



# Report of the Eighth Steering Committee meeting

Paris, France  
27-29 November 2012



Summary of the meeting  
Work Plan for 2013-2014

# **Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee Paris, France, 27-29 November 2012**

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

F. Lefèvre, the EUFORGEN National Coordinator of France (INRA-Avignon) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to France. On behalf of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, P. Boulloin then welcomed the participants to Paris and wished them a fruitful meeting. J. Koskela (EUFORGEN Coordinator) welcomed the participants on behalf of Bioversity International and thanked the French Ministry for hosting the meeting. O. Souvannavong (FAO) thanked Bioversity International and the Steering Committee on behalf of FAO for the invitation to attend the meeting and to present the ongoing FAO work on forest genetic resources (FGR). He further noted that FAO is interested in continuing its long collaboration with EUFORGEN and that the Programme is a good example of regional cooperation which is necessary for effective FGR conservation across national borders.

J. Koskela presented the draft agenda of the meeting and it was adopted without changes. M. Bozzano, E. Hermanowicz and J. Koskela were nominated as rapporteurs of the meeting. As the Chair of the opening session, F. Lefèvre then invited all participants to briefly introduce themselves.

## **2. Forest genetic resources in the pan-European collaboration on forests**

### **Development of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe**

J. Andrieu, Director of the Forestry Department (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry) welcomed the participants to France and presented an update to the ongoing negotiating process for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. He started by highlighting some recent decisions taken by European ministers responsible for forests as part of the FOREST EUROPE process. In particular, he explained the Oslo decision to initiate an intergovernmental negotiation process to develop a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. He noted that some text of the agreement has already been drafted during two negotiation sessions, first one held in Vienna, Austria in February 2012, and the second one in Bonn, Germany in September 2012. The third session will take place in Antalya, Turkey on 28 January-1 February 2013. The text of the agreement is expected to be finalized at the fourth and last session which will be held in Poland in mid-2013. The adoption of the agreement will be then discussed by the ministers at the extraordinary Ministerial Conference which will be held in Madrid, Spain before the end of 2013.

He explained that the agreement will be based on the existing FOREST EUROPE commitments promoting sustainable forest management. The voluntary approach to implement these commitments, of which EUFORGEN is a good example, worked well in the past but he said that the time is mature for the countries to express a stronger commitment to the implementation of sustainable forest management for the benefit of the European forest sector. He clarified that so far the negotiations have focused on legal and administrative issues related to the agreement, such as compliance and reporting, and whether the finalized agreement should be brought under the UN umbrella or not. He also noted that the discussion is continuing on a body or secretariat that will coordinate and monitor the implementation of the agreement in the future, and how such a body will be financed.

The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), consisting of representatives of eight countries (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine) plus Spain as an observer (Spain is currently hosting the Liaison Unit of FOREST EUROPE) met in Paris in November to discuss the preparations for the next negotiating session which will be held in Turkey in early 2013. J. Andrieu said that the overall content of the agreement is already rather well defined and that details on many issues will be further negotiated and drafted during the next session in Turkey. He mentioned that EUFORGEN is welcome to make text proposals related to FGR for consideration by INC. Further information on this process is available on the INC website (<http://www.forestnegotiations.org>).

Several members of the Steering Committee commented that the current draft negotiating text does not make any reference to genetic resources or genetic diversity despite the fact that one of the first FOREST EUROPE commitments (Strasbourg Resolution 2) specifically requested countries to improve the conservation of their forest genetic resources and called for the establishment of an international instrument (i.e. EUFORGEN) to promote and coordinate this work at the pan-European level. It was also pointed out that the draft text on forest biodiversity is now rather general and that it does not recognize that different measures or actions may be needed for conserving the three levels of biological diversity as part of sustainable forest management.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the fact that the text of the agreement cannot go into details but recommended that the agreement should at least make a clear, specific reference to FGR conservation in the biodiversity-related paragraphs. It was stressed that FGR conservation is not only an ecological issue but also an economic one. Furthermore, genetic diversity of forest trees is crucial for maintaining the adaptive capacity of forests to climate change. This aspect could be additionally emphasized in the adaptation and climate change related text of the agreement.

In addition to FGR conservation, several members of the Steering Committee felt that the text of the agreement should also promote appropriate use of FGR as the long-term sustainability of forestry ultimately depends on the amount of genetic diversity maintained within the existing tree populations and the genetic material used for regenerating forests. The forest sector is increasingly discussing the implications of the Nagoya Protocol and the development of a new EC Regulation on plant reproductive material for tree breeding and the use of forest reproductive material. Therefore, it would be timely if the text of the agreement would also address the use of FGR.

The Steering Committee decided that a written statement on FGR should be presented by the Secretariat to the next INC session in Turkey. F. Wolter, R. Longauer and S. de Vries agreed to draft the statement during the meeting.

### **3. Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014)**

J. Koskela presented an update to the implementation of EUFORGEN activities during 2010-2012. He started by briefing the Steering Committee in the new strategy and structure of Bioversity International. According to the new strategy, Bioversity has two strategic priorities, i.e. 1) to improve the use of biodiversity by smallholder farmers (in developing countries) and 2) to improve the conservation and availability of plant diversity. Based on these, the Institute has defined eight strategic objectives for its work. As of March 2012, Bioversity has five Research Programmes and three Regional Offices (for Sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas, and Asia, Pacific

and Oceania). The Regional Office for Europe has been closed and the EUFORGEN Secretariat now operates as part of Bioversity's new Forest Genetic Resources Programme which has a global focus. He explained that the new arrangement has no implications on the EUFORGEN activities.

He then continued by presenting a summary of the technical activities during 2010-2012 focusing on pan-European collaboration on FGR, activities of the Steering Committee and the Secretariat, and wider influences of EUFORGEN (see the technical reports for 2010-2011 for details). Furthermore, he provided the Steering Committee with an update to the membership situation and the financial reports for 2010-2011. A total of 26 countries officially joined Phase IV (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom) and several of them had experienced problems in providing the agreed financial contributions to EUFORGEN. The Secretariat has contacted all countries with outstanding financial contributions and it is expected that most of them will pay the contributions before the end of 2012. He noted that the Secretariat has continued prudent management of the financial resources and it has also implemented spending cuts as the number of member countries is now lower than the one (31) used for preparing the Phase IV budget in 2009. The current member countries are expected to provide a total of US\$ 321,500 per year.

