



Report of the tenth Steering Committee meeting

Edinburgh, United Kingdom
16–18 June 2014



Summary of the meeting
EUFORGEN Phase V (2015-2019)

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Part 1: Summary of the meeting

1.1. Opening of the meeting

J. Hubert (Forestry Commission), the EUFORGEN National Coordinator of the United Kingdom opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to Edinburgh. He then introduced W. Harper, Head of Corporate and Forestry Services of Forestry Commission, who provided an introduction to forestry in the United Kingdom. She first summarized historical developments since 1919 when the Forestry Commission was established and then focused on more recent issues related to forest management and forest policy. She pointed out that the fundamental question of forest governance is what we really want from forests. She stressed the need to maintain forests resilient in the face of climate change and the recent outbreaks of pest and diseases. She also stressed that scientists and policymakers need to work closely together to tackle the current and future challenges in forest management. She concluded her presentation by wishing the participants a fruitful meeting.

J. Koskela (EUFORGEN Coordinator) welcomed the participants on behalf of Bioversity International and thanked the Forestry Commission for hosting the meeting in Edinburgh. He also expressed his gratitude to J. Hubert for his contributions to the organization of the meeting.

All participants briefly introduced themselves. J. Koskela presented the draft agenda of the meeting which was then adopted. M. Bozzano, E. Hermanowicz and J. Koskela were nominated as rapporteurs of the meeting.

1.2. Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014)

J. Koskela presented an update on the EUFORGEN activities in 2013 and early 2014. In 2013, three working groups (on genetic conservation strategies, genetic monitoring and forest reproductive material) developed their final draft reports which then were presented to the Steering Committee at its ninth meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia in December 2013. The Steering Committee provided further comments which will be incorporated into the final versions of the reports that will be printed in 2014. He continued by reporting that the two new working groups (on the conservation of forest genetic resources (FGR) and climate change, and on FGR-related policies) organized their second meeting in early 2014 and will present their draft reports during this meeting. Concerning the maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal, J. Koskela reported a total of 509 new genetic conservation units of forest trees were added to the database in 2013, and that three new countries (FYR Macedonia, Sweden and Switzerland) started providing their data in 2014. As of June 2014, the database included 3146 units for 99 tree species in 34 countries.

J. Koskela then provided an update on earlier discussion points of the Steering Committee. The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report was released by FAO on 3 June 2014. It includes several references to EUFORGEN and EUFGIS as a model for regional collaboration and information systems, respectively. He noted the initial findings of the SoW-FGR report were already used in 2013 when FAO developed the Global Plan of Action for FGR. He also reported that FAO has recognized EUFORGEN as a key partner for the implementation of the GPA-FGR in Europe.

Concerning various efforts to promote sustainable forest management in Europe, J. Koskela informed that the FOREST EUROPE process will organize a round-table meeting in late 2014 to continue discussions on updating the existing set of criteria and indicators (C&I). He also

reminded the meeting participants that FGR conservation is included in the new EC Regulation for rural development as one of the eligible actions making it possible to seek funding for practical FGR work at the national level. Furthermore, he noted that the new EU Forest Strategy also recognizes the importance of FGR and that in May 2014, the Council of the EU asked the EC to prepare (by the beginning of 2015) a concrete proposal for a multi-annual implementation plan for this strategy.

J. Koskela continued by briefing the Steering Committee on the activities carried out by the Secretariat. He presented a summary of his observations on recent FOREST EUROPE discussions as well as the negotiation process for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe which ended in 2013 without the expected result as countries could not agree on the operational aspects of the draft agreement. He also mentioned that the Secretariat had started collecting data on Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) for the next State of Europe's Forests report in spring 2014 and that the data will be submitted to the Liaison Unit Madrid of FOREST EUROPE in autumn 2014.

Regarding the maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal, he informed that the Secretariat had continued screening data and providing technical support to the national focal points. A new search function was also developed in 2013 (as part of the FORGER project) to link the EUFGIS database with the GD² database containing genetic diversity data on tree populations that have been sampled by earlier European research projects. A workshop on FGR inventories and databases was also organized, in collaboration with the FORGER project, for the EUFGIS national focal points in Zagreb, Croatia in March 2014.

During 2013-2014, EUFORGEN also continued its collaboration with FAO. The Secretariat and FAO organized a side event on the GPA-FGR and its implementation in Europe during the European Forest Week that took place in Rovaniemi, Finland in December 2013. Another side event on the GPA-FGR will be organized by Bioversity, FAO and Norway during the 22nd Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in June 2014. The Secretariat staff also attended the 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (ITWG-FGR) in January 2013 and the 14th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in April 2013. Furthermore, they will also attend the 3rd Session of the ITWG-FGR in July 2014.

J. Koskela concluded his technical update by summarizing publications and public awareness material produced (e.g. four studies based on the EUFGIS data, news on the website and three short videos). He also noted that the Secretariat is investigating a possibility of organizing the 20-year anniversary event of EUFORGEN in conjunction with a FOREST EUROPE meeting in late 2014.

He then presented an update to the membership situation and the financial report for 2013. EUFORGEN still has a total of 25 member countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom). The opening balance of the trust fund was US\$ 202,576 on 1 January 2013 and Bioversity International received US\$ 318,611 during 2013 as financial contributions to EUFORGEN. The actual Programme expenditure was US\$ 338,310 in 2013 while the planned budget for 2013 was US\$ 412,450. The closing balance of the trust fund was US\$ 182,878 on 31 December 2013 and it was carried forward for 2014. The saving was largely created by the fact that a number of EUFORGEN meetings have been organized in collaboration with European projects

during Phase IV. These projects have also covered some Secretariat staff time. He also briefed the Steering Committee on the outstanding financial contributions totalling US\$ 33,700 for Phase III and US\$ 24,139 for Phase IV (until December 2013). He noted that several countries were still processing the 2014 financial contributions. All countries with outstanding financial contributions for Phase IV have informed the Secretariat that the payments will be made soon.

J. Koskela concluded his presentation by briefing the Steering Committee on the new 10-year strategy (2014-2024) of Bioversity International and its four Strategic Objectives. He also informed the Steering Committee that Bioversity will continue hosting the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) during its Phase IX (2014-2018).

The Steering Committee thanked the Secretariat for the technical and financial reports. It also expressed its satisfaction with the progress made, especially by the working groups. The Steering Committee recommended the Secretariat to disseminate widely the achievements and outputs of Phase IV to relevant stakeholders and in particular to the FOREST EUROPE process. The Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat to continue its interactions with all potential new member countries, including those ones which did not re-join Phase IV as well as those countries which have never participated in EUFORGEN. Concerning financial issues, it was agreed that letters requesting the annual financial contributions should be sent in electronic format via email to the member countries instead of regular mail to shorten the payment processing time. The Steering Committee also requested the Secretariat to prepare an overview of financial contributions from different projects (e.g. EUFGIS and FORGER) to EUFORGEN activities during Phase IV as this would be useful for future budget planning purposes. The Steering Committee then adopted the technical and financial reports for 2013.

1.3. Establishment of the core network of genetic conservation units for forest trees

M. Bozzano (Bioversity International) presented an update to the process of selecting genetic conservation units of forest trees to the European core network. The establishment of the core network of the units was proposed by the EUFORGEN working group on genetic conservation strategies and this recommendation was discussed and endorsed by the Steering Committee at its ninth meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia in December 2013. M. Bozzano briefly revisited the recommendations of the working group and then explained the steps of the process which include 1) defining major climatic zones in each country (so called country x zone areas), 2) identification of target country x zone areas for each tree species within a country, and 3) validation of the proposed conservation units for the core network.

National Coordinators are expected to confirm the division of her or his country into the major climatic zones as well as the identification of the target country x zone areas for the pilot species. The National Coordinators are also expected to review the list of proposed conservation units in their country and, after consulting other experts as needed, propose changes and/or confirm the units that will be included into the core network. M. Bozzano noted that the contributions from the National Coordinators are crucial especially for the identification of the target country x zone areas for the pilot species as the proposed target areas may include some inconsistencies due to the different spatial resolution of species distribution maps and the climatic zoning used.

