



Report of the twelfth Steering Committee meeting

Amsterdam, the Netherlands
30 May - 2 June 2017



Report of the 12th Meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 30 May-2 June 2017

Executive Summary

The 12th meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 30 May to 1 June 2017.

The meeting objectives were twofold:

- Update the national coordinators on the progress in the implementation of the work programme and receive guidance for the completion of EUFORGEN Phase V.
- Discuss and decide on the future hosting of the EUFORGEN Programme.

The first objective was achieved by analysing the Programme's accomplishments, the work of the Secretariat and the progress of working groups.

The second objective was reached by a two-step process. As first step, the current hosting situation was presented, the rationale for considering change and the requirements from the host were discussed and proposals from representatives of Bioversity International and the European Forestry Institute (EFI) were outlined. The second step comprised the identification of opportunities and risks with both hosts, an expression of hosting preference by each country member, and the decision making.

The Steering Committee decided that the EUFORGEN Secretariat, assisted by a task group of representatives from, Finland, France Germany and Slovenia will negotiate the transfer of EUFORGEN to the European Forest Institute by the end of 2017.

The current strategy and work-plan, as well as budget allocation, will not change with the new hosting.



Introduction

This Steering Committee meeting was divided into two parts in accordance with the main objectives: 1) *Update the national coordinators on the progress in the implementation of the work programme and receive guidance for the completion of EUFORGEN Phase V.* 2) *Discuss and decide on the future hosting of EUFORGEN.* This document follows the same structure.

Part 1: Update on the progress of the EUFORGEN Programme in 2015-2017

1 Opening of the meeting

M. Bozzano (EUFORGEN Coordinator) welcomed the participants and introduced C. Sette (independent consultant) as the facilitator of the meeting.

1.1 Welcome from Hosting Country

P. Van der Knapp, representative of the economic affairs in the Nature Department, welcomed the participants. He gave an overview of the forest context and forest policies in the Netherlands. Currently, forests are mainly naturally-regenerated by preferably using native species. The objective in the country is to support a sustainable transition to a green economy by increasing the forest cover from 11% to 25% and by using more forest products. Until now, genetic resources have been given little attention but more focus on FGR is expected as result of the increased awareness of the relevance FGR have in the resilience of forests. He highlighted the national commitment to support the identification and establishment of *in situ* genetic conservation units. This is essential to ensure proper conservation of national resources and to ensure availability if valuable FRM to prepare for future needs.

J. Buiteveld (EUFORGEN National Coordinator for the Netherlands) welcomed the participants to Amsterdam and gave a brief description of the situation of forests in the Netherlands. She mentioned that in the Netherlands there is no specific national forest strategy, instead the sector is incorporated in the nature strategy, which underlines the importance of international collaboration on FGR through EUFORGEN. She wished all participants a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Amsterdam.

1.2 EUFORGEN update

Hereafter, M. Bozzano gave a brief overview of the history, mandate, and objectives of EUFORGEN.

During the current Phase V (2015–2019), EUFORGEN aims to:

- i) Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe;
- ii) Coordinate and monitor the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe, and

- iii) Develop guidelines and analyses on topics and issues relevant for the use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

In 2015, the Steering Committee established three working groups on: i) creation of a decision support tool for the management of the genetic conservation units network; ii) identification of genetic aspects in production and use of forest reproductive material (FRM) to support the development of guidelines and decision support tools and iii) revision of indicator on genetic resources (4.6) of the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

In 2015, the role of EUFORGEN as an implementing mechanism of the Forest Europe process on forest genetic resources was formally recognised at the seventh Forest Europe Ministerial Conference, when signatory countries committed to “continue pan-European collaboration on conserving and managing forest genetic resources through the EUFORGEN Programme”.

M. Bozzano reported on 2015-16 activities, highlighting that Iceland, Belgium and Austria had recently re-joined the programme and that Spain was finalising the administrative process to re-join. M. Bozzano highlighted a few events, conferences and meetings, to which he contributed with presentations or interventions to build understanding of EUFORGEN and create communication channels with partners and key players in the broader forest-related framework

In January 2016, the opening balance of the EUFORGEN trust fund was US\$ 299,051. During 2016, a total of US\$ 341,520 of financial contributions from member countries were received. The planned budget for 2016 was US\$ 359,841 while the actual total expenditure in 2016 was US\$ 292,789. In December 2016, the outstanding contributions for Phase IV were US\$ 11,000 for Greece and US\$ 8,250 for Romania.

The closing balance of the trust fund was US\$ 347,782 on 31 December 2016 and it was carried forward for 2017. The detailed financial reports for 2015 and 2016 are available as a separate document and has been sent to the member countries.

As agreed at the tenth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, held in Edinburgh, UK, 16–18 June 2014 “A country with outstanding financial contributions from Phase IV is welcome to re-join the Programme. However, these countries are expected to provide their outstanding financial contributions, or similar level of in-kind contribution, during Phase V”.

In 2016, the Spanish National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA), contributed in kind (by covering accommodation, catering and conference facilities)

to the organisation and hosting of the first meeting and workshop of the working group on “guidelines and decision support tool for better incorporating genetic aspects into production and use of forest reproductive material”. The total contribution provided by INIA for the organisation and hosting of the two events was of 20,625 USD. Spain therefore can re-join the Phase V programme at any time.

The Steering Committee was pleased to learn that Spain would be able to re-join the programme and encouraged the Secretariat to support other countries with outstanding contribution to have a similar opportunity.

He further presented the pan-European strategy released as EUFORGEN thematic publication in 2015¹. The strategy foresees the establishment of a core network of dynamic genetic conservation units (GCUs), selected among the conservation units entered in the EUFGIS information system². These units are not interconnected by geneflow, but instead, as a whole aim to capture the current adaptive diversity across the European continent, with the ultimate objective of conserving the evolutionary potential of the species. Conservation gaps can be identified where GCUs are missing in environmental zones within the distribution of the individual species. As a part of the advancement of the EUFGIS intranet and conservation strategy, two workshops were conducted in 2016 and in 2017 (more details about EUFORGEN’s work in 2015-16 are included in 2015-16 report which is available in EUFORGEN website).