J. Koskela reported that the opening balance of the trust fund was US\$ 50,810 on 1 January 2010 (the beginning of Phase IV). The actual Programme expenditure was US\$ 195,991 in 2010 and US\$ 300,636 in 2011. The expenditure was considerably lower than the planned budget for these years (US\$ 371,770 and US\$ 392,110, respectively). The closing balance of the trust fund was US\$ 195,290 on 31 December 2011 and it was carried forward for 2012. Regarding the remaining years of Phase IV, he noted that the availability of financial resources should be kept in mind when developing the new work plan for 2013-2014. He then presented the historical overview of EUFORGEN expenditures (1995-2011), as requested by the Steering Committee at its previous meeting in September 2010. He explained in detail the historical development of different cost items (i.e. Secretariat staff, Secretariat travel, Steering Committee, Networks/Working Groups, publications/dissemination, communications/consumables and overheads). During the 17-year period, the average annual expenditure of the Programme has been US\$ 275,462.

The Steering Committee thanked the Secretariat for the reports and especially for preparing the historical overview of the expenditures. The Steering Committee then briefly re-visited the membership rules it adopted for Phase IV in 2009 (see the report of the sixth meeting) and agreed that no changes are needed. It was then discussed whether the outstanding financial contributions from Phase III should be removed from the annual financial reports. It was decided that these contributions should be kept in the annual reports but that their treatment should be discussed again before the end of Phase IV. Concerning the reduced number of member countries, it was recommended that the Secretariat continues discussions with all those Phase III member countries which have not yet joined Phase IV and urge them to join EUFORGEN again. If possible, those countries should also be reminded during FOREST EUROPE and other relevant meetings.

Some National Coordinators questioned why their country has not had an opportunity to participate in various European research projects on FGR despite the fact that their country is a member of EUFORGEN. It was clarified that funding for these research projects are decided by the European Commission based on proposals submitted by consortia of institutions and that this

process is very competitive. These consortia are typically formed by a relatively small group of research institutions and most calls for proposals have a limit for the number of partners that can be involved in a project proposal. It was also pointed out that the scope of EUFORGEN is not to coordinate the development of such research projects. Concerning the EVOLTREE Network, it was noted that all relevant research institutes in Europe are welcome to join EVOLTREE. This will also increase their possibilities to participate in developing research proposals for the EC research and research infrastructure funding. Regarding the EC funding targeted to the conservation and management of genetic resources (e.g. the earlier AGRI GEN RES programme), it was noted that project proposals for this type of EC funding can be developed in the context of EUFORGEN especially if they aim at pan-European actions on FGR (cf. the EUFGIS project).

The Steering Committee adopted the technical and financial reports for 2010-2011. It was decided that, in the future, both reports should be sent to the member countries through National Coordinators. They should then forward the reports to the relevant ministries or other funding bodies and also make sure that the reports are received by relevant officers. This is to avoid any disruptions in the reporting and funding efforts. All National Coordinators were urged to inform the Secretariat on any problems related to the financial contributions as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the Secretariat should send the reminders on the outstanding financial contributions earlier (i.e. before autumn) so that the National Coordinators have more time to contact relevant officers at the ministries.

#### **4. Session 2: European and global initiatives relevant to forest genetic resources**

##### **Conservation of forest genetic resources and the new EC Regulation for rural development**

P. Bouillon briefed the Steering Committee on the development of the new EC Regulation for rural development and explained that FGR conservation has been included as one of the eligible activities under forestry measures. He noted that the text for the EC Regulation on this topic will be finalized under the Irish presidency during the first half of 2013. The Steering Committee exchanged views on the draft EC Regulation and decided to propose to the EC that it would be useful to list specific activities on FGR under the eligible forestry measures. It was proposed that the following areas of work should be included in the new EC Regulation, 1) management of existing genetic conservation units of forest trees, 2) establishment of new genetic conservation units, and 3) inventories and genetic monitoring of the units. It was agreed that P. Bouillon will communicate this proposal to relevant EC officers and that the exact wording of the proposal focusing on the three topics will be drafted by P. Bouillon, M. Rusanen and J. Koskela.

##### **Development of a new EC Regulation on marketing and production of plant reproductive material**

P. Bouillon provided the Steering Committee with background information on the development of the new EC Regulation on plant reproductive material. The goal of the EC is to merge the existing 12 directives on reproductive material (11 of them dealing with seeds of agricultural crops and one focusing on forest trees) into a single regulation. P. Bouillon further explained that this initiative

has now been also linked to the whole “food and feed” chain. He noted that the merging of the current regulations will have some negative effects on the forest sector. The EU Standing Forestry Committee has expressed its opinion that the existing regulation on forest reproductive material (FRM) should not be merged with the ones dealing with crop seeds. The reason is that the new regulation is likely to compromise the quality and traceability of FRM as producers are expected to cover the full costs of registration and certification of the material to relevant authorities. There are also concerns on how well the producers can cope with new responsibilities to ensure the traceability of the material. However, the EC is considering keeping FRM included in the new regulation.

The Steering Committee members exchanged views on the issue supporting the opinion of the Standing Forestry Committee. It was agreed that the consequences of including FRM into the new EC regulation, based on technical and scientific arguments, should be communicated to the EC. For this purpose, a letter will be drafted by S. Bordács, P. Bouillon, H. Kraigher and P. Aravanopoulos. The letter will be then sent to the EC by the EUFORGEN Secretariat on behalf of the Steering Committee.

### **Forest genetic resources and the new EU Forest Strategy**

F. Wolter (Administration de la nature et des forêts, Luxembourg) presented an update to the development of the new EU Forest Strategy. He noted that the strategy is not fundamentally new but a revised version of the first EU strategy adopted in 1998. The purpose of the new strategy is to address the increasing demands and emerging needs that call for improved EU coordination and to ensure society that the EU forests are managed according to the principles of sustainable forest management. The new strategy has identified 10 interrelated priorities and forest genetic resources are highly relevant to many of these priorities, such as climate change, forest protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity, research and innovation, and forest information and monitoring. F. Wolter further explained that the EC is currently preparing a communication on the new strategy that will be submitted to the European Council and Parliament during the first quarter of 2013. The Council and the Parliament are then expected to decide the follow-up actions, which is likely to include development of a new EU Forest Action Plan to implement the strategy. F. Wolter also noted that the development of the action plan is linked to the outcomes of the negotiating process for a legally binding agreement on European forests.

