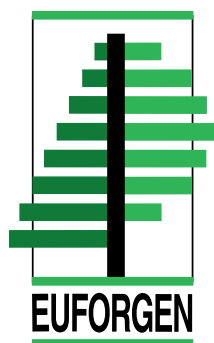




Noble Hardwoods Network

Summary of the third meeting

Sagadi, Estonia, 13-16 June 1998



European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)

Introduction

The third EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network meeting was held at the Forestry Training Centre in Sagadi, Estonia, 13-16 June 1998. It was attended by 28 participants from 24 countries (see Participants). Network members from a further 3 countries were unable to attend. The meeting was opened H.E. Villu Reiljan, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Estonia. Prof. Gösta Eriksson, Chair of the Network, introduced the agenda of the meeting and asked for volunteers to serve as discussion leaders and rapporteurs. The importance of further joint efforts on forest genetic resources in Europe in view of the outcomes of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests (Lisbon, 3-5 June) was highlighted by Dr Jozef Turok, EUFORGEN Coordinator.

The first day of the meeting (see Programme) was focused on the further development of strategies and methodologies for the genetic resources of Noble Hardwoods. The European long-term gene conservation strategies, previously developed for maples (*Acer*), elms (*Ulmus*), rowan (*Sorbus*) and the wild fruit tree species, are concerned with a number of issues ranging from inventories of occurrence and abundance, genetic variation and variation patterns, breeding and reproductive systems, to regeneration, silviculture and sustainable use.¹ Further strategies on ash (*Fraxinus*), chestnut (*Castanea*) and lime trees (*Tilia*) were prepared and discussed at the meeting. The authors were commended for their documents. After incorporation of the comments and suggestions provided by the participants of the meeting, the three new Network's strategies are published in this volume. The core of any conservation strategy for Noble Hardwoods is their silvicultural management and sustainable use carried out with due attention to genetic principles. An overview paper was also presented on this topic, including a number of recommendations for the practical management. Recognizing the progress made by European countries, it was agreed that technical guidelines for the long-term gene conservation of Noble Hardwoods species be developed by the Network. They will be aimed at the forest officers in European countries. Their outline and production schedule were approved (see Workplan update).

The second day of the meeting was devoted to an excursion leading to some Noble Hardwoods stands located at the margins of the species' distribution areas in Europe. Practical gene conservation and tree breeding activities were presented by Estonian colleagues. Information on international developments in the area of forest genetic resources (FAO) and summary of the activities of the other EUFORGEN Networks was also provided and discussed.

With regard to global climate change, it is very important to ensure that genetic variation is available in tree populations to allow them to adapt to the changing environmental conditions. A discussion paper on this topic was presented on the third day of the meeting (see p. 98). An urgent need was expressed to give priority to research on mating patterns and reproductive biology of the Noble Hardwood species, as a basis for the development and implementation of the long-term strategies. The Network also discussed the information management of Noble Hardwoods genetic resources in Europe. The common descriptors, previously proposed by the Network, should be kept to the very minimum. While the development of national databases was encouraged, the issue of a common, centralized information system will need to be further discussed. In the meantime, a page has been set up on the Network's Internet site including electronic links to existing national databases as requested by the countries concerned. The Network decided to regularly update the overview of ongoing national and

¹ The Reports of previous EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network meetings and other related publications can be obtained from the EUFORGEN Coordinator, IPGRI, Via delle Sette Chiese 142, 00145 Rome, Italy. Fax +39-06-5750309; E-mail: j.turok@cgiar.org; <<http://www.cgiar.org/ipgri/euforgen/networks/noble.htm>>.

international research projects. The possibilities of securing additional EU funding for some of the Network activities were discussed, including shared-cost projects (EU Framework Programme V, INCO-Copernicus, etc.). Participants also expressed their wish to strengthen the links between EU-funded research projects and scientists in non-EU countries. The need to continue to raise awareness of policy-makers, foresters and the general public of the role and potential of these often overlooked species was emphasized. A first step has been taken through the recently published leaflet on Noble Hardwoods, but much still remains to be done in this area.

The meeting was concluded by adopting the workplan of tasks to be conducted by Network members as inputs in kind before the next meeting (see Workplan update). Four countries offered to host the next meeting and Gmunden, Austria was chosen as the venue. The meeting will be held 3-7 September 1999. The local organizers of the meeting were thanked for the excellent arrangements.

Workplan update

European long-term gene conservation strategies

The documents on *Fraxinus* spp. and *Castanea sativa*, which had been prepared and distributed before the meeting, were presented by the authors (A. Pliūra and J. Fernández-López and R. Alía, respectively).

The strategy on *Fraxinus* spp. was discussed. It was suggested that the document should refer to all parts of the distribution area and to the variety of situations in Europe.