He concluded by informing the National Coordinators that they should have received information

on the proposed country x zone areas and units before this meeting and by proposing that they provide feedback by 5 September 2014. Several National Coordinators made clarifying questions concerning the selection process. It was also proposed that EUFORGEN could develop a new generation of species distribution maps with higher spatial resolution. It was then agreed that National Coordinators should send their feedback to M. Bozzano by the suggested deadline.

1.4. Update to the FAO Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR

M. Rusanen (Finnish Forest Research Institute) briefed other National Coordinators on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the FAO Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (ITWG-FGR) that will be held in Rome, Italy on 7-9 July 2014. She noted that the European region is represented in the ITWG-FGR by Finland, France, Norway, Poland and the Russian Federation. She then invited the Steering Committee to express its opinion on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR), options for access and benefit sharing (ABS) and other topics listed in the agenda of the ITWG-FGR meeting.

Some topics were discussed briefly but it was concluded that it was too early to express a clear opinion on the ABS options in particular. It was also noted that the Steering Committee had already agreed during its previous meeting that EUFORGEN will contribute to the implementation of the regional-level strategic priorities of the GPA-FGR in Europe. However, it was agreed that it is important to keep national representatives of the ITWG-FGR and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) informed on EUFORGEN activities and achievements.

1.5. Review of the draft proposal for Phase V (2015-2019)

The Steering Committee spent two afternoon sessions (on 16 and 17 June) discussing and reviewing the draft proposal that was prepared by the task force in collaboration with the EUFORGEN Secretariat. The task force consisted of National Coordinators from France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovenia and Turkey. The following paragraphs summarize the comments and decisions made during these discussions chaired by T. Myking (Norwegian Forest Research Institute).

During the afternoon session on 16 June, J. Koskela provided a brief introduction to the draft proposal and the task force discussions. He noted that the task force had incorporated the comments received from other National Coordinators during the preparatory process into the draft proposal. He was followed by task force members who introduced different chapters of the proposal. G. Gandemir (Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs, Turkey) presented the Mandate chapter, F. Lefèvre (INRA, France) Scope and Objectives, and B. Degen (Thünen Institute, Germany) Mode of Operation. J. Koskela then presented the chapter on communication and dissemination as well as the planned budget for Phase V.

The presentation of the draft proposal was followed by general discussion on Phase V. The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to the task force for preparing the draft proposal for Phase V. The continuation of EUFORGEN into Phase V was widely supported but some National Coordinators expressed their concerns on the proposed increases to the annual financial contributions of the member countries. Several others commented that the proposed increases in

the financial contributions are reasonable and that they can be explained to relevant ministries. It was also emphasized that the budget issues should be discussed in the light of the significant achievements EUFORGEN has delivered so far.

T. Myking noted that the task force had carefully analysed the financial resources needed and that the proposed increases (15%) to the annual financial contributions are necessary if the Steering Committee wishes to maintain a similar level of technical activities during Phase V as compared to Phase IV. He further pointed out that the proposed total budget of Phase V (USD 1.85 million) is practically the same as the Phase IV budget (USD 1.84 million). J. Koskela clarified that only 25 countries joined Phase IV instead of the expected 31 countries and that the subsequent short fall in the financial contributions was covered by European projects (e.g. EUFGIS and FORGER) which supported some EUFORGEN activities during Phase IV. These projects also generated some savings to the EUFORGEN budget and the balance of the trust fund at the end December 2014 will be carried forward from Phase IV to Phase V. He explained that budget planning for a new phase has always been based on the number of existing member countries and that the expected balance from Phase IV (USD 100,000) was taken into account by the task force when it discussed the proposed financial contributions for Phase V (totalling USD 1.76 million over the period of 2015-2019). He noted that the current annual financial contributions have not been revised since 2004 when the Steering Committee approved the proposal for Phase III (2005-2009). Subsequently, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the financial contributions by nearly 20% during 2005-2013. J. Koskela suggested that the Steering Committee decides the Phase V budget after it has reviewed the proposed technical activities for Phase V.

Regarding the other aspects of the Phase V proposal, several National Coordinators expressed their satisfaction to the working group approach as the mode of operation during Phase IV and also supported this approach for Phase V. It was proposed that dissemination of information to policymakers and managers should receive more attention during Phase V and that organization of EUFORGEN conferences, workshops and other events is essential for this purpose. It was also suggested that such EUFORGEN meetings could become a dissemination platform for various European projects in the future. Furthermore, the idea of developing thematic guidelines was supported. Some proposed that one topic for such guidelines could be the establishment of provenance trials while others commented that there is already enough information available for this purposes. Furthermore, it was pointed out that getting involved in establishing provenance trials is not the most relevant task for EUFORGEN but that it can promote provenance research in general. Others stressed that the most important tasks for EUFORGEN during Phase V are monitoring of the implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy and maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal.

The Steering Committee then reviewed each chapter of the draft proposal in detail. It was considered useful to have a brief historical description of EUFORGEN as part of the Introduction chapter. It was also noted that the last paragraph of the chapter needs to be updated according to the decision that the Steering Committee will make about Phase V during the current meeting. No other changes were suggested to the Introduction chapter.

In the Mandate chapter, updated references to relevant commitments made by European countries as part of the FOREST EUROPE process and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were considered appropriate. Furthermore, the role of EUFORGEN in contributing to the implementation of the GPA-FGR was considered by many National Coordinators as an important

element strengthening the mandate of EUFORGEN. No specific changes were proposed to the Mandate chapter.

The Steering Committee then moved on discussing the Scope and Objectives chapters. Concerning the scope of EUFORGEN, it was agreed that the achievements of Phase IV needs to be followed up during Phase V and that the topics EUFORGEN has addressed during Phase IV remain relevant for Phase V. It was proposed to add a reference to introduced tree species to the third paragraph of the Scope chapter to highlight the fact that it is important to also conserve genetic resources of these species in Europe. Similarly, it was proposed to highlight both native and introduced tree species in the areas of work listed under Objective 2 in Table 2. Regarding the objectives, it was agreed that it is important to present the collection and dissemination of reliable information on forest genetic resources as Objective 1, as was proposed by the task force. No changes were proposed to the wording of the three objectives.

The Steering Committee started the discussions on the Mode of Operation chapter by revisiting the membership rules it had adopted in 2009. It was decided to keep the first four bullet points unchanged and modify the fifth and last bullet point as follows:

- “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.”

It was further agreed that the text in this chapter needs to record that the membership rules were revised during this meeting. No changes were proposed to the description of roles and responsibilities of the National Coordinators, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat. For the first paragraph on working groups, it was agreed that the text should refer to Objectives 2 and 3 instead of “1) conservation and/or 2) use of forest genetic resources”. Furthermore, it was agreed to indicate clearly that National Coordinators are expected to nominate 1-3 experts for Objectives 2 and 3, not for specific areas of work. No other changes were proposed to the Mode of Operation chapter.

Regarding the communication and dissemination policy, National Coordinators reiterated the need to strengthen the dissemination efforts to policymakers and managers. Furthermore, it was agreed to add the following two sentences to the end of the last paragraph of this chapter:

“EUFORGEN will organise a symposium to disseminate its results to external stakeholders towards the end of Phase V, possibly linked to a relevant major event. Furthermore, EUFORGEN will seek possibilities to organise events in collaboration with relevant European projects.”

No other changes were proposed to the chapter on communication and dissemination.