The Steering Committee recommended that National Coordinators in the EU member countries should keep their national representative in the EU Standing Forestry Committee informed about the work of EUFORGEN. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Secretariat should follow up the process and circulate the new strategy once it is finalized. The Steering Committee can then discuss what specific actions on FGR could be proposed to a new EU Forest Action Plan.

### **State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report**

O. Souvannavong (FAO) briefed the Steering Committee on the preparation of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report and possible follow-up options once it has been finalized.

He mentioned that FAO has received a total of 70 country reports (of which 13 were submitted by European countries) and that 14 additional countries are expected to submit their reports soon. He further presented a list of seven thematic studies that are being finalized for the global report.

O. Souvannavong continued by informing the Steering Committee that the second session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR) is scheduled for 23-25 January 2013. The ITWG-FGR will review the progress made in developing the reports and also discuss needs and priorities for further action. It has a total of 27 members, including five European countries (Finland, France, Italy, Poland and Russian Federation). The recommendations of the ITWG-FGR will be then presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) on 15-19 April 2013 for its decision. In case of earlier similar global reports on crop and farm animal genetic resources, the CGRFA decided to initiate the development of a Global Plan of Action. It is expected that the CGRFA will also request FAO to develop such action plan for FGR. The background documents of the ITWG-FGR meeting are available from the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fgr/80316/en/>).

O. Souvannavong also updated the Steering Committee on the recent discussions on access and benefits sharing concerning genetic resources for food and agriculture. In 2011, the CGRFA established an Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and this working group held its first session in Longyearbyen (Svalbard), Norway in September 2012. The recommendations and discussions of the working group will be presented to the CGRFA in April 2013 for further discussion.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to O. Souvannavong and FAO for keeping EUFORGEN updated on the development of the SoW-FGR report. Several members of the Steering Committee expressed their surprise about the news that only 13 European countries had submitted their reports to FAO. It was recommended that National Coordinators in those countries which have not yet submitted their reports should follow up this issue urgently after the meeting.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the work done by FAO in preparing the SoW-FGR report and welcomed the proposed development of the Global Plan of Action on FGR as a follow-up option. The Steering Committee expressed the readiness of EUFORGEN to contribute to the development and implementation of such global work plan in Europe and to continue its collaboration with FAO. Regarding access and benefit sharing, the Steering Committee concluded that the specific nature of FGR should be recognized by any implementation mechanism of the Nagoya Protocol. It was also noted that open questions regarding the protocol's implementation can cause confusion if they are not clarified and subsequently they may hamper access to FGR for research purposes.



## 5. Reports of the EUFORGEN Working Groups

### Development of a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees

S. de Vries (Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands) presented the draft report of the working group that was tasked to develop a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees. He noted that the overall goal of the strategy is to conserve both adaptive and neutral genetic diversity of forest trees by creating a pan-European core network of genetic conservation units. He continued by explaining the selection of pilot tree species based on their geographical distribution (wide or restricted) and ecological appearance (stand-forming or scattered), and how the working group ranked potential units for the establishment of the core network. The working group also assessed the genetic conservation status of the pilot tree species based on the data available in the EUFGIS Portal and identified gaps in the conservation efforts. Gaps in adaptive genetic diversity were determined based on the so called “country x zone” areas, i.e. by dividing each country within the distribution range of a given species into environmental zones and then evaluating how many of the zones within the countries had conservation units. The working group also considered gaps in neutral genetic diversity based on “area of interest” approach (i.e. migration routes, refugia areas and contact zones) using the available information from earlier genetic studies. S. de Vries concluded by presenting the result and recommendations of the working group and noted that the units selected and the gaps identified should be considered as tentative ones. He also pointed out that a new and more detailed environmental zoning of Europe will be published in early 2013 (by Metzger et al.) and that the working group plans to use this new zoning for preparing the final results. Furthermore, he noted that the National Coordinators will be consulted before the selection of the units for the establishment of the core network is finalized.

The Steering Committee thanked the working group for preparing the draft report and expressed its satisfaction to the results presented. The members of the Steering Committee also made several comments and questions which were clarified after the presentation. Some members questioned the use of “pan-European” in the strategy’s name and asked whether “Europe” or “European Union” should be used instead. It was clarified that “pan-European” is an appropriate term in this context as it is also used by the FOREST EUROPE process and as the geographical focus of the strategy is not limited to the European Union. Other Steering Committee members asked whether different environmental or climate zoning approaches could be used as a basis for defining the country x zones. They pointed out that the zoning by Metzger et al. (2005) has some inconsistencies in a few countries. S. de Vries clarified that the working group used the zoning by Metzger et al. (2005) to test the selected approach and it was found to be a workable approach. He further noted that the new zoning by Metzger et al. (2013) will solve most, if not all, inconsistencies of the previous zoning. Several Steering Committee members wondered whether using the “country x zone” approach will produce unrealistically high conservation targets that are difficult to meet and asked whether the targets could be defined based on only countries or zones. It was explained the re-analysis of the results using the new zoning will also reduce the number of targeted “country x zones” areas and that if the new zoning still produces “irrelevant” zones for a country (i.e. zones in which a given tree species is not occurring or zones which are very small in terms of size), these can be excluded when setting the conservation targets and identifying gaps. After some discussion, it was acknowledged that the resolution of the species’ distribution maps is likely to cause more “false gaps” than the new zoning which has much higher spatial resolution (1 km x 1 km) than the distribution maps.



The Steering Committee endorsed the systematic approach (i.e. country x zones) used for developing the strategy and requested the working group to finalize its draft report by carrying out new analyses based on the new environmental zoning by Metzger et al. (2013). While doing this, the working group should also consider scaling up the threshold used in identifying gaps (earlier 50 km<sup>2</sup>, see Table 5 of the draft report) to have more feasible conservation targets, if possible. Furthermore, the working group should add more discussion on the limitations of the systematic approach to the final report.