The strategy document on *Castanea sativa* should also be revised. The objectives of the strategy should be stated explicitly and a part on gene conservation in general (including fruit cultivars) should be added.

J. Jensen presented a draft gene conservation strategy on *Tilia* spp. Owing to the distribution of *Tilia* and other Noble Hardwood species over large areas, the Network considered it important to exchange information with countries outside Europe. J. Turok offered to provide a link between the Network and the relevant non-European countries.

The Network asked all the authors of the strategy documents to incorporate the comments and suggestions made. The strategies on *Fraxinus* spp., *Castanea sativa* and *Tilia* spp. were adopted as joint Network outputs. It was recommended that the need for further research be emphasized in the papers.

It was noted that the strategy documents on *Alnus* spp. and *Juglans regia* (J. Gracan and R. Alía, respectively) could not be presented at this meeting. These documents will be discussed at the next Network meeting.

The European long-term gene conservation strategies should help in the conceptualization and development of national strategies. There should be close links between the two levels. However, regional strategies can never replace national strategies. National gene conservation strategies should be much more detailed than regional ones, and should be adapted to national objectives, needs and resources. Regional strategies, on the other hand, provide a common framework and will serve as a basis for developing the Technical Guidelines of the Network (see below).

Action to be taken and deadlines

All Network members will provide additional comments (including editorial suggestions) to A. Pliūra and J. Fernández-López and R. Alía **by 1 July 1998**, and to J. Jensen by 1 August 1998 (J. Jensen will send a draft document to all Network members before 1 July 1998). The three authors will submit revised documents to J. Turok **by 1 September 1998**, in order to be included in the Report of the meeting. The strategy on *Alnus* spp. (J. Gracan) and *Juglans regia* (R. Alía) will be finalized **before 1 September 1998**. J. Turok will circulate them to all Network members for comments. These two strategy documents will be discussed during the next meeting.

Technical Guidelines

Since its beginning the goal of the Network has been to produce minimum standards for gene conservation of Noble Hardwoods in the long term. Recognizing the progress made so far, it was agreed that technical recommendations for the long-term gene conservation as well as conservation and silvicultural management of Noble Hardwood species be developed. A new Network document should be produced aiming at the general forest officer or manager in charge of applied forest gene conservation. The objective is to provide generally valid guidelines which will then be "translated" according to the situation in each country.

The following outline was approved and co-authors invited to contribute:

- 1 Foreword
- 2 Introduction (G. Eriksson, J. Kleinschmit and J. Turok)
- 3 Evolutionary genetics and forest tree gene conservation (G. Eriksson)
- 4 Gene conservation of Noble Hardwoods in situations where their occurrence is widespread (M. Rusanen, A. Pliūra and J. Jensen)
- 5 Gene conservation of Noble Hardwoods in situations where their occurrence is rare (B. Demesure, R. Stephan and J. Kleinschmit)
- 6 Case study: Multipurpose Noble Hardwoods – chestnut and walnut (J. Fernández-López and R. Alía)
- 7 Case study: Gene conservation of elms and possibly other species that require special treatment (E. Collin)
- 8 Descriptors (J. Jensen)
- 9 Conclusions (G. Eriksson, J. Kleinschmit and J. Turok)

The document on *in situ* conservation and silvicultural management strategies of Noble Hardwoods, prepared by P. Rotach and circulated before the meeting, was acknowledged by the participants. After incorporating the comments provided, this paper will be included in the Report of the meeting. It was adopted as an output of the Network. Parts of the paper will be used in the relevant chapters of the Technical Guidelines.

Action to be taken and deadlines

G. Eriksson will lead the preparation of the draft document. The draft Technical Guidelines (except for the Conclusions) will be distributed to all Network members **2 months before the next meeting**.

Table 1 ("Noble Hardwood species considered important for gene conservation in European countries"–Page 5 in the Report of the second Network meeting) will be updated. It was agreed to simplify the format of the Table. J. Turok will remind the Network members to revise the Table in their countries **by 1 July 1998**, providing information in the new, agreed-upon format (see Overview, p. 7). Each Network member will reply **before 1 August 1998**.

P. Rotach will send the revised paper on *in situ* conservation and silvicultural management to J. Turok **by 1 September 1998**.

Progress made in the national gene conservation strategies on Noble Hardwoods

Progress made in each country since the last meeting was presented during the meeting. Although heterogeneous, the presentations gave an overview of current work and offered references to further information. Introductory reports were presented by countries attending for the first time: Bulgaria, Estonia and the United Kingdom. These new reports are published in full in this Report of the meeting. The need for publishing progress reports was discussed. It was agreed that the progress reports will not be included in the Report of the meeting but will be available on request and on the internet.