1.3 Implementation of the communication strategy 2015-17

E. Hermanowicz presented the communication activities carried out throughout 2016 in line with the EUFORGEN’s first communication strategy. The strategy is putting a great emphasis on the end beneficiaries of the programmes’ outputs and on a two-way communication. The target audience that the communication strategy aims to reach, and create dialogue with, includes researchers, international organizations, forest-related associations and policy-makers. The means to reach these groups include active presence at key events, a more frequent newsletter, a new website (launched in September 2016), partnerships with organizations that have a common mandate and forest communications networks. In addition, accounts on different social media have been established such as Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and contributed to the open online encyclopaedia - Wikipedia. These create interest and awareness leading to increased traffic to EUFORGEN website and to programme’s outputs.

During 2016, M. Bozzano, attended more than 20 events that created awareness about recent outputs of the Programme (in particular the pan-European strategy) and introduced

¹ Pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest trees and establishment of a core network of dynamic conservation units <http://www.euforgen.org/publications/publication/pan-european-strategy-for-genetic-conservation-of-forest-trees-andestablishment-of-a-core-network-o/>

² <http://portal.eufgis.org/>

EUFORGEN's work to new audiences. In all these events, the coordinator actively contributed with presentations and/or interventions.

All communication activities rolled out in 2016 led to increased interest and engagement in EUFORGEN's work, which can be demonstrated by having fulfilled and exceeded all quantitative and qualitative indicators of achievement in the Communication strategy 2016.

The Steering Committee agreed to dedicate time and resources to strengthen the communication effectiveness by creating a dedicated group in the forthcoming phase VI. Focus should be on reaching policy-makers and others stakeholders through target-group-specific products. National coordinators were also encouraged to undertake local initiatives on own resources.

E. Hermanowicz encouraged the national coordinators to contribute with updated information to the country pages³ on the EUFORGEN website and thereby strengthen this as a frequently updated reference platform to find information on FGR across Europe, also for relevant actors that do not necessarily speak English. She furthermore welcomed suggestions and inputs to the quarterly newsletter. This opens an opportunity for countries to get attention on local projects. General feedback and ideas to enhance communication were welcome as well.

The Steering Committee congratulated E. Hermanowicz on the success of the communication strategy and the achieved results.

2 Working groups

The work of the three working groups was presented by the respective Chairs. The countries that have recently re-joined EUFORGEN are expected to nominate experts to become part of the existing working groups.

2.1 Working group developing a decision support tool for the management of the genetic conservation units' network

A. Rudow, the chair of the working group, presented the current stage of development of the decision support tool for the management of the genetic conservation units' network and the idea behind it. The tool is aimed to be used by managers responsible for the management of the national networks of Genetic Conservation Units (GCUs) (essentially EUFGIS NFPs) to take appropriate decisions with long-term perspective.

The working group met for the first time in Rome, Italy on 24-28 October 2016, where Andreas Rudow (Switzerland) and Marjana Westergren (Slovenia) were respectively nominated chair and vice-chair of the working group. The group developed an outline of

³ EUFORGEN website – member countries: <http://www.euforgen.org/member-countries/>

the report, which will be further elaborated during 2017 and then peer-reviewed by nominated national experts in all member countries.

The objective of this working group is to further develop a decision support tool of which a preliminary version was laid out in a thematic publication "*Approaches to the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe in the context of climate change*"⁴. The tool is necessary for the establishment of standards in the management of genetic conservation units and to identify threatened genetic conservation units /tree populations across Europe.

The working group's task is to identify threats at species and population level, which will guide the definition of priorities and modalities for actions. The task includes introduced tree species important for forestry in several European countries.

The decision support tool will allow forest managers who have responsibility for the management of the national networks of genetic conservation units to take appropriate decisions with long-term perspectives. In particular, it will simplify the identification of threats at population level. The working group will also incorporate in its study the results of the COST Action FP1202 on marginal/peripheral (MaP) forest populations⁵. The tool will provide a common standard for the consistent management of genetic conservation units and allow uniform implementation and monitoring of the *Pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest tree* throughout Europe.

The tool builds upon four demographic indicators, two genetic indicators and three indicators for immediate disturbances. Each indicator can be evaluated using a single verifier from a list of appropriate verifiers described in the tool. The selected verifiers can be easily counted, measured or inferred from proxy data. The change in the state of a given indicator is connected to a certain management action aimed to rehabilitate the genetic conservation unit or conserve genetic resources *ex situ*. The tool differentiates between seven management actions ranging from "management as is" (e.g. silvicultural measures, enlargement of genetic conservation unit, etc.) towards three different level of *ex situ* conservation measures.

It was recognised that the genetic aspects of the tool may be difficult to complete for most species at this time due to a general lack of genetic knowledge. However, the tool is independent on the existence of genetic information, and with time, when more information becomes available, the tool will eventually become more easily applicable and thus more useful.

⁴ <http://www.euforgen.org/publications/publication/climate-change-and-forest-genetic-diversity>

⁵ <http://map-fgr.entecra.it>

The Steering Committee welcomed the draft report and expressed appreciation for the results achieved and for the usefulness of the tool being developed. The Steering Committee also provided specific comments for its further development.

The second meeting will take place in Zurich, Switzerland from 28-31 August 2017.

2.2 Working group on genetic aspects in production and use of forest reproductive material

M. Bozzano gave a presentation on the progress made by this working group since K. Himanen, chair of the working group, was not able to attend the meeting.

The working group met for the first time in Madrid, Spain, on 15-18 November 2016. K. Himanen (Finland) was nominated as chair of the working group; a vice-chair is supposed to be nominated at a later stage. The group developed an outline of the report, which will be elaborated during 2017 and then reviewed by email contributors.

The objective of this working group is to collect scientific evidence to support the development of guidelines and decision support tools to better incorporate genetic aspects into production and use of forest reproductive material.

The working group will review relevant literature and capitalize on the results of the Forest Management network, which was active during Phase III of EUFORGEN (2005-2009)⁶. The group will also build upon the publication *Use and transfer of forest reproductive material in Europe in the context of climate change*⁷ developed by another EUFORGEN working group during the Phase IV of EUFORGEN and published in 2015. Furthermore, the working group will integrate the discussion points derived from a GenTree⁸ stakeholders' consultation, which took place in Madrid, Spain in October 2016, back to back with the first meeting of the working group (see paragraph 4 'Workshops' below). The consultation focused on establishing a dialogue between associations of forest owners, forest nurseries, certification scheme officers, policy-makers and researchers working on the management of forest reproductive material in the light of environmental changes.