### **Development of a genetic monitoring system for dynamic conservation units of forest trees in Europe**

F. Aravanopoulos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) presented the draft report of the second working group that focused on the development of a genetic monitoring system for dynamic conservation units of forest trees in Europe. He started by providing some background information based on the earlier studies and then clarified the purpose of genetic monitoring and related terminology (e.g. indicators and verifiers). He then explained that the gene-ecological approach was selected by the working group as the conceptual framework for developing the genetic monitoring system. The working group recognized natural selection and genetic drift as the major forces of evolution that are mediated by gene flow. Subsequently, the working group proposed that a pan-European genetic monitoring approach could be based on only two indicators (selection and genetic variation & mating system) and 10 verifiers. Considering the two indicators, the working group proposed three options as follows:

- Option 1 (Basic): Use of demographic data only. Indicator I (selection) is fully evaluated with (age/size class distribution, reproductive fitness, regeneration abundance, and mortality/fructification).
- Option 2 (Standard): Use of demographic and genetic data. Indicator-I is fully evaluated with the above-mentioned demographic verifiers. Indicator-II (genetic variation & mating system) is fully evaluated with genetic verifiers using SSR and/or SNP genotyping.
- Option 3 (State-of-the-art): Use of demographic and genomic (NGS) data. Indicator-I is fully evaluated with demographic verifiers and signatures of selection provided by GWA of sequence data. Indicator-II is fully evaluated with genetic verifiers based on genomic (NGS) data.

F. Aravanopoulos continued by explaining the two approaches the working group had investigated for identifying potential monitoring regions, i.e. a systematic sampling approach (e.g. various grid options) and an expert-based approach. He noted that the uneven distribution of genetic conservation units within and among tree species makes any systematic approach by definition impractical due to large gaps and scale differences. Therefore, the working group decided to use the expert-based approach as a basis for identifying the potential monitoring regions. He then provided further details on the selection of model species and genetic monitoring units. He explained that genetic monitoring efforts should focus on keystone tree species of ecological and economic importance and endangered and/or rare tree species. For testing purposes, the working group had selected 14 keystone species and one endangered species.

The expert-based approach for identifying the genetic monitoring regions includes several steps. Firstly, monitoring regions are tentatively identified based on the distribution map of a tree species. In the second step, the distribution map is overlaid with genetic conservation units characterized by environmental zones to identify additional monitoring regions and potential monitoring units. In the third step, layers of available genetic information (marker data or adaptive traits from provenance trials) are added to locate potential refugia and migration routes to identify additional areas for monitoring. The final number of monitoring areas and monitoring units, as well as their location, are then fine-tuned. The minimum number of monitoring units needed depends on the number of environmental zones within the distribution range of a given species. The maximum number of monitoring units is determined by the number of “country x zones” areas within the distribution range. The working group set the final number of monitoring units close to the minimum number needed in the model species tested in the report. F. Aravanopoulos demonstrated the expert-based approach in detail by showing the step-wise process was done for one model species.

F. Aravanopoulos then presented detailed cost assessments that the working group did for the different monitoring options. The calculations were based on a minimum plot size of 4 hectares with 50 or more reproducing trees. The estimated average labour costs for the demographic verifiers were estimated to be € 8,500 per unit and per decade. The estimated costs of genetic analyses were € 3,000, € 2,500 and € 28,500 per population and per decade for nSSR, SNP and NGS analyses, respectively. Finally, he presented the total cost estimates of one monitoring cycle (one decade) for a monoecious stand-forming species with a set of 10 monitoring units. He concluded his presentation by listing the recommendations of the working group. He noted that the working group was aware of the fact that a pan-Europe genetic monitoring scheme cannot be created without specific funding support and proposed that, while investigating funding possibilities, the work could be started by finalizing the selection of genetic monitoring units and by developing technical guidelines for genetic monitoring.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to the working group for the large amount of work done. Furthermore, it was noted by many members of the Steering Committee that the working group had delivered the expected outputs and an excellent report. Several comments and questions were then presented to F. Aravanopoulos. It was proposed that the vulnerability of species and populations as well as the level of risks brought by climate change could also be taken into account when identifying the genetic monitoring units. In addition, it was noted genetic monitoring is a topic that is being addressed by one of the FAO thematic studies for the SoW-FGR report and that it is likely that activities on genetic monitoring will be also included into a possible Global Plan of Action on FGR. Concerning the costs assessment of genetic monitoring, it was pointed out that genetic analyses are no longer a bottleneck for genetic monitoring as 70% of the costs are related to field work needed to measure demographic parameters, and as the costs of genetic analyses are decreasing continuously. As various national agencies are already carrying out field work in the conservation units, it was proposed that some preparatory efforts for genetic monitoring could be initiated before securing additional funding for this purpose. Furthermore, it was highlighted that monitoring will actually start only after the second data collection and therefore it is necessary to start gathering data as soon as possible. Many participants noted that much of the research infrastructure needed for creating a pan-European genetic monitoring scheme, including a DNA repository centre, is already in place. It was also stressed that it is also important to store tissue in addition to DNA as DNA extraction protocols may change or be improved in the future.

Several meeting participants had been involved in the earlier work on genetic monitoring and they emphasized based on their experience that it is necessary to invest some time and resources for screening of the potential monitoring units before further resources are invested in the establishment and maintenance of such units. Several participants also pointed out that further field-level testing of genetic monitoring approaches as part of the FORGER project will produce valuable additional information and lessons learnt for the development of a pan-European genetic monitoring scheme although the project's monitoring activities are only focusing on four tree species. It was recommended that the working group should take into account any early results of the FORGER project when finalizing its report.

The Steering Committee requested the working group to finalize its draft report based on the comments and guidance received. Considering the different options presented for genetic monitoring by the working group, the Steering Committee decided that further development of a pan-European genetic monitoring scheme for forest trees should be based on Option 2. Furthermore, the Steering Committee agreed that the working group should continue interactions with the FORGER project so that the experiences of the project partners on further testing of genetic monitoring can be taken into account while finalizing the report. It was also agreed that the working group should select a few species for which there are adequate amount of genetic information available and relevant genetic markers developed.

