EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME

EUFORGEN

Report of the Sixth Steering Committee meeting

Thessaloniki, Greece
9-12 June 2009

Summary of the meeting
Technical and financial reports (Phase III)
EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014)

Bioversity International

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1. Summary of the sixth EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting Thessaloniki, Greece, 9-12 June 2009

1.1. Opening of the meeting

A. Drouzas opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He then delivered a welcome address on behalf of K. Kiltidis, Vice Minister of the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food, who was unable to attend the opening of the meeting. A. Drouzas continued by introducing N. Papagiannopoulos, Vice Mayor of Thessaloniki for Environmental Affairs, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Municipality of Thessaloniki. He highlighted tree planting and other environmental activities of the Municipality.

M. Arsenakis, Chair of the School of Biology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, welcomed the participants and presented some activities of the School of Biology relevant to the work of EUFORGEN. F. Aravanopoulos did the same on behalf of P. Stefanidis, Chair of the School of Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. I. Makedos also welcomed the participants on behalf of A. Tsakistraki, Director of the Regional Forest Service of Central Macedonia.

J. Turok then welcomed the participants on behalf of Bioversity International[1] and thanked the local organizers for the meeting arrangements. He emphasized the relevance of the work carried out by EUFORGEN for the ongoing global climate change debate. O. Souvannavong, FAO Forestry Department, also delivered a brief welcome address highlighting the role of EUFORGEN activities and their importance for the FAO work on forest genetic resources (FGR) at a global level.

All participants then briefly introduced themselves. After the opening session, A. Drouzas, J. Turok and J. Koskela were interviewed by the Greek TV Channel ET3.

1.2. Session 1 (Chair Bjerne Ditlevsen)

J. Koskela welcomed the participants on behalf of the EUFORGEN Secretariat and introduced the meeting agenda, which was amended and adopted. B. Ditlevsen, F. Lefèvre, M. Rusanen, J. Hubert, S. de Vries and T. Skrøppa agreed to chair Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively. M. Bozzano, L. Koop and J. Koskela were nominated as rapporteurs of the meeting.

1.2.1. Update to the MCPFE process

On behalf of the Liaison Unit Oslo, T. Skrøppa gave a presentation on the MCPFE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) process and its achievements. As a high-level forest policy process, MCPFE addresses common opportunities and challenges related to forests and forestry in Europe. It also develops policies for sustainable forest management. He noted that the

[1] Bioversity International, Bioversity for short, is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP).

main achievements of the MCPFE process include creation of a solid platform for pan-European cooperation and development of a conceptual frame for sustainable forest management in Europe. He then briefly highlighted the structure of the MCPFE process and its milestones from the first Ministerial Conference in Strasbourg in 1990 to the fifth one held in Warsaw in 2007.

T. Skrøppa continued by presenting the Warsaw Declaration and the two Warsaw Resolutions made in 2007. He stressed that, as part of the Warsaw Declaration, the ministers responsible for forests had reinforced their commitment to conserve and enhance FGR as part of sustainable forest management. He then presented the new MCPFE Work Programme, which was developed in 2008 to implement the Warsaw ministerial commitments and to analyze the strategic direction of the MCPFE process. He noted that the continued work of EUFORGEN and the establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS) are included in the new Work Programme as international activities supportive to the follow-up of the Warsaw Conference. For the next two years, the focus of the MCPFE process will be on its strategic direction and political priorities, such as climate change. Finally, T. Skrøppa emphasized that the MCPFE process welcomes EUFORGEN to provide its inputs and contributions for informed decisions on issues of political priority. The next Ministerial Conference will probably be organized in Oslo in 2011 and by then, the MCPFE process and the participating countries have to make decisions on the strategic direction of the MCPFE collaboration in the future.

The Steering Committee then discussed the MCPFE commitments and their implications for the EUFORGEN activities. The Steering Committee welcomed the invitation of the MCPFE process to contribute to relevant issues of political priority and recommended that EUFORGEN should continue actively providing its inputs to the MCPFE process. The use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the face of climate change were highlighted as important issues that need to be addressed urgently as one of the relevant issues. The Steering Committee also reiterated its earlier decision that EUFORGEN is keen to provide its contributions on this to the MCPFE process. Regarding the earlier inputs of the Steering Committee in 2007 to the draft Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation, several members of the Steering Committee expressed their discontent with the final wording of the document adopted by the MPCFE process in 2008, in particular its strong emphasis on the use of native tree species and local reproductive material without considering the impacts of climate change.

1.2.2. Review of EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009)

J. Koskela presented the technical report for 2007-2008 and the financial report for 2005-2008 (see page 17). He started by revisiting the recommendations of the fifth Steering Committee meeting, held in Novo mesto, Slovenia on 22-24 May 2007 and continued by presenting the membership situation. He noted that EUFORGEN has a total of 31 member countries and that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia and Moldova are no longer considered as member countries owing to their multi-year outstanding financial contributions.

Concerning other outstanding financial contributions until 2008 (i.e. Belgium (Flemish Region), Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Switzerland), he informed the Steering Committee that Serbia and Switzerland paid their outstanding contributions in early 2009, and that Italy and Belgium (Flemish Region) have already taken action to provide their outstanding contributions as soon as possible. Following the request made by the Steering Committee in 2007, he then presented draft membership rules for further discussion. He also highlighted the inputs EUFORGEN has provided to the MCPFE process, Network activities, documentation efforts (e.g. data collection for the MCPFE report) and publications and public awareness material produced. He presented the financial report for 2005-2008 and explained in detail the development of the financial situation of the Programme, including the impact of the US Dollar-Euro exchange rates.

The Steering Committee then discussed in detail the draft membership rules. The discussion on this issue continued during the third day of the meeting. As a result, the Steering Committee adopted the following membership rules for Phase IV of EUFORGEN.

Similarly to the earlier phases, individual countries formally join Phase IV by signing a Letter of Agreement with Bioversity International for participation in EUFORGEN. The annual financial contribution to be made by a country is specified in this agreement. Once a country has joined Phase IV, it should pay its annual financial contribution during a given calendar year. Should countries have difficulty in providing their financial contributions, they should inform the Secretariat as soon as possible. If a country fails to provide its financial contribution before December, it has time until June the following year to provide the outstanding financial contribution. If a country has outstanding contributions after this, it will be no longer considered as a member of EUFORGEN. Countries with outstanding financial contributions are welcome to re-join Phase IV. However, they are expected to provide their outstanding financial contributions before they are recognized again as member countries. Under the new rules, which will be applied starting from January 2010, countries' outstanding contributions are thus capped to a maximum of 1.5 years.

Regarding the outstanding financial contributions of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (US$ 8,800), Georgia (US$ 8,800) and Moldova (US$ 8,800) for Phase III (until 2008), the Steering Committee acknowledged the difficulties these countries have been experiencing and welcomed them to re-join EUFORGEN. It was decided that these three countries are expected to provide their outstanding financial contributions for two years (US$ 4,400) together with the first annual financial contribution for Phase IV before they are recognized again as member countries. This was agreed in order to cover the expenses incurred by their representatives attending EUFORGEN meetings in 2005-2006.

Concerning the outstanding financial contributions for Phase II (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (US$ 6,000) and Malta (US$ 2,000)), the Steering Committee decided to write-off these outstanding financial contributions.

The Steering Committee then adopted the technical and financial reports provided by the EUFORGEN Coordinator.

1.3. Session 2 (Chair: François Lefèvre)

1.3.1. Updates on the EUFORGEN Network activities

J. Hubert, Chair of the Forest Management Network, briefed the meeting on several outputs the Network is currently finalizing based on its recent activities. Firstly, the Network is developing a publication on genetic aspects of forest management targeted at managers and policy-makers. This short publication will highlight the role of regeneration methods (natural and artificial) in shaping the genetic structure of a stand and the genetic consequences of the subsequent silvicultural chain. Climate change considerations will also be included in this publication. In addition, the Network is preparing a review on the existing climate change strategies in different countries to summarize their recommendations for the use of forest genetic resources. It will be published as a four-page leaflet for the benefit of other countries.

The Network is also preparing two chapters for a cross-Network publication on forest management and forest genetic resources. The inputs of the Forest Management Network include 1) the survey results on relevant policies and practices related to gene conservation and forest management, and 2) the survey results on tools to promote the use of high quality forest reproductive material in Europe. The second chapter will also include the findings of a working group which collected examples of inappropriate use of forest reproductive material. This publication is being developed together with the other Networks.

B. Fady, Chair of the Conifers Network, then reported on the EUFORGEN activities on conifers. The Conifers Network, like the other species Networks, has been developing "common action plans", i.e. pan-European networks of selected gene conservation units for various tree species. This work has promoted implementation of practical gene conservation in different countries and greatly increased common understanding on minimum requirements for such units and how they should be managed. The Conifers Network has been collecting data on the gene conservation units for four groups of conifers:

- Group 1: stand-forming/widespread species (*Picea abies, Pinus halepensis/brutia,*)
- Group 2: scattered/widespread (*Taxus baccata*)
- Group 3: rare/threatened (*P. nigra* ecotypes, Mediterranean *Abies* spp.)
- Group 4: exotic conifers (*Picea sitchensis*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

B. Fady summarized the information on the gene conservation units selected so far and displayed their geographical location together with the species' distribution maps. He further reported that the Network is also finalizing new Technical Guidelines for eight conifer species and a chapter on genetic consequences of seed harvesting in conifers for the cross-Network publication.

M. Bozzano then reported on the activities of the Scattered Broadleaves Network on behalf of B. de Cuyper (Chair) who was unable to attend the meeting. The Network is developing the common action plans for the following three groups of species:

- Group 1: *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Prunus avium*
- Group 2: *Populus nigra* and *Ulmus laevis*
- Group 3: *Pyrus pyraster* and *Sorbus torminalis*

During its third meeting in 2008, the three working groups of the Network discussed in detail the proposed units submitted by country representatives. The Network had also prepared a background document on genetic monitoring of the gene conservation units. This document was presented to the Steering Committee later on during Session 2 for further discussion. M. Bozzano informed that the Network is finalizing new Technical Guidelines for three species and that it has also developed public awareness leaflets for *Malus-Pyrus*, *Populus nigra*, *P. alba* and *Ulmus* spp. He further mentioned that the input of the Network to the cross-Network publication is a chapter on the use of genetic resources of scattered broadleaves in forest restoration in Europe.

The fourth update was presented by G. von Wühlisch, Chair of the Stand-forming Broadleaves Network. He reported the progress made in developing the common action plans for the following groups of stand-forming broadleaves species:

- Group 1: *Castanea sativa*, *Fagus* spp., *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*
- Group 2: *Betula pendula* and *Populus tremula*
- Group 3: xerophyllous oaks (*Quercus pubescens*, *Q.cerris* and *Q. frainetto*)
- Group 4: evergreen oaks (*Quercus suber* and *Q. coccifera*)
- Group 5: minor and rare oak species

He also noted that the Network is finalizing 12 new Technical Guidelines for stand-forming broadleaves and two case studies for the cross-Network publication (one on the use of provenances with emphasis on the effects of transfer of forest reproductive material and another on genetic consequences of silvicultural practices on beech).

The Steering Committee acknowledged the work done by all the Networks and encouraged them to finalize their ongoing activities by the end of 2009. It was briefly also discussed whether the Forest Management Network, established specifically for Phase III, had been successful in promoting better integration of FGR conservation into forest management practices. It was noted that the Network has produced useful outputs and stimulated discussion in this regard at national and regional levels. The fact that many countries found it difficult, if not impossible, to nominate practical forest managers as country representatives was again discussed. This issue was also discussed during the previous Steering Committee meeting in 2007. It was concluded that the Network could not have carried out its work if all members of the Network had been practical managers. J. Hubert noted that the mixture of scientists, policy-makers and managers as Network members ensured lively discussion at the meetings and facilitated analyses of various problems related to FGR and forest management in different countries.

1.3.2. European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS)

J. Koskela presented an update to the recent activities of the EUFGIS project (Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources), which is being implemented in close collaboration with EUFORGEN and its member countries. The project is co-funded by the European Commission (50% of the total budget) under Council Regulation No 870/2004 on genetic resources in agriculture (DG Agriculture) and it will last until September 2010.

As of May 2009, a total of 35 countries have nominated their national focal points to EUFGIS (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom). In October 2007, the project organized a workshop in Denmark to discuss FGR documentation in Europe. The workshop also identified future needs in this area and made recommendations for the development of the EUFGIS information system. An expert group, consisting of representatives of the EUFORGEN Networks and FAO, then started to develop pan-European minimum requirements and data standards for dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees. J. Koskela also mentioned that the draft Memorandum of Understanding for sharing and using the national data will be sent to the National Coordinators for further comments and signature in autumn 2009.

He continued by providing some details on the minimum requirements and the data standards. The minimum requirements serve as a check list for the national focal points while they are selecting gene conservation units to be entered into the information system. The units should have a designated status as gene conservation areas of forest trees at national level. They can be located in forests managed for multiple uses, protected areas or seed stands. The units should also have a basic forest management plan and gene conservation recognized as a major management goal. The data standards define what information on the units the national focal points should provide for the information system. The data on the gene conservation units will be collected at unit level and species levels. J. Koskela informed the meeting that the intranet and database part of the information system were finalized in early 2009 and currently the online information system (or the EUFGIS portal) is being developed.

In spring 2009, the project organized four sub-regional training workshops (in Vienna, Ljubljana, Avignon and Copenhagen) to help the national focal points compile national data sets and to upload the data, via intranet, to the information system. The national focal points are now carrying out their work, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2009. After that, the national focal points will continue to update changes and upload data on new units, as needed. Currently the information system contains data on 1020 gene conservation units in 30 countries. The EUFGIS portal will be launched at the final project meeting, which will be held in Vienna in mid-2010.

M. Bozzano then gave a short online demonstration of the EUFGIS intranet. He showed how the national focal points can upload the data and view the location of the units on a map. He also displayed the location of all units entered so far across Europe.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the project and the national focal points in developing the information system. Several National Coordinators also highlighted their own positive experiences while participating in the project activities and pointed out that, once launched, the information system will be a very useful tool for future FGR conservation and research efforts. The Steering Committee agreed that the EUFGIS information system will be maintained and further developed as part of EUFORGEN Phase IV.

1.3.3. Canadian Forest Genetic Resources Information System (CAFGRIS)

J. Loo gave a presentation on the Canadian Forest Genetic Resources Information System (CAFGRIS), which is a component of Canada's National Forest Information System (NFIS). CAFGRIS provides information on the status and gene conservation of native tree species in Canada. The prototype of the information system was developed in 2005-2006 and it was further improved in 2006-2009. CAFGRIS provides information on native tree species' biology and ecology as well as threats to the species (e.g. alien invasive species and environmental change). It also includes results of a survey which identified native tree species of concern across Canada and genetic diversity data for species in need of conservation. Assessment of the current gene conservation status of the tree species is based on data on protected areas, progeny and provenance tests and seed banks. The information system can also be used for predicting potentially suitable habitats of the tree species and their populations under various climate change scenarios. CAFGRIS contains more detailed information from British Columbia than from other provinces but new information is being added through the Canadian Program for Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources (CONFORGEN). Summarized data is available as text, graphs and tables for public use. More information on the information system is available at the NFIS website (https://cfsnet.nfis.org/cafgris/index.html).

