange information (attending and corresponding members) at regular intervals in order to:

- set priorities;
- find solutions for common problems;
- plan collaborative activities and monitor progress made;
- establish and update workplans;
- identify research needs;
- prepare joint proposals to be submitted to national and international funding agencies;
- agree on the development of databases, etc...

It is proposed that the networks meet annually during the first two years and that the frequency of the meetings be reviewed thereafter. The cost of the participation of attending network members in network meetings is included in the attached budget.

Besides the species oriented network activities, EUFORGEN facilitates the dissemination of information and the development of various collaborative initiatives on the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

### **Steering Committee**

When joining EUFORGEN, a new member country is requested to nominate a national coordinator as the official contact person between the coordinating secretariat and the member country for all matters relating to the Programme. A Steering Committee composed of the national coordinators of all member countries has the overall responsibility for the Programme and meets every three years to:

- set priorities;
- review the progress made and discuss further activities;
- approve the budget for the Programme;
- review the financial reports prepared by the coordinating secretariat<sup>2</sup>;
- make recommendations for the future of the Programme including the development of new networks for additional species;
- discuss issues relevant to the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe.

It was proposed that the Programme be established for an initial period of five years and that the Steering Committee meet at the end of the second year of the Programme and at the beginning of the fifth year. At that second meeting the Steering Committee will make recommendations for the future of EUFORGEN. If there is a strong need to convene in a time period shorter than three years, an additional *ad hoc* Steering Committee meeting will be organized. The procedure of voting at Steering Committee meetings will follow the convention in IPGRI and the CGIAR system in general and will be described in detail.

The role of the national coordinators is to:

- participate in the Steering Committee meetings;
- ensure that the necessary resources are made available to the Programme;
- liaise between the secretariat and the sponsoring ministry(ies);
- liaise between the secretariat and the national institutions involved in the activities on forest genetic resources;
- nominate attending and corresponding members to the networks and maintain regular contacts with them;
- assist national institutes in removing any obstacles to progress.

### **The international coordinating secretariat**

The international coordinating secretariat is provided by IPGRI. A Management Committee composed of two representatives of FAO and two representatives of IPGRI has been set up and meets twice a year to provide technical and scientific advice to the secretariat.

The secretariat reports on the activities of the Programme and prepares a financial report to be submitted to national coordinators at the end of each year and at each meeting of the Steering Committee. A detailed financial report is sent to all members of the Steering Committee one month in advance of each regular Steering Committee meeting.

A EUFORGEN coordinator has been appointed by IPGRI to serve the different networks. Day to day supervision of the EUFORGEN coordinator is given by IPGRI, within the framework of technical and scientific advice given by FAO and IPGRI at the Management Committee level.

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<sup>2</sup> see also information under the section "International coordinating secretariat" below

The role of the secretariat is to:

- ensure the implementation of the Programme in accordance with the mandate given by the Steering Committee;
- be responsible for the financial management of the Programme;
- liaise with the national coordinators;
- liaise with the Management Committee;
- provide logistic support to the networks and ensure that the agreed workplans are carried out;
- liaise between the different networks;
- prepare reports of the network meetings;
- assist with the search for donors to support tasks of the workplans;
- gather and disseminate relevant information;
- contribute to raising public awareness.

Collaboration with IUFRO and other relevant international organizations is based on the principle of complementarity and should create a synergy towards the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe.

#### ***Modus operandi of the Programme***

The EUFORGEN Programme is operated as a multilateral trust fund which functions through individual Letters of Agreement with participating countries. All contacts and correspondence are handled through the national coordinators of the Programme.

Individual countries formally join EUFORGEN by signing a Letter of Agreement with IPGRI, specifying the financial contribution to be made to the Programme. They should also nominate the national coordinator at that time.

Contributions are made by the countries on an annual basis to the EUFORGEN Trust Fund established by IPGRI to cover the costs of the coordination of the Programme. Calculation of contributions is based on the United Nations assessment rates which have been used to calculate the level of contribution for all European countries (Table 1). Whilst, in order to be fully effective it is important that all European countries participate, it is recognized that some countries may not be in a position to join the Programme immediately. Accordingly the initial budget has been calculated on the basis that contributions are received from only enough countries to reach 80% of the assessed total (see Table 2) during the first five years.

In addition to the member contribution to the Programme, participating countries are expected to provide different contributions in kind to the EUFORGEN networks of their greatest concern and interest.

Countries have committed themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of their forest genetic resources through signing Resolution 2 and other international conventions. EUFORGEN is a mechanism of Resolution 2 for implementing international cooperation and it recognizes that decisions on forest genetic resources, their management and financing, are entirely under the responsibility of the national programmes. One of the outputs of the Programme would be to provide guidance for the development of national policies in the field of forest genetic resources. Within the available funding possibilities, provision of adequate resources for the agreed work on forest genetic resources will be encouraged at a national level.

Table 1. European countries and their membership in EUFORGEN

Country	Member since	Annual Contribution
Albania		2000
Austria	July 1995	10000
Belarus	May 1995	5000
Belgium	January 1995	10000
Bulgaria		5000
Croatia	November 1994	5000
Cyprus		2000
Czech Republic	December 1993	5000
Denmark	May 1994	10000
Estonia		5000
Finland	June 1994	10000
France	December 1993	30000
Germany		30000
Greece		5000
Hungary	September 1995	5000
Iceland		2000
Ireland		5000
Italy	October 1995	30000
Latvia	October 1994	5000
Liechtenstein		2000
Lithuania	October 1994	5000
Luxembourg		5000
FYR of Macedonia		2000
Malta	April 1995	2000
Moldova	May 1995	5000
Monaco	December 1993	2000
Netherlands	April 1994	10000
Norway	June 1994	5000
Poland	February 1995	5000
Portugal	March 1994	5000
Romania		5000
Russia		30000

Country	Member since	Annual Contribution
Slovakia	November 1995	5000
Slovenia		5000
Spain	September 1995	10000
Sweden	May 1995	10000
Switzerland	March 1994	10000
Turkey		5000
Ukraine	September 1994	10000
UK		30000

Table 2. Estimated budget (*per annum* in US\$)

	US\$
Staff (appointed by IPGRI)	
Coordinator (associate scientist)	80,000
Secretary (1/3 time)	15,000
Network meetings	68,000
Steering Committee meetings (2 in phase I)	15,000
Travel (secretariat)	13,000
Communications and contingencies	9,000
Publications	14,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>214,000</b>
Overhead (13%)	28,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>242,000</b>

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