M. Bozzano asked clarifications on the type of products that this working group is expected to produce, since reaching very diverse audiences (from policy makers to forest managers and owners) was specifically requested. The Steering Committee agreed to produce a publication as done for previous working groups and then the Secretariat, with the needed support, would extract essential information for producing target-specific-products for

⁶ <http://www.euforgen.org/about-us/history/phase-iii-2005-2009>

⁷ The report, *Use and transfer of forest reproductive material (FRM) in Europe in the context of climate change* is available at the EUFORGEN website: <http://www.euforgen.org/publications/publication/use-and-transfer-of-forest-reproductive-material-in-europe-in-the-context-of-climate-change/>

⁸ <http://www.gentree-h2020.eu/>

actors on the different levels of the forest reproductive material production chain. Products such as leaflets, information sheets and short video clips were suggested as communication material. However, final users should be consulted to get an understanding of what products they prefer. It was suggested that this could be a good case study to learn how to reach practitioners.

The second meeting will take place in Warsaw, Poland on 20-22 June 2017.

2.3 Working group revising the indicator on genetic resources (4.6) of the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

F. Lefèvre, the chair of the working group, presented the indicator 4.6 (Area managed for conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ* genetic conservation) and area managed for seed production). This indicator is a part of the set of Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management adopted by the Forest Europe process and use to report for the State or European Forest Report⁹. Up to date, European countries have been reporting the number of hectares managed for the conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources and area managed for seed production. However, the assessment based on the number of hectares is not optimal for assessing FGR conservation efforts and measuring progress. The number of hectares does not inform neither on the amount of genetic diversity conserved within each country nor on the added contribution of within-country conservation units to the overall genetic diversity conserved at the pan-European scale. To overcome the inadequacies, the working group has developed an alternative way to measure the status of FGR conservation.

The proposed indicator consists of a set of sub-indicators:

- i. Dynamic conservation of native species' populations (including *in situ* and dynamic *ex situ*) of forest tree genetic resources
- ii. Dynamic conservation of non-native populations of forest tree genetic resources
- iii. Static *ex situ* conservation
- iv. Forest Reproductive Material production

Data to feed the indicator can be obtained from the existing information systems, databases and national registers (e.g. (i) information on species and countries' *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts from the EUFGIS database and (ii) information on forest reproductive material production from the FOREMATIS¹⁰ information system).

New features have been integrated in the EUFGIS information system to enable the collection of the needed information, allowing NFPs to indicate species' occurrence in the

⁹ <http://foresteurope.org/publications/#1471590853638-cbc85f9c-8e6e>

¹⁰ <http://ec.europa.eu/forematis/>

country and to refine eco-geographical presence in the country, as appropriate. Each Steering Committee member was handed out an overview of these sub indicators for their specific country as a preliminary overview.

The working group on the indicator 4.6 will continue its work, refining the list of species to be used to calculate the indicator. The working group requested feedback regarding the selection of species before September 2017. A separate message will be sent by the secretariat to seek feedback.

F. Lefèvre encouraged meeting participants to send him ideas of how to further develop the indicator before the end of 2017 to ensure that the tool is in ideal shape for the next Forest Europe report.

To ensure the accuracy of the assessments, national coordinators were encouraged to guarantee all data concerning genetic conservation in own countries are frequently updated. M. Bozzano reminded that units should be entered in EUFGIS only when meeting the minimum requirements.

The Steering Committee congratulated the working group on the very appropriate revision and stressed the importance of identifying the list of reference species in a way it would be meaningful and relevant for all countries. The Steering Committee encouraged the working group to release a second draft by the end of the year, including the definition of the reference list of species which would be used to evaluate the status of FGR conservation in the various countries and to monitor progresses.

2.4 EUFGIS data available for reporting on revised indicator

As an extension to the presentation on the indicator 4.6, M. Bozzano presented the new EUFGIS Intranet interface that allows a precise analysis of the status and progress on conservation based on the distribution of native species and existing environmental zones in each country and identification of gaps in the conservation efforts.

Information on the GCUs can be tracked, and thereby compared, back to 2010 when data was initially collected, setting a basis for the long-term monitoring of progress.

3 Review of EUFORGEN

E. Gotor (remotely) presented the EUFORGEN review conducted from June to November 2016. The analysis assessed the nature and effectiveness of the Programme to give useful insights for future directional decisions. The analysis was divided into three pillars: i) network connectivity, ii) network health and iii) network results. The evaluation of the Programme, conducted by the Bioersity International Development Impact Unit, shows that EUFORGEN is a unique and needed platform for coordinating FGR issues on European

level. By developing the pan-European strategy, the Programme has made significant steps towards the successful long-term conservation and sustainable use of FGR. Yet, these efforts are jeopardized, most of all by weak linkages to policy makers and practitioners on the ground as well as an unstable constellation of member countries and the associated financial resources and in-kind contributions. E. Gotor presented both the strengths and the weaknesses of EUFORGEN along with recommendations for action.

E. Gotor summarised the recommendations for the three pillars:

Network connectivity

- Increase the number of EUFORGEN member countries
- Build solid and frequent communication channels with policy makers and practitioners to advocate for FGR conservation and sustainable use.

Network health

- Reach out for more stable funding to reflect the long-term nature of FGR conservation.
- The Secretariat, in coordination with NCs, should ensure quick notification to nominated expert for each Phase to allow an earlier involvement of all contributors.
- The Secretariat should ensure that authors comply with timelines.

Network results

- Raise awareness about the importance of the pan-European conservation strategy.
- EUFORGEN products need to be disseminated and promoted more frequently amongst groups outside of the FGR community.
- More communication with policy makers and forest managers for a further successful implementation of the pan-European strategy in all European countries and for the promotion of best practices for the use of FRM.

Lastly, E. Gotor suggested that the Steering Committee develops a *theory of change* for phase VI, an action plan, stating how and what should be changed in order to meet the objectives. She further stressed the necessity to ensure that the accessibility of products is in accordance with different target groups. It was agreed that special attention should be drawn towards developing a clear impact pathway that can reach policy makers. The NCs agreed that a theory of change should be developed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Meeting participants expressed their gratitude to E. Gotor for the quality of the review. The evaluation, being the first one ever made, was acknowledged as a concrete proof that EUFORGEN performs effectively and in accordance to the programme's objectives and indicates a clear pathway to follow as natural evolvement of the Programme.

The Steering Committee agreed that the executive summary of the review should be made publicly available to enhance the programme's transparency. Especially for implementing agencies to highlight the outcomes of their inputs and for policy makers to understand the relevance of their role.