1.3.4. Development of methods for genetic monitoring of gene conservation units

F. Aravanopoulos presented a background document on the development of methods for genetic monitoring for gene conservation units. The document was prepared by a working group of the Scattered Broadleaves Network. He first gave an overview of the international agreements and conventions dealing with the topic and explained that "genetic monitoring" is defined as the quantification of temporal changes in population genetics and dynamics metrics, generated using appropriate parameters. The aim of genetic monitoring is to assess the current status of genetic resources and quantify relevant changes. He pointed out that the debate on genetic monitoring has continued for almost 20 years, in particular as part of efforts to develop various criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

He then presented the proposed approach, which focuses specifically on the dynamic gene conservation units and key (model) tree species. The thinking behind the approach is that it should be applicable to any tree species and that sampling within the units should be easy and straightforward. The proposed monitor method is based on three indicators: (1) natural selection; 2) genetic drift; and 3) gene flow), and their verifiers: (1) age class distribution; percentage of filled seeds, percentage of germination and regeneration; 2) effective population size; and 3) outcrossing/inbreeding rate, respectively). He noted that the method has a much lower number of verifiers (6) as compared to earlier presented schemes (12-21). He concluded that the scientific community should agree on a minimum level of measurable parameters. The method presented is based on a minimum set of highly informative and relevant parameters for the gene conservation units, which should be primary targets for genetic monitoring.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the efforts made by the working group and recommended that EUFORGEN should further elaborate on the presented approach for genetic monitoring of the gene conservation units. It was stressed that additional financial resources are needed for testing the final monitoring approach before large-scale data collection. It was also noted that a genetic monitoring system is needed as an early warning system and to ease communication to policy-makers who want to know if the status of gene conservation is getting better or not. It was further suggested that the genetic monitoring system should include climate change considerations and take into account adaptive traits.

1.4. Session 3 (Chair: Mari Rusanen)

1.4.1. State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report

O. Souvannavong provided an update on the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report. FAO is now planning the development process of the report that will be implemented in 2010-2013. He informed the meeting that all countries will be asked to contribute and provide relevant data and information. He then presented the draft outline of the report and the approach that will be used to gather the data. He invited all National Coordinators to comment the document describing the planned process and the outline of the report, which will be an important milestone for future FGR work at a global level. The document also includes a tentative list of thematic studies, which will be included in the report. The National Coordinators should send their comments on the document directly to O. Souvannavong (Oudara.Souvannavong(a$t)fao.org) with a copy to the EUFORGEN Secretariat.

The Steering Committee welcomed the efforts made by FAO to initiate the development of the SoW-FGR report. The meeting participants also made several comments and asked questions to O. Souvannavong. Firstly, it was noted that the term "forest genetic resources" should be clarified in the document, i.e. what species will be covered by the report. Secondly, several National Coordinators asked to whom the report is targeted and suggested that it should be targeted to policy-makers and politicians. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the document makes little reference to climate and land use changes and their impacts on conservation and use of FGR.

It was stressed that data standards and harmonization are crucial for this global effort, which will establish a baseline for future actions, and that the data needs to be comparable across different countries and regions. Several National Coordinators expressed their concern about increasing reporting requirements at national level and wanted to know exactly what data and information FAO will ask the countries to provide. O. Souvannavong clarified that minimum data requirements and country reporting guidelines were still under development. FAO is planning to use a "modular country reporting" approach in which more advanced countries will provide more detailed data. He also noted that he had discussed tentative reporting requirements with the EUFORGEN Secretariat. He further clarified that regional syntheses will be developed based on the country reports to highlight key issues in different parts of the world. He concluded that one purpose of the report is to mobilize action at country level to enhance conservation and use of FGR.

The Steering Committee agreed that it is important that EUFORGEN and all countries contribute to the development of the SoW-FGR report. It also recommended that while EUFORGEN is developing its own European report on the status of FGR, all possible measures should be done to synchronize the reporting requirements with the FAO requirements to minimize countries' reporting burden and to avoid duplication of efforts.

1.4.2. Access and exclusive rights to forest genetic resources in the Nordic region

T. Skrøppa gave a presentation on a new project, titled as "Searching for appropriate legislation regulating access and exclusive rights to forest genetic resources in the Nordic countries". This one-year project was developed following a declaration on access and rights to genetic resources in the Nordic countries made by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2003. The project started in June 2009 and its overall aim is to clarify whether it is necessary and possible to take legal steps to ensure that FGR remain in the public domain. The project will review international legislation and issues that are relevant to access and rights to FGR as well as the specific situation and legislation in each of the Nordic countries.

The Steering Committee expressed its interest in the initiative and recommended that the final outcomes of the project will be circulated to the National Coordinators in 2010. It was also noted that access and benefit sharing issues on FGR are increasingly being discussed in different countries and within various European projects.

1.4.3. Canadian Program for Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources

J. Loo gave a presentation on the Canadian Program for Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources (CONFORGEN), which was initiated in 2006 by scientists of the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) after discussions with a broad array of stakeholders. In 2003, a CFS survey indicated that 60% (75 species) of trees identified in one province or territory either required some level of gene conservation, or additional information was required to determine the need for gene conservation efforts. The survey also revealed that the work on FGR conservation was fragmented, with strong programmes underway in some provinces but little cooperation across provincial borders and no national coordination. CONFORGEN thus aims to coordinate information sharing, strategy development and priority setting on FGR conservation across provincial boundaries.

The structure of CONFORGEN includes a Steering Committee (represented by all provinces, one territory and First Nations), a Secretariat (at CFS), a Standing Technical Committee (consisting of university and government scientists) and technical subcommittees for various tasks (e.g. gap analysis, conservation, guidelines, assisted migration and organizing an annual forum). The objectives of CONFORGEN are 1) to promote conservation of genetic resources of native tree species; 2) to define pan-Canadian science-based guidelines for conservation of genetic resources of native tree species in all aspects of sustainable management; 3) to monitor and report consistently on genetic resources of native tree species in support of Canada's national and international commitments; and 4) to identify emerging issues and highlight research priorities. She mentioned that the ongoing activities include the development of the CAFGRIS information system (see above), a survey on the status of the country's forest tree genetic resources (to be followed by gap analysis based on the survey data), development guidelines for FGR conservation and assisted migration in the face of climate. She further noted that while CONFORGEN was being developed, CFS had collaborated with the EUFORGEN Secretariat to learn the lessons from the pan-European collaboration on FGR.

The meeting participants made several comments and asked J. Loo questions. It was noted that assisted migration through transfer of forest reproductive material to facilitate adaptation to climate change is recognized as an important issue by both CONFORGEN and EUFORGEN. It was also asked whether inventories of genetic diversity have been used for developing gene conservation strategies for forest trees in Canada. J. Loo replied that this has been done for some tree species only and that there is a lack of genetic diversity studies for most rare and endangered tree species. She also noted that invasive tree species are not a major problem in Canada, unlike pest and diseases (e.g. chestnut plight and emerald ash borer). Regarding the practical implementation of FGR conservation, she mentioned that the approach based gene conservation units has been considered in Canada and that so far FGR conservation relies on what is found within national parks, reserves and other protected areas.

It was concluded that collaboration with CONFORGEN should be kept on the agenda of future Steering Committee meetings and that the two programmes should continue sharing information and ideas. Furthermore, several issues were indentified for possible future collaboration. These include climate change and FGR, development of genetic criteria and indicators (C&I), and conservation and use of genetic resources of North American conifer species, many of which are important for forestry in several European countries.

1.5. Session 4 (Chair: Jason Hubert)

1.5.1. Review of the Phase IV proposal

J. Koskela briefly presented a draft proposal for Phase IV (2010-2014) of EUFORGEN, which was made available as a background document before the meeting. The development of the proposal was initiated in March 2009 with a survey on the achievements and the future role of EUFORGEN. Based on the results of the survey, a small working group of National Coordinators (Davorin Kajba (Croatia), Bjerne Ditlevsen (Denmark), Bernd Degen (Germany), Ricardo Alía (Spain), Hasan Özer (Turkey) and Jason Hubert (United Kingdom)), in collaboration with the Secretariat, continued brainstorming and developed the draft proposal for further discussion at this meeting.

J. Hubert suggested bringing forward the discussion on the Phase IV budget and having it after the introduction, mandate and the scope. The mode of operation and the objectives were then reviewed after the budget discussion. He also affirmed to the Steering Committee members on the importance of giving precise and short comments so that all chapters could be reviewed during Session 4, in order to help the Secretariat to prepare a revised proposal for final discussion on the following day (Session 5).

J. Hubert invited comments on the “Introduction” and “Mandate” chapters of the proposal. It was noted that the Warsaw Declaration and the new MCPFE Work Programme give a clear mandate for Phase IV together with the earlier MCPFE resolutions and other relevant international agreements. No specific comments were made and the two chapters were adopted without changes.

Under the “Scope” chapter, it was agreed that climate change and its implications for forest management (in particular for the use of forest reproductive material) and conservation of forest genetic resources should be the main issues to be addressed during Phase IV. The importance of integrating FGR conservation and use into relevant national policies and strategies was also stressed. J. Hubert noted that the chapter is rather long and suggested that it could be shortened during the final editing, if possible. No additional comments were made.

J. Turok then presented a draft budget for Phase IV totalling USD 2,117,055 (USD 1,864,538 during Phase III) on behalf of the EUFORGEN Secretariat. He noted that the proposed budget is based on the same Bioversity staff time allocation as during Phase III (Coordinator 100%, Programme Specialist 50% and Programme Assistant 50%) but with annual inflation and performance increases included in the budget. The Secretariat staff travel costs are at the same level as during the ongoing phase. The earlier budget lines for Network meetings have been changed to expert group meetings and workshops. The estimated meeting costs include inflation adjustments for travel and accommodation. He mentioned that the proposed budget includes a new line for the maintenance and further development of EUFGIS (USD 10,000 per year in 2011-2014, and an additional USD 40,000 for a meeting of the national focal points in 2012). He further explained that Bioversity will apply the same reduced overhead (13%) as during Phase III and noted that the standard overhead of Bioversity International is 25% for restricted grants.

J. Turok continued by presenting new annual financial contributions for all potential member countries. The Secretariat proposed a 15% increase for the membership fees in all categories (the current membership fees were adopted in May 2004). In total, the suggested financial contributions of the member countries for Phase IV would be USD 2,117,438. The ranking of the countries is based on the UN Scale of Assessments which has been applied during all earlier phases of EUFORGEN. He concluded that the annual financial contributions can be converted into Euros, should the Steering Committee decide so, but the budget would need to be kept in US Dollars for accounting purposes, as it is the accounting currency used by Bioversity as an international organization. The proposed adjustment of 15% aims at maintaining the purchasing power of the new budget, which would be otherwise reduced due to the costs of inflation and currency-exchange losses over of the past 5 years.

The Steering Committee then discussed in detail the proposed budget and financial contributions. Regarding the budget, many National Coordinators pointed out that the overall coordination costs should be better explained as their relative share of the budget is higher than during Phase III. It was recognized that the Secretariat does not only coordinate activities but also provides significant technical inputs as well as representing the Programme at various events, meetings and processes. Others noted that as the Network meetings were proposed to be replaced by smaller expert group meetings and workshops, it is obvious that the share of the Secretariat costs from the total budget has increased. Several National Coordinators noted that the Secretariat has been carrying out its tasks well and delivered good outputs. They also stressed that the Programme needs an active and efficient Secretariat in the future. However, many National Coordinators felt that the overall budget for Phase IV should be reduced. Regarding the Secretariat staff costs, J. Turok clarified that these are fixed costs, bound by staff contracts of 3-5 years and linked to standard categories set by Bioversity International. It was agreed that the internal allocation of the budget needs to be revised by separating the scientific and technical inputs of the Secretariat from the coordination costs. Several National Coordinators also requested the Secretariat to prepare two budget options, i.e. one based on the expert groups and another one continuing with two Networks (see discussion on the mode of operation below).

Concerning the proposed financial contributions of the member countries for Phase IV, many National Coordinators explained that the ongoing financial crisis and subsequent budgetary constraints in many countries make it difficult to obtain official approval for an increase in the membership contribution. They also suggested that the present financial contributions in each category should be kept the same for Phase IV or at least in the first year of the new phase. However, several others (i.e. Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey) informed that they had already received official approval for the increased financial contribution (by 15%) or that it is likely that the increase would be approved. It was pointed out that the ranking of the countries is based on the UN Scale of Assessment (2007-2009), adopted in 2006, which will be reviewed and updated by the UN this year. J. Koskela said that the new UN Scale of Assessment for 2010-2012 will be available in January 2010 and that the ranking of the countries will be then revised, as needed. He also noted that, in the current ranking, only Poland and Portugal have changed their category as compared to Phase III.

The Steering Committee decided that US Dollar will be kept as the currency for both the new budget and the financial contributions for Phase IV. It was concluded that the Secretariat should prepare a revised budget proposal (two options depending on the mode of operation) for further discussion on the following day.

The meeting then discussed the new mode of operation outlined in the Phase IV proposal. Many National Coordinators were in favour of the new mode of operation based on expert groups to carry out specific tasks. The expert groups would report their findings to the Steering Committee and workshops would be used for disseminating the results to a broader group of stakeholders and developing further action and recommendations. It was noted that this approach would also allow the Steering Committee to better monitor the progress made and guide the development of new activities. On the other hand, several National Coordinators also stressed that networking is still important and that the contacts building on the EUFORGEN Networks should not be lost. It was also stressed that exchanging ideas and brainstorming with colleagues from different countries during Network meetings is useful for enhancing FGR conservation at national level. As an alternative to the expert groups, it was suggested that the mode of operation during Phase IV could be build on two networks, one on forest management related issues (Objective 1) and another on FGR conservation (Objective 2).

Several National Coordinators raised their concerns about who qualifies as an "expert" and how the expert groups will be nominated while ensuring wide participation of countries from different parts of Europe. It was clarified that the expert groups should also include persons with practical experience on FGR conservation and not only scientists. It was agreed that the expert groups will be called "working groups" to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding. The final decision on the new mode of operation (working groups versus networks) was postponed to the following day to be discussed together with the revised budget.

It was agreed that the new membership rules will be added to the chapter on the mode of operation in the draft proposal. A few minor comments were made on the text on the role of National Coordinators and the Steering Committee. It was also discussed whether the Steering Committee should select a Chair but it was decided that there is no need for such a position. It was further agreed that the Steering Committee will meet three times during Phase IV. A proposal was made to develop specific Terms of Reference for National Coordinators but it was concluded that the role of the National Coordinators is described well enough as part of the mode of operation.