The Steering Committee then focused on the budget issues and spent considerable amount of time in reviewing and debating the proposed budget for Phase V, including the annual financial contributions to be made by the member countries. Some National Coordinators questioned the Secretariat staff costs and wondered whether these costs could be reduced. Others asked the Secretariat to clarify Bioversity’s overhead rate (18.5%). J. Koskela explained that the staff costs consist of Coordinator (full time), Programme Specialist (half-time) and Programme Assistant

(half-time) and that the size of the Secretariat remains the same, i.e. these positions were also included in the Phase IV budget. He further clarified that all Secretariat staff costs are now indicated on one budget line while in the Phase IV budget, the staff costs were divided into four budget lines (as was requested by the Steering Committee in 2009). He recommended keeping only one budget line for staff costs as this makes the preparation of annual financial reports and the monitoring of other costs more straightforward. Concerning the overhead question, J. Koskela informed the Steering Committee that Bioversity International now applies, following the CGIAR reform, a full-cost recovery approach which means that overheads, research support services and facilities costs are charged to all projects. However, in the case of EUFORGEN, the costs of research support services and facilities were exempted by Bioversity and therefore these costs are not included in the Phase V budget. J. Koskela commented that the new overhead rate is indeed higher than the previous one (13.0%) applied in the Phase IV budget but on the other hand, the costs of communication and office consumables are not included separately in the Phase V budget anymore.

Some National Coordinators asked why the proposed annual financial contribution for their country is more than 15% higher than the current contribution, and why the annual contribution is reduced in case of few countries. J. Koskela clarified that the 15% increase was first applied to all six contribution categories to establish the new rates for each category (see Appendix 2a and 2b of the Phase V document). Subsequently, the proposed rates of the annual contributions range from USD 2,500 to USD 38,000 (the sums were rounded to nearest '00). As a second step, the latest UN Scale of Assessment was applied to rank countries into different categories (the thresholds for different categories were kept as they were in the Phase IV budget). If the UN rates had increased or decreased significantly, a country may have been classified into a different category as compared to Phase IV. In such a case, the annual financial contribution has increased or decreased more substantially.

Some National Coordinators noted that relevant ministries in their countries had expressed a view that the annual financial contributions should not be increased for Phase V. Few others commented that perhaps the financial contributions could be increased by 10% instead of 15%. It was agreed that the Secretariat will prepare a summary table of the financial resources based on three options (0%, 10% and 15% increases) for further discussion during the next day.

At the beginning of the afternoon session on 17 June, J. Koskela presented the summary of the financial resources based on the three options. If the financial contributions are not increased, the current 25 member countries would provide USD 306,250 per year during Phase V (a total of USD 1,531,250 over the period of five years). With the 10% and 15% increases, the current member countries would provide USD 337,300 (USD 1,686,500) and USD 352,300 (USD 1,761,500), respectively. T. Myking, Chair of the session, noted that if the financial contributions are not increased at all, the level of EUFORGEN activities needs to be significantly reduced from Phase IV. Therefore, he proposed that the Steering Committee votes between two options; 1) increasing the annual financial contributions by 15% and 2) increasing the annual financial contributions by 10%. The majority of the National Coordinators agreed with the two voting options and each of them was then asked to vote. The results of the voting were as follows:

- Option 1 (15% increase) was supported by Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom (16 votes).

- Option 2 (10% increase) was supported by Greece (1 vote).
- Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Turkey abstained from voting as the option with no increases was not included as a voting option.
- Serbia and Luxemburg were not represented in the meeting.

Following the results of the voting, the Steering Committee adopted the budget for Phase V (see Appendix 1 of the Phase V document) and the new annual financial contributions for the current and potential member countries (see Appendix 2a and 2b of the same document).

The Steering Committee then discussed the issue of outstanding financial contributions. It was agreed that the outstanding financial contributions of Georgia, Iceland, FYR Macedonia, Moldova and Portugal for Phase III (2005-2009) will be written off. Countries with outstanding financial contributions for Phase IV (2010-2014) are welcome to join Phase V but they are expected to provide their outstanding financial contributions, or similar level of in-kind contribution, during Phase V, as indicated in the revised membership rules.

1.6. Reports of the EUFORGEN Working Groups

1.6.1. The implications of global, European and national policies for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe

J. Hubert presented the draft report of the working group on FGR-related policies. He noted that the working group had prepared the draft report following the suggestions that were provided by the Steering Committee in December 2013. He then revisited the list of outputs the working group had been asked to deliver and continued by presenting briefly different policies discussed in the report. He concluded his presentation by summarizing the main findings of the report.

The Steering Committee congratulated the working group for its work and the draft report. It was acknowledged that the tasks given to the working group were somewhat challenging as many policies are still being developed and thus it is difficult to fully assess their implication to the conservation and use of FGR in Europe. The members of the Steering Committee then provided some suggestions for the finalization of the report. It was recommended that the working group develops an executive summary to be added to the final report. Considering the uncertainties related to the inclusion of forest reproductive material into the new EC Directive on Plant Reproductive Material, it was suggested that the report should better explain the existing Directive 1999/105/EC on the production and marketing of forest reproductive material. The working group was also asked to further elaborate some of its recommendations. It was discussed how to keep the report updated once it has been published as various policies often evolve quickly. It was concluded that EUFORGEN should continue following further development of relevant policies during Phase V but that it would require too much efforts to keep the report as an up-to-date reference document to all relevant policies.

It was agreed that the National Coordinators can send additional comments to the working group by email until 15 July 2014. It was further recommended that the working group invites selected policy experts to review different chapters of the report. The final version of the report will be circulated to the National Coordinators before it will be published (by 15 December 2014). The working group was also encouraged to develop a review paper to a policy journal based on the

report. J. Hubert thanked the Steering Committee for its comments and agreed to forward them to the working group for further discussion.

1.6.2. Approaches to the conservation of forest genetic resources in the context of climate change

C. Kelleher (National Botanic Gardens of Ireland) presented the draft report of the working group on FGR conservation and climate change. He started by revisiting briefly the tasks that were given to the working group and noted that suggestions provided by the Steering Committee in December 2013 are reflected in the draft report. He continued by highlighting the findings of the report chapter by chapter and concluded his presentation with the overall recommendations.

The Steering Committee congratulated the working group for preparing a balanced document and acknowledged the large amount of work done. The members of the Steering Committee then discussed the issues and topics reflected in the draft report and made suggestions for the finalization of the report. It was noted that the report is targeted to a broad audience and that the language used in the report should avoid scientific jargon. Furthermore, it was recommended that the working group develops an executive summary and also considers including a glossary of terms. Many of the approaches discussed in the report were considered interesting, in particular the regional red-list for threatened tree species and their populations as well as the decision cascade for genetic conservation measures under climate change. It was pointed out that tree populations in the central areas of species' distribution ranges, not only marginal populations, can also face severe pressures due to climate change. It was concluded that many recommendations of the report need follow-up work during Phase V. In this regard, it was suggested that further development and possible testing of the decision cascade and the genetic monitoring scheme could benefit from each other.

In case of this report, it was also agreed that the National Coordinators can send additional comments to the working group by email until 15 July 2014. The final version of the report will be then circulated to the National Coordinators and it should be published by 15 December 2014. The working group was also encouraged to develop a review paper to a scientific journal based on the report. C. Kelleher thanked the Steering Committee for its feedback and promised that the working group will incorporate the comments into the final report.

1.7. Development of project proposals for the H2020 calls

1.7.1. Update to the development of the FORESTING proposal

J. Koskela gave an update on the development of the FORESTING (Forest Information Engineering) proposal which is led by the European Forest Institute (EFI). The proposal is targeting the H2020 call on 'Integrating and opening existing national and regional research infrastructures of pan-European interest' (INFRAIA 1-2014/2015, deadline 2 September 2014). He informed the Steering Committee that Bioversity (representing EUFORGEN) has been invited to join the consortium which includes more than 20 partners. The proposed project will focus on networking activities, providing trans-national access to forest research infrastructures and carrying out joint research activities. It aims integrating various forest-related monitoring networks and databases, including those ones focusing on forest genetic resources (e.g. EVOLTREE, Trees4Future and EUFGIS). J. Koskela reported that he attended a FORESTING planning meeting in Berlin, Germany on 7-8 April 2014 and noted that in the future, the EUFORGEN work would benefit from the integrated research infrastructures providing access to a whole range of different information and data on forests in Europe. He concluded that in addition to linking the EUFGIS database with other forest-related databases, a EUFORGEN working group could also be established to contribute to the identification of future research questions that can be addressed with the integrated research infrastructures on forest ecosystems.