Action to be taken and deadlines

A synthesis of the progress made will be prepared by J. Turok and included in the Report of the meeting. All Network members will send him brief, written progress reports **by 1 August 1998** to be used in the synthesis. The reports should be no longer than one page, will be sent electronically and should cover the following points: main current threats, research activities, applied gene conservation activities, public awareness and references. It was

agreed that these reports will be compiled in a standard format, that one copy will be sent to each Network member and that the compilation will also be included on the Network's internet site (by J. Turok, by 15 September 1998).

Inventories and documentation on Noble Hardwoods genetic resources

Descriptors: The Network acknowledged the list of descriptors developed previously by J. Jensen and published in the Report of the second meeting. These descriptors provide the minimum required information standards of the Noble Hardwoods Network.

Databases: The main objective of the Network in this regard is to share information on genetic resources and gene conservation of Noble Hardwoods. B. Demesure presented a concept note on the development of databases at national level which aims at providing assistance in building up these databases. It is essential to encourage the establishment of national databases wherever they do not yet exist. E. Collin was suggested to act as the focal person of the Network for databases. Consideration will be given to establishing decentralized or centralized databases by the Network in the future.

Several countries mentioned that their databases on genetic resources at a national level include Noble Hardwood species, but these are often not itemized separately. They are usually referred to as a group of "broadleaves". The Network, therefore, recommended that inventories of Noble Hardwoods be given priority in each country.

R. Stephan presented a report on the basic requirements for inventories of Noble Hardwood genetic resources and mentioned an example of the databases used in Germany.

Overview information on the Global Forest Resources Assessment of FAO was provided by C. Palmberg-Lerche.

Action to be taken and deadlines

J. Turok will set up a link page on the Network's internet site and will include the electronic version of the common list of descriptors. Network members from countries wishing to have an electronic link to the respective national database from that internet site will provide details to J. Turok (including names and addresses of the persons directly responsible) by 1 September 1998.

B. Demesure and R. Stephan will complete their contributions and submit them to J. Turok for the Report of the meeting (by 1 September 1998).

Research

Following the presentation of G. Eriksson on Genetic Resources of Noble Hardwoods in view of the global changes of the environment, the participants recommended that priority in research be given to studies on mating patterns in Noble Hardwood species. This issue is very important for the further development and implementation of the European long-term gene conservation strategies.

E. Collin presented the current activities within the EU/GEN RES 78 project on elms, J. Fernández-López described the work of COST Chestnut Working Group on Genetics and Breeding, B. Demesure mentioned the new multi-species project FAIR-CYTOFOR. A. Alexandrov described a collaborative project on broadleaved species in southeastern Europe.

The Network encouraged and will technically support the efforts of COST Chestnut WG in establishing combined provenance/progeny trials.

The participants expressed their wish to strengthen the links between EU-funded research projects and scientists in non-EU countries.

Action to be taken and deadlines

G. Eriksson invited the Network members concerned to attend an *ad hoc* meeting (in October 1998) in Uppsala in order to formulate a shared cost project proposal (mating patterns of Noble Hardwoods) that would be submitted for funding to the EU Framework V programme. The call is expected in January 1999. It was proposed to include an item on research needs on the agenda of the forthcoming meetings. This would allow for participants to express interest.

The Network decided to regularly update the overview of ongoing research projects, national and international. A. Prokazin will be asked to circulate an update. All Network members will send him any new information by **1 September 1998**.

J. Turok will summarize and provide to Network members information about the possibilities for developing various international collaborative projects (e.g. INCO, Copernicus of the EU) by **1 October 1998**.

Literature reviews

The completed bibliography on *Ulmus* spp. (E. Collin) was published in the Report of the second meeting and on the internet. The compilers responsible for the other species requested all countries to send references or notify them about the non-availability of such references. It was suggested that the bibliographies included on the internet should be available in a searchable database format. The compilers (see below) will send a reminder to all Network members.

Compiler	Species
B. Demesure	<i>Prunus avium</i> , <i>Sorbus</i> spp.
V. Buriánek	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Malus sylvestris</i> , <i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>
F. Ducci	<i>Alnus cordata</i> , <i>Acer lobelii</i> , <i>Betula pendula</i> , <i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>
S. de Vries	<i>Acer platanoides</i> , <i>A. pseudoplatanus</i> , <i>A. campestre</i> , <i>Tilia cordata</i> , <i>T. platyphyllos</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
R. Alía	<i>Castanea sativa</i> , <i>Juglans regia</i> , <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>

Action to be taken and deadlines

The complete remaining species bibliographies will be sent by the compilers to J. Turok by **1 October 1998**. They will be made available on the internet **before the end of the year**. Hard copies will be available on request from J. Turok.

Other tasks of the Network

It was noted that a joint letter clarifying the position of the Network on the movement of forest reproductive material of Noble Hardwoods had been distributed (S. de Vries with J. Turok) and that a public awareness leaflet on Noble Hardwoods had been produced (text by F. Müller). The Network members were encouraged to distribute, in consultation with National Coordinators, the Network publications to all those concerned or interested in their respective countries.