Regarding the tasks of the EUFORGEN Secretariat, it was suggested to add the maintenance of the EUFGIS portal as one of the tasks. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Management Committee will be renamed the "Advisory Committee" to better describe its role.

The Steering Committee agreed with the three objectives presented in the draft proposal for Phase IV. However, it was recommended that the areas of work described under each objective should be merged into three or four major areas of work. Additional comments were also made to improve the wording of the text. It was agreed that a detailed workplan with specific activities, timeframes and expected outputs will be developed by the Steering Committee at its next meeting, which will be organized in early 2010.

1.6. Session 5 (Chair: Sven de Vries)

1.6.1. Collaboration with the European Union

J. Turok presented a potential strategy for collaboration between EUFORGEN and the European Union. He gave an overview of the relevant EU institutions and policy areas, and analyzed the goals of EUFORGEN in the context of the EU policy making. He concluded by suggesting next steps to initiate a process to influence the development of the relevant EU policies.

It was noted that FGR related issues are handled in a rather fragmented way within the European Commission. Several National Coordinators stressed that it would be important for the Steering Committee to approach the Standing Forestry Committee to highlight the importance of FGR conservation and use as part of sustainable forest management. The need to develop guidelines for transferring forest reproductive material under climate change was also mentioned as an important issue to be communicated to the Standing Forestry Commission. The Working Party on Forestry of the Council of the European Union was highlighted as another important body to raise awareness about FGR issues, ongoing collaboration in this area and its potential to contribute to the broader policy agenda on forests. It was noted that the Working Party developed the EU statement for the 16th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry, held in March 2009. The statement highlighted the role of EUFORGEN and EUFGIS in providing European inputs to the SoW-FGR report.

It was agreed that National Coordinators in the EU Member States should actively keep their country's representative in the Standing Forestry Committee informed about the EUFORGEN activities. It was agreed that a small task force (F. Wolter, T. Geburek, A. Drouzas, F. Lefèvre, J. Turok and J. Koskela) will continue brainstorming ideas and issues to be presented to the Standing Forestry Committee.

Regarding other funding opportunities, C. Mátyás informed the meeting about the possibility of obtaining research funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the USA. He mentioned that a new research focus centre was established in Sopron in May 2009 for the EURASIA Mediterranean and Atlantic influence areas. He agreed to investigate possible funding opportunities and inform the Steering Committee accordingly.

1.6.2. Review of the Phase IV proposal (continued)

Following outcomes of the previous session, J. Turok presented two budget options for further discussion. Option 1 was based on working groups and workshops as the mode of operation and Option 2 on two Networks. The total budgets were USD 2,023,830 and 2,022,700 for Option 1 and Option 2, respectively. He also explained how the Secretariat staff costs were allocated between coordination, scientific and technical inputs, and dissemination of information and publications. J. Koskela further clarified additional cost reductions included in the two options as compared to the first draft budget. The expected financial commitments from the present 31 member countries and from potential new member countries were also presented based on the existing categories of the annual financial contributions with no increase. The member countries are expected to contribute a total of USD 1,841,250 during Phase IV while the potential contributions from new member countries amount to USD 304,250. The average annual budget during Phase IV is subsequently about USD 37,000 negative in both budget options (without including the potential contributions from new member countries).

The meeting then continued the discussion on the mode of operation during Phase IV, i.e. whether the EUFORGEN activities would be carried out through small working groups (or experts groups) and workshops, or through two Networks. Several questions were made regarding the nomination of national resource persons (or experts) and how the working groups would be established. Benefits and constraints of both options were also debated intensively. As the Steering Committee was not able to reach a decision by consensus, it voted between the two approaches. As a result of the vote, 15 National Coordinators supported the approach based on the working groups (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and UK) and ten National Coordinators supported the Network approach (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia).

It was concluded that the EUFORGEN activities will be carried out through working groups and workshops during Phase IV. It was agreed that the nomination and selection process of the resource persons (or experts) for the working groups will be better explained in the final version of the Phase IV document.

The discussion then moved back to the budget and the financial contributions. It was suggested that EUFORGEN meetings could be shorter in the future or conducted as video conferences, if possible, to further reduce the operating costs. J. Koskela expressed the commitment of the Secretariat to continue prudent management of the financial resources and explore ways to reduce the operating costs. However, he noted that, even with the proposed 15% adjustment to the annual financial contributions, the purchasing power of the new budget remains considerably lower as compared to the Phase III budget due to the weak US Dollar exchange rate against Euro. Regarding the annual financial contributions, several National Coordinators pointed out that countries approved a 17 % increase in the new budget of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) in 2008. ECPGR is a comparable international instrument also coordinated by Bioversity International.

In conclusion of the discussion, the Steering Committee adopted Option 1 for the Phase IV budget without the proposed 15% adjustment for the annual financial contributions. The Steering

Committee encouraged each National Coordinator to re-contact relevant authorities in their country and clarify the position regarding the proposed adjustment. It was agreed that possibilities for an adjustment will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Steering Committee in early 2010. In the meantime, the Secretariat will explore and prepare options to balance the gap between the expenditures and the financial contributions of the member countries. The gap could be partly filled by obtaining new member countries for EUFORGEN. Furthermore, any savings from Phase III will be carried forward to Phase IV.

J. Turok thanked the Steering Committee for the constructive feedback during the session. J. Koskela informed that, after the meeting, the Phase IV Working Group will prepare the final document for Phase IV based on the comments received and decisions made. The document will be circulated to the National Coordinators together with the summary report of the meeting for final comments.

The Letters of Agreement for countries to join EUFORGEN Phase IV will be sent out in October 2009.

1.7. Session 6

Due to lack of time, the discussion on emerging issues on FGR conservation and the project updates were cancelled. It was agreed that the project presentations will be made available through the website.

1.8. Wrap-up session (Chair: Sven de Vries)

The meeting recommendations and decisions were briefly revisited. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be organized in early 2010 to develop a more detailed work programme for Phase IV and to re-visit the budget implications and review membership contributions, if necessary.

F. Lefèvre offered to host the next meeting in France. It was also suggested that the Secretariat could organize the next meeting in Rome. It was agreed that the Secretariat will evaluate the two options and then select the most suitable venue and dates for the next meeting.

S. de Vries thanked the local organizers for the excellent meeting arrangements and the Working Group members for drafting the Phase IV proposal. He further thanked the Secretariat for all the preparations and the meeting participants for their contributions to the discussions. With no other business, he then closed the meeting.

2. Technical report (2007-2008) and financial report (2005-2008) of EUFORGEN Phase III[2]

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2.1. Introduction

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is a collaborative programme between European countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. It was established in October 1994 as an implementation mechanism for Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the first Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), held in Strasbourg in 1990. EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries and coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with FAO. The EUFORGEN activities are mainly carried out by experts from the member countries. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries and it has the overall responsibility of the Programme.

During Phase III[4], EUFORGEN has continued to operate under the MCPFE framework and it has also contributed to the implementation of Resolution V4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe) adopted by the fourth Ministerial Conference, held in Vienna in 2003. In 2004, the Steering Committee developed new objectives of the Programme for Phase III:

1. Promote practical implementation of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management;
2. Facilitate further development of methods to conserve genetic diversity of European forests; and
3. Collate and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.

Furthermore, the Steering Committee established a new thematic network (Forest Management Network) to promote better linkages between gene conservation efforts and forest management in Europe. It also restructured the previous species networks into Conifers Network, Scattered Broadleaves Network and Stand-forming Broadleaves Network. The Steering Committee also agreed to strengthen information management on forest genetic resources during Phase III.

This document provides highlights of the EUFORGEN activities during 2007-2008. It also includes a table of financial contributions provided by the member countries and a summary of expenditures during 2005-2008 (Annex 2, page 35). A similar report for 2005-2006 was presented to the Steering Committee at its fifth meeting held in Novo mesto, Slovenia on 22-24 May 2007. Other background documents of the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee provide additional information on the activities related to the MCPFE process and the EUFGIS project.

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[2] Presented at the sixth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, Thessaloniki, Greece, 9–12 June 2009
[3] With effect from 1 December 2006, IPGRI and INIBAP operate under the name "Bioversity International", Bioversity for short.
[4] Phase III (2005 –2009)

2.2. Progress made during 2007-2008

2.2.1. Implementation of relevant MCPFE Resolutions

The MCPFE Work Programme (2003) for the implementation of the Vienna Resolutions included three specific actions on forest genetic resources, 1) promotion of the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continuation of pan-European collaboration in this area through the EUFORGEN Networks, 2) an international capacity building programme on forest genetic resources to promote conservation and use of biological diversity for development, and 3) a workshop on the role of forest genetic diversity in improving adaptability of forests to climate change.

The fifth Ministerial Conference was held in Warsaw in 2007 and as part of the Warsaw Declaration, the Signatory States and the European Community agreed to 'maintain, conserve, restore and enhance the biological diversity of forests, including their genetic resources, through sustainable forest management'. A new Work Programme (2008) was subsequently developed and it now includes two specific actions on forest genetic resources that support the follow-up of the Warsaw Conference, 1) promotion of conservation and use of forest genetic resources through EUFORGEN to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe, and 2) establishment of a European information system on forest genetic resources (EUFGIS).

The following sub-chapters provide updates on the implementation of the above mentioned actions during 2007-2008. The workshop on forest genetic diversity and climate change was organized in 2006 and its outcomes were reported in the previous report for 2005-2006. They were also discussed by the Steering Committee in Slovenia in 2007.

2.2.2. Participation in EUFORGEN

As of 31 May 2009, EUFORGEN had a total of 31 member countries providing both technical and financial inputs to the Programme. A country is considered a member of EUFORGEN when it has signed the official Letter of Agreement to join the Programme and/or paid its annual financial contributions regularly. A country is no longer considered as a member of EUFORGEN if it fails to provide its financial contributions for two consecutive years and has not informed the Secretariat on reasons for the delay or when the outstanding contributions will be paid.

The current member countries include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia and Moldova are no longer considered as member countries because their financial contributions have been outstanding for several years and the countries have not informed the Secretariat about their plans to pay these contributions.

During 2007-2008, the Secretariat has continued the dialogue with potential new member countries (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia, Russian Federation and Ukraine) regarding their interest to join EUFORGEN. These efforts will be continued and the Secretariat will also inform potential new member countries about the decisions of the Steering Committee regarding a possible Phase IV (2010-2014).

2.2.3. Inputs to the MCPFE process

The Steering Committee recommended in 2004 that EUFORGEN should actively disseminate relevant information on forest genetic resources to policy makers and other stakeholders and, in particular, to the MCPFE process. Subsequently, the Steering Committee, the Secretariat and individual National Coordinators have continued to provide their inputs to the MCPFE Process.

In May 2007, the Steering Committee reviewed relevant parts of the draft Warsaw Declaration and the draft pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the Kyoto Protocol. The draft Warsaw Declaration did not include any specific reference to forest genetic resources and therefore the Steering Committee developed a proposal for amending the draft declaration. It also commented on the draft recommendations for afforestation and reforestation. These proposals were then submitted to the MCPFE process at an expert level meeting in June 2007. As a result, the Warsaw Declaration made reference to conserving and enhancing forest genetic resources through sustainable forest management. Another expert level meeting was held in Warsaw in September 2007 to finalise all documents for the Warsaw Conference but the delegates did not reach agreement regarding the draft recommendations for afforestation and reforestation. The MCPFE process finally adopted these recommendations in November 2008 but unfortunately, in the end, not many proposed amendments by EUFORGEN were included in the final document. The main reason for this was that the MCPFE process had developed the recommendations in collaboration with the PEBLDS process (Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy), which adopted the document already in October 2007.

In 2007, the Secretariat was asked by the Liaison Unit Warsaw to contribute to the development of two reports for the Warsaw Conference (‘*State of Europe’s Forests 2007*’ and ‘*Implementation of MCPFE Commitments. National and Pan-European Activities 2003-2007*’). For the first report, the Secretariat collected data on Indicator 4.6 (Area managed for conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ* gene conservation) and area managed for seed production) through the National Coordinators and Focal Points (in non-member countries). Some conclusions based on the two reports are presented later in this document under Chapter 2.4.1. During the Warsaw Conference in November 2007, EUFORGEN publications were distributed to the delegates and a poster was also displayed at the exhibition.

In January 2008, the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE process moved from Warsaw to Oslo, following the hand-over of the coordinating responsibility by Poland to Norway. The new Liaison Unit organized an expert level meeting in Oslo in May 2008 to discuss actions to implement the commitments of the Warsaw Conference. The Secretariat has established good links with the Liaison Unit Oslo. The EUFORGEN Coordinator also participated in the first meeting in Oslo and contributed to the development of a new work programme. After the meeting, the new MCPFE Work Programme was finalized including the two actions on forest genetic resources.

EUFORGEN provided inputs to another MCPFE-related event in October 2008, i.e. the European Forest Week. One of the main events was organized jointly by FAO, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), MCPFE and the European Commission at the FAO headquarters in Rome. As part of the Rome gathering, the Secretariat organized a side event on adaptation of forest trees to climate change to highlight the importance of forest genetic resources in this process and to promote the work done by EUFORGEN. The recommendations of the workshop on climate change and forest genetic diversity, held in Paris in 2006, were presented during the side event. Furthermore, two presentations were delivered by the Chairs of the Conifers and Forest Management Networks (Bruno Fady (INRA-Avignon, France) and Jason Hubert (Forestry Commission, UK), respectively). The Secretariat also organised an exhibition booth during the European Forest Week.

2.3. Network activities

During 2007-2008, EUFORGEN had continued to operate through one thematic and three species networks (Forest Management, Conifers, Scattered Broadleaves and Stand-forming Broadleaves). A total of 101 experts from the member countries are participated in these Networks. The Forest Management Network had been focusing on promoting practical implementation of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management (Objective 1) and the species networks developed technical guidelines and gene conservation strategies for forest trees (Objective 2). All networks had contributed to making improved information available on forest genetic resources in Europe (Objective 3). Each Network followed its own work plan which was developed based on the objectives of Phase III and activities identified by the Steering Committee.

Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Networks have remained the same since the beginning of Phase III. The contributions made by the following persons and their dedication are gratefully acknowledged; Jason Hubert (United Kingdom) and Bjerne Ditlevsen (Denmark), Chair and Vice-Chair of the Forest Management Network; Bruno Fady (France), Chair of the Conifers Network; Bart De Cuyper (Belgium) and Berthold Heinze (Austria), Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scattered Broadleaves Network; and Georg von Wühlisch (Germany) and Alexis Ducousso (France), Chair and Vice-Chair of the Stand-forming Broadleaves Network.

The Steering Committee decided that the Forest Management Network would meet annually and the species networks three times during Phase III. A total of five Network meetings were held in 2007-2008 (Table 2.1) and two meetings were scheduled for 2009. The Inter-Network Group, i.e. Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Networks, met twice in 2007 and discussed their inputs to the EUFGIS project and other cross-cutting Network activities. The Secretariat is grateful for the help and inputs provided by all host countries and their institutions.