The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction that the EUFGIS database has been recognized as one of the key infrastructures on forest genetic resources. It was noted that the Steering Committee could also play a role in providing the EUFORGEN contributions to the planned project. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue its involvement in the proposal development and to keep the Steering Committee updated on the process.

1.7.2. Update to the development of the INRA-led consortium

F. Lefèvre (INRA-Avignon, France) briefed the meeting participants on the development of the INRA-led consortium for another H2020 call on 'Genetic resources and agricultural diversity for food security, productivity and resilience: Management and sustainable use of genetic resources (SFS-7B-2015, deadline 3 February 2015)'. He informed that the proposal development is being coordinated by his colleague, B. Fady at INRA-Avignon and that Bioversity (representing EUFORGEN) has been identified as one of the key partners. He continued by saying that the work packages of the planned project will focus tentatively on adaptation of forest trees, FGR conservation, tree breeding and silvicultural and socio-economic aspects. Furthermore, work packages on dissemination and project management are also planned. F. Lefèvre mentioned that Bioversity has been invited to lead the work package on dissemination to ensure strong collaboration with the EUFORGEN community. He further noted that the planned work package on FGR conservation builds on the earlier EUFORGEN work and that the project proposal, if accepted, can provide some financial resources for further development of the EUFGIS database and/or EUFORGEN meetings. He then informed that INRA will organize a planning meeting for the project partners in autumn 2014. He concluded by saying that so far only potential work packages leaders have been identified and that other partners will be identified later.

Several National Coordinators asked how the project partners will be selected. Many of them also expressed the interest of various institutions in their country to participate in the project. F. Lefèvre replied that interested institutions should contact B. Fady and that the project partners will be selected based on their expertise once the planned project activities have been further developed. It was noted that the role of EUFORGEN in the project proposal needs to be decided by the Steering Committee. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue proving inputs to the proposal development and to inform the Steering Committee on the progress.

1.8. EUFORGEN inputs to the State of Europe's Forests 2015 report

M. Bozzano presented an update to the data collection process on Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) for the State of Europe's Forests 2015 report. Similarly to the earlier reports, the Secretariat was asked by the FOREST EUROPE process to provide data on areas managed for 1) conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ*), and 2) seed production. He noted that National Coordinators in the EUFORGEN member countries and focal points in associated countries were contacted in spring 2014 and asked to provide the data. He then reminded the meeting participants about the definitions for different categories of areas and presented a summary of the data received so far. M. Bozzano concluded by noting that he is still expecting to receive the data from several countries and that these countries should provide their data as soon as possible. The Secretariat is expected to provide the data with a brief report to the Liaison Unit Madrid in September 2014.

Several National Coordinators asked clarifications concerning the definitions for different categories of areas. The definition for the areas managed for seed production in particular was discussed intensively. It was agreed that forest areas which have been classified as "source identified" should not be reported because such areas are only identified for possible seed collection but not actively managed for seed production. National Coordinators and focal points who had not yet provided the requested data to the Secretariat were encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

1.9. EUFORGEN Work Plan 2014-2015

The Steering Committee discussed follow-up actions needed based on the working group presentations and other issues discussed during the meeting. Subsequently, it updated the work plan for the second half of 2014 (see Annex 1 for details).

Concerning 2015, the first year of Phase V, the Steering Committee exchanged views on the establishment of one or two working groups and potential topics for them based on the areas of work listed in Table 2 of the Phase V document. J. Koskela clarified that the Steering Committee can decide topics for other working groups later on during Phase V, as was proposed by the task force. This approach increases flexibility as compared to Phase IV and also makes it possible for the Steering Committee to establish working groups to address emerging issues, if needed. J. Koskela further noted that new working groups would not be operational before mid-2015 as it is very unlikely that all member countries have signed the agreement for Phase V and nominated their experts by early 2015.

After some discussion, the Steering Committee decided to establish only one new working group for 2015. It should focus on reviewing Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) of the pan-European C&I for sustainable forest management and propose how this indicator could be improved. The findings of the working group can be then provided as EUFORGEN inputs to the FOREST EUROPE process if and when it decides to open the current set of C&I for revision. It was agreed that experts for this working group will be selected in spring 2015 when it is known which countries have joined Phase V. The expected outputs of this working group will be finalized by email once the FOREST EUROPE process has decided next steps in reviewing the pan-European C&I. Topics for other new working groups will be decided at the next meeting of the Steering Committee that will be organized during the second half of 2015.

1.10. Updates on relevant projects

1.10.1. LIFE GENMON project

H. Kraigher (Slovenian Forestry Institute) presented a new LIFE+ project called LIFE GENMON (Life for European Forest Genetic Monitoring System). The proposal for this project was approved in April 2014 with a total budget of Euro 5.48 million (of which the EC will contribute 50%). The project will start in July 2014 and end in June 2020. It is coordinated by the Slovenian Forestry Institute and other partners include the Bavarian Office for Forest Seeding and Planting (Germany), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), the General Directorate for Forests and Agricultural Affairs (Greece), the Slovenia Forest Service and the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (Slovenia). The overall goal of the project is to develop a system for forest genetic monitoring to serve as an early-warning system to aid in the assessment of tree species' response to environmental change. The objectives of the project include 1) defining optimal indicators and verifiers for monitoring of changes in genetic diversity across a transect from southern Germany (Bavaria) to Greece for two selected target species (*Fagus sylvatica* and *Abies alba/Abies borisii-regis* complex), 2) preparing guidelines for forest genetic monitoring for these two and additional five tree species (*Populus nigra*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Pinus nigra*, *Prunus avium* and *Quercus petraea/robur* complex) to be implemented at a national, regional and EU scale, 3) preparing a manual on forest genetic monitoring for implementation at the EU level, 4) preparing a decision support system for an optimal choice of the level of genetic monitoring, 5) organizing a series of workshops and training events for the general public and targeted events for the forestry sector.

H. Kraigher informed that a total of six testing sites will be established for genetic monitoring of *Fagus sylvatica* and *Abies alba/Abies borisii-regis* populations along the transect. The sites will be possibly selected from the ICP plots or dynamic conservation units entered into the EUFGIS database. She concluded her presentation by inviting the Steering Committee to nominate three representatives to the Advisory Board of the project. All members of the Advisory Board will be then invited to participate in the first kick-off meeting of the project that will be held in Teisendorf, Germany on 16 July 2014. The meeting will be followed by a field trip visiting all countries along the transect on 17-26 July 2014. Further information on the project is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5046.

Several participants asked H. Kraigher to clarify the scope of the project, i.e. whether the project will test the genetic monitoring approach that was proposed by the EUFORGEN working group or whether it will aim to develop a new approach. Furthermore, she was also asked to clarify the manual the project is planning to develop. H. Kraigher explained that the project aims to promote genetic monitoring in a broader context of forest management and create awareness among forestry professionals on genetic monitoring. She noted that the manual is targeted to the professionals for successful implementation of genetic monitoring in practice. She further explained that the project builds on the genetic monitoring approach proposed by EUFORGEN and that it will complement the EUFORGEN work by promoting the implementation of genetic monitoring at the field level in the three countries. It was pointed out that the project activities are rather similar with those ones EUFORGEN has already carried out and the ones which are planned for Phase V. This might create some confusion among stakeholders, such as the EC. Therefore, it was recommended that H. Kraigher provides updates to the Steering Committee during future meetings.

The Steering Committee welcomed the invitation to nominate its representatives to the Advisory Board of the project. S. Bordács, J. Hubert and M. Rusanen expressed their interest to represent the Steering Committee in the Advisory Board. S. Bordács and J. Hubert noted that they first need to consult their institutes before they can confirm their participation. R. Alía agreed to substitute S. Bordács or J. Hubert in case one of the two cannot join the Advisory Board.