The Steering Committee also endorsed the proposal by the working group that the genetic monitoring units should be selected, as much as possible, from those genetic conservation units that have been selected for the establishment of the core network by the other working group. The EUFORGEN Secretariat should also highlight this aspect when it later communicates the tentative results of the selection processes finalized by the two working groups to the National Coordinators and EUFGIS National Focal Points (in case a country is not a member of EUFORGEN) for their final revision and approval.

### **Development of guidelines for the use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change**

F. Wolter presented the draft report of the third working group that focused on the use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change. He stated by explaining the structure of the report which was built around the key topics related to this issue, such as future challenges brought by climate change, legal and policy frameworks dealing with FRM, existing guidelines for the use of FRM, and scientific and practical considerations related to the future use of FRM. He then listed the key findings of the working group and explained some of them in detail. He noted that climate change is a complex phenomenon which is expected to affect tree populations in several ways and this makes it difficult to find simple answers to the tasks and questions the working group was requested to investigate. However, he noted that provenance experiments of forest trees provide a huge resource for evolutionary ecology and climate change studies, and that they represent the most reliable basis for practical recommendations on the future use of FRM. The working group had discussed recent studies in Canada and the USA which had tested new approaches for seed zone delineation and providing seed transfer recommendations (e.g. the "floating principle" of seed transfer). In addition to provenance research, on-going research efforts to identify adaptive DNA markers could be of great benefit for choosing suitable FRM for a given site under a particular climate change scenario.

F. Wolter concluded the presentation by explaining some of conclusions and recommendations. Revision of transfer rules is clearly needed at the pan-European level as most national guidelines do not provide any guidance for cross-border transfer of FRM that is expected to increase under climate change. The working group re-affirmed the idea that FRM transfer is a valid option for adapting forests to climate change but recognized that transfer of FRM also has its limits. For this reason, it is necessary to break the common assumption that “local provenance is always the best”. The working group was also concerned of the tendency that managers of tree planting efforts are thinking of changing tree species in a give site instead of considering changing provenances of the species used. Therefore, there is a continued need to enhance dissemination of information on the use and transfer of FRM to forest owners, managers and policy makers.

The Steering Committee thanked the working group for preparing the draft report. It also acknowledged the fact that the use and transfer of FRM is a much more complicated issue as compared to the topics addressed by the two other working groups. The members of the Steering Committee then discussed the findings of the draft report and made comments for the finalization of the work. As a general comment, it was noted that while the development of guidelines for the use and transfer of FRM is being discussed, it would be useful to also highlight the need for better documenting what FRM has been used and where. This requirement was already included in Strasbourg Resolution 2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the FOREST EUROPE process but actually very few countries require forest owners and managers to do this. In the future, it would be useful for both forest owners and researchers if they would know with what material a given stand was established when they analyze its growth performance, or when they make a selection between natural and artificial regeneration.

It was proposed that it would be useful to mention the impact of epigenetics on the production of FRM and explain that it is an additional factor that makes it difficult to provide clear guidelines for the use and transfer of FRM under climate change. Considering the issue of phenotypic plasticity, some meeting participants noted that we may sometimes need less of it, not more, to better predict how a given material behave under future climatic conditions. As the impacts of climate change are difficult to predict in a certain site, it was proposed that the use and transfer of FRM should be considered from the risk management point of view, i.e. that the transferred material should have enough diversity to ensure that a forest stand can cope with climate change during the next 50 years or so. It was also highlighted that adaptive potential of forest trees is a crucial issue to keep in mind and also reflect in the report. Many participants commented that the floating principle to define transfer zones is one of the key messages in the report for policymakers and forest owners. It was considered worthwhile to extend the discussion on this approach, if possible, in the report and how it could be used in Europe. Several other comments largely echoed the findings and recommendations of the working group.

The Steering Committee requested the working group to finalize the draft report based on the comments received. Furthermore, as this working group did not have time to consult a broader group of experts before the Steering Committee meeting, it was agreed that the draft report should be circulated to other experts (i.e. the email contributors) for their comments and that it should also be presented for further discussion and debate during a workshop before it will be finalized.

## **6. Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan (2013-2014)**

The Steering Committee started the session by discussing follow-up actions needed to finalize the draft reports of the three working groups. Before re-visiting the earlier agreed recommendations to the working groups, the Steering Committee expressed again its satisfaction to the results and recognized that the working groups have completed the tasks assigned to them. The agreed Work Plan is presented in Annex 1.

### **Follow-up tasks for the existing working groups**

Concerning the development of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees, the Steering Committee decided that the working group should use the new environmental zoning (Metzger et al. 2013) as a basis for finalizing the draft report and revising the conservation targets and the gap analyses. During this process, the working group should also investigate, and solve as much as possible, the problems related to the resolutions of the environmental zones and the species' distribution maps. It should also take into consideration the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee and then prepare the final report by the end of March 2013. The Steering Committee is expected to approve it (by email) in April 2013. After that, the Secretariat will then provide the National Coordinators with detailed information on those genetic conservation units which have been selected for the core network for their revision and final approval. The National Coordinators should consult, as appropriate, the EUFGIS National Focal Points and other national experts while reviewing the list of the selected units in their country. If needed, the National Coordinators can also propose changes to the list. The core network of the selected genetic conservation units for the 14 pilot species should then be finalized by October 2013. The Steering Committee agreed to review the progress made and the status of the core network during its next meeting which was tentatively scheduled for November 2013.

Regarding the second working group on genetic monitoring, the Steering Committee decided that it should also finalize its report during 2013. This working group should identify, by March 2013, a subset of 4-5 species for which sufficient amount of genetic data is already available. These species could be used for preparing ground for a pilot project and for initiating the pan-European genetic monitoring work before additional financial resources are secured for this work. By March 2013, the working group should also re-define the proposed monitoring regions using the new environmental zoning (Metzger et al. 2013). The working group should then finalize the selection of the genetic monitoring units (by August 2013) based on the units which also have been included into the core network developed by the first working group on genetic conservation strategies. The final report of the working group should be ready by October 2013 so the Steering Committee can then continue its discussion in November 2013 on how to implement the pan-European genetic monitoring scheme.