4 Related projects and initiatives

4.1 FOREMATIS (Forest reproductive Material Information System)

D. Charels (EC DG SANTE) presented the Forest Reproductive Material Information System (FOREMATIS), a tool for forest breeders, forest nurserymen, experts and the general public. The database functions as a repository linked with EU Member States' data on forest reproductive material. It provides access to the data of the national registers, containing the details of approved basic material including data on areas or geographic location. The system is currently limited to the tree species that are regulated under the Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material.

FOREMATIS will be expanded to include tree species regulated both at EU and at national level. The Commission demonstrated the importance of coordinate accuracy to construct maps of planted tree species.

The exploratory work on the putative linking of the EU Forest Genetic Resources Information System (EUFGIS) and FOREMATIS was explained and some limiting factors in the linking of both systems highlighted. Some EUFORGEN Steering Committee members noted the added value of linking two systems whereas other members expressed concerns. The issue of privacy of the location of tree species, depending on the type of ownership of the land, was noted.

It was underlined that FOREMATIS will be an important source for reporting on the indicator 4.6 and an ad-hoc feature direct linking FOREMATIS with EUFGIS Intranet would make reporting easy and standardised.

National coordinators discussed the appropriateness of linking FOREMATIS and EUFGIS information systems. There are technical, legal and formal issues related to this. The Steering Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare a detailed analysis on the implications, the needs and the opportunities of linking the two Information Systems for a detailed discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting. In case of a positive outcome, it could be considered to establish an Administrative Arrangement between the European Commission and EUFORGEN on the linking of FOREMATIS and EUFGIS.

D. Charels agreed to explore the possibility of linking from the FOREMATIS system to the species pages on the EUFORGEN website.

4.2 *Ex situ* minimum requirements currently used by Royal Botanic Garden, Kew

C. Trivedi from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's Millennium Seed Bank shared experience with developing sampling strategies for *ex situ* conservation of FGR.

The UK National Tree Seed Project seeks to make multi-provenance seed collections from 70 UK native species. To do this, the distribution of each species across the UK Forestry Commission seed zones was mapped, resulting in 680 target seed collections or 'ecotypes'. Standard seed banking guidelines such as those developed by ENSCONET¹¹ are used to guide sampling of each target but Clare discussed the difficulties in collecting from large numbers of individuals per site. She outlined new work by Morton Arboretum¹² which has assessed the capture of genetic diversity in UKNTSP ash collections, and illustrates the relative importance of number of populations sampled versus number of mother trees and number of seed collected. She concluded that EUFORGEN could develop an indicator of progress with *ex situ* conservation based on number of populations sampled/total number of populations in the landscape but that the relative importance of number of mother trees and number of seeds should also be captured, for example by reference to specialist tree seed collecting guidelines.

C. Trivedi agreed to explore the possibility to contribute to the work of the EUFORGEN working group on the indicator 4.6 with the development of the *ex situ* indicator.

4.3 Monitoring and implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of FGRs

J. Koskela (FAO) presented the background of the GPA for FGR, which has the objective to enhance the conservation, sustainable use and development of FGR. *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* served as the basis for the identification of the four priority areas for the actions on FGR, which are: i) improving the availability of, and access to, information on FGR; ii) conservation of FGR (*in situ* and *ex situ*); iii) sustainable use, development and management of FGR; iv) policies, institutions and capacity-building. The plan is voluntary and should be implemented in line with existing national legislation.

The GPA-FGR is closely associated to, and adapted in cooperation with, the four regional networks across the world: APFORGEN, LAFORGEN, SAFORGEN and EUFORGEN. J. Koskela highlighted that Europe was advanced on these areas of priority and thus serves as an example for the other regional networks.

J. Koskela continued by summarising relevant outcomes from the 16th *Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* held in February 2017 where the continued

¹¹ <https://www.bgci.org/resources/article/0683/>

¹² <http://www.mortonarb.org/science-conservation/cts/projects/safeguarding-plant-collections-comparing-ex-situ-and-wild>

implementation of the GPA-FGR were endorsed. He hereafter went through the targets, indicators and verifiers for assessing the success of the GPA-FGR. In addition, he presented the monitoring plan for the next 6 years.

The latest draft of the “Questionnaire for submitting a Country Progress Report” for Monitoring the implementation of the GPA-FGR was circulated after the 16th regular session of the CGRFA in February for relevant experts to contribute with suggestions to changes. The submission of the country progress reports on the implementation of the GPA-FGR is the 31 December 2017.

The online reporting platform was to be launched the week after the Steering Committee meeting on Openforis.com and the link to be sent directly to NFPs.

The Steering Committee thanked J. Koskela for the anticipations concerning the GPA-FGR and committed to support the preparation of the National Progress Reports via the appropriate channels. The Steering Committee also requested the Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a report on EUFORGEN activities contributing to the implementation of the GPA.

4.4 Forest Europe – the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forest in Europe

J. Turok (Forest Europe) gave an overview of Forest Europe, a voluntary high-level process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies among its 47 signatories (46 European countries and the European Union). Its mission is to enhance the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, secure and promote sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society.

Forest Europe cooperates with global and regional forest related processes and organizations to enhance the contributions of European countries to protection of forests on the planet, but also towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals), the Paris Agreement on climate change and other global commitments.

Based on the commitments made at seven ministerial conferences held to date, approaches and tools for SFM, such as a widely adopted definition, guidelines, criteria and indicators, have been developed and brought into practice. The State of Europe’s Forests Report represents a flagship publication released during each ministerial conference. Implementation of the ministerial commitments made at each conference is set out in a rolling multi-year work programme reflecting latest developments and knowledge.

Madrid Resolution 2 ‘Protection of forests in a changing environment’, adopted at the Seventh Ministerial Conference in 2015, recognized the importance of regional collaborative

activities on forest genetic resources. EUFORGEN is widely viewed as an effective implementation mechanism for the commitments related to conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in the region. EUFORGEN has also provided inputs to updating and reporting on the pan-European quantitative indicator 4.6 'Genetic Resources'. In Madrid Ministerial Decision, the signatory countries committed themselves to explore possible ways to find common ground on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. This would offer a framework for coherent forest policy development and implementation, including in the area of forest biodiversity and genetic resources.

Between ministerial conferences, the Forest Europe process is overseen by Expert Level Meetings and coordinated by a group of five countries, known as the General Coordinating Committee, supported by a rotating secretariat (Liaison Unit). The next, Eighth Ministerial Conference will be held in Bratislava, in 2020.

J. Turok highlighted that the political backing on forest genetic resources is currently strong and that EUFORGEN should take advantage of this momentum.