Table 2.1. EUFORGEN meetings during Phase III (2005-2009).

Network/Group	Meeting venue and date	No. of countries
Forest Management Network	1st meeting, Lambrecht, Germany, 3-5 November 2005 2nd meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 23-25 November 2006 3rd meeting, Rovaniemi, Finland, 27-29 November 2007 4th meeting, Leuven, Belgium, 4-6 November 2008 5th meeting, venue to be confirmed, Portugal, November 2009	23 20 24 21 To be held
Conifers Network	5th meeting, Larnaca, Cyprus, 7-9 April 2005 6th meeting, Reykjavik, Iceland, 7-9 September 2006 7th meeting, Sopron Hungary, 10-12 June 2008	25 25 24
Scattered Broadleaves Network	1st meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-14 May 2005 2nd meeting, Valkenburg, The Netherlands, 21-23 September 2006 3rd meeting, Skiphelle, Norway 20-22 May 2008	33 31 27
Stand-forming Broadleaves Network	1st meeting, Viterbo, Italy, 20-22 October 2005 2nd meeting, Novi Sad, Serbia, 27-29 June 2007 3rd meeting, Antalya, Turkey, 31 March-2 April 2009	28 23 23
Inter-Network Group	Inter-Network meeting, Novo mesto, Slovenia, 25 May 2007 Inter-Network meeting, Birkerød, Denmark, 22 October 2007	6 5
Steering Committee	5th meeting, Novo mesto, Slovenia, 22-24 May 2007 Phase IV Working Group, Rome, Italy, 28-29 April 2009 6th meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, 9-12 June 2009	29 5 29
MCPFE Workshop	Climate change and forest genetic diversity; Implications for sustainable forest management in Europe, Paris, France, 15-16 March 2006	26

The following chapters provide highlights of the Network activities during 2007-2008. The Chairs of the four Networks will also present their updates to the Steering Committee in Thessaloniki.

2.3.1. Forest Management Network

The Forest Management Network held its third meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland in November 2007. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in collaboration with the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) and the State Forest Service (Metsähallitus). The Network discussed the final outcomes of its earlier efforts, namely 1) a survey on policy tools to promote the use of high quality forest reproductive material, 2) a collection of examples on inappropriate use of forest reproductive material, and 3) a survey on relevant policies and practices related to gene conservation and forest management. The findings of these efforts will be reported in a thematic publication on forest management and forest genetic resources. This publication is being developed together with the species Networks.

The Network also discussed the use of forest reproductive material for energy plantations and other non-forestry purposes, such as hedges. It had collected some preliminary information from Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary and Ireland. The results of this pilot survey indicated that the annual area established for energy wood plantations is highest in Hungary (somewhere between 1,000 and

10,000 ha), while in other countries, the area is considerably lower. Poplars and willows are the most common tree species used for energy wood production. There is a national programme or strategy (or it is planned) for promoting the establishment of energy wood plantations in all the countries that provided the feedback, except in Belgium. In addition, all countries, except Austria, have a national grant programme supporting the establishment of energy wood plantations.

The role of forest genetic resources in adaptation of forests to climate change was also discussed in Rovaniemi based on presentations from the UK, France, Finland and the Netherlands. It was pointed out that extreme weather events, such as storms, will cause more damage to forests than slowly increasing average temperature. This will subsequently have implications for selecting what forest reproductive material or which tree species should be used in the areas prone to storms. The participants also raised several questions on the use of local material and how the existing stands will cope with climate change. Some participants mentioned that the use of local material is encouraged in their countries. Others stressed that using local material or promoting natural regeneration may not solve the problems because the existing material can be poorly adapted not only to the present climate, but also to the future one in a given site. The discussion concluded that both the use of genetic and species diversity help reduce the negative impacts of climate change on forests and that this message should be better communicated to forest managers.

The meeting included a seminar on forest management and forest genetic resources in northern Finland. The seminar presentations focused on problems in seed supply and forest regeneration, and reconciliation of forestry and other land uses in the state forests of Finnish Lapland.

The fourth meeting of the Forest Management Network was held in Leuven, Belgium in November 2008. It was hosted by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO). The Network reviewed the progress made in developing the cross-Network publication on forest management and forest genetic resources. The meeting also discussed a draft outline of another publication on genetics aspects of forest management which is targeted at managers and policy makers. This publication will discuss the role of the regeneration method (natural versus artificial) and then describe the genetic consequences of the subsequent silvicultural chain. The Network also agreed to include climate change considerations into the above mentioned topics.

In Leuven, the Network continued the discussion on climate change and its implications to the use of forest reproductive material. The participants also shared information on the climate change discussions in different countries. Some countries had already analysed various options for future use of forest reproductive material and identified key issues for further considerations in this regard. The Network decided to summarize these analyses and develop an overview of the options and issues for the benefit of other countries. A working group was set up for this task and it should present its findings as a four-page leaflet by the end of 2009.

The Network also discussed how to promote 'wise' use of forest reproductive material. As an example, the use of a new online tool was demonstrated. It was developed in Denmark to provide information and recommendations for selecting tree species and provenances for planting in different parts of the country (see www.plantevalg.dk). On the website, users can start by pointing at a planting site on the map and the tools then shows a more detailed map of the site and to which planting zone the site belongs to. The users may adjust the location of the indicated site and then continue by choosing one of three modules. The participants acknowledged that the online tool is very useful and that many of them would be keen to develop a similar tool in their own countries.

The meeting included a seminar on local forest management issues, such as delineation of provenance regions and production of planting stock to enhance genetic diversity of autochthonous tree populations. During the seminar, the participants also discussed how to reach practical forest managers and how to disseminate research findings and guidelines to them.

2.3.2. Conifers Network

The Network finalized minimum requirements for gene conservation units of conifers in 2007. Climate change considerations were included in the document, which encourages the creation of artificial gene conservation units farther north than the current distribution range of species to accelerate adaptation processes, as well as the relocation of southernmost and/or marginal populations demonstrating recent adaptation problems.

The Conifers Network also provided inputs to the FAO Silva Mediterranean meeting on conifers that was held in Arezzo, Italy in June 2007. The meeting reviewed of the earlier established conifer provenance trials in the Mediterranean countries and discussed how to continue their monitoring. The meeting was attended by the Chair of the Network and the EUFORGEN Coordinator.

The seventh meeting of the Conifers Network was organized in Sopron, Hungary in June 2008. The meeting was hosted by the University of West Hungary and the participants also visited the Sárvár Experimental Station of the Hungarian Forestry Research Institute during the field trip. During the meeting, the participants discussed the progress made in collecting data on gene conservation units for the common action plans. The Network had earlier agreed to focus on the following groups of conifers:

- Group 1: stand-forming/widespread species (*Picea abies, Pinus halepensis/brutia,*)
- Group 2: scattered/widespread (*Taxus baccata*)
- Group 3: rare/threatened (*P. nigra* ecotypes, Mediterranean *Abies* spp.)
- Group 4: exotic conifers (*Picea sitchensis*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Each Network member was asked to propose a few gene conservation units in their country to be included in the pan-European network of the gene conservation units for these species. After the meeting in Sopron, the different groups have continued collecting data on the proposed units. Table 2.2 presents a summary of the number of selected gene conservation units for the targeted conifer species.

Table 2.2. Number of selected gene conservation units for conifers.

	Species	No of selected units*	No of countries providing the data
Group 1	*Picea abies*	43	11
	Pinus halepensis/brutia	14	4
Group 2	*Taxus baccata*	14	8
Group 3	*Pinus nigra* ecotypes	17	7
	Mediterranean *Abies* spp.	24	7
Group 4	*Picea sitchensis*	5	1
	Pseudotsuga menziesii	8	2

* includes both *in situ* and *ex situ* units

During the Sopron meeting, the Conifers Network also discussed the development of Technical Guidelines. These were finalized for European larch (*Larix decidua*) and Bosnian pine (*Pinus leucodermis*) in 2008, and two others are under preparation (for Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce*) and English yew (*Taxus baccata*)). The Network also agreed to develop additional Technical Guidelines for mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*) and Mediterranean *Abies* species.

Furthermore, the Network decided to prepare a review paper on genetic consequences of seed harvesting in conifers. The paper will provide recommendations on how to collect seeds from gene conservation units or seed stands while maintaining genetic diversity. It will also discuss the roles of gene flow, mating system and spatial genetic structure. The paper will be published as a chapter of the publication on forest management and forest genetic resources, together with contributions from other EUFORGEN Networks.

The use of forest reproductive material and its implications for conservation of forest genetic resources were also discussed. Forest reproductive material produced for trade is well documented in Europe but the problem lies in the fact that most countries do not keep records on how and where the material is finally used. In Hungary alone, there are some 900 registered nurseries producing 307 million seedlings of forest trees annually and large part of the production is exported to other countries. The imported material may threaten gene conservation efforts if it is planted close to gene conservation units of autochthonous tree populations and cause loss of adaptability of production forests.

The Conifers Network then discussed the selection of genetic material for given site conditions and how climate change is expected to impact this. In marginal environments in particular, the adaptive potential of the material is a critical factor. It was considered necessary that the knowledge gained so far by testing or by practical experience should be incorporated into the characterization of forest reproductive material, and that the properties of the genetic material traded should be provided with more details, if they are known (e.g. early or late flushing provenance, photoperiod and temperature in relation to flushing and growth, and plasticity if the material tested in many sites).

2.3.3. Scattered Broadleaves Network

In 2007, the Scattered Broadleaves Network continued collection of information on the gene conservation units of the selected scattered broadleaves. The Network had agreed to develop the common action plans for the following groups of tree species:

- Group 1: *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Prunus avium*
- Group 2: *Populus nigra* and *Ulmus laevis*
- Group 3: *Pyrus pyraster* and *Sorbus torminalis*

The third Network meeting was held in Skiphell, Norway in May 2008 and it was hosted by the Norwegian Forest Research Institute. During the meeting, the three working groups discussed in detail the proposed units and accepted most of them. Several other units were also approved on the condition that countries provided further data on the units so that they could be assessed against the minimum requirements. Some units were rejected from the network of gene conservation units as it was considered that the units did not meet the minimum requirements. The collection of data on the proposed units has continued after the meeting and Table 2.3 summarises the information on the selected units.

Table 2.3. Number of selected gene conservation units for scattered broadleaves.

	Species	No of selected units*	No of countries providing the data
Group 1	*Fraxinus excelsior*	50	13
	Prunus avium	45	12
Group 2	*Populus nigra*	15	9
	Ulmus laevis	15	11
Group 3	*Pyrus pyraster*	10	5
	Sorbus torminalis	14	8

* includes both *in situ* and *ex situ* units

Another working group has been discussing methods for genetic monitoring. This initiative was recognized to be rather ambitious and, during the meeting in Skiphelle, the participants agreed that the work should focus on genetic monitoring of the gene conservation units instead of overall forest management. The working group then prepared a background document on genetic monitoring and it will be presented to the Steering Committee in Thessaloniki for further discussion.

The Network is also preparing a review article on the use of genetic resources of scattered broadleaves in forest restoration efforts in Europe. This will be published as a chapter of the cross-Network publication. In 2008, the Network finalized Technical Guidelines for Italian alder (*Alnus cordata*) and two more guidelines are currently being finalized for walnut (*Juglans regia*) and European white poplar (*Populus alba*). The Network also developed public awareness leaflets for *Malus-Pyrus*, *Populus nigra*, *P. alba* and *Ulmus* spp.

The meeting in Skiphelle included a seminar on genetic diversity of marginal tree populations and the role of these populations in developing gene conservation strategies at pan-European level. The discussions stressed the role of these populations in the face of climate change. In this regard, the Network also discussed the role of provenance trials, how forest reproductive material could be moved to facilitate the adaptation of trees to climate change and the impact of photoperiod on tree growth.

2.3.4. Stand-forming Broadleaves Network

The second meeting of the Stand-forming Broadleaves Network was organized in Novi Sad, Serbia in June 2007 and it was hosted by the Serbian Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment. A working group presented the outcomes of its discussions on the development of minimum requirements for gene conservation units of stand-forming broadleaves. The minimum requirements were then finalized after the meeting.

In Novi Sad, the Network also discussed the development of the common action plans for stand-forming broadleaves and identified five groups of species for this purpose:

- Group 1: *Castanea sativa*, *Fagus* spp., *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*
- Group 2: *Betula pendula* and *Populus tremula*
- Group 3: xerophyllous oaks (*Quercus pubescens*, *Q.cerris* and *Q. frainetto*)
- Group 4: evergreen oaks (*Quercus suber* and *Q. coccifera*)
- Group 5: minor and rare oak species

The participants highlighted problems in the taxonomy of oaks (e.g. more or less all the species within a section interbreed and the hybrids are fertile) and the fact that there is a large number of oak species (including many rare with very limited distribution) and synonyms (e.g. *Quercus pubescens* ssp. *pubescens* has more then 440 synonyms). In 2007, the Network also made efforts to compile a Europe-wide map of provenance regions based on national provenance delineation for several species (*Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Q. pubescens*, *Quercus robur* and *Q. suber*).

The meeting in Novi Sad included a seminar during which the genetic resources of stand-forming broadleaves in Serbia were discussed in more detail. Beech and oaks are the most common tree species in Serbia and there are 288 registered seed stands covering a total of 1832.6 ha (of which 1092.0 ha are for broadleaves, mostly pedunculate oak (*Q. robur*) with 782.6 ha). The country's law on forest reproductive material is also harmonised with Council Directive 1999/105/EC. Delineation of provenance regions, based on ecological conditions and genetic data, is also underway for several stand-forming tree species in Serbia.

The Network met for the third time in Antalya, Turkey in April 2009 and the main item on the agenda was the development of the common action plans. The participants discussed the proposed gene conservation units and the working groups have continued their work after the meeting. Table 2.4 provides an overview on the number of selected units for different species.

Table 2.4. Number of selected gene conservation units for stand-forming broadleaves.

	Species	No of selected units	No of countries providing the data
Group 1	*Castanea sativa*	3	2
	Fagus spp.	33	12
	Quercus petraea	31	12
	Quercus robur	30	12
Group 2	*Betula pendula*	4	2
	Populus tremula	1	1
Group 3	Xerophyllous oaks	35	8
Group 4	*Quercus suber*	4	2
Group 5	Minor and rare oaks	-	-

In Antalya, the Network also discussed finalization of two case studies, 1) the use of provenances with emphasis on the effects of transfer of forest reproductive material, and 2) on genetic consequences of silvicultural practices on beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). These will be published in the cross-Network publication on forest management and forest genetic resources.

The Network has developed Technical Guidelines for birch (*Betula pendula*), oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), aspen (*Populus tremula*) and cork oak (*Quercus suber*). In Antalya, the Network also reviewed drafts for several Mediterranean oak species (*Quercus cerris*, *Q. frainetto*, *Q. ilex* and *Q. pubescens*) and decided to make similar efforts for three additional species (*Quercus crenata*, *Q. fagınea* and *Q. pyrenaıca*).