In case of the third working group, which focused on the use and transfer of FRM, the Steering Committee agreed that additional inputs and comments to the draft report are needed. For this purpose, the draft report should be circulated to the email contributors for their comments and also presented for further discussion during a workshop to be attended by the working group members and the email contributors. The working group should update the report based on the comments and feedback received by April 2013. The workshop should be organized in May or June 2013. The working group should then finalize the report by October 2013 so that the Steering Committee can make further decisions on this topic at its next meeting.

## Establishment of two new working groups

The Steering Committee revisited its earlier decisions made at the seventh meeting in 2010 concerning the topics the EUFORGEN working groups should address during Phase IV (2010-2014). It was agreed that two new working groups will be established for 2013-2014 to work with the remaining topics, i.e. incorporation of FGR conservation and use into national forest programmes and other relevant policies, and genetic conservation of forest trees under climate change. Considering the number of current member countries of EUFORGEN, it was further agreed that the number of national experts selected to the working group on policies can be raised to a maximum of 15 experts. For the other new working group, the number of experts was kept in a maximum of 10, as was the case with the earlier working groups. This arrangement will allow each member country to have one of its experts to be selected to the new working groups.

Several members of the Steering Committee noted that they would like to revise their earlier nominations of national experts to the EUFORGEN pool of experts, from which the experts to the working groups are selected, to ensure that the nominated experts have adequate experience on relevant policy issues. It was agreed that each National Coordinator can revise their earlier expert nominations, if needed, to ensure that the pool of experts includes experts with policy experience. The Secretariat will ask the National Coordinators to revise their expert nominations before the members of the new working groups are selected.

The Steering Committee then discussed tasks for the new working groups (see Annex 1). In case of the policy working group, the tasks include reviewing relevant results of the earlier Forest Management Network and considering the impacts of the Nagoya Protocol and possible sector-specific arrangements on access and benefit sharing, as well as the possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, on FGR conservation and use at the national and European levels. Furthermore, the working group should prepare advices on FGR conservation and use for policy makers responsible for the development and revision of national forest programmes. The working group was requested to present an update of its work to the next meeting of the Steering Committee (November 2013) and prepare a draft report for the tenth meeting (2014).

Regarding the second new working group, the Steering Committee agreed that it should not only focus on the management of single units but also networks of genetic conservation units. In addition, it should also cover *ex situ* conservation aspects. Therefore, the working group was tasked to address both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation approaches in the context of climate change. It was noted that tree species composition within the genetic conservation units is likely to change, and that it is necessary to identify most vulnerable populations and units. The working group should also analyze the level of duplication needed in conservation efforts and the idea of establishing conservation units outside the current distribution ranges of tree species. It should also review relevant results of the earlier Forest Management Network before considering climate change predictions and their consequences for FGR conservation. The working group should then develop recommendations for the management of both units and networks of the units, and for developing complementary *ex situ* measures. This working group was also requested to present an update of its work to the next meeting of the Steering Committee (November 2013) and prepare a draft report for the tenth meeting (2014).

## **Other activities to be included into the Work Plan**

J. Koskela presented an overview of international meetings and other activities that the EUFORGEN Secretariat has been invited to participate or is expected to provide inputs. He noted that the EUFORGEN workshop on FRM is tentatively scheduled for May or June 2013 and that the dates for this workshop and other EUFORGEN meetings 2013 can be confirmed once there is more clarity on the INC roadmap. The dates for INC3 (28 January -1 February, Turkey) and INC4 (early June, Poland) sessions are known but the dates for the extraordinary Ministerial Conference of FOREST EUROPE in autumn 2013 have not yet been announced. He added that the Secretariat will identify dates for the meetings of the new working groups and the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee as soon as possible. Regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee, he proposed that the meeting could be organized in May 2014.

## **7. Updates on relevant projects**

### **COST Action on marginal tree populations**

G. Vendramin (CNR-Firenze, Italy) presented a new COST Action, titled as “Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations of forest tree to climate change in Europe (MaP-FGR)” (No. FP1202). The project is coordinated by Fulvio Ducci (CRA-SEL, Arezzo, Italy) and currently involves various research institutions in 25 European countries as well as several partners on North African countries. The kick-off meeting was organized in Brussels in November 2012 and the project will last until November 2016.

The work will focus on marginal and peripheral populations of forest trees and their adaptive processes. These populations are of mutual interest for European and non-European countries to better understand the adaptation of forest trees to climate change. The marginal tree populations are not only threatened by climate change but also by human activities. The project will focus on the conservation and management of the marginal populations by 1) compiling information on climate change impacts on these populations, 2) making information available for preparing national and pan-European strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, 3) developing criteria for monitoring and conserving FGR, and 4) sharing results with forest managers. Further information on the project is available at the COST website ([http://www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202)).

### **EUFORINNO project**

H. Kraigher (Slovenian Forestry Institute, SFI) briefed the meeting participants on a new EU project called “European Forest Research and Innovation (EUFORINNO)” which is funded by the FP7 Infrastructures programme. The project (support action) started in October 2012 and it will end in March 2016. It is designed to increase the scientific excellence of SFI in the areas of genetic monitoring, biodiversity and carbon fluxes by upgrading research equipment and strengthening SFI’s expertise and human capacity through secondments, seminars, workshops, networking, conferences, IP management and publishing efforts. These efforts involve eight other European partners who support SFI in building its long-term strategy by providing training and participating in other project activities, which also contributes to EUFORGEN activities. One of the



expected outcomes is dissemination of new services and innovations through strengthened collaboration with different regional centres worldwide.

## **FORGER project**

J. Frydl (Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Czech Republic) presented an update to the FORGER project (Towards the Sustainable Management of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe), which is funded by the EC (FP7-KBBE Programme). The project started in March 2012 and it will end in February 2016. FORGER is coordinated by Alterra (Netherlands) and it has a total of 9 partners, including Bioversity International. The project aims at integrating and extending existing knowledge to provide science-based recommendations on the management and sustainable use of FGR for the EC, policy makers, forest managers, and managers of protected areas. FORGER has five objectives, namely 1) improve and analyze FGR inventories in Europe, 2) develop a common protocol for measuring and monitoring genetic diversity, 3) analyze past, current and future use and management of FGR, 4) provide improved tools, guidelines and recommendations, and 5) disseminate and communicate the results to stakeholders.