1.10.2. FORGER project

J. Frydl (Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Czech Republic) briefed the Steering Committee on the recommendations the External Advisory Board had provided to the partners of the FORGER project (Towards the Sustainable Management of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe). J. Frydl and R. Alía (CIFOR-INIA, Spain) represent the Steering Committee in the External Advisory Board of the project which is funded by the EC (FP7-KBBE Programme). The four-year project (March 2012-February 2016) is coordinated by Alterra (Netherlands) and it has a total of 9 partners, including Bioversity. The project aims at integrating and extending existing knowledge to provide science-based recommendations on the management and sustainable use of FGR for the EC, policy makers, forest managers, and managers of protected areas. FORGER has five objectives, namely 1) improve and analyze FGR inventories in Europe, 2) develop a common protocol for measuring and monitoring genetic diversity, 3) analyze past, current and future use and management of FGR, 4) provide improved tools, guidelines and recommendations, and 5) disseminate and communicate the results to stakeholders. Further information is available on the project website (www.fp7-forger.eu).

J. Frydl reported that he and R. Alía attended the annual project meeting in Wageningen, Netherlands on 2-3 April 2014. The External Advisory Board was satisfied with the progress made and it had provided both general and specific advices to the project partners. J. Frydl noted that the External Advisory Board had stressed the importance of providing solid science-based information and clear guidelines for actors who are responsible for implementing the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in different European countries. He further noted that most results of the project will be available in 2015 and that they will also benefit the EUFORGEN work.

The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction that EUFORGEN is considered as a key

stakeholder of the project. Furthermore, many National Coordinators noted that they look forward to learning the results of the projects once they are available. J. Koskela informed that as part of the dissemination activities of the project, an online discussion forum will be organized for the EUFORGEN community in spring 2015 to discuss the implications of the results to the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

1.11. Wrap-up session

Under any other business, R. Longauer (National Forest Centre, Slovakia) informed that the EC will soon finalize a Delegated Act for the implementation of the new Rural Development Programme.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be organized in November 2015. J. Fennessy offered Ireland as a host for the next meeting. D. Paitaridou offered the same on behalf of Greece. M. Rusanen, Chair of the session, thanked them for their offers. It was agreed that the Secretariat will consider the offers and then inform the venue and dates of the next meeting.

M. Rusanen thanked the local organizers for hosting the meeting in Edinburgh and the Secretariat for its efforts. She also thanked the meeting participants for their contributions to the discussions and the decisions made in particular concerning the Phase V of EUFORGEN. With no additional business, she then closed the meeting.

Part 2: EUFORGEN Phase V (1 January 2015–31 December 2019)

2.1. Introduction

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) has been facilitating international collaboration on forest genetic resources for nearly 20 years under the framework of the pan-European forest policy process, FOREST EUROPE (earlier the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, MCPFE). EUFORGEN was established in 1994 as an implementation mechanism for Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the first Ministerial Conference, held in Strasbourg, France in 1990. Strasbourg Resolution 2 called for “*a functional but voluntary instrument of international cooperation*” to be established to promote and coordinate: 1) *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of genetic diversity of European forests, 2) exchange of reproductive materials, and 3) monitor progress in these fields. After the Strasbourg Conference, a follow-up committee, consisting of experts from Finland, France, Poland and Portugal, was established to propose how to make this instrument operational. The committee carried out its work during 1991–1993 with the help of several experts from other European countries and Bioversity International (then called International Plant Genetic Resources Institute), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Commission. The operational recommendations of the committee and a proposal developed by Bioversity International and FAO for the establishment of EUFORGEN were then endorsed by the Helsinki Conference in 1993¹. Since its establishment, EUFORGEN has also contributed to the implementation of other FOREST EUROPE resolutions which deal with, or are relevant to, forest genetic resources².

The overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote the conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management. The Programme brings together experts from its member countries to exchange information and experiences, analyse relevant policies and practices, and develop tools and methods for better management of forest genetic resources. EUFORGEN has also produced a large number of outputs, such as genetic conservation strategies, technical guidelines, distribution maps of European forest trees, databases and various publications and reports. Furthermore, EUFORGEN has contributed to assessment reports on European forests and served as a platform for developing and implementing European projects.

¹ Arbez, M. 2000. Implementation of the Strasbourg Resolution S2 on the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. Pp. 9–13 *in*: Turok, J. and Geburek, T. (eds.). International collaboration on forest genetic resources: the role of Europe. Second EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting, 26–29 November 1998, Vienna, Austria. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

² Helsinki Resolutions H1 (General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe), H2 (General Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity of European Forests) and H4 (Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change); Lisbon Resolution L2 (Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management); Vienna Resolutions V4 (Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe) and V5 (Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe); and Warsaw Declaration.

As of May 2014, EUFORGEN has a total of 25 member countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom) providing both financial resources and technical expertise to its activities. Furthermore, a total of 34 countries (including both member and non-member countries) are providing geo-referenced and harmonized data on dynamic conservation units of forest trees to the European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS). EUFORGEN is overseen by a Steering Committee, which is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries. The Programme is coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with FAO.

At its ninth meeting, held in Tallinn, Estonia on 3–5 December 2013, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee reviewed the progress made during Phase IV (2010–2014) and concluded that the Programme had produced several important outputs, such as the EUFGIS database, a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees and a pan-European protocol for genetic monitoring of selected conservation units. The Steering Committee considered that follow-up work is needed to implement these initiatives and to keep the EUFGIS database up-to-date. It also took note of the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources by the FAO Conference in June 2013. Subsequently, the Steering Committee decided to establish a task force consisting of six National Coordinators³ to prepare a proposal for Phase V (2015–2019).

This document was developed by the task force in collaboration with the EUFORGEN Secretariat. It presents an implementation plan for EUFORGEN Phase V, including the mandate, the scope and objectives, the mode of operation and the budget. The task force met at Bioversity International in Maccaresse, Italy on 19–20 February 2014 and held several additional telephone meetings. The Steering Committee reviewed the document at its tenth meeting, held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom on 16–18 June 2014, and endorsed the continuation of the Programme into Phase V.

2.2. Mandate for Phase V

In addition to Strasbourg Resolution 2, the Signatory States of FOREST EUROPE and the European Community have expressed their specific commitment to the conservation of forest genetic resources in several other resolutions and declarations. They have agreed to *“promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continue the pan-European collaboration in this area”* (Vienna Resolution 4, 2003) and *“maintain, conserve, restore and enhance the biological diversity of forests, including their genetic resources, through sustainable forest management”* (Warsaw Declaration, 2007). In 2011, the Oslo Conference adopted a vision, goals and targets for European forests based on the earlier FOREST EUROPE commitments. The latest FOREST EUROPE work programme, developed in 2012, also includes EUFORGEN as one of the international activities supportive to the follow-up of the Oslo Conference (*“Promotion of conservation and use of forest genetic*

³ Phase V task force members: François Lefèvre (France), Bernd Degen (Germany), Giuseppe Scarascia-Mugnozza (Italy), Tor Myking (Norway), Hojka Kraigher (Slovenia) and Gaye Kandemir (Turkey).

resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe”). A list of countries committed to the FOREST EUROPE resolutions on forest genetic resources is shown in Table 1.

During Phase V, EUFORGEN will continue operating under the FOREST EUROPE framework as the pan-European implementation mechanism of Strasbourg Resolution 2 and other commitments on forest genetic resources. Furthermore, as the FOREST EUROPE commitments on forest biological diversity are in line with the commitments made by the countries under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), EUFORGEN will also contribute to the implementation of the CBD commitments, which have been signed by most European countries (see Table 1).

The sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-6) to the CBD adopted the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity in 2002. Under Goal 1.4 (*To promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity*), the Programme of Work specifically encourages development of information systems and strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity (Objective 1.4.4). In 2008, COP-9 of the CBD urged Parties to “*promote and implement sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach to maintain forest biodiversity and ecosystem functions, in all types of forests, promote forest restoration and minimise deforestation and forest degradation so as to achieve the goals and objectives of the programme of work including addressing climate change*” (Decision IX/5). Furthermore, COP-9 invited Parties, other governments and international organizations to “*recognize and increase understanding of the potential of forest genetic diversity to address climate change, maintain forest ecosystems resilience and lead to the discovery of new timber and non-timber forest resources*”.