The Steering Committee thanked J. Turok for the comprehensive presentation and confirmed the commitment of the Programme to serve as implementation mechanism of the process in the years to come.

4.5 EUFGIS genetic conservation units and IUCN category IV

P. Teillac-Deschamps (IUCN) joined the Steering Committee meeting to present the French initiative to nominate (EUGIS) genetic conservation units as IUCN category IV protected areas.

IUCN protected area management categories classify protected areas according to their management objectives. The Category IV (Habitat/Species Management Area) of protected areas aims to protect particular species or habitats and their management reflects this priority. Category IV protected areas will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats. Several protected areas under this category may be meeting the *Pan-European minimum requirements for dynamic genetic conservation units of forest trees*¹³ and therefore could be identified as genetic conservation units and entered into the EUFGIS information system, contributing to the national target. On the other hand, the existing genetic conservation units could be recognized as IUCN category IV protected areas.

Currently, conservation of genetic diversity is not sufficiently implemented for minor tree species. IUCN is currently integrating the genetic dimension in its work by recognising protected areas with a protection status corresponding to the same required by the *pan-*

¹³ http://portal.eufgis.org/fileadmin/templates/eufgis.org/documents/EUGIS_Minimum_requirements.pdf

European minimum requirements for the genetic conservation units selected within the framework of national and/or international programmes (*in situ*).

P. Teillac-Deschamps stressed that the purpose of the initiative was to join forces to ensure that the genetic diversity of forest tree species is properly conserved, especially for minor tree species, and to raise awareness of the important role national initiative on conservation of genetic diversity play in the conservation of valuable biodiversity.

Several national coordinators highlighted that formally assigning the IUCN protection status to the EUFGIS conservation units would not be possible since forest owners or authority responsible for the management of the units may perceive this as an irreversible limitation to the use of the unit. This issue needs to be better analysed to prevent national initiative to damage or slow-down the overall regional strategy. The Steering Committee decided to further discuss collaboration with IUCN at future meetings.

It was pointed out that individual countries can undertake national initiatives with IUCN individually if they are interested in a cooperation with the organisation, following the French example.

4.6 Nagoya Protocol and its implementation in EU forest sector

M. Rusanen (LUKE, Finland) presented an overview of The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its implementation in EU.

The Nagoya Protocol (ABS, Access and Benefit Sharing 46/2016)¹⁴, under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Convention, 78/1994)¹⁵, is an international agreement, with the objective to promote the accessibility of genetic resources in the world and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation between those offering the genetic resources and those using them. The main principle in the Protocol is that states have sovereign rights over the genetic resources found within their national jurisdiction, and that they can set conditions for access to such resources for research and development.

The Nagoya Protocol was negotiated in order to provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge by establishing more predictable conditions for access to those resources; and by helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leave the contracting Party providing the genetic resources.

Currently 96 countries are parties to the protocol, three have ratified it, but are not yet

¹⁴ Nagoya Protocol: <https://www.cbd.int/abs/text/>

¹⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity: <https://www.cbd.int/>

parties and 102 countries are not parties. Non-parties may still have regulated national access to genetic resources. The European Union is a party and has implemented the compliance obligations through Regulation (EU) No 511/2014¹⁶ on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union¹⁷. It is complemented by an Implementing regulation and Guidance document¹⁸. In addition, seven sector-specific guidance documents are being (May 2017) developed especially to clarify the concept 'utilization' under Nagoya Protocol.

In connection to the Protocol, 'Genetic material' refers to any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity. 'Genetic resources' refer to genetic material of actual or potential value. They fall within the scope of the Nagoya Protocol whenever they are used for research and development. The Protocol applies to the genetic resources of all organisms, excluding humans, within all the geographical areas of the contract parties. It is also possible that some countries use different definitions for genetic resources and in that case the definition by the country of origin will be applied.

The Steering Committee thanked M. Rusanen for the clear overview and discussed the implication of the Nagoya Protocol for conservation efforts and future research activities and sked her to kindly report on progresses at the next meeting.

4.7 Optimizing the management and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe (GenTree)

B. Vinceti (Bioversity International) provided an overview of GenTree, which is an EU-funded research project that started in March 2016. The objectives of the project include (i) the expansion of current scientific knowledge on how genetic diversity, phenotypic trait diversity and environmental diversity co-vary over multiple spatial scales, (ii) the generation of information on the genetic basis of phenotypic trait variability and plasticity, (iii) the characterisation of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation units and underused tree resources, with potential for breeding purposes. The main goal of the project is to provide the European forestry sector with better knowledge, methods and tools for optimising the management and sustainable use of FGR in Europe in the context of climate change and continuously evolving demands for forest products and services. The initiative focuses on 12 key European forest tree species, which are subject to a very wide sampling effort, spreading across Europe and covering large- and small-scale environmental gradients, to

¹⁶ The EU Genetic Resources Regulation No 511/2014: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0511>

The EU Implementation Regulation No 2015/1866: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R1866>

¹⁷ The EU's ABS site: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/international/abs/legislation_en.htm

¹⁸ The EU's Guidance document for users of genetic resources: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/search.html?qid=1472552100449&text=2016/5337&scope=EURLEX&type=quick&lang=en>

unveil patterns of adaptive variation. The process will most likely lead to the identification of new GCUs.

In October 2017, GenTree will organize a stakeholders' event in Greece in collaboration with the LIFE GENMON project. The event will be focused on genetic monitoring and will take place in Thessaloniki. The main objective of the event is to understand the main challenges in genetic monitoring, to discuss a set of minimum indicators to be used and discuss ways to raise public awareness on the topic to achieve increased funding.

The Steering Committee thanked B. Vinceti for the update and invited a GenTree representative to report progresses at the next meeting.

4.8 SUSTREE

T. Geburek (BFW, Austria) presented SUSTREE¹⁹ (Promoting climate change adaptation of forest ecosystems), a project coordinated by the Federal Research Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), in August 2016. Eight partner institutions from six countries of Central Europe share their expertise in the SUSTREE project, to enable transnational management of FGR.

Central Europe's major tree species are under pressure as a changing climate is expected to modify the species composition of forest ecosystems. This brings new challenges and offers new opportunities. To sustain the forests' ecological and economic functions, adaptive silvicultural practices are needed to guide the use of alternative tree species, species mixtures and the full adaptive capacity of our Central-European trees. The utilization of seed material from warmer regions of the tree species distribution is expected to buffer forest stability against global temperature increase.