EUFORGEN is a key stakeholder of the project. J. Frydl and R. Alia (CIFOR-INIA, Spain) were selected by the Steering Committee to represent EUFORGEN in the External Advisory Board of the FORGER project. J. Frydl continued by explaining the outcomes of the kick-off meeting that he and R. Alia attended in Wageningen, the Netherlands in March 2012. The collaboration between the project and EUFORGEN will improve FGR inventories in Europe by linking the GD<sup>2</sup> and EUFGIS databases. This will then make it easier to characterize the genetic diversity conserved within and nearby the genetic conservation units. The project is also testing genetic monitoring methods in the field and its results will be useful to the further work by EUFORGEN to create a pan-European genetic monitoring system for the conservation units. Furthermore, the key target groups of the project for communication, dissemination and knowledge transfer include the National Focal Points of EUFGIS in addition to the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, working groups and experts. Further information is available on the FORGER website ([www.fp7-forger.eu](http://www.fp7-forger.eu)).

## **8. Wrap-up session**

The Steering Committee members exchanged views on the progress made during Phase IV. Many National Coordinators expressed again their appreciation to the working groups and the results they had delivered. Others noted that the new *modus operandi* seems to be a more efficient way of working as compared to the previous networks. Several long-serving National Coordinators commented that they were delighted with the results achieved, saying that they represent a major step forward in supporting the countries in the implementation of practical FGR conservation. It was also noted that EUFORGEN should focus increasingly on the use of FGR in the future while still continuing its work on FGR conservation. Some other National Coordinators considered it useful that the EU issues related to FGR conservation and use, as well as the development of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, had been discussed during the meeting. Some National Coordinators expressed their concerns that the number of member countries has decreased during Phase IV and recommended the Secretariat to continue its efforts to obtain new member countries, including old member countries which had not renewed their membership in the Programme after Phase III.

F. Wolter briefly presented the key points of the statement for the next INC session he had drafted with R. Longauer and S. de Vries during the meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be organized in November or December 2013. H. Kraigher offered to host the next meeting in Slovenia and T. Maaten did the same on behalf of Estonia. S. de Vries thanked them for their offers. It was agreed that the Secretariat will consider the offers and then decides the venue and the dates for the next meeting.

S. de Vries, Chair of the Session, thanked the local organizers for hosting the meeting and the Secretariat for its work. He also thanked the meeting participants for their contributions to the discussions and the decisions made. With no other business, he then closed the meeting.

## Annex 1. EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2013-2014 as agreed by the eight Steering Committee meeting.

Task/Activity	Outputs	Date (When activity will be completed)	Who	Comments
1. Assessment of gene conservation status of forest trees in Europe and development of pan-European gene conservation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the strategy using the 2012 Global climate stratification of the environment</li> <li>• Finalize the report based on SC comments</li> <li>• Approval of the report by the SC</li> <li>• Confirmation of the units by countries for the core network</li> <li>• Release of the core network for 14 pilot species</li> <li>• Discuss progress and current status</li> </ul>	Feb 2013 March 2013 April 2013  June 2013 October 2013 November 2013	Secretariat WG/Secretariat NC/Experts  NC/Experts WG/Secretariat SC	
2. Development of genetic monitoring methods for gene conservation units of forest trees	Select subset of 4-5 spp for which sufficient genetic information is available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the monitoring regions based on the 2012 Global climate stratification of the environment</li> <li>• Selection of the monitoring units based on WG1 core network units</li> <li>• Finalize the report</li> </ul>	March 2013  March 2013  August 2013 October 2013	WG  WG  NC&EUFGIS FP WG	
3. Development of guidelines for use and transfer of forest reproductive material (FRM) in the context of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek feedback from email contributors</li> <li>• Revise the report following the Steering Committee and email contributors advice</li> <li>• Workshop</li> <li>• Revise the report</li> </ul>	December 2012  April 2013  May-July 2013 October 2013	Secretariat  WG members  Email+WG m WG members	
4. Promote incorporation of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the work of the Forest Management Network regarding relevant issues (incl survey)</li> <li>• Examine the impact of the Nagoya protocol and the possible sector-specific approach of ABS on relevant policies (national or European level)</li> </ul>			

Task/Activity	Outputs	Date (When activity will be completed)	Who	Comments
programmes and other relevant policies and strategies (and how to support these kind of linkages at national level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare advice (possible options and actions) [awareness raising] on FGR for policy makers responsible for revision/development National Forest programmes – to make sure there is something on FGR in the NFP</li> <li>• Analyse possible implication of LBA on NFP referring to FGR</li> <li>• Analyse the options to incorporate FGR into any future European relevant documents</li> <li>• WG to rank and prioritise</li> <li>• Present an update (presentation)</li> <li>• Prepare a draft report</li> </ul>	SC9 (2013) For SC10 (2014)		
5. Development of genetic conservation approaches ( <i>in situ ex situ</i> ) in the context of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the work of the Forest Management Network regarding relevant issues</li> <li>• Review predictions of climate change and consequences for conservation of FGR (eg abundance, composition and distribution of forest tree species and populations)</li> <li>• Review findings on the most threatened tree species and populations</li> <li>• Develop recommendations for management of gene conservation units</li> <li>• Develop complementary ex situ approaches</li> <li>• Present an update (presentation)</li> <li>• Prepare a draft report</li> </ul>	SC9 (2013) For SC10 (2014)		