In 2010, COP-10 of the CBD adopted a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the period 2011–2020 (Decision X/2). This Strategic Plan aims “*to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*” (Strategic Goal C). Strategies for the conservation of cultivated plants and domesticated animals, as well as their wild relatives (including other socio-economically and culturally valuable species, such as forest trees) should be developed and implemented by 2020 (Target 13).

A new scientific body, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), was formally established in 2012 to support the CBD and to improve the science–policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The new IPBES work programme includes regional assessments for biodiversity and ecosystem services. These types of regional assessments and other IPBES activities will benefit from the results of the EUFORGEN work.

In addition to the FOREST EUROPE process and the CBD, European countries have also expressed their commitment to a new global effort on forest genetic resources in the context of FAO. In June 2013, the FAO Conference adopted a Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR), which is a voluntary and non-binding document designed to support the implementation of existing commitments and international agreements, such as the CBD. The aims of the GPA-FGR are to 1) strengthen understanding and knowledge of forest genetic resources, 2)

promote the sustainable use and management of forest genetic resources, 3) develop and strengthen *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation programmes through collaboration at national, regional and international levels, and 4) promote access to, and sharing of, information on forest genetic resources at regional and national levels. The GPA-FGR was developed by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR) in parallel with the preparation of the first-ever State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report by FAO.

The GPA-FGR identifies a total of 27 strategic priorities for action at national, regional and international levels. For Europe, two regional-level strategic priorities are of particular relevance, i.e. Strategic Priority 11 (*Develop and implement regional in situ conservation strategies and promote ecoregional networking and collaboration*) and 24 (*Reinforce regional and international cooperation to support education, knowledge dissemination, research, and conservation and sustainable management of forest genetic resources*). FAO has recognized that regional networks and programmes on forest genetic resources, such as EUFORGEN, play a crucial role in the implementation of the GPA-FGR. Subsequently, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee also discussed the GPA-FGR in December 2013 and agreed that the Programme should contribute to the implementation of the regional-level priorities of the GPA-FGR in Europe. The ITWG-FGR is expected to meet again in July 2014 and to prepare a detailed plan for the implementation of the GPA-FGR at the regional and international levels in particular.

Table 1. A list of EUFORGEN member countries (as of May 2014). The table also shows the signatories of relevant FOREST EUROPE commitments on forest genetic resources (Strasbourg Resolution 2, Vienna Resolution 4 and Warsaw Declaration), the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the FAO member countries in Europe.

Country	EUFORGEN	S2	V4	WD	CBD	FAO
Albania		X	X		X	X
Armenia					X	X
Austria*		X	X	X	X	X
Azerbaijan					X	X
Belarus		X	X	X	X	X
Belgium*		X	X	X	X	X
Bosnia and Herzegovina				X	X	X
Bulgaria*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Croatia*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cyprus*		X	X	X	X	X
Czech Republic*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Denmark*	X	X	X		X	X
Estonia*	X	X	X	X	X	X
European Union		X	X	X	X	
Finland*	X	X	X	X	X	X
France*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia			X		X	X
Germany*	X		X	X	X	X
Greece*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hungary*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iceland		X	X	X	X	X
Ireland*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Italy*	X	X	X		X	X
Latvia*		X	X	X	X	X
Liechtenstein		X	X	X	X	
Lithuania*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Luxembourg*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malta*		X	X		X	X
Moldova				X	X	
Montenegro				X	X	X
Netherlands*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Norway	X	X	X	X	X	X
Poland*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portugal*		X	X	X	X	X
Romania*		X	X	X	X	X
Russian Federation		X	X	X	X	X
Serbia	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slovakia*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slovenia*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spain*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sweden*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Switzerland	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia					X	X
Turkey	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ukraine		X	X	X	X	X
United Kingdom*	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL	25	37	39	37	46	43

* Member of the European Union as of 1 January 2014 (a total of 28 countries).

2.3. Scope of Phase V

Between 1995 and 2004, EUFORGEN focused largely on developing methods and tools for conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. For Phase III (2005–2009), the Steering Committee revised the scope of the Programme to include both conservation and use of forest genetic resources. This change was made to ensure that EUFORGEN also contributes to the implementation of Vienna Resolution 4 of FOREST EUROPE, i.e. to promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management. Subsequently, EUFORGEN promoted practical implementation of recommendations presented in its Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation of forest trees and collected examples and information on the impact of forest management practices on genetic resources. Furthermore, EUFORGEN also started considering climate change and its implications for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources during Phase III.

During Phase IV (2010–2014), a EUFORGEN working group developed a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees that identifies, based on a systematic and science-based approach, minimum conservation targets for different tree species. The strategy also includes a gap analysis of dynamic conservation efforts of forest trees in Europe based on the information countries have provided to the EUFGIS database. In addition, another EUFORGEN working group prepared a pan-European scheme for genetic monitoring of selected conservation units of forest trees, while a third one analysed how methods and approaches for conserving forest genetic resources should be improved in the face of climate change. Concerning the use of forest genetic resources, two other working groups focused on forest reproductive material and policies related to forest genetic resources. One working group reviewed in detail how forest reproductive material could be used and transferred in the face of climate change, and another one analysed various forest-related policies (at the national, regional and international levels) that have, or could have, implications for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

The assessment of the current genetic conservation efforts, carried out as part of the development of the pan-European conservation strategy, revealed that conservation efforts are highly variable among European tree species. Nearly 80% of all conservation units are managed for genetic conservation of five tree species (*Abies alba*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Picea abies*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Quercus petraea*) while for other tree species (more than 80), there are often only a few units in Europe. Furthermore, the assessment also showed that, even in the case of these five species, there are significant gaps in the conservation efforts within the distribution ranges of tree species in Europe. This means that the genetic diversity of European trees species, including introduced ones, is not adequately conserved, and that countries need to strengthen the coordination of their conservation efforts.

The conservation of forest genetic resources remains the responsibility of each country and the pan-European strategy is designed to help countries in planning and implementing their conservation work. In particular, countries should try to establish new units in those areas which have been identified as gaps in the strategy. The role of EUFORGEN is to promote the implementation of the strategy and monitor the progress made. The EUFGIS information system (including the distribution maps) is a crucial tool for this purpose and therefore its maintenance and further development should be continued as part of EUFORGEN activities

during Phase V. The implementation of the pan-European strategy contributes directly to the implementation of the regional-level priorities of the GPA-FGR.

The pan-European genetic monitoring scheme proposes a harmonized, science-based and cost-effective protocol for long-term monitoring of selected conservation units to provide information on how well genetic diversity is maintained over time within these units. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee has recognized that the implementation of this monitoring scheme is not possible without additional financial resources specifically raised for this purpose. However, EUFORGEN should continue the preparatory work by developing a field manual for the collection of baseline data and by selecting, in collaboration with the countries, the units for monitoring.

Concerning the use of forest genetic resources, EUFORGEN has identified key issues and prepared general recommendations for the use and transfer of forest reproductive material under climate change. There are still gaps and uncertainties in the current understanding of the adaptive genetic potential of forest tree populations, including their response to environmental changes in time and space. This makes it difficult to prepare detailed guidelines for the use and transfer of a given tree provenance at the pan-European scale. These gaps are partly addressed by several ongoing European research projects and new scientific results are becoming available continuously on this topic. EUFORGEN should follow these research efforts and translate new findings to policymakers and managers as they become available. In addition to the selection and transfer of forest reproductive material, there are other forest management practices that shape genetic diversity of tree populations. Therefore, EUFORGEN should consider developing thematic, science-based guidelines for better incorporating genetic aspects into forest management practices to maintain the resilience of European forests and to enhance their adaptation to climate change.

The EUFORGEN work done during Phase IV showed that there are numerous existing and planned policies at the national, EU, pan-European or international levels that are likely to influence directly or indirectly the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe. Several of these policies are still being developed or negotiated so their implications could not be fully analysed during Phase IV. EUFORGEN should continue to analyse relevant policies and issues, and inform policymakers and managers on their implications for the management of forest genetic resources in Europe.

