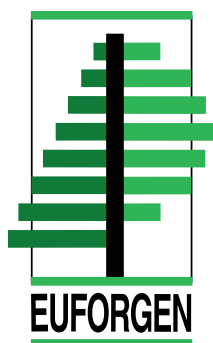




Temperate Oaks and Beech Network

Summary of the first meeting

Bordeaux, France, 23-25 October 1997



European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)

Introduction

The first EUFORGEN meeting on Social Broadleaves was held from 23 to 25 October 1997 at the Station de Recherches Forestières (INRA) in Bordeaux-Cestas, France. Participants representing 23 countries attended the meeting (see List of Participants). They presented country reports, identified common needs, agreed on a joint workplan and established a Network concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in Social Broadleaves.

For the immediate future, the scope of the Network includes European white oaks (*Quercus robur*, *Q. petraea*, *Q. pubescens* and related species) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*, *F. orientalis*).

The establishment of this Network – a fifth one within the framework of EUFORGEN – had been previously requested by the participating countries through their National Coordinators. It was felt that the existing Networks (Noble Hardwoods, *Picea abies*, *Populus nigra* and *Quercus suber*) do not cover adequately the European temperate oaks and beech, considering their importance, and in view of the specific gene conservation strategies they require. The coverage of species by the Network and its title will be addressed at the next Steering Committee meeting of National Coordinators (to be held in Vienna, Austria, 26-29 November 1998).

The common needs concern in particular:

- to improve information flow among countries
- to harmonize research priorities and disseminate available research results
- to address legislation-related issues
- to develop joint, long-term, practically oriented strategies and standardize or develop methodologies
- to raise awareness of decision-makers, the general public and forest owners about the necessity of conserving genetic resources of Social Broadleaves.

The participants of the meeting developed a common workplan with shared responsibilities. It aims at strengthening collaboration among European countries by providing practical outputs such as technical guidelines for the sampling, design and management of gene conservation units, databases, information resources and public awareness tools (see Workplan).

To obtain a comprehensive overview of the current developments, four participants were invited to deliver introductory presentations during the first part of the meeting. They reviewed the results of research on the genetic diversity of oaks and beech throughout Europe, summarized the concerns associated with oak decline and introduced the international network of beech provenance trials established recently. Overview presentations as well as country reports presented at the meeting are published in this volume.

The country reports typically include, but are not strictly limited to, information on the occurrence and origin of the European temperate oaks and beech in each country, their economic importance, silvicultural approaches used, health state of the forest stands and threats to their genetic diversity, genetic conservation activities, relevant nature protection policies and activities, tree-improvement, use of reproductive material, institutions involved, research capacities, needs and priorities for international collaboration. The order of the country reports is based on ecogeographic regions where these species can be characterized in a similar way as relevant to gene conservation. It does not imply any order of importance or priorities.

The meeting was held immediately after the French National Committee for the Conservation of Forest Gene Resources meeting. This enabled participants of both meetings to interact closely.

The participants of the meeting elected Dr A. Kremer (France) as Chair of the Network. Drs T. Geburek (Austria) and L. Paule (Slovakia) were elected to act as Vice-chairs.

Both research and practice of gene conservation in Social Broadleaves are fast evolving and have attracted significant attention in European countries during recent years. Regular Network meetings are foreseen to further the exchange of information and experience, to review the progress made in the implementation of the workplan and to coordinate action at the all-European level. The second meeting will be hosted by Switzerland in early 1999.

Workplan

Country reports

These will be completed according to the discussion at the meeting. They should be no more than 10 pages of text (standard format: Palatino font size 12, single line spacing). Figures and statistics (e.g. area occupied by the species, overview of conservation activities) should be given in additional tables. The reports should follow the structure outlined previously (see circular letter dated 1 October 1997). All participants will send their reports (electronic version and in printed form) to Jozef Turok for compilation and inclusion in the Report of the meeting **before 1 December 1997**. J. Turok will contact countries not represented in the meeting and ask for their input as well according to the agreed structure and deadline. The Report will be available in **April 1998**. It was agreed that the introductory presentations by A. Kremer, T. Oszako, L. Paule and R. Stephan also be included in the Report (to be submitted no later than **1 February 1998**).

Synthesis of legislation and other regulations related to genetic resources of Social Broadleaves

This will be prepared by Sven de Vries on the basis of information available in the country reports. It will be presented and discussed **during the next Network meeting** (circulated one month before the meeting). Lennart Ackzell will send a copy of the latest version of the OECD and EU regulations to all participants.

Overview of ongoing research projects

An overview of the objectives, available results and collaborating partners of ongoing EU-funded projects, related IUFRO Working Parties and other relevant international projects will be compiled by Antoine Kremer (oaks) and Richard Stephan (beech) **before 1 February 1998**. A compilation of ongoing national projects and programmes related to genetic resources will be extracted from the country reports by J. Turok. Participants are, therefore, encouraged to collect and include information representing the whole research spectrum of their respective country. Both outputs will be included in the Report of the meeting.