Next Network meeting

Offers were received from Austria, France, Italy and Sweden. It was decided to organize the next Network meeting in **Gmunden, Austria, 3-7 September 1999**.

Overview: Noble Hardwood species considered important for gene conservation in European countries

Species	AUT	BEL	BGR	HRV	CZE	DNK	EST	FIN	FRA	GBR	DEU	HUN	ITA
<i>Alnus cordata</i>									x				x
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	x					x	x			x	x		
<i>Acer lobelii</i>													x
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x		x
<i>Betula pendula</i>					x		x	x		x	x		x
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	x					x				x	x		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>			x	x					x	x	x		x
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	x		x	x	x				x				x
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
<i>Juglans regia</i>	x		x	x					x	x	x	x	x
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	x	x			x	x			x	x	x	x	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>													
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	x				x	x			x		x	x	
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	x				x	x				x	x		x
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	x				x	x			x	x	x	x	x
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	x				x				x	x	x		x
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	x				x	x			x	x	x		x
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x		
<i>Ulmus canescens</i>													
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x		x	x	
<i>Ulmus procera</i>										x			
Species	LVA	LTU	MLT	NLD	POL	PRT	ROM	RUS	SVK	ESP	SWE	CHE	UKR
<i>Alnus cordata</i>													
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	x	x		x		x	x		x	x			x
<i>Acer campestre</i>				x	x	x	x	x		x			
<i>Acer lobelii</i>													
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	x	x				x	x	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>				x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Betula pendula</i>	x	x						x		x			x
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	x	x		x							x		x
<i>Castanea sativa</i>						x	x	x		x		x	x
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>			x			x	x		x				x
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Juglans regia</i>						x	x	x		x		x	
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	x	x		x		x	x		x			x	x
<i>Prunus avium</i>	x	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	x
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>			x										
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	x	x		x		x			x			x	
<i>Sorbus aria</i>					x	x	x		x				
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	x	x		x		x	x		x				x
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	x					x	x		x			x	
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>					x	x	x		x			x	x
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	x			x	x		x		x			x	
<i>Ulmus canescens</i>			x										
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
<i>Ulmus minor</i>		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
<i>Ulmus procera</i>						x	x						

AUT=Austria; BEL=Belgium; BGR=Bulgaria; HRV=Croatia; CZE=Czech Republic; DNK=Denmark; EST=Estonia; FIN=Finland; FRA=France; GBR=United Kingdom; DEU=Germany; HUN=Hungary; ITA=Italy; LVA=Latvia; LTU=Lithuania; MLT=Malta; NLD=Netherlands; POL=Poland; PRT=Portugal; ROM=Romania; RUS=Russia; SVK=Slovakia; ESP=Spain; SWE=Sweden; CHE=Switzerland; UKR=Ukraine.

Programme

Friday 12 June

Arrival, transfer to Sagadi, registration, dinner

Saturday 13 June

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 07.30-08.00 | Breakfast |
| 08.30-09.00 | Introduction |
| 09.00-10.30 | European long-term gene conservation strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of new strategy documents: <i>Fraxinus</i> spp., <i>Tilia</i> spp., <i>Castanea sativa</i> and <i>Juglans regia</i> • Discussion • Development of concise, practically oriented gene conservation guidelines |
| 10.30-11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.00-13.00 | European long-term gene conservation strategies (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvicultural management strategies for <i>in situ</i> conservation |
| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00-15.45 | Progress made in the national strategies on Noble Hardwoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief round-the-table updates from the represented countries |
| 15.45-16.15 | Coffee break |
| 16.15-18.15 | Progress made in the national strategies on Noble Hardwoods
Introductory country reports |
| 20.00 | Dinner |

Sunday 14 June

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 07.30-08.00 | Breakfast |
| 08.00-18.00 | Excursion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bus session": Information from the other EUFORGEN Networks; international developments on forest genetic resources; public awareness activities of the Network |
| 19.00 | Dinner |

Monday 15 June

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 07.30-08.00 | Breakfast |
| 08.00-10.30 | Gene conservation of Noble Hardwoods in view of the global changes of the environment |
| 10.30-11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.00-13.00 | Inventories of Noble Hardwoods genetic resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic requirements • Links with FAO Forest Resources Assessment • Databases |
| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00-15.45 | Bibliography |
| 15.45-16.15 | Coffee break |
| 16.15-18.00 | Information from complementary research projects related to Noble Hardwoods genetic resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links between the Network and the projects • Coordination and promotion of research |
| 19.00-20.00 | Wrap-up session and conclusions |
| 20.30 | Farewell dinner |

Tuesday 16 June

Departure of participants

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