Further to the implementation of Strasburg Resolution 2 and other commitments on forest genetic resources, EUFORGEN should also contribute to relevant activities of the FOREST EUROPE process, such as the ongoing work to further develop the concept of sustainable forest management and related tools. For example, the EUFORGEN work provides valuable experience and information on how Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) of the pan-European criteria and indicators (C&I) could be improved, should FOREST EUROPE decide to open the current C&I set for revision.

In the area of information and dissemination, EUFORGEN should continue its earlier work. In addition to the EUFGIS database, the distribution maps of European tree species also need to be maintained and improved. EUFORGEN is expected to continue its current role as the

data provider on Indicator 4.6 for the State of Europe's Forests reports and also contribute to FOREST EUROPE implementation reports. Concerning dissemination, it is important that the results of the EUFORGEN work are communicated to policymakers, forestry professionals and the scientific community.

2.4. Objectives for Phase V

Following the mandate and scope for Phase V, the overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe, and to serve as a platform for pan-European collaboration in this area. More specifically, the objectives for Phase V are as follows:

1. Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe
2. Coordinate and monitor the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe
3. Develop guidelines and analyses on topics and issues relevant for the use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

The areas of work for each objective are presented in Table 2. The Steering Committee will develop a detailed work plan with specific activities, timeframes and outputs. The progress made in implementing the activities agreed will be reviewed regularly by the Steering Committee. It will also update the work plan during its meetings and identify emerging issues that should be addressed.

Table 2. EUFORGEN objectives and areas of work during Phase V (2015–2019).

Objectives	Areas of work
Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and further develop the EUFGIS information system and the distribution maps of European forest trees 2. Contribute to relevant international reporting efforts, such as the State of Europe's Forests reports 3. Disseminate the results of the EUFORGEN work to policymakers, forestry professionals and the scientific community.
Coordinate and monitor conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor the implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees and update the strategy, as needed 2. Prepare a manual for the pan-European genetic monitoring scheme and coordinate the preparatory work for implementing this scheme 3. Contribute to the implementation of regional-level priorities of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources 4. Further develop approaches and methods for genetic conservation of forest trees (including introduced species important for forestry in several European countries).

Objectives	Areas of work
Develop guidelines and analyses on issues and topics relevant for the use of forest genetic resources in Europe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare thematic, science-based guidelines for better incorporating genetic aspects into forest management practises, including production and use of forest reproductive material 2. Analyse relevant policies and issues, and develop information notes on their implications for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe 3. Monitor measures taken by European countries to implement the Nagoya Protocol and analyse their impact on the use of forest genetic resources for research and development (R&D) 4. Contribute to further development of the concept of sustainable forest management and related tools (e.g. criteria and indicators) by the FOREST EUROPE process.

2.5. Mode of operation

EUFORGEN continues to operate as a multilateral trust fund. Individual countries will formally join Phase V by signing a Letter of Agreement with Bioversity International. The annual financial contribution to be made by a country is specified in this agreement. Bioversity International will continue to host the EUFORGEN Secretariat and to coordinate Programme activities in technical collaboration with FAO.

At its tenth meeting held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in June 2014, the Steering Committee revised the member rules (originally developed in 2009) and agreed the following for Phase V:

- Once a country has joined EUFORGEN, it should pay its annual financial contribution for each year during that calendar year.
- Should countries have difficulty in providing their financial contributions, they should inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.
- If a country fails to provide its financial contribution for a given year before the end of December of that year, it has until June of the following year to provide the outstanding financial contribution.
- If a country has outstanding contributions after this, it will be no longer considered a member of EUFORGEN.
- 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.

2.5.1. National Coordinators and Steering Committee

When joining EUFORGEN Phase V, each country is required to nominate a National Coordinator to act as the official contact person between Bioversity International and the participating country for all matters relating to the Programme. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries and it has overall responsibility for the Programme. Bioversity International and FAO are entitled to nominate their representatives as observers to the Steering Committee meetings. If needed, experts may also be invited to participate in the Steering Committee meetings as observers. The role of the National Coordinators is to:

1. participate in the Steering Committee meetings and other activities
2. promote EUFORGEN and its activities at national level
3. liaise between the Secretariat and relevant ministries and agencies in a country regarding its membership and other issues
4. ensure that necessary resources are channelled to the Programme
5. liaise between the Secretariat and national institutions involved in the EUFORGEN activities
6. nominate experts on thematic areas relevant for EUFORGEN and maintain regular contacts with them
7. assist the experts and the national institutes in contributing to the EUFORGEN activities, as needed.

The Steering Committee will meet three times during Phase V. If needed, it can establish *ad hoc* working groups between the meetings to prepare future activities and analyze relevant issues. Decisions at Steering Committee meetings are taken by consensus. If a consensus can not be reached then the Steering Committee has the option to vote on an issue so as to reach a decision based on a simple majority of votes. Each country has one vote while Bioversity International and FAO representatives have no voting rights. Between meetings, should the need arise for a decision to be made on an urgent issue, the Secretariat will contact the Steering Committee members by email and action will be taken upon receiving feedback in the given timeframe. The Steering Committee will:

1. review progress made and decide upon future activities of the Programme
2. approve the budget of the Programme
3. review technical and audited financial reports prepared by the Secretariat
4. develop an overall work plan for Phase V
5. identify themes for the workshops to be held during Phase V
6. agree on the establishment of working groups and clearly define their tasks, deadlines and expected outputs
7. agree on principles for selecting and inviting individual experts to participate in the working groups and the workshops
8. review the outputs of the working groups and take further action

9. provide inputs related to forest genetic resources to relevant European (e.g. the FOREST EUROPE process and the European Union) and global (e.g. implementation of the GPA-FGR) processes as requested
10. discuss emerging issues relevant to EUFORGEN and the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

2.5.2. EUFORGEN Secretariat

The EUFORGEN Secretariat manages the Programme and coordinates its activities. Using the resources provided by the countries, Bioversity International appoints the EUFORGEN Coordinator and other staff to work for the Programme. The Secretariat will collaborate with Bioversity International and FAO, and inform them of EUFORGEN activities. The Secretariat may also seek advice from Bioversity International and FAO on relevant scientific, technical or policy-related issues, as needed.

The role of the EUFORGEN Secretariat is to:

1. ensure that the implementation of the Programme and its activities are in accordance with the mandate given by the FOREST EUROPE process and the work plan developed by the Steering Committee
2. provide information relevant to the Steering Committee meetings well in advance
3. be responsible for the financial management of the Programme
4. liaise between the Steering Committee and the working groups
5. provide scientific and technical inputs to the working groups and coordinate their work
6. organize meetings and workshops in collaboration with local hosts
7. prepare reports and other publications
8. maintain the EUFORGEN website and the EUFGIS Portal
9. disseminate other relevant information
10. represent EUFORGEN and advocate conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources in relevant European (e.g. FOREST EUROPE and the European Union) and global (e.g. implementation of the GPA-FGR) processes
11. facilitate collaboration with relevant stakeholders and the expansion of the Programme to obtain new member countries.

The Secretariat prepares technical and financial reports annually and sends them to the National Coordinators. It also reports on the activities of the Programme during each Steering Committee meeting.

2.5.3. EUFORGEN activities

During Phase V, EUFORGEN will continue carrying out its activities through small working groups focusing on specific tasks. Each working group will consist of approximately ten experts and they will be established by the Steering Committee which will also define the tasks, deadlines and expected outputs for each working group. The outputs of the working groups will be then presented to the Steering Committee for further action. In addition, the

findings of the working groups can also be discussed during workshops through which a broader group of experts and stakeholders will be engaged in the EUFORGEN activities. The EUFGIS National Focal Points will continue their work as part of EUFORGEN during Phase V.

The following sections provide further information on the arrangements for the working groups, the workshops and the EUFGIS National Focal Points.

2.5.3.1. Working groups

The working groups will carry out specific tasks related to the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe. Once a country has joined Phase V, the EUFORGEN Secretariat will contact the National Coordinator and ask her/him to provide a list of persons in the country who have relevant experience and knowledge related to Objectives 2 and 3. For each of the two objectives, the National Coordinator can nominate 1–3 experts. An individual expert can be nominated for both areas if needed. The Secretariat will maintain the list of all nominated experts. After the initial nomination process, the National Coordinators can make changes to the expert nominations, as needed.