2.3.5. Inter-Network Group

Two Inter-Network meetings for Chairs and Vice-Chairs were held in 2007. The first one was held in Novo mesto, Slovenia on 25 May 2007 in conjunction with the Steering Committee meeting and the second one was organized as part the EUFGIS workshop in Birkerød, Denmark on 22 October 2007. During these meetings, Chairs and Vice-Chairs exchanged information on the activities of the four Networks and updated each other on the development of the common action plans. They discussed the inputs of the Networks to the EUFGIS project and development of joint thematic publications. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs also discussed how to address climate change as part of the future work of the Networks. It was further agreed that the Forest Management Network should focus on the management implications of climate change while the species Networks should analyze the potential consequences of climate change for gene conservation of forest trees in Europe.

2.4. Documentation and information management

2.4.1. Inputs to the MCPFE reports

In 2007, EUFORGEN provided inputs to two MCPFE reports which were prepared for the Warsaw Conference ('*State of Europe's Forests 2007*' and '*Implementation of MCPFE Commitments. National and Pan-European Activities 2003-2007*'). For the first report, 38 countries provided data on area managed for conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources and area managed for seed production (Indicator 4.6 of the pan-European C&I for sustainable forest management) to the Secretariat.

The reported areas managed for gene conservation of forest trees more than doubled from 1990 to 2005. The total area managed for *in situ* gene conservation increased from 316 341 ha in 1990 to 748 382 ha in 2005. During the same period, the number of tree species covered by *in situ* gene conservation efforts also increased, from 59 to 93 species. Similarly, the area managed for *ex situ* gene conservation increased from 3 234 ha to 7 392 ha and the number of tree species from 56 to 85. The areas managed for seed production also showed an increasing trend. In 1990, the total area managed for seed production was 464 080 ha and covered 85 species. By 2005, the seed production area had increased to 528 707 ha with 90 species.

A total of 135 tree species (including subspecies and hybrids) are included in gene conservation and seed production efforts but most of these efforts are targeted to a limited number of tree species. A group of seven economically important tree species with large distribution areas *(Abies alba, Fagus sylvatica,Picea abies, Pinus sylvestris, Larix decidua*, *Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur)* alone account for 82 percent of the total area managed for *in situ* gene conservation. While the state of gene conservation is good for many stand-forming and widely distributed tree species, the situation needs to be improved in the case of scattered tree species. In addition, the genetic resources of several rare and endangered tree species are still inadequately conserved and need urgent attention. Furthermore, the marginal populations of many widely distributed tree species are facing new threats at the edges of their geographical range areas due to climate change.

For the second report, the Secretariat summarized the EUFORGEN activities during 2003-2007. It concluded that good progress had been made in implementing the relevant resolutions on forest genetic resources both at national and pan-European levels. The two reports are available from the MCPFE Website (www.mcpfe.org/publications/pdf/).

2.4.2. State of forest genetic resources in Europe

In 2004, the Steering Committee recommended that EUFORGEN should publish a report on the 'State of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe' by the end of Phase III. In 2007, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) agreed that a State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report should be prepared and presented to the Commission (i.e. to FAO member countries) in 2013.

Following this, the Secretariat collaborated with FAO and contributed to the planning process of the SoW-FGR report since April 2008. In December 2008, the EUFORGEN Coordinator also participated in the 15th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources. The meeting discussed the SoW-FGR process, drafted an outline of the report and identified 13 thematic studies to be carried out as part of the report.

The development of the SoW-FGR report was further discussed by the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) during its 16th Session in March 2009. The COFO expressed its support for the development of the SoW-FGR report for further action on forest genetic resources at the national, regional and global levels. It also urged the member countries to collaborate with FAO and partner organizations in producing the report. A statement of the European Union at the COFO session specifically highlighted the role of EUFORGEN and EUFGIS in providing European inputs to the SoW-FGR report.

During its fifth meeting in 2007, the Steering Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft outline of the European report. It also agreed that the preparation of the report should be closely coordinated with the global efforts of FAO. It is not known yet in detail what kind of data FAO will ask countries and collaborating organizations to provide for the global report. The Secretariat has not had enough information to develop the outline of the European report so that it is well aligned with the data requirements of the global report. FAO will present its plans for the development of the SoW-FGR report at the forthcoming Steering Committee meeting in Thessaloniki.

2.4.3. European information system on forest genetic resources

The EUFGIS project ('Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources') was launched on 1 April 2007 for a period of 3.5 years. Bioversity International developed the project in collaboration with six partners (Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Austria; State Forest Tree Improvement Station (SNS), Denmark; Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France; National Forest Centre (NLC), Slovakia; Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI), Slovenia; and Forest Research, UK). The project is co-funded by the European Commission (€553,860, 50% of the total budget) under the Council Regulation No 870/2004 on genetic resources in agriculture (DG Agriculture).

All EUFORGEN member countries and several associated countries have been invited to participate in the project. As of April 2009, a total of 35 countries have nominated their national focal points to EUFGIS (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom).

In October 2007, the EUFGIS project organized a workshop in Birkerød, Denmark to discuss the documentation of forest genetic resources in Europe. The workshop also identified future needs in this area and made recommendations for the development of the EUFGIS information system. After the workshop, an expert group, consisting of representatives of the EUFORGEN Networks and FAO, further discussed the workshop recommendations and initiated the development of pan-

European minimum requirements and data standards for gene conservation units. This work was based on the earlier work of the EUFORGEN Networks.

In 2008, the EUFGIS expert group continued its work and met again in Avignon in April and in Ljubljana in October. In early 2009, the group then finalized the minimum requirements and the data standards. The minimum requirements serve as a check list for which kind of gene conservation units can be entered into the EUFGIS information system. The data standards define what information on the units the national focal points should provide. The intranet and database part of the information system were subsequently developed based on the data standards.

In spring 2009, the EUFGIS project organized four sub-regional training workshops for the national focal points to help them compile national data sets and to upload the data, via intranet, to the information system. These workshops were held in Vienna (March), Ljubljana (April), Avignon (May) and Copenhagen (May). The national focal points have continued compiling and uploading data, and this work is expected to be finalized by the end of 2009. Currently, the information system contains data on 1020 gene conservation units in 30 countries. The launch of the EUFGIS portal and the final project meeting are scheduled for mid-2010.

2.5. Publications and public awareness material

In 2007, EUFORGEN published papers presented at the Paris workshop as a thematic publication. The public awareness leaflet of the Programme and three posters were also updated. Furthermore, similar leaflets were prepared for tree species (*Populus* spp, *Malys-Pyrus* and *Ulmus* spp).

The EUFORGEN Networks finalized 8 new Technical Guidelines. Several countries have translated some of Technical Guidelines into their national languages (i.e. Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Slovakia and Spain). In Estonia, a summary of the recommendations for two species was disseminated to local managers. In Spain, the Technical Guidelines have been published as an insert to a national magazine for forest managers since 2007. In 2008, Italy also started the translation of the 15 guidelines for those tree species occurring in Italy. France and Germany have translated one Technical Guidelines each and France is planning to translate more. Belgium, The Netherlands and Slovenia have also informed the Secretariat that translation or printing of Technical Guidelines is underway.

The Secretariat has developed a template and notes to help countries in the translation process. The content and recommendations of Technical Guidelines as well as authors should remain unchanged after translation while translators or other national experts can author a two-page insert as a supplement to be added to a given publication. The insert should then provide specific national information on a tree species or recommendations for the management of its genetic resources in the country.

A list of EUFORGEN and other related publications in 2005-2009 is presented in Annex 1, page 33.

2.6. Wider influences of EUFORGEN

2.6.1. Training programme on forest biodiversity

In 2005, Bioversity International started to implement a project on 'Developing training capacity and human resources for the management of forest biodiversity' in collaboration with the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Austria. During this five-year project, funded by Austria, Bioversity is organising five two-week training workshops and providing five two-year research fellowships. Both the workshops and the fellowships focused on a different region of the world in each year.

The project organized the third training workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in August 2007. The EUFORGEN Secretariat provided some technical inputs to the preparations of the workshop, which was attended by 23 young scientists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The 2007 fellowship was awarded to a researcher from the Kyrgyz Agrarian University. He started his fellowship at BFW in October 2007 and he has been working on characterization of genetic structure and reproductive biology of *Juniperus seravschanica* in Kyrgyzstan.

The fourth training workshop was organized in Adama, Ethiopia in June 2008, but the Secretariat did not provide any significant inputs to it.

2.6.2. EVOLTREE Network of Excellence

In 2007-2008, EUFORGEN continued collaboration with the EVOLTREE project (EVOLution of TREEs as drivers of terrestrial biodiversity), which is a consortium of 25 partner institutes (including Bioversity International) from 15 European countries. EVOLTREE is coordinated by INRA (France) and funded by the European Commission under the sixth framework programme for research. Bioversity International is leading the dissemination activities of EVOLTREE. An update on the EVOLTREE activities was presented at the EUFORGEN Network meetings and, in February 2008, the EUFORGEN Coordinator participated in the first EVOLTREE Stakeholder meeting in Mandelieu-La Napoule, France. Further information on EVOLTREE can be found on its Website (www.evoltree.eu).

2.6.3. Other EUFORGEN contributions

The Secretariat provided additional contributions to various initiatives on forest genetic resources and promoted the Programme during relevant meetings and events in 2007-2008.

In February 2007 and December 2008, the EUFORGEN Coordinator participated in the meetings of the FAO Panel Experts on Forest Gene Resources as an observer and delivered presentations on EUFORGEN and EUFGIS. In December 2008, he also contributed to the Panel's discussion on the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report.

In August 2008, the Coordinator participated in a meeting on 'Nordic forests in a changing climate', held in Selfoss, Iceland, and delivered a presentation on forest genetic resources and adaptation of forest management to climate change. The meeting was organized by the new Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen), which was established in January 2008 by merging the Nordic Gene Bank (NGB), the Nordic Gene Bank for Farm Animals (NGH) and the Nordic Council for Forest Reproductive Material (NSFP). NordGen–Plants is located in Alnarp, Sweden while NordGen–Farm Animals and NordGen-Forest operate from Ås, Norway.

2.7. EUFORGEN Management Committee

The Management Committee provides technical and management advice to the EUFORGEN Secretariat. It meets usually once year and, between the meetings, its members interact with the Secretariat as needed. During 2007-2008, Oudara Souvannavong (Senior Forestry Officer, Biodiversity and Conservation) from the FAO Forestry Department, and Laura Snook (Director, Understanding and Managing Biodiversity Programme) and Lex Thomson (Senior Scientist, Forest Genetic Resources) (until June 2007) from Bioversity International participated in the Management Committee. The continuous support and advice of the Committee members are gratefully acknowledged.

2.8. EUFORGEN Secretariat

Ewa Hermanowicz joined the Secretariat in August 2007 and has since worked as Programme Assistant to the EUFGIS project. No other staff changes have taken place during 2007-2008. Lidwina Koop (Programme Assistant) and Michele Bozzano (Programme Specialist) have continued to provide excellent administrative and scientific support, respectively, for EUFORGEN (50% of their time).

2.9. Financial report 2005-2008

In January 2005, the opening balance of the trust fund was US$ 189,990. During 2005-2008, Bioversity International received a total of US$ 1,322,645 as financial contributions from the member countries (Annex 2, page 35). In 2005, Bulgaria also paid its outstanding financial contributions to Phase II (US$ 10,001). In 2009 (as of 30 April), Bioversity received US$ 24,750 from Serbia and Switzerland as their outstanding contributions for 2008. The outstanding contribution for 2005-2008 is US$ 81,416 (Belgium (Flemish Region), Italy and Portugal). The Secretariat has reminded these member countries and asked them to provide their outstanding financial contributions, together with their 2009 contribution.

The estimated budget for 2005-2008 was US$ 1,446,668 while the actual total expenditure was US$ 1,550,150 during the same period (Annex 3). The negative budget balance was US$ 103,484 at the end of 2008. Costs of staff, species-oriented Network meetings and the Newsletter were higher than originally planned. The higher costs were also partly due to currency exchange rates (i.e. the strong Euro as compared to US$).

The closing balance of the trust fund was US$ 27,514 negative on 31 December 2008.

Annex 1. List of EUFORGEN and other relevant publications (2005-2009).

Thematic publications

Koskela, J., A. Buck and E. Teissier du Cros (editors). 2007. Climate change and forest genetic diversity: Implications for sustainable forest management in Europe. Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 111 p.

Meeting reports

Bozzano M., M. Rusanen, P. Rotach, J. Koskela (compilers). 2006. EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network, Report of the sixth (9–11 June 2002, Alter do Chão, Portugal) and seventh meetings (22 - 24 April 2004, Arezzo, Italy). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy. 98 p.

Koskela, J., C.J.A. Samuel, Cs. Mátyás and B. Fady (compilers) 2007. Conifers Network, Report of the fourth meeting (18–20 October 2003, Pitlochry, United Kingdom). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 76 p.

Technical Guidelines

Ducci F. and Tani A. 2009. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Italian alder (*Alnus cordata*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

Gil, L. and Varela, M.C. 2008. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for cork oak (*Quercus suber*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

Kandemir G. and Z. Kaya. 2009 EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

Matras, J. and Pâques, L. 2008. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for European Larch (*Larix decidua*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

Vakkari P. 2009. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Silver birch (*Betula pendula*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

Vendramin, G.G., Fineschi, S. and Fady, B. 2008. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

von Wuehlisch, G. 2008. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

von Wühlisch G. 2009. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Eurasian aspen (*Populus tremula*) Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. 6 p.

Others papers

Koskela, J. 2007. European Forest Genetic Resources Programme: a European Approach to Gene Conservation of Forest Trees. In: Simpson, J.D. (compiler). Proceedings of the Forum on Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources: Challenges, Issues and Solutions (28-29 July 2006, Charlottetown, PEI). Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service – Atlantic Forestry Centre, Fredericton, Canada. Information Report M-X-220, pp. 23–30.

Lefèvre, F., Collin, E., De Cuyper, B., Fady, B., Koskela, J., Turok, J. and von Wühlisch, G. 2008. European forest genetic resources: status of current knowledge and conservation priorities. In: Maxted, N., Ford-Lloyd, B.V., Kell, S.P., Iriondo, J.M., Dulloo, M.E. and Turok, J. (eds.). Crop Wild Relatives Conservation and Use, CAB International, UK, pp. 178–194.

Koskela, J., Turok, J. and Bozzano, M. 2005. The role of regional collaboration in managing forest genetic resources in Europe. International Forestry Review 7(5):68 (Abstracts of papers and posters presented at the XXII IUFRO World Congress, Brisbane, Australia, 8–13 August 2005).

EUFORGEN contributions to assessment reports

EEA 2008. European forests – ecosystem conditions and sustainable use. European Environment Agency, EEA Report No 3/2008, Copenhagen, 105 p. [chapter '3.8 Genetic diversity of European forests' pp. 39-40].