National boundaries are poor descriptors of tree species distributions and their local adaptation. Instead, adaptive genetic variation follows topographical structures and climate zones. Thus, the Interreg Central Europe-project SUSTREE brings together experts on forest provenance research and breeding from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Objective of the transnational cooperation is to identify endangered genetic diversity and to discuss cross-boundary seed transfer to use the best genetic material fit for climate change in the forests of Central Europe.

Close collaboration with forest enterprises ensures real-time implementation of the research project outcomes. Tools and apps for practitioners will be developed, based on models of the adaptive capacity of trees and their seed provenances. Transnational seed recommendation schemes in climate change are expected to support forest nurseries and

¹⁹ www.interreg-central.eu/SUSTREE

orchards to adapt to the new climatic situation. The aim is to demonstrate promising strategies for adaptive management of forests, building on transnational seed transfer regulations.

The Steering Committee thanked T. Geburek for the overview of the project and invited him to present progress and the developed tools at the forthcoming Steering Committee meetings.

4.9 LIFE GENMON (LIFE for European Forest Genetic Monitoring System)

H. Kraigher (National Coordinator for Slovenia, Slovenian Forestry Institute) presented LIFE GENMON (LIFE13ENV/SI/000148, 5, 5 million EUR), co-funded by the European Environmental Fund (LIFE+) from July 2014 - June 2020. The beneficiaries are partners from Slovenia, Bavaria-Germany, and Greece. Experts from EUFORGEN and FAO sit in its Advisory Board and contribute to its goals, which are to prepare guidelines and a Manual for Forest Genetic Monitoring (FGM) and Decision Support System, based on a cost-benefit analysis for decision makers on the level of FGM. These guidelines could then be implemented at different levels (regional, national, EU).

Within the first three years of the project, the forest genetic monitoring plots for the two species in three partner-countries have been established, protocols for establishment, sampling and assessments on the field standardised, the first sampling finalized and the samples analysed by standardised molecular and seed testing protocols. The concepts on FGM were published. The communication was effective, reaching different general and target audiences with events for children and their teachers, as well as materials for teaching and playing in the forests raising most interest.

Part 2: Future hosting of the EUFORGEN Programme

1 Opening of the meeting

M. Bozzano explained why hosting was discussed in that moment: the review of the programme highlighted two major weaknesses of the EUFORGEN: lack of close communication with forest-related scientific community outside the FGR field and the weak capacity to communicate with European policy makers and key stakeholders responsible for forest management at various levels. These are not in the mandate of the current hosting organisation, which has a different thematic and geographic mandate.

Additionally FGR are currently under the spotlight in Europe, which has opened a window of opportunities in 2016-2020 to reposition the EUFORGEN programme. The major driving elements are:

1. Forest Europe Madrid Ministerial Resolution 2²⁰: Protection of forests in a changing environment – where signatory countries²¹ committed to “Continue pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN).”
2. Multi-annual Implementation Plan of the EU Forest Strategy²², where the European Commission indicates the decision to “Contribution to EUFORGEN to promote conservation and sustainable management of forest genetic resources at pan-European level”
3. The need for the European Commission to develop a strategy for the conservation of genetic diversity, following the European parliament resolution on the mid-term review of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy²³

All the above put EUFORGEN at the center of European forest debate and give the Programme a window of opportunity between now and 2020 when these documents will be revised. EUFORGEN should take advantages of such momentum to seek long-term support for the Programme. To increase the chances for this, EUFORGEN needs strong backstopping and communication channels reaching relevant stakeholders at the European Commission and in member countries.

Representatives from Bioversity International (the current hosting organisation) and the European Forest Institute (candidate hosting organisation) were invited at the meeting to present their respective organisations and describe how EUFORGEN would benefit and integrate in their activities and missions.

²⁰ http://www.foresteuropemadrid2015.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ELM_7MC_2_2015_MadridResolution2_Protection.pdf

²¹ http://www.foresteuropa.org/about_us/list_signatories

²² http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest/forest-map/index_en.htm

²³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2016-0003&language=GA>

After the two presentations and an open discussion with the representatives of the two International Organizations; the members of Steering Committee carried out an in-depth analysis of the pros and cons of the two options, identified risks and opportunities and (where needed) consulted relevant implementing agencies.

Member countries were generally favourable to the change, but scepticism was expressed in relation the fact the change would happen in the middle of a Phase. M. Bozzano clarified that due to the mentioned forthcoming opportunities, the change, once agreed, should not be postponed till the end of the Phase.

Since a consensus was not reached, the national coordinators were asked to vote. Out of 25 member countries present, two (Germany and Slovakia) voted for the EUFORGEN to continue being hosted by Bioversity International, while the other 23 (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom) voted for the Programme to be hosted by EFI. It was therefore decided to change the hosting organisation as of 1 Jan 2018. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would support the Secretariat to ensure a smooth transition.

It was underlined that there would be no governance nor structural changes as consequence of the new hosting arrangement. The same would apply for the budget, except for changing the currency from US dollars to Euros. Costs such as staff salaries and overheads would remain the same. No changes would apply to annual country contributions and budget lines until the end of the current Phase.

The decision was taken considering that Bioversity International operates under the CGIAR umbrella and focuses on agricultural and forest biodiversity with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries, while the European Forest Institute is mostly dedicated to European forests and is therefore strategically aligned with EUFORGEN's goals through common thematic and geographic focus. Resilience is one of the three pillars of EFI's strategy and genetic resources are a key component in resilient forests.

The decision was also taken considering that the European Forest Institute focuses in its own work on conservation and sustainable management of European forests. Therefore, it will have a strong interest in supporting long-term existence of EUFORGEN and a successful implementation of its strategies in Europe. EUFORGEN will complement EFI in providing unbiased policy support on issues related to forests genetic resources: according to the external evaluation of EUFORGEN (see above) , the programme has been very strong in connecting scientists in forest genetic resources across Europe, but has not been able to set up a strong dialogue with scientists in other forest-related disciplines and policy makers, which is one of the strengths of EFI.

The Steering Committee thanked Bioversity International that hosted the programme since its foundation in 1994. Bioversity International created a favourable environment for EUFORGEN to grow and strengthen its linkages with other international organizations. During this period EUFORGEN also reached important milestones such as the Pan-European Strategy for conservation of forest genetic resources. European countries are grateful for this and are committed to support Bioversity in the conservation of FGR in neighbour countries.

The location of the Secretariat (at one of EFI's offices with International status) would be discussed at later stage, but the Steering Committee recommended that this be centrally located in Europe allowing easy travel to European destinations.