Development of joint, long-term, practically oriented gene conservation strategies

This was considered to be the fundamental task of the new Network. A working group composed of Thomas Geburek (responsible for the task), Patrick Bonfils, Richard Stephan and Alexis Ducouso will send a questionnaire asking for information about methodologies currently used for the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation in European countries. The questionnaire will be circulated **by 1 February 1998** and replies are to be sent back to T. Geburek **before 1 July 1998**. This basic information (empirical knowledge and experience available in countries) will lead to preparing a background document to be presented at the next Network meeting. The activity will help to identify topics where additional research is needed (spatial structure of diversity in gene conservation units, influence of silvicultural practices, etc.). The ultimate aim is to provide technical recommendations (guidelines) for the sampling, design and management of gene conservation units of oaks and beech. The draft background document will be circulated by T. Geburek **one month before the next meeting**.

Terminology

The terminology of the Network will be harmonized using the agreed Norway spruce glossary. All participants should send comments and additional terms they wish to include to J. Turok **by 10 November 1997**. The adjusted list will be circulated to all participants

before 20 November 1997, in order to facilitate the use of common terms in the country reports (to be submitted by 1 December 1997).

Descriptors and databases

Jan S. Jensen prepared a list of common minimum descriptors for Noble Hardwoods. This was recognized as a good starting point for Social Broadleaves as well. J. Turok will circulate this list to the participants **before 20 November 1997**. Comments should be sent directly to J.S. Jensen **by 1 March 1998**. The list will be discussed **at the next meeting** (circulated one month before the meeting). The objective is to provide a minimum common format for databases on gene conservation units at a national level. An international database may be set up later.

Public awareness

Awareness about the importance of the genetic resources of beech and oaks as cultural heritage will be promoted by the Network. Ioan Blada in collaboration with Jozef Turok will formulate a one-page draft about the importance of conserving genetic resources of oaks and beech and describing the role of the Network. J. Turok will send him the leaflet produced by Noble Hardwoods Network **by 10 November 1997**. The draft will be circulated by Ioan Blada **before 15 December 1997** and comments sent back to him by all participants **before 1 January 1998**. It will then be included in the Report of the meeting.

A collection of slides linked to the gene conservation of Social Broadleaves will be established. Dominique Jacques will prepare and circulate a letter with proposed topics to be covered by the collection. Ladislav Paule and S. de Vries will assist with organizing this Network's collection. It will be presented **at the next meeting** and completed afterwards.

Conclusion

The participants of the meeting elected A. Kremer as Chair of the Network. T. Geburek and L. Paule were elected to act as Vice-chairs. The host of the meeting, M. Arbez, INRA Station de Recherches Forestières in Cestas, was commended for the excellent organization of the meeting. Following several offers, it was agreed to hold the next meeting in Switzerland, in February-March 1999. The final dates will be announced.

Programme

22 and 23 October

Arrival of participants at Bordeaux-Mérignac Airport

23 October

08h30	Departure for a visit of the molecular marker labs at INRA Forest Research Station
09h00-11h00	Visit of the molecular marker labs
11h00-12h00	Registration
12h00	Welcome aperitive with members of the 'Commission Nationale de Conservation des Ressources Génétiques Forestières'
13h00-14h30	<i>Lunch at INRA restaurant in Pierroton</i>
15h00-15h15	Welcome address (M. Arbez, INRA)
15h15-15h30	Introduction and format of the meeting (J. Turok, IPGRI)
15h30-16h15	Genetics of European oaks (A. Kremer)
16h15-16h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16h30-17h15	Oak decline in Europe (T. Oszako)
17h15-18h00	Genetic variation of beech in Europe (L. Paule)
18h00-18h45	International provenance experiment on beech (R. Stephan)
19h00	Transfer by bus to Bordeaux city
20h00	<i>Dinner in Bordeaux City</i>

24 October

08h30-10h00	Regional working groups (country reports): session I
10h00-10h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10h30-12h30	Regional working groups (country reports): session II
12h30-14h00	<i>Lunch</i>
14h00-16h30	Regional working groups (country reports): session III
16h30-17h00	<i>Coffee break</i>
17h00-18h45	Summary: Common needs, priorities and existing capacities on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of oak and beech in Europe
19h00	Transfer by bus to Bordeaux
20h00	<i>Dinner in Bordeaux City</i>

25 October

08h30-10h00	Network session I: Coordination of ongoing activities at a European level
10h00-10h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10h30-12h30	Network session II: Development of shared Network tasks according to the needs and capacities
12h30-13h30	<i>Lunch</i>
13h30-17h00	Excursion to local oak forests (riverside and coastal sand dunes)
17h00-18h30	Establishment of a workplan, conclusions and approval of the Report of the meeting
19h30	<i>Farewell dinner at restaurant Les Pavois in Arcachon Bay</i>

26 October

Departure of participants by shuttle bus service to the Airport

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