## Annex 2. Agenda of the meeting

Tue 27 November		
09:00	<b>Opening of the meeting (Chair: François Lefèvre, INRA-Avignon)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by France</li> <li>• Welcome by Bioversity International</li> <li>• Welcome by FAO</li> <li>• Introduction to the meeting and adoption of the agenda</li> <li>• Nomination of rapporteurs</li> </ul>	<p>Venue: Ministry of Agriculture, Building C, Salle Ovale (first floor)</p> <p>Address: 19 Avenue du Maine, Paris</p>
09:30	<b>Session 1: Forest genetic resources in the pan-European collaboration on forests (Chair: François Lefèvre)</b> <p>Development of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (Jaques Andrieu, Ministry of Agriculture, France)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on how forest biodiversity and forest genetic resources in particular are addressed in the draft text for the agreement, and 2) decide whether it wishes to develop a proposal on forest genetic resources to the next session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft negotiating text for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (7 Sep 2012) (Session1_Doc1)</p>	
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<b>Session 1: continued</b> <p>Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014) (Jarkko Koskela, Bioversity International)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical activities in 2010-2012</li> <li>• Membership status of Phase IV and financial reports for 2010 and 2011</li> <li>• Historical overview of the Programme expenditures (1995-2011)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the progress made during 2010-2012, 2) adopt the technical and financial reports for 2010 and 2011, 3) exchange views on the impact of the European economic situation on the implementation of EUFORGEN work in 2013-2014, and 4) discuss opportunities to obtain additional funding for implementing pan-European actions on FGR.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Technical and financial reports for 2010 (Session1_Doc2/Doc3) Technical and financial reports for 2011 (Session1_Doc4/Doc5) Report of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee, Vienna, Austria, September 2010 (Session1_Doc6) Report of the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2009 (Session1_Doc7)</p>	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<b>Session 2: European and global initiatives relevant to forest genetic resources (Chair: Mari Rusanen, Metla)</b> <p>Conservation of forest genetic resources and the new EC Regulation for rural development (Pierre Bouillon, Ministry of Agriculture, France)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on the development of the new EC Regulation for rural development, 2) discuss priorities and specific actions on FGR conservation that could be included as eligible forestry measures and 3) decide whether it wishes to</i></p>	

	<p><i>take any action.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EC, June 2012) (Session2_Doc1)</p>	
14:45	<p>Development of a new EC Regulation on marketing and production of plant reproductive material (Pierre Bouillon, Ministry of Agriculture, France)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on the development of the new EC Regulation on PRM and 2) decide whether it wishes to take any action.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft Regulation on the marketing and production of plant reproductive material (EC, July 2012) (Session2_Doc2)</p>	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00	<p>Forest genetic resources and the new EU Forestry Strategy (Frank Wolter, Administration de la nature et des forêts, Luxembourg)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on the development of the new EU Forestry Strategy, and 2) decide whether it wishes to take any action.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the SFC Ad-hoc WG on the new EU Forestry Strategy (Session2_Doc3)</p>	
16:45-18:00	<p>State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report: current status and possible follow-up options (Oudara Souvannavong, FAO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p>Access and benefits sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (Oudara Souvannavong, FAO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the development of the SoW-FGR Report and provide feedback to FAO on the possible follow-up options, and 2) exchange views on the sector-specific approach on access and benefit sharing developed by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Updated document on the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report (Session2_Doc4 [not available]) Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO, Sep 2012) (Session2_Doc5)</p>	

Wed 28 November		
09:00	<p><b>Session 3: Reports of the EUFORGEN Working Groups (Chair: Tor Myking, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute)</b></p> <p>Development of a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees and establishment of a core network of dynamic conservation units (Sven de Vries, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments &amp; discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the report prepared by the Working Group, and 2) exchange views on follow-up actions, including the implementation of the proposed strategy.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the Working Group on genetic conservation strategies, Nov 2012 (Session3_Doc1)</p>	<p>Venue: Ministry of Agriculture, Building C, Salle Ovale (first floor)</p> <p>Address: 19 Avenue du Maine, Paris</p>
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<p>Development of a genetic monitoring system for dynamic conservation units of forest trees in Europe (Filippos Aravanopoulos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments &amp; discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the report prepared by the Working Group, and 2) exchange views on follow-up actions, including the implementation of the proposed genetic monitoring scheme.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the Working Group on genetic monitoring methods, Nov 2012 (Session3_Doc2)</p>	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<p>Development of guidelines for the use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change (Frank Wolter, Administration de la nature et des forêts, Luxembourg)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments &amp; discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the report prepared by the Working Group, and 2) exchange views on follow-up actions.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the Working Group on forest reproductive material, Nov 2012 (Session3_Doc3)</p>	<p>Note: the afternoon session will be organized in a different meeting room</p>
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00-18:00	<p><b>Session 4: Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2013-2014 (Chair: tbc)</b></p> <p>Follow-up actions concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pan-European genetic conservation strategy</li> <li>• Genetic monitoring scheme</li> <li>• Guidelines for the use and transfer of forest reproductive material</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) decide which follow-up actions will be carried out during 2013-2014 based on the reports of the three Working Group, and 2) agree on timeframes and expected outputs of the follow-up actions.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Tentative list of EUFORGEN activities to be carried out in 2013-2014 (Session4_Doc1) Reports of the three Working Groups (Session3_Doc1/2/3)</p>	
20:00	Social dinner	La Copoule, Address: 102 Boulevard du Montparnasse



Thu 29 November		
09:00	<p><b>Session 4: Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2013-2014 (continued) (Chair: Sven de Vries, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands)</b></p> <p>Establishment of two new Working Groups on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of FGR conservation and use into national forest programmes and other relevant policies</li> <li>• Management of genetic conservation units in the context of climate change</li> <li>• Deadlines, specific tasks and expected outputs</li> <li>• Selection of countries/experts for the new Working Groups</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documents:</u>  Tentative list of EUFORGEN activities to be carried out in 2013-2014 (Session4_Doc1)  Report of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee, Vienna, Austria, September 2010 (Session1_Doc6)</p>	<p>Venue: Ministry of Agriculture, Building C, Salle Ovale (first floor)</p> <p>Address: 19 Avenue du Maine, Paris</p>
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<p>Other activities to be included in the Work Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on FGR use in 2013/2014</li> <li>• Any other activities</li> </ul>	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<p>Additional activities to be carried out by the Secretariat in 2013-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	
15:00	<p><b>Updates on relevant projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EUFORINNO project (Hojka Kraigher)</li> <li>• COST Action on marginal tree populations (Giuseppe Vendramin, CNR-Firenze)</li> <li>• Other relevant initiatives</li> </ul>	
16:00	<p><b>Wrap-up session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other business</li> <li>• Date and place of the next meeting</li> <li>• Closing remarks</li> </ul>	
16:30-17:00	Coffee/tea break	

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