Future steps

Transfer of the Secretariat

The Steering Committee established a task force that together with EUFORGEN Secretariat will negotiate with EFI and Bioversity International to ensure a smooth and effective transition. The task force, which would consist of representatives from Finland, France, Germany and Slovenia, would represent the Steering Committee and have the mandate to negotiate conditions and to decide on behalf of the whole community. However, in case of major or unexpected issues, the whole Steering Committee should be consulted.

The task force will oversee the legal implications of the transfer and will also oversee the amendment of the Phase V document, which will accompany the letter that will inform the Implementing Agencies of the change.

Timeline for Phase VI proposal

Considering the need to continue the EUFORGEN programme and aiming at an effective coordination of relevant activities, the Steering Committee decided to start the preparation of the sixth Phase of the Programme in spring 2018, during the next Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee aims to finalise the Phase VI proposal by the end of 2018, which should allow countries to sign new LoAs in the first semester of 2019, to ensure a prompt start of Phase VI in 2020.

Funding opportunities under next H2020

EUFORGEN National coordinators discussed possible funding opportunities under the H2020 Work Programme 2018 – 2020. In case the possibility to collaborate with animal and crop genetic resources networking programmes emerges, the Steering Committee will support the Secretariat with a task force, composed of national coordinators from Finland, France, Norway and Slovenia, that will define the possible objectives and activities and

will contribute to the initial preparation of the proposal. The secretariat will support the preparation of the project proposal, which aims to be in the interest of the whole community.

In case the Secretariat is asked to be part of more than one consortium preparing a project proposal for the 2019 part of the next H2020 call, the Steering Committee gives the Secretariat the mandate to choose the option that better supports the programme in achieving its long-term objectives.

Any other business

It was agreed not to devote resources to lead the conversion of any of the Phase IV reports to scientific articles, which remains a responsibility of the authors.

During the meeting, thanks to the generosity of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), copies of the European Atlas of Forest Tree Species were distributed to all national coordinators. The Steering Committee recognizes the very high quality of the research behind of the publication and the outstanding final product. In addition to the natural distribution (simplified chorology) of the forest tree species and the frequency of occurrences within the field observations as reported by the National Forest Inventories, the Atlas presents (i) high resolution distribution maps estimating the relative probability of presence and (ii) high resolution maps estimating the maximum habitat suitability for most of the species.

The Steering Committee decided that the EUFORGEN programme will no longer maintain its own forest tree species distribution maps and will make use of JRC's published maps. Additionally, the EUFORGEN member countries will contribute to the development and maintenance of the JRC Atlas of Forest Tree Species through the Secretariat.

Wrap-up of the meeting

Germany and Norway offered to host the next Steering Committee meeting, which will take place around late May/early June 2018.

M. Bozzano thanked C. Sette for her assistance and expressed his appreciation of the participants' engagement and collaboration. He officially closed the 12th Steering Committee meeting.

Annex 1: List of participants

EUFORGEN National Coordinators

Thomas Geburek

Department of Forest Genetics, Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW)

Austria

Alain Servais

Public Service of Wallonia, Department of Nature and Forests - Forest Tree Seed Center

Belgium

Mladen Ivankovic

(on behalf of Davorin Kajba)

Croatian Forest Research Institute

Dept. of Tree Breeding and Forest Seed

Husbandry

Croatia

Josef Frýdl

Forestry and Game Management Research Institute (FGMRI)

Czech Republic

Ditte Christina Olrik

Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, Nature Agency

Denmark

Tiit Maaten

Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering Estonian University of Life Sciences

Estonia

Mari Rusanen

Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)

Finland

François Lefèvre

INRA - Ecologie des Forêts Méditerranéennes
France

Bernd Degen

Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries

Germany

László Nagy

Forest Research Institute

Hungary

Thröstur Eysteinnsson

Iceland Forest Service

Iceland

Brian Clifford

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
FSD/COFORD

Ireland

Silvano Fares

(on behalf of Fulvio Ducci)

Council for Agricultural Research and Economics - Forestry Research Center (CREA-SEL)

Italy

Darius Kavaliauskas

(on behalf of Virgilijus Baliuckas)

Forest Institute

Lithuania

Frank Wolter
Administration de la nature et des forêts
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Gaye Eren Kandemir
Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs
Forest Tree Seeds and Tree Breeding
Research Directorate
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Jason Hubert
Forestry Commission
United Kingdom

Observers
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DG Health and Food Safety
Belgium

Sven M.G. de Vries
The Netherlands

Katri Himanen
Natural Resources Institute (LUKE)
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Jarkko Koskela
Food and Agriculture Organization of the
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Davorin Kajba
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Annex 2: Agenda

Tuesday 30 May – EUFORGEN National Coordinators only					
starting	Time-frame	Session	Objective	Expectations from the Steering Committee	Background documents
8.30		Registration			
9.00	30'	S1. Opening of the meeting Welcome from Hosting Country - <i>Joukje Buiteveld (National Coordinator The Netherlands)</i> , Introduction: the objectives of the meeting - <i>Cristina Sette (Facilitator)</i> and <i>M. Bozzano (Secretariat)</i>	Set clear objectives of the meeting, get to know each other		
9.30	20' +10' Q&A	S2. Update and recent achievements - <i>M. Bozzano</i>	Update NCs on activities, initiatives and achievements	Take note of the recent activities	2015-16 technical and financial reports
10.00	60'	S3. Vision exercise: What is the long term change/impact EUFORGEN aims to achieve	Identify EUFORGEN's long term aim	Reach a consensus on long term aim	
11.00		Coffee			
11.30	15' +15' Q&A	S4. The status quo: how things are done and what support is received from host. Current fundraising activities and responsibilities; how political channels are opened and leveraged; how EUFORGEN strategy is shaped and supported	Update NCs on the actual work and roles of the Secretariat and hosting institute	Take note of the <i>status quo</i>	
12.00	60'	S5. Why discussing hosting now - <i>C. Sette</i>	Discuss the reason we are addressing a possibility of changing hosting. Clarify why those two possible candidates	Clarify any pending issue Revisit last year's consultation process	Minutes of online consultation (2016)
13.00		Lunch			
14.00	20'+10' 20'+10' +60'	S6. Host candidates' presentations - <i>C. Sette</i> Presentation by Bioversity International - <i>Stephan Weise (DDG Research, Bioversity International)</i> Presentation by European Forest Institute (EFI) - <i>Robert Mavsar (DDG Research, EFI)</i> Discussion	NCs to learn about the two potential hosts	Take note of the two offers with a set of areas for reflection in mind: 1) Financial sustainability 2) Policy influence 3) Implementation of strategy	Two narratives prepared by the potential hosts will be distributed to National Coordinators immediately after the presentations
16.00		Coffee			
16.30	90'	S7. How the host candidates could support EUFORGEN long term vision - <i>C. Sette</i>	NCs to discuss alternatives	No final decision will be taken on DAY ONE	
18.00	20'	Formative evaluation of DAY ONE - <i>C. Sette</i>			
19.30		Networking cocktail	Informal interactions		