MCPFE 2007a. State of Europe's Forests 2007. The MCPFE Report on Sustainable Forest Management in Europe. MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, UNECE and FAO, Warsaw, Poland, 247 p. [chapter 'Indicator 4.6. Genetic resources', pp. 59–61].

MCPFE 2007b. Implementation of MCPFE Commitments. National and Pan-European Activities 2003-2007. MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, Poland, 99 p. [chapter 'S2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources', pp. 70-72].

EEA 2006. Progress towards halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. European forests – ecosystem conditions and sustainable use. European Environment Agency, EEA Report No 5/2006, Copenhagen, 99 p. [chapter '3.2 Forest ecosystems' pp. 44-56].

Annex 2. Financial contributions received during EUFORGEN Phase III.

Country	Annual contribution (US$)	contribution for 2005 received in 2004	Contributions received (US$) during Phase III						outstanding contributions (US$) 2005-2008
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2008*	2009*	
Austria	11,000		11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000		11,000	$0
Belgium Flemish Region	6,875		6,875	6,875	6,875	0			$6,875
Belgium Walloon Region	6,875		6,875	6,875	6,875	6,875		6,875	$0
Bulgaria	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500	$0
Croatia	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500	$0
Cyprus	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500	$0
Czech Republic	7,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500		7,500	$0
Denmark	11,000		11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000			$0
Estonia	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500	$0
Finland	11,000		11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000		11,000	$0
France	33,000	3,822	29,178	33,000	33,000	33,000		32,530	$0
Germany	33,000		33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000		33,000	$0
Greece	11,000			11,000	11,000	11,000			$0
Hungary	7,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500			$0
Iceland	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500			$0
Ireland	7,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500		7,500	$0
Italy	33,000	705	32,295	32,664	0	0			$67,041
Lithuania	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500			$0
Luxembourg	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500			$0
Norway	11,000		11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000		11,000	$0
Poland	7,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500			$0
Portugal	7,500	1,367	6,133	7,500	7,500	0			$7,500
Romania	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500	$0
Serbia	5,500		5,500	5,500	0	0	11,000		$0
Slovakia	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500			$0
Slovenia	5,500		5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500		5,500	$0
Spain	13,750		13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750			$0
Sweden	13,750		13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750		13,750	$0
Switzerland	13,750		13,750	13,750	13,750	0	13,750		$0
The Netherlands	13,750		13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750		13,750	$0
Turkey	7,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500			$0
United Kingdom	33,000		33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000		33,000	$0
Total per year	**361,250**	5,894	**344,356**	**360,914**	**322,750**	**294,625**	24,750	213,905	81,416
Total Phase III						**1,322,645**			
* Contributions for 2008 and 2009 received in 2009 (as of 30 April)									

Annex 3. EUFORGEN budget (US$) and a summary of expenditures (US$) during 2005-2008.

Details	Phase III budget*	Total expenditure	2005	2006	2007	2008	Budget balance
Coordinator at Bioversity International	389,043	426,478	99,479	99,471	109,196	118,332	(37,435)
Secretariat scientific support (50%)	124,858	159,855	34,673	36,917	42,272	45,993	(34,997)
Secretariat administrative support (50%)	113,336	125,118	27,529	29,147	32,742	35,700	(11,782)
Secretariat staff travel	52,000	50,785	15,678	15,451	13,643	6,013	1,215
Steering committee (meetings)	45,000	39,089	0	0	38,594	495	5,911
Thematic Networks (meetings and operations)	160,000	140,106	19,550	50,327	41,443	28,786	19,894
Species-oriented Network (meetings)	240,000	347,918	122,140	99,898	39,917	85,963	(107,918)
Publications and dissemination of information	80,000	22,248	5,672	7,333	6,068	3,175	57,752
Newsletter (50%, two issues per year)	16,000	18,144	2,975	5,090	6,423	3,656	(2,144)
Public awareness tools/action	20,000	2,075	1,173	223	450	229	17,925
Communication and office consumables	40,000	40,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Sub-total	1,280,237	1,371,816	338,869	353,857	340,748	338,342	(91,579)
Overhead (13%)	166,431	178,336	44,053	46,001	44,297	43,985	(11,905)
Total	**1,446,668**	**1,550,150**	**382,920**	**399,858**	**385,045**	**382,327**	**(103,484)**

* Budget approved for 2005-2008 at the fourth Steering Committee meeting in 2004

Opening balance in Jan 2005	**189,990**
Closing balance in Dec 2008	**(27,514)**

3. EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010–2014)[5]

3.1. Introduction

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) has been facilitating international collaboration on forest genetic resources for nearly 15 years as part of the pan-European forest policy process (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, MCPFE). EUFORGEN was established as an implementation mechanism for Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the first Ministerial Conference, held in Strasbourg, France in 1990. More recently, EUFORGEN has also contributed to the implementation of Resolution V4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe) and Resolution V5 (Climate change and sustainable forest management in Europe) which were adopted by the fourth Ministerial Conference in Vienna, Austria in 2003. EUFORGEN is overseen by a Steering Committee, which is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries. The Programme is coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management. As of May 2009, EUFORGEN has a total of 31 member countries providing both financial resources and technical expertise to its activities. During Phase III (2005-2009), the Programme is operating through four networks, which have brought together experts from all member countries to exchange information, analyze relevant policies and practices, and to develop tools and guidelines for better management of forest genetic resources (a detailed technical report of Phase III is available separately). Furthermore, a total of 35 countries (including both member and non-member countries) are currently collaborating to establish a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS) and to make available national data on dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees. The EUFGIS project is co-funded by the European Commission and coordinated by Bioversity International.

The MCPFE process has recognized the progress made by EUFORGEN in promoting conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. At the fifth Ministerial Conference in November 2007, European ministers responsible for forests reinforced their commitment to conserve and enhance forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management. Furthermore, the ministers called for continued implementation of the previous MCPFE commitments. In 2008, the MCPFE process included both EUFORGEN and EUFGIS into its new Work Programme to implement the commitments of the Warsaw Conference.

The EUFORGEN Steering Committee reviewed the progress made during Phase III and made decisions on the future activities of the Programme at its sixth meeting, held in Thessaloniki, Greece on 9-12 June 2009. In March 2009, a survey was carried out among

[5] This document was developed by the Phase IV Working Group in collaboration with the EUFORGEN Secretariat and endorsed by the sixth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, Thessaloniki, Greece, 9-12 June 2009.

National Coordinators to collect feedback on the achievements of Phase III and the future role of EUFORGEN. The survey also identified needs for further action on forest genetic resources at pan-European level. A small working group[6] of National Coordinators then met in Maccarese near Rome on 28-29 April 2009 and developed this document for further discussion by the Steering Committee.

At its sixth meeting in Greece, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee endorsed the continuation of the Programme into Phase IV (2010-2014). This document presents an implementation plan of EUFORGEN Phase IV, including the mandate, the scope and objectives, the mode of operation and the budget.

3.2. Mandate for Phase IV

As part of the Warsaw Declaration, the Signatory States and the European Community committed themselves to "*maintain, conserve, restore and enhance the biological diversity of forests, including their genetic resources, through sustainable forest management*". Furthermore, they agreed to develop a work programme for the implementation of the Warsaw commitments in cooperation with relevant organizations, institutions and processes and to reinforce implementation of the previous commitments. A list of countries committed to the relevant MCPFE Resolutions on forest genetic resources is shown in Table 3.1 (page 40). Annex 1 of the new MCPFE Work Programme includes two specific actions on forest genetic resources that support the follow-up of the Warsaw Conference:

- "*Promotion of conservation and use of forest genetic resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe. Coordinated by Bioversity International, Timeframe: ongoing*".

- "*Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS). Coordinated by Bioversity International, Timeframe: 2008-2010*".

During Phase IV, EUFORGEN will continue operating under the MCPFE framework as a pan-European implementation mechanism for the relevant MCPFE commitments on forest genetic resources[7]. After the EUFGIS project has ended (September 2010), the information system will be maintained as part of EUFORGEN. This was discussed and agreed by the Steering Committee during its fifth meeting held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 22-24 May 2007.

Most European countries have also committed themselves to the implementation of decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (see Table 3.1). In 2002, the sixth

[6] Phase IV Working Group members: Davorin Kajba (Croatia), Bjerne Ditlevsen (Denmark), Bernd Degen (Germany), Ricardo Alía (Spain), Hasan Özer (Turkey) and Jason Hubert (United Kingdom).

[7] Strasbourg Resolution S2 (Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources); Helsinki Resolutions H1 (General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe), H2 (General Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity of European Forests) and H4 (Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change); Lisbon Resolution L2 (Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management); Vienna Resolutions V4 (Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe) and V5 (Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe).

meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the CBD adopted the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity. Among other objectives, the CBD Programme of Work specifically encourages development of information systems and strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation to promote sustainable use of forest genetic diversity (Goal 4; Objective 4).

In 2008, COP 9 Decision IX/5 urged Parties to "*promote and implement sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach to maintain forest biodiversity and ecosystem functions, in all types of forests, promote forest restoration and minimise deforestation and forest degradation so as to achieve the goals and objectives of the programme of work including addressing climate change*". Furthermore, COP 9 invited Parties, other governments and international organizations to "*recognize and increase understanding of the potential of forest genetic diversity to address climate change, maintain forest ecosystems resilience and lead to the discovery of new timber and non-timber forest resources*". The MCPFE commitments on forest biological diversity are in line with the CBD commitments and subsequently, while collaborating on forest genetic resources at pan-European level through EUFORGEN, countries also implement their CBD commitments.

Furthermore, EUFORGEN will help countries to provide coordinated inputs to other regional and global efforts on forest genetic resources. EUFORGEN is referred to in the European Plant Conservation Strategy, which was developed by the Council of Europe and Planta Europa as part of the Global Plant Conservation Strategy. The European Commission has also recognized the role of EUFORGEN in promoting conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. At global level, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) agreed in 2007 that a State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report should be prepared and presented to the Commission (i.e. to FAO member countries) in 2013.

In December 2008, the 15th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources drafted an outline of the SoW-FGR report. The development of this report was further discussed by the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) during its 16th Session in March 2009. The member countries expressed their support for the development of the report for further action of forest genetic resources at the national, regional and global levels. A statement of the European Union at the COFO session specifically highlighted the role of EUFORGEN and EUFGIS in providing European inputs to the SoW-FGR report.

FAO has recognized that regional networks and programmes on forest genetic resources, such as EUFORGEN, play an important role in the preparation of the SoW-FGR report. Subsequently, the EUFORGEN Secretariat has been collaborating with FAO on the planning of the SoW-FGR process since April 2008. In October 2009, the 12th Session of the CGRFA is expected to discuss and agree on the details of the preparatory process and the final outline of the SoW-FGR report.

Table 3.1. A list of EUFORGEN member countries (as of May 2009). The table also shows the signatories of the relevant MCPFE commitments on forest genetic resources (Strasbourg Resolution 2, Vienna Resolution 4 and Warsaw Declaration) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Country	EUFORGEN	S2	V4	WD	CBD
Albania		X	X		X
Armenia					X
Austria*	X	X	X	X	X
Azerbaijan					X
Belarus		X	X	X	X
Belgium*	X	X	X	X	X
Bosnia and Herzegovina				X	X
Bulgaria*	X	X	X	X	X
Croatia	X	X	X	X	X
Cyprus*	X	X	X	X	X
Czech Republic*	X	X	X	X	X
Denmark*	X	X	X		X
Estonia*	X	X	X	X	X
European Community		X	X	X	X
Finland*	X	X	X	X	X
France*	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia			X		X
Germany*	X		X	X	X
Greece*	X	X	X	X	X
Hungary*		X	X	X	X
Iceland	X	X	X	X	X
Ireland*	X	X	X	X	X
Italy*	X	X	X		X
Latvia*		X	X	X	X
Liechtenstein		X	X	X	X
Lithuania*	X	X	X	X	X
Luxembourg*	X	X	X	X	X
Malta*		X	X		X
Moldova				X	X
Montenegro				X	X
The Netherlands*	X	X	X	X	X
Norway	X	X	X	X	X
Poland*	X	X	X	X	X
Portugal*	X	X	X	X	X
Romania*	X	X	X	X	X
Russian Federation		X	X	X	X
Serbia	X	X	X	X	X
Slovakia*	X	X	X	X	X
Slovenia*	X	X	X	X	X
Spain*	X	X	X	X	X
Sweden*	X	X	X	X	X
Switzerland	X	X	X	X	X
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia					X
Turkey	X	X	X	X	X
Ukraine	X	X	X	X	X
United Kingdom*	X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL	**31**	**37**	**39**	**37**	**45**

* Member of the European Union as of 1 January 2007 (a total of 27 countries).

3.3. Scope of Phase IV

During Phase II (2000-2004), EUFORGEN focused largely on developing methods and tools for conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. For Phase III (2005-2009), the Steering Committee revised the scope of the Programme to address both conservation and use of forest genetic resources. This reflected the commitment of the MCPFE process to promote gene conservation as an integral part of sustainable forest management. Subsequently, EUFORGEN has been promoting practical implementation of recommendations presented in the Technical Guidelines for gene conservation of forest trees and carried out assessments of the current status of *in situ* gene conservation efforts from the pan-European point of view. Regarding the use of forest genetic resources, the efforts have been focusing on genetic consequences of forest management practices and related policies as well as promoting appropriate use of forest reproductive material.

During Phase III, the Steering Committee and EUFORGEN Networks increasingly discussed the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in context of climate change. In 2006, EUFORGEN also made significant contributions to a workshop on climate change and forest genetic diversity, organized by Bioversity International and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) in collaboration with the MCPFE Liaison Unit. In 2007, the Steering Committee further discussed the recommendations[8] of this workshop and their implications for the future work of EUFORGEN.

Climate change remains a challenge to European forests and forest sector. It is also likely to have substantial impacts on forest management, including conservation of forest biodiversity. The genetic diversity within forest stands and tree populations is a prerequisite for continuous adaptation of forests. Furthermore, this genetic diversity plays a key role in maintaining the resilience of forests to threats. Increasing the use of forest genetic resources also increases the opportunities for forests and sustainable forest management to adapt to climate change. However, these opportunities are not yet fully acknowledged in relevant policies, such as national forest programmes and national adaptation strategies to climate change, or deployed in practical forest management. Therefore, climate change and its implications to forest management (in particular to the use of forest reproductive material) and conservation of forest genetic resources are the main issues that should be addressed during Phase IV of EUFORGEN.

National forest programmes (NFPs) are an important policy process to support implementation of sustainable forest management and to provide cross-sectoral coordination on forest-related issues. Thus NFPs also have a key role in promoting the integration of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into sustainable forest management. European countries have made good progress in addressing the conservation and use of forest genetic resources as part of their NFPs but, as noted by the Steering Committee in 2007, the linkage between forest policy and practice seems to be disconnected in many countries. This means that even if relevant policy recommendations on forest genetic resources are in place, they are not always translated into action at practical forest management.

