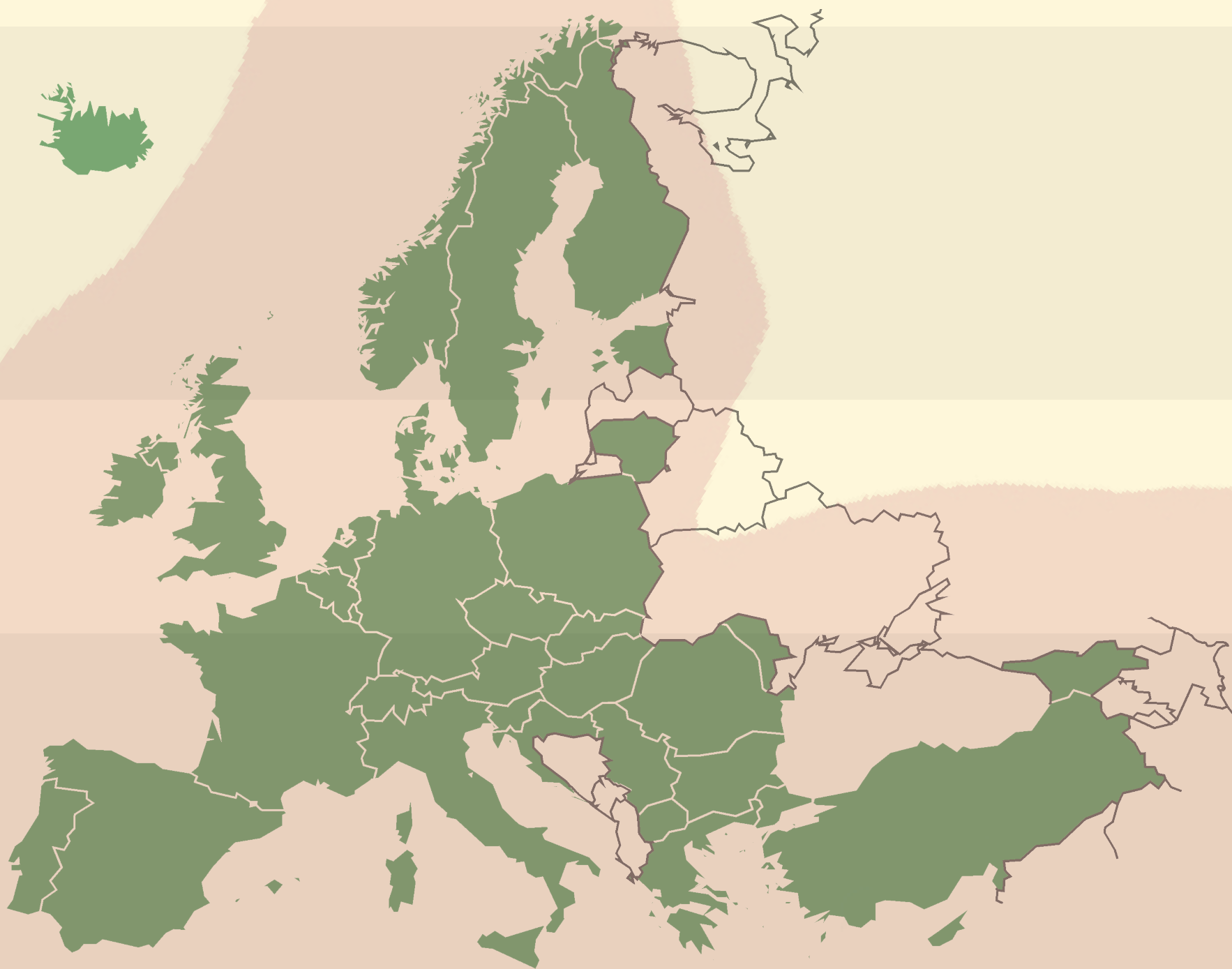


European Forest Genetic Resources Programme

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) promotes conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe. Currently the Programme has a total of 26 member countries



A germinating seed of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) in the Alps.

EUFORGEN was established in 1994 to implement Strasbourg Resolution 2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) adopted by the first Ministerial Conference of the Forest Europe process in 1990. It also contributes to the implementation of Vienna Resolution 4 on forest biological diversity and the Warsaw Declaration. EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries and coordinated by Bioversity International. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries.

Objectives

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

Mode of operation

EUFORGEN operates through working groups and workshops that bring together scientists, policy-makers and managers to exchange information, discuss needs and develop strategies and methods for better management of forest genetic resources.

EUFORGEN maintains the European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS) and collects data on dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees through a network of national focal points.

Outputs

The Programme outputs benefit national efforts in managing forest genetic resources. The outputs include:

- Technical guidelines for genetic conservation and use of forest trees and other publications
- Long-term forest genetic resources conservation strategies
- Revised distribution maps of forest trees in Europe
- Databases
- Collections of genetic material



European experts visiting a restoration plot near Arezzo, Italy.

Climate change and forest genetic diversity

Climate change brings along new challenges for European forests and their sustainable management. Genetic diversity has a crucial role in ensuring that forest trees can survive, adapt and evolve under climate change. Appropriate use and transfer of reproductive material can also mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forests. EUFORGEN Working Groups are now assessing the implications of climate change for genetic conservation of forest trees and the use of reproductive material to prepare improved pan-European strategies and guidelines.

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