Wednesday 31 May – EUFORGEN National Coordinators and Observers					
starting	Time-frame	Session	Objective	Expectations from the SC	Background documents
8.30	10' 10' 20' 20' 10' Q&A	S8. Opening of the meeting Welcome from Hosting Country - Peter van der Knaap (<i>Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs</i>) Introduction of the agenda M. Bozzano (<i>Secretariat</i>), Cristina Sette (<i>Facilitator</i>) Introduction of participants and nomination of rapporteurs Reporting on 2015-16 activities - M. Bozzano Implementation of the communication strategy 2015-17 - Ewa Hermanowicz (<i>Secretariat</i>)	Present the outline of the day Introduce participants update on activities	Take note of the recent activities	2015-16 technical report. Website statistics per country final report of the Preparatory action on EU plant and animal genetic resources
9.30	20' +10' Q&A	S9. WG report - Decision support tool for the management of the genetic conservation units network - Andreas Rudow (<i>chair of the WG</i>)	Learn about progresses of the WG	Provide recommendation on the further development of the WG Report	WG report of the first meeting
10.00	20'+10' Q&A	S10. WG report - Guidelines and decision support tool for better incorporating genetic aspects into production and use of forest reproductive material (FRM) - Katri Himanen (<i>chair of the WG</i>)	Learn about progresses of the WG	Provide recommendation on the further development of the WG Report	WG report of the first meeting
10.30		Coffee			
11.00	20'+5' 15'+5' 15'+5' 10'+5' 30'	S11. WG report - Revision of indicator on genetic resources (4.6) of the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management - François Lefèvre (<i>Chair of the WG</i>) Data-sources, platforms and approaches to feed the revised Indicator 4.6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUFGIS data available for reporting on revised indicator 4.6 - M. Bozzano • FOREMATIS (Forest Reproductive Material Information System) - Tbc (<i>EC</i>) • Ex situ minimum requirements currently used by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. - Clare Trivedi (<i>RBG Kew</i>) Discussion	Learn about the proposed revised indicator	Review the proposed indicator and request the Secretariat to submit the revised indicator 4.6 to Forest Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG draft report • Draft Indicator 4.6 by country based on real data from EUFGIS • http://ec.europa.eu/forematis • Kew - Seed Collecting Manual
13.00		Lunch			

14.00	30' +15'	S12. Review of EUFORGEN - <i>Elisabetta Gotor (remotely) (Biodiversity International)</i>	Present the findings of the evaluation and discuss areas of improvement	Identify learning areas Decide on the further use of the review and its recommendations	Review of the EUFORGEN Programme (full document and executive summary)
14.45	30' +30'	S13. Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources - <i>Jarkko Koskela (FAO)</i>	Clarify the reporting requirements and the monitoring schedule	Encourage the member countries to submit their National Progress Reports and request the Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a report on EUFORGEN activities contributing to the implementation of the GPA.	
15.45	20' +10'	S14. Forest Europe – 2016-2020 work programme and progress on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe : relevance for EUFORGEN - <i>Jozef Turok (Forest Europe)</i>	Present the 2016-2020 work programme, update on LBA and future of the Process	Take note of the progress and discuss implications for EUFORGEN	
16.15		Coffee			
16.45	20' +10' Q&A	S15. EUFGIS genetic conservation units and IUCN category IV - <i>Pauline Teillac-Deschamps (IUCN France)</i>	Inform on the initiative	Discuss implications and possible follow-ups	Text of Resolution 40
17.15	15'+5'	S16. Nagoya Protocol and its implementation in EU forest sector - <i>Mari Rusanen (Finland)</i> and <i>M. Bozzano</i>	Inform on the progress and next steps	Discuss implications for FGR sector	Summary on “Nagoya Protocol and its implementation in EU forest sector”
17.40	15'+5' 10'+5' 10'+5'	S17. Update on relevant initiatives GenTree - <i>Barbara Vinceti (Biodiversity)</i> SUSTREE – <i>Thomas Geburek (Austria)</i> LIFEGENMON - <i>Hojka Kraigher (Slovenia)</i>	Update on progress	Discuss relevance of the relevant initiatives for EUFORGEN	
19.30		Social Dinner, restaurant Vlaming			

Thursday 1 June – EUFORGEN National Coordinators only					
Starting	Time-frame	Session	Objective	Expectations from the SC	Background documents
8.30	30'	S18. Recap of DAY ONE: Long term change - <i>C. Sette</i>			
9:00	2h+ coffee	S19. Developing future scenarios in relation to hosting and the future of EUFORGEN: what if? New and unforeseen opportunities, and challenges	Explore all risks and opportunities in selecting the hosting candidates		
11:30	90'	S20. Build consensus on hosting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap and next steps 		Make a decision on the hosting organization	
13.00		Lunch			
14.00	60'	S21. Future steps - <i>C. Sette & M. Bozzano</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline for the preparation of Phase VI proposal Funding opportunities Development of the Programme's workplan for 2017-2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of tasks for existing/new WG List of species that will be used to calculate indicator 4.6 <i>Ex situ</i> minimum requirements related to indicator 4.6 	Discuss future activities and initiatives Present potential funding opportunities <i>M. Bozzano</i>	Provide recommendation on the further implementation of Phase V NC to take note of opportunities and discuss next steps	
15.00	30'	S22. Feedback on the Secretariat - <i>C. Sette (Secretariat out of the room)</i>	Carry out an assessment of the secretariat for future improvement	Give feedback to the Secretariat on its work	
15.30		Coffee			
16.00	40'	S23. Open issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COST MaP FGR: hosting of maps and databases <i>Fulvio Ducci (Italy)</i> Long-term maintenance and further development of forest tree species distribution maps AoB 		Deliberate on open issues	European Atlas of Forest Tree Species
16.30	20'	S24. Date and place of the next meeting Meeting evaluation			
17.00		Closure of the meeting			