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[8] A publication based on the workshop is available at :
http://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/bioversity/publications/pdfs/1216.pdf

It is equally important that the conservation and use of forest genetic resources is incorporated into national adaptation strategies (NAS) to climate change and national biodiversity action plans (NBAP). Many NAS emphasize changes needed in man-made systems to reduce the impacts of climate change but, in case of forest sector, they often ignore what is needed to ensure genetic adaptation of forests. Similarly, NBAP mainly focus on conservation of biological diversity only at landscape and species levels.

EUFORGEN should thus continue promoting integration of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into these policies and strategies. There are also a number of different ways European countries have organized their national programmes or strategies for management of forest genetic resources. Exchanging information and sharing lessons learnt on the different approaches in this regard would benefit those countries which are still developing such programmes or strategies. However, all countries would benefit from learning if there are certain approaches which make the integration of forest genetic resources into other relevant policies easier and more effective.

Regarding the use of forest genetic resources, there are two issues for which recommendations are of high demand across Europe. Firstly, climate change is predicted to modify sub-regional and local environmental conditions. This is likely to alter the existing provenance regions in most, if not all European countries. Subsequently, there is a need to develop guidelines for knowledge-based use and transfer of well-documented and characterized forest reproductive material. Secondly, there is a need to better understand how existing forests should be managed to ensure that they are able to cope with the impacts of climate change.

EUFORGEN should contribute to development of recommendations on these two challenging issues. This could be done by reviewing the results of provenance trials together with other scientific knowledge and "translating" them to the policy-makers and managers. There are also several ongoing research projects (e.g. EVOLTREE, TREEBREEDEX and COST E52 Action) which will soon make available new information for this purpose. EUFORGEN should collaborate with these projects in synthesizing the latest research findings into recommendations.

During the past 15 years, European countries have made good progress in conserving their forest genetic resources. The areas managed for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation as well as seed production show an increasing trend since 1990 and these efforts were carried out for a total of 135 tree species in 2005[9]. However, the level of gene conservation can be considered adequate only for a limited number of tree species as most of the efforts are carried out for relatively few, often stand-forming common tree species. A group of seven economically important tree species with large distribution areas (*Abies alba*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Larix decidua*, *Picea abies*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur*) alone accounted for 82 percent of the total area managed for *in situ* gene conservation in Europe. In the case of many scattered as well as several rare and endangered tree species, there is a need to improve the situation.

[9] State of Europe's Forests 2007. The MCPFE Report on Sustainable Forest Management in Europe. MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, UNECE and FAO, Warsaw, Poland, 247 p.

Furthermore, the marginal populations of many widely-distributed tree species are facing new threats due to climate change.

The Steering Committee has acknowledged the efforts made by the EUFORGEN Networks in developing so-called "common action plans", i.e. pan-European networks of selected gene conservation units for various tree species. This work has promoted implementation of practical gene conservation in different countries and greatly increased common understanding on minimum requirements for such units and how they should be managed.

The development of the common action plans should be seen as part of the implementation of pan-European gene conservation strategies. This work needs to be continued by carrying out more comprehensive analyses on the status of existing *in situ* gene conservation efforts across Europe, taking into account predicted climatic changes and the geographical distribution of genetic and adaptive diversity of forest trees. The EUFGIS information system, to be launched in 2010, will make more data available for this purpose. Furthermore, EUFORGEN will maintain and further develop the EUFGIS information system. The data provision mechanism through the national focal points will be also maintained so that the data in the information system is continuously updated.

In many countries, the development of the common action plans has increased the linkages between the gene conservation community and the overall nature conservation community. EUFORGEN should support further strengthening of these linkages at pan-European level and advocate better inclusion of conservation and use of forest genetic resources in the management of nature reserves.

3.4. Objectives for Phase IV

Following the mandate and scope for Phase IV, the overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe, and to serve as a platform for pan-European collaboration in this area. More specifically, the objectives for Phase IV are as follows:

1. Promote appropriate use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management to facilitate adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change;
2. Develop and promote pan-European gene conservation strategies and improve guidelines for management of gene conservation units and protected areas;
3. Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.

The Steering Committee agreed areas of work under each objective and these are presented in Table 3.2. A detailed work plan with specific activities, timeframes and outputs will be developed by the Steering Committee during its seventh meeting in early 2010.

Table 3.2. EUFORGEN objectives and areas of work during Phase IV (2010-2014).

Objectives	Areas of work
Promote appropriate use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management to facilitate adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change.	1. Promote the integration of management of forest genetic resources into relevant policies and strategies (e.g. national forest programmes, national adaptation strategies to climate change and national biodiversity action plans); 2. Contribute to the development of guidelines for knowledge-based use and transfer of forest reproductive material; 3. Demonstrate the importance and benefits of using high-quality forest reproductive material in afforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation, as well as in producing woody biomass for energy generation; 4. Compile recommendations for the management of genetic diversity in the production forests to maintain their resilience and to ensure long-term adaptation.
Develop and promote pan-European gene conservation strategies and improve guidelines for management of gene conservation units and protected areas.	1. Continue developing pan-European gene conservation strategies and action plans for forest trees; 2. Develop methods for genetic monitoring of the gene conservation units and improve guidelines for management of these units and protected areas; 3. Build linkages and synergies between gene conservation and nature conservation efforts in Europe.
Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.	1. Maintain and further develop the EUFGIS information system; 2. Contribute to the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report and other relevant reporting efforts; 3. Increase awareness among the MCPFE process, policy-makers, forestry professionals and the general public on the importance of forest genetic resources.

3.5. Mode of operation

EUFORGEN continues to operate as a multilateral trust fund. Individual countries formally join Phase IV by signing a Letter of Agreement with Bioversity International. The annual financial contribution to be made by a country is also specified in this agreement. Bioversity International will continue hosting the EUFORGEN Secretariat and coordinating the Programme activities in technical collaboration with FAO.

In Thessaloniki, the Steering Committee adopted the following membership rules for Phase IV:

- Once a country has joined Phase IV of EUFORGEN, it should pay its annual financial contribution for each year during that calendar year.
- Should countries have difficulty in providing their financial contributions, they should inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.
- If a country fails to provide its financial contribution for a given year before the end of December of that year, it has time until June of the following year to provide the outstanding financial contribution.
- If a country has outstanding contributions after this, it will be no longer considered as a member of EUFORGEN.

- A country with outstanding financial contributions is welcome to re-join Phase IV. However, these countries are expected to provide their outstanding financial contributions before they are recognized again as member countries.

3.5.1. National Coordinators and Steering Committee

When joining EUFORGEN Phase IV, each country is required to nominate a National Coordinator to act as the official contact person between Bioversity International and the participating country for all matters relating to the Programme. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries and it has the overall responsibility of the Programme. Bioversity International and FAO are entitled to nominate their representatives as observers to the Steering Committee meetings. If needed, experts may also be invited to participate in the Steering Committee meetings as observers. The role of the National Coordinators is to:

1. Participate in the Steering Committee meetings and other activities;
2. Promote EUFORGEN and its activities at national level;
3. Liaise between the Secretariat and relevant ministries and agencies in a country regarding its membership and other issues;
4. Ensure that necessary resources are channelled to the Programme;
5. Liaise between the Secretariat and national institutions involved in the EUFORGEN activities;
6. Nominate experts on thematic areas relevant for EUFORGEN and maintain regular contacts with them; and
7. Assist the experts and the national institutes in contributing to the EUFORGEN activities, as needed.

The Steering Committee will meet three times during Phase IV. If needed, it can establish *ad hoc* working groups between the meetings to prepare future activities and analyze relevant issues. Decisions at Steering Committee meetings are taken by consensus. If a consensus can not be reached then the Steering Committee has the option to vote on an issue so as to reach a decision based on a simple majority of votes. Each country has one vote while Bioversity International and FAO representatives have no voting rights. Between meetings, should the need arise for a decision to be made on an urgent issue, the Secretariat will contact the Steering Committee members by e-mail and action will be taken upon receiving feedback in the given timeframe. The Steering Committee will:

1. Review the progress made and decide upon future activities of the Programme;
2. Approve the budget of the Programme;
3. Review technical and audited financial reports prepared by the Secretariat;
4. Develop an overall work plan for Phase IV;
5. Identify themes for the workshops to be held during Phase IV;
6. Agree on the establishment of working groups and clearly define their tasks, deadlines and expected outputs;
7. Agree on principles for selecting and inviting individual experts to participate in the working groups and the workshops;
8. Review the outputs of the working groups and take further action;

9. Provide inputs related to forest genetic resources to relevant European (e.g. the MCPFE process and the European Union) and global processes (e.g. development of the SoW-FGR report), as requested;
10. Discuss emerging issues relevant to EUFORGEN and the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

3.5.2. EUFORGEN Secretariat

The EUFORGEN Secretariat manages the Programme and coordinates its activities. Using the resources provided by the countries, Bioversity International appoints the EUFORGEN Coordinator and other staff to work for the Programme.

Technical and scientific advice to the Secretariat is provided by the Advisory Committee, which is composed of representatives of FAO and Bioversity International. The Advisory Committee meets as needed and the minutes of the meetings will be circulated to the Steering Committee.

The role of the EUFORGEN Secretariat is to:

1. Ensure that the implementation of the Programme and its activities are in accordance with the mandate given by the MCPFE process and the Steering Committee;
2. Provide information relevant to the Steering Committee meetings well in advance;
3. Be responsible for the financial management of the Programme;
4. Liaise between the Steering Committee and the working groups;
5. Provide scientific and technical inputs to the working groups and coordinate their work;
6. Organize meetings and workshops in collaboration with local hosts;
7. Prepare reports and other publications;
8. Maintain the EUFORGEN website and the EUFGIS Portal;
9. Disseminate other relevant information;
10. Represent EUFORGEN and advocate conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources in relevant European (e.g. the MCPFE process and the European Union) and global processes (e.g. development of the SoW-FGR report);
11. Facilitate collaboration with relevant stakeholders and the expansion of the Programme to obtain new member countries.

The Secretariat reports on the activities of the Programme to the Steering Committee annually and at each meeting of the Steering Committee. An audited financial report will be sent to the National Coordinators annually.

3.6. EUFORGEN activities

The Steering Committee decided that the EUFORGEN activities will be carried out through smaller working groups focusing on specific tasks during Phase IV. The working groups will consist of approximately ten persons each and they will be established by the Steering Committee which will also define the tasks, deadlines and expected outputs for each working group. The outputs of the working groups will then be presented to the Steering Committee for further action. In addition, the findings of the working groups will also be discussed during workshops through which a broader group of stakeholders will be engaged into the EUFORGEN activities. The Steering Committee also agreed that the EUFGIS National Focal Points will continue their work as part of EUFORGEN during Phase IV.

The following chapters provide further information on the arrangements for the working groups, the workshops and the EUFGIS National Focal Points.

3.6.1. Working groups

The working groups will carry out specific tasks related to the areas of work under Objectives 1 and 2. Once a country has joined Phase IV, the EUFORGEN Secretariat will contact the National Coordinator and ask her/him to provide a list of persons in the country who have relevant experience and knowledge to contribute to the areas of work under Objectives 1 and 2. For each objective, the National Coordinator can nominate 1-3 experts. An individual expert can be nominated for both objectives if needed.

For each working group, selected experts from different countries will be invited to provide their inputs to specific tasks based on their experience and knowledge. The working groups will meet once or twice while carrying out their work and the costs for travel and accommodation will be covered by EUFORGEN.

When experts for a given working group are being selected, the geographical distribution of the member countries will be kept in mind as well as countries' participation in previous working groups. Each member country will have at least one expert contributing to a working group during Phase IV.

Once the Steering Committee has agreed the establishment of a working group and its tasks, deadlines and expected outputs, the Secretariat will develop a tentative list of selected experts from the pool of nominated experts in all member countries. The tentative list will be circulated to the Steering Committee for its comments and final approval. The Secretariat will then inform the selected experts, coordinate their work (including meeting preparations) and provide technical and scientific inputs to the tasks of the working groups.

Draft outputs of the working groups will be circulated to all nominated experts under a given objective for their comments and review. This will ensure that those experts who have not been selected for a working group will still have an opportunity to provide their contributions and ideas.

The working groups will report their final outputs to the Steering Committee and present their results during the workshops and/or in EUFORGEN publications. Resources for a total of ten working group meetings are included in the Phase IV budget (two meetings per year).

At its seventh meeting in early 2010, the Steering Committee is expected to develop an overall work plan for various activities during Phase IV, establish the first two working groups and select experts for them. Other working groups will be established later.

In June 2009, the Steering Committee identified the following tasks or themes (tentative) for the working groups (not in order of priority);

1. Assessment of gene conservation status of forest trees in Europe (based on the common action plans and the new data made available by the EUFGIS information system) and development of pan-European gene conservation strategies;
2. Development of genetic monitoring methods for gene conservation units of forest trees;
3. Development of guidelines for use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the face of climate change;
4. Incorporation of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies (and how to support these kind of linkages at national level); and
5. Management of gene conservation units in the face of climate change.

The Steering Committee will further discuss these tasks and revise the list to address any emerging issue during Phase IV.

3.6.2. Workshops

During Phase IV, EUFORGEN will organize three workshops to discuss the outputs of the working groups, develop new initiatives and prepare both policy and practical recommendations for conservation and use of forest genetic resources. The Steering Committee agreed that the themes of the workshops should be linked with the three objectives of Phase IV. It further agreed that the workshop on documentation/informatics under Objective 3 will be organized in conjunction with the final meeting of the EUFGIS project in mid-2010. The schedule of the other two workshops will be discussed by the Steering Committee during its seventh meeting in early 2010.

All nominated experts are welcome to participate in the workshops. The first workshop in 2010 is targeted at the EUFGIS National Focal Points whose travel and accommodation costs are covered by the EUFGIS project. The Phase IV budget includes limited resources to support participation of other experts in the first workshop. Regarding the other two workshops, EUFORGEN will support participation of one expert from each member country as well as a few invited speakers. The EUFORGEN-funded expert will be identified in consultation with the National Coordinator. Other experts and interested stakeholders are expected to participate in the workshops with their own resources. The EUFORGEN Secretariat will seek sponsors to support the participation of additional experts from the member countries in the workshops.

3.6.3. EUFGIS National Focal Points

The EUFGIS information system will be maintained and further developed as part of EUFORGEN after the EUFGIS project ends in September 2010. The National Focal Points, already nominated by the National Coordinators (or relevant authority in case on non-member countries), will then continue their work during Phase IV. This work is also crucial for developing the pan-European gene conservation strategies for forest trees and providing inputs to the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report.

At any point of time, the National Coordinator (or relevant authority in case of non-member countries) can nominate a new National Focal Point (e.g. due to staff changes in a given institute). Persons nominated for the task are typically responsible for collecting and maintaining information on forest genetic resources as part of national forests genetic resources inventory or any similar arrangement a country may have in place for obtaining and maintaining the data. More specifically, the National Focal Points are expected to carry out the following tasks:

- Participate in the final meeting of the EUFGIS project (Vienna, Austria, mid-2010) (the EUFGIS project will cover travel and accommodation expenses);
- Continue gathering relevant information on the dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees and compiling the national data sets;
- Update frequently national data sets in the information system during Phase IV; and
- Provide inputs to new initiatives on FGR documentation, as needed.

For the years 2011-2014, the Steering Committee approved limited resources for the maintenance of the information system (including further development of the intranet and the portal, helpdesk support, training of new National Focal Points etc) as well as one meeting for the National Focal Points.

3.7. Documentation and information policy

The EUFORGEN Secretariat will maintain and further develop the EUFORGEN website and the EUFGIS portal. The Secretariat will also continue to facilitate the translation of Technical Guidelines and other publications at national level. The related translation and printing costs should be covered nationally, as was earlier agreed by the Steering Committee.

Papers presented during the workshops and their recommendations will be published as EUFORGEN publications. The working groups can also publish their work in EUFORGEN publications independently from the workshops if needed. Summary reports of the EUFORGEN meetings will be produced in a simple format and distributed shortly after the meetings. Furthermore, EUFORGEN will continue to provide relevant information to the MCPFE process and for other purposes, as needed.

In May 2007, the Steering Committee agreed that EUFORGEN should publish a report on the "State of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe" by the end of Phase III. It further agreed that the preparation of this report should be closely coordinated with the efforts of FAO. Following this, the Secretariat has collaborated with FAO and provided inputs to the planning process for the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report. FAO is expected to finalize the planning of the process and the detailed data requirements for the report by the end of 2009.

In June 2009, the FAO representative briefed the Steering Committee on the development of the SoW-FGR report. The Steering Committee agreed that EUFORGEN will continue collaborating with FAO and provide its inputs to the development of the SoW-FGR report. The Steering Committee further agreed that EUFORGEN should finalize the planned report on European forest genetic resources independently from FAO's global report efforts. However, the content of the European report, to be finalized by 2012, should be kept aligned with the content of the global report to avoid duplication of efforts.

3.8. Budget for Phase IV

The estimated budget for Phase IV and allocation of funds over the period of five years is presented in Annex 4 (page 51). It is projected that a total budget of US$2,023,830 is needed to carry out the Programme activities. The average annual budget is ca. US$ 404,766.

Annual financial contributions made by the current and potential member countries to cover the costs of the Programme are shown in Annex 5a and 5b, respectively (pages 52 and 53). Ranking of the countries into different categories in order to determine the annual financial contribution is based on the United Nations assessment rates.

The current member countries are expected to contribute a total of US$ 368,250 per year while the potential contribution from new member countries amounts US$ 60,850 per year. In June 2009, the Steering Committee approved the unbalanced budget for Phase IV and agreed to review the budget and the financial contributions of the member countries during its next meeting in early 2010.

Additional financial resources to support specific Programme activities will be sought by developing project proposals for relevant calls and donors.

Annex 4: Estimated budget (in US$) for EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014).

	Phase III	Phase IV	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Coordinator at Bioversity (50%) (1)	248,110	325,000	60,000	62,500	65,000	67,500	70,000
Secretariat administrative support (50%) (1)	144,559	201,000	37,000	38,000	40,000	42,000	44,000
Secretariat staff travel	65,000	65,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Steering Committee (meetings)	90,000	150,000	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Thematic activities (meetings and operations)	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species-oriented Networks (meetings)	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Working Groups (meetings)	0	150,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Workshops	0	130,000	10,000	60,000	0	60,000	0
EUFGIS (maintenance & development)	0	80,000	0	10,000	50,000	10,000	10,000
Secretariat scientific and technical inputs (1), (2)	283,310	407,500	75,000	78,250	81,500	84,750	88,000
Dissemination of information and publications (3)	224,055	232,500	44,000	45,250	46,500	47,750	49,000
Contributions to Newsletter (2 issues per year)	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public awareness tools/action	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communication and office consumables	50,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sub-total	1,650,034	1,791,000	329,000	347,000	386,000	365,000	364,000
Overhead (13%)	214,504	232,830	42,770	45,110	50,180	47,450	47,320
Total	**1,864,538**	**2,023,830**	**371,770**	**392,110**	**436,180**	**412,450**	**411,320**

(1) Yearly increases are based on a 2% inflation and 2% performance increase per year

(2) Coordinator (25%) and Programme Specialist (50%)

(3) Coordinator (25%), promotion of programme outputs and development of publications

Percentage use of funds by category

Category	Phase III	Phase IV
Coordination and administrative support	21.1%	26.0%
Staff travel	3.5%	3.2%
Steering Committee meetings	4.8%	7.4%
Meetings and workshops	26.8%	13.8%
EUFGIS	0.0%	4.0%
Secretariat scientific and technical inputs	15.2%	20.1%
Publications	12.0%	11.5%
Newsletter	1.1%	0.0%
Public awareness	1.3%	0.0%
Bioversity	14.2%	14.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Annex 5a: EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014): annual financial contributions (in US$) from countries with expected commitment.

COUNTRY	UN rates (%) (1)	UN rates (%) (2)	Cat. (3)	Cat. (3)	Annual contribution (US$)
Estonia	0.010	0.016	B1	B1	5,500
Bulgaria	0.013	0.020	B1	B1	5,500
Serbia	0.020	0.021	B1	B1	5,500
Lithuania	0.017	0.031	B1	B1	5,500
Iceland	0.033	0.037	B1	B1	5,500
Cyprus	0.038	0.044	B1	B1	5,500
Croatia	0.039	0.050	B1	B1	5,500
Slovakia	0.043	0.063	B1	B1	5,500
Romania	0.058	0.070	B1	B1	5,500
Luxembourg	0.080	0.085	B1	B1	5,500
Slovenia	0.081	0.096	B1	B1	5,500
Hungary	0.120	0.244	B2	B2	7,500
Czech rep	0.203	0.281	B2	B2	7,500
Turkey	0.440	0.381	B2	B2	7,500
Ireland	0.294	0.445	B2	B2	7,500
Poland	0.378	0.501	B2	C	11,000
Portugal	0.462	0.527	B2	C	11,000
Finland	0.522	0.564	C	C	11,000
Greece	0.539	0.596	C	C	11,000
Denmark	0.749	0.739	C	C	11,000
Norway	0.646	0.782	C	C	11,000
Austria	0.947	0.887	C	C	11,000
Sweden	1.027	1.071	D	D	13,750
Belgium	1.129	1.102	D	D	13,750
Switzerland	1.274	1.216	D	D	13,750
Netherlands	1.738	1.873	D	D	13,750
Spain	2.519	2.968	D	D	13,750
Italy	5.065	5.079	E	E	33,000
France	6.466	6.301	E	E	33,000
United kingdom	5.536	6.642	E	E	33,000
Germany	9.769	8.577	E	E	33,000
Annual total					**368,250**
Total over five years					**1,841,250**

(1) UN Scale of Assessments approved for the year 2003, as established by General Assembly Resolution 55/5B adopted on 22 December 2000

(2) UN Scale of Assessments approved for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, as established by General Assembly Resolution 61/237 adopted on 22 December 2006

(3) Key to calculation of annual contribution to EUFORGEN (US$)

Threshold	Category	Annual contribution
x < 0.01	A	2,200
0.01<= x < 0.1	B1	5,500
0.1<=x<0.5	B2	7,500
0.5<= x <1.0	C	11,000
1.0<= x< 5.0	D	13,750
x=>5.0	E	33,000

Annex 5b: EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014): annual financial contributions (in US$) from countries with potential commitment.

Country	UN rates (%) 1)	UN rates (%) 2)	Cat. 3)	Cat. 3)	Annual contribution (US$)
Moldova	0.002	0.001	A	A	2,200
Montenegro	0.002	0.001	A	A	2,200
Armenia	0.002	0.002	A	A	2,200
Georgia	0.005	0.003	A	A	2,200
Azerbaijan	0.004	0.005	A	A	2,200
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.006	0.005	A	A	2,200
Albania	0.003	0.006	A	A	2,200
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.004	0.006	A	A	2,200
Malta	0.015	0.017	B1	B1	5,500
Latvia	0.010	0.018	B1	B1	5,500
Belarus	0.019	0.020	B1	B1	5,500
Ukraine	0.053	0.045	B1	B1	5,500
Israel	0.415	0.419	B2	B2	7,500
Russian Federation	1.200	1.200	D	D	13,750
Total annual					**60,850**
Total over five years					**304,250**

Threshold	Category	Annual contribution US$
x < 0.01	A	2,200
0.01<= x < 0.1	B1	5,500
0.1<=x<0.5	B2	7,500
0.5<= x <1.0	C	11,000
1.0<= x< 5.0	D	13,750
x=>5.0	E	33,000

Agenda of the sixth Steering Committee meeting
Thessaloniki, Greece 9–12 June 2009

Mon 8 June 2009		
12:00-	Arrival to Thessaloniki Airport and transport to Mediterranean Palace Hotel	
20:00-24:00	Buffet dinner	Mediterranean Palace Hotel

Tue 9 June		
09:00	Opening of the meeting (Chair: Andreas Drouzas) ● Welcome by Greece: Konstantinos Kiltidis, Vice Minister, Rural Development & Food Nikolaos Papagiannopoulos, Vice Mayor of Thessaloniki Minas Arsenakis, Chair of School of Biology Panagiotis Stefanidis, Chair of School of Forestry and Natural Environment Archontoula Tsakistrati, Director of the Regional Forest Service of Central Macedonia ● Welcome by Bioversity International (Jozef Turok) ● Welcome by FAO (Oudara Souvannavong)	Mediterranean Palace Hotel
09:45	Coffee/tea break	
10:15	Session 1: (Chair: Bjerne Ditlevsen) ● Introduction to the meeting (Jarkko Koskela) ● Adoption of the agenda and nomination of rapporteurs ● Update to the MCPFE process (Tore Skrøppa, on behalf of the MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo) *The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment relevant MCPFE activities, and 2) discuss the implications of the MCPFE commitments to EUFORGEN.* *Background documents:* *MCPFE Work Programme (2008)* *Warsaw Declaration (2007)*	
11:00	Review of EUFORGEN Phase III ● Technical and financial report (Jarkko Koskela) ● Discussion and recommendations for the remaining period of Phase III *The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the progress made during Phase III, 2) provide recommendations for the remaining period of Phase III, 3) review the budget, and 4) decide how to deal with the outstanding payments.* *Background documents:* *Phase III report*	
12:30	Lunch	M. Palace Hotel

Tue 9 June (continued)		
14:00	Session 2 (Chair: François Lefèvre) Updates on EUFORGEN Network activities ● Forest Management Network (Jason Hubert) ● Conifers Network (Bruno Fady) ● Scattered Broadleaves Network (Bart De Cuyper) ● Stand-forming Broadleaves Network (Georg von Wühlisch) *The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the activities of the Networks, and 2) provide recommendations for further development of the common action plans and promotion of FGR conservation and use as part of forest management.*	
16:00	Coffee/tea break	
16:30-18:00	Documenting and monitoring forest genetic resources European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS) ● Update to the project activities (Jarkko Koskela) ● Future role of the information system and the national focal points Canadian Forest Genetic Resources Information System (CAFGRIS) ● Presentation of the CAFGRIS system (Judy Loo) Development of methods for genetic monitoring of gene conservation units ● Presentation of a background document (Filippos Aravanopoulos) *The Steering Committee is expected to 1) discuss the maintenance and further development of EUFGIS as part of EUFORGEN, and 2) provide recommendations for the development of methods for genetic monitoring of the gene conservation units.* *<u>Background documents:</u>* *Summary of the EUFGIS project (2009)* *Pan-European minimum requirements and data standards for dynamic gene conservation units (2009)* *Genetic monitoring for gene conservation units (2009)*	
	Dinner (the participants are free to try any of the nearby restaurants)	Thessaloniki

Wed 10 June		
09:00	Session 3 (Chair: Mari Rusanen) State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report ● Preparatory process, an outline of the report and thematic studies planned (Oudara Souvannavong) ● Discussion *The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the development of the SoW-FGR Report and provide feedback to FAO, and 2) discuss EUFORGEN contributions to the report.* *<u>Background documents:</u>* *Development of a report on the state of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (FAO, March 2009)* *Report of the 19th COFO Session (FAO, March 2009)*	Mediterranean Palace Hotel
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	Searching for appropriate legislation regulating access and exclusive rights to forest genetic resources in the Nordic region ● Introduction to the project and expected outcomes (Tore Skrøppa) *The Steering Committee is expected to discuss and share experiences on access and benefit sharing issues.*	
11:45	Collaboration with other regions ● Canadian Program for Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources (CONFORGEN) (Judy Loo) *The Steering Committee is expected to provide recommendations for future collaboration on forest genetic resources with other regions.*	
12:30	Lunch	Mediterranean Palace Hotel
14:00	Session 4 (Chair: Jason Hubert) Review of the Phase IV proposal ● Introduction to the draft proposal (Jarkko Koskela) ● Mandate (Working Group) ● Scope and objectives (Working Group) *The Steering Committee is expected to discuss the draft proposal and provide its comments.* *<u>Background documents:</u>* *Proposal for Phase IV (May 2009)* *Results of the Phase III survey (March 2009)*	
16:00	Coffee/tea break	
16:30-18:00	Review of the Phase IV proposal: continued ● Mode of operation (Working Group) ● Budget for Phase IV (Jozef Turok)	
20:30	Dinner	M. Palace Hotel

Thu 11 June		
09:00	Session 5 (Chair: Sven de Vries) Collaboration with the European Union ● EU and other funding opportunities for work on forest genetic resources (Jozef Turok) ● Plenary discussion on other funding opportunities and the advocacy role of EUFORGEN *The Steering Committee is expected to discuss and make recommendations for future collaboration with the EU bodies and programmes.*	Mediterranean Palace Hotel
10:00	Review of the Phase IV proposal: continued ● Presentation of the revised proposal	
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	Review of the Phase IV proposal: continued ● Adoption of the Phase IV proposal	
12:30	Lunch	M. Palace Hotel
14:00	Session 6 (Chair: Tore Skrøppa) Emerging issues and opportunities for FGR conservation and use as part of sustainable forest management ● Outcomes of the workshop on "Forests at the limits" (Csaba Mátyás) ● Plenary discussion *The Steering Committee is expected to discuss ways to promote conservation and use of forest genetic resources at policy and practical level.*	
15:00	Updates on relevant projects ● EVOLTREE project (François Lefèvre) ● TREEBREEDEX project (Bart De Cuyper) ● COST Action E52 (Georg von Wühlisch) ● Other relevant initiatives	
16:00	Coffee/tea break	
16:30-18:00	Wrap-up session (Chair: Sven de Vries) ● Adoption of the meeting recommendations ● Any other business ● Date and place of the next meeting ● Closing remarks	
20:30	Social dinner	Bungalow White

Fri 12 June		
08:30-18:30	Field trip to the Mount Olympus National Park and the Vergina archaeological site. Further information and a detailed programme will be provided later.	

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