Once the Steering Committee has agreed the establishment of a working group and its tasks, deadlines and expected outputs, the Secretariat will develop a tentative list of selected experts from the pool of nominated experts in all member countries. The selection of the experts will be done by matching their experience and knowledge to the tasks of a given working group. The geographical distribution of the member countries will also be kept in mind while selecting the experts as well as countries' participation in previous EUFORGEN working groups. The tentative list of selected experts will be circulated to the Steering Committee for comment and final approval. The Secretariat will then inform the selected experts, coordinate their work (including meeting preparations) and provide technical and scientific inputs to the tasks of the working groups. Each member country will have at least one expert contributing to a working group during Phase V.

The working groups can meet twice while carrying out their activities. The travel and accommodation costs of the experts will be covered by EUFORGEN. Draft outputs from the working groups will be circulated to all nominated experts under a given area of work for their comment and review. This will ensure that those experts who have not been selected for a working group will still have an opportunity to provide their contributions and ideas. The working groups will report their final outputs to the Steering Committee and present their results during the workshops and/or in EUFORGEN publications. Financial resources have been budgeted for a total of ten working group meetings during Phase V (two meetings per year).

2.5.3.2. Workshops

During Phase V, EUFORGEN will organize two workshops related to the conservation and use of forest genetic resources. The topics of the workshops will be decided by the Steering Committee when it develops or updates the work plan. The workshops can be organized to discuss further the results of the working groups or other important or emerging topics.

All nominated experts are welcome to participate in the workshops. The Phase V budget includes limited resources (one expert per country and per workshop) to support the participation of experts in the workshops. The EUFORGEN-funded expert for each workshop will be identified in consultation with the National Coordinator. Other experts and interested stakeholders are expected to participate in the workshops with their own resources. The EUFORGEN Secretariat will seek additional financial resources to support the participation of additional experts from the member countries as well as invited speakers, as needed.

2.5.3.3. EUFGIS National Focal Points

The EUFGIS information system will be maintained and further developed as part of EUFORGEN during Phase V. Subsequently, the National Focal Points, already nominated by the National Coordinators (or relevant authority in the case of non-member countries), is expected to continue their work during Phase V.

At any point of time, the National Coordinator (or relevant authority in case of non-member countries) can nominate a new National Focal Point (e.g. due to staff changes in a given institute). Persons nominated for the task are typically responsible for collecting and maintaining information on forest genetic resources as part of national forest genetic resources inventories or any similar arrangement a country may have in place for obtaining and maintaining the data. More specifically, the National Focal Points are expected to carry out the following tasks:

- participate in EUFGIS-related meetings (the associated travel and accommodation costs will be covered by EUFORGEN or additional projects)
- continue gathering relevant information on the dynamic conservation units of forest trees and compiling the national data sets
- update frequently national data sets in the information system during Phase V
- provide inputs to further development of the EUFGIS database and new initiatives on FGR documentation, as needed.

During Phase V, the EUFORGEN budget includes limited financial resources for the maintenance of the database (including the intranet and the portal, helpdesk support, training of new National Focal Points, etc.). The EUFORGEN Secretariat will seek additional resources for further development of the database and for organizing workshops for the national focal points.

2.6. Communication and dissemination policy

The Secretariat will actively communicate and disseminate the results of the EUFORGEN work in collaboration with the members of the Steering Committee and the working groups. The Secretariat will also maintain the EUFORGEN website and the EUFGIS portal, and prepare interviews, videos, news and other dissemination material. The Secretariat will continue to lead the production process of EUFORGEN publications and develop a new series of thematic guidelines and information notes (subject to the Steering Committee decisions regarding Phase V). The Secretariat will also continue to facilitate the translation of EUFORGEN publications at national level. The related translation and printing costs should be covered nationally, as agreed earlier by the Steering Committee.

Reports prepared by the working groups will be released as EUFORGEN publications (electronic and/or printed versions). Additionally, working group members may develop peer-reviewed articles or other scientific publications based on their work. EUFORGEN publications may also be developed based on workshop presentations. Summary reports of EUFORGEN meetings will be produced in a simple format and distributed shortly after the meetings. Furthermore, EUFORGEN will continue to provide relevant information to the FOREST EUROPE process and for other purposes, as needed. EUFORGEN will organise a symposium to disseminate its results to external stakeholders towards the end of Phase V, possibly linked to a relevant major event. Furthermore, EUFORGEN will seek possibilities to organise events in collaboration with relevant European projects.

2.7. Budget for Phase V

The estimated budget for Phase V and allocation of funds over the period of five years is presented in Appendix 1. It is projected that a total budget of approximately US\$ 1,850,000 is needed to carry out the planned Programme activities during Phase V. In terms of meetings and other technical work, this budget allows the maintenance of Programme activities similar to those carried out during Phase IV (three Steering Committee meetings, two workshops and ten working group meetings). Annual financial contributions to be made by the current and potential member countries to cover the costs of the Programme are shown in Appendix 2a and 2b, respectively. Ranking of the countries into different categories to determine the annual financial contribution is based on the United Nations assessment rates.

The current member countries (25) are expected to contribute a total of US\$ 1,761,500 during Phase V. It is expected that the balance of the trust fund will be approximately US\$ 100,000 at the end of Phase IV. The balance will be carried forward to Phase V. This saving was created by project funding (e.g. EUFGIS and FORGER) which covered some of the EUFORGEN costs (Secretariat staff and/or meetings) during Phase IV.

During Phase V, EUFORGEN will continue to seek new member countries. Additional financial resources to support specific Programme activities will also be sought by developing project proposals for relevant calls and donors. In 2015, when it is known how many countries have joined Phase V, the Steering Committee may decide to revise the budget and planned activities.

Appendix 1: Estimated budget (in US\$) for EUFORGEN Phase V (2015–2019).

	Phase V	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Secretariat staff (1) (2)	1,219,880	229,770	236,663	243,763	251,076	258,608
Staff travel	60,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Steering Committee (meetings)	81,000	27,000	0	27,000	0	27,000
Working groups (meetings)	100,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Workshops & other events	50,000	0	25,000	0	25,000	0
EUFGIS Portal	25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Publications & dissemination	25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Sub-total	1,560,880	298,770	303,663	312,763	318,076	327,608
Overhead (3)	288,763	55,272	56,178	57,861	58,844	60,608
Total expenditure	1,849,643	354,042	359,841	370,624	376,920	388,216
Expected financial contributions Phase V	1,761,500					
Expected balance from Phase IV (4)	100,000					
Total financial contributions	1,861,500					

(1) Coordinator 100%, Programme Specialist 50%, Programme Assistant 50%

(2) Yearly increases are based on a 3% increase per year

(3) 18.50%

(4) The saving is due to additional projects that covered some EUFORGEN costs during Phase IV

Appendix 2a: EUFORGEN Phase V (2015–2019): annual financial contributions (in US\$) from countries with expected commitment (current member countries).

Country	UN rates (%) Phase IV (1)	UN rates (%) Phase V (2)	Category Phase IV (3)	Category Phase V (3)	Annual contribution (US\$) Phase IV	Annual contribution (US\$) Phase V
Bulgaria	0.020	0.047	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Croatia	0.050	0.126	B1	B2	5,500	8,600
Czech Republic	0.281	0.386	B2	B2	7,500	8,600
Denmark	0.739	0.675	C	C	11,000	12,700
Estonia	0.016	0.040	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Finland	0.564	0.519	C	C	11,000	12,700
France	6.301	5.593	E	E	33,000	38,000
Germany	8.577	7.141	E	E	33,000	38,000
Greece	0.596	0.638	C	C	11,000	12,700
Hungary	0.244	0.266	B2	B2	7,500	8,600
Ireland	0.445	0.418	B2	B2	7,500	8,600
Italy	5.079	4.448	E	D	33,000	15,800
Lithuania	0.031	0.073	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Luxemburg	0.085	0.081	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Netherlands	1.873	1.654	D	D	13,750	15,800
Norway	0.782	0.851	C	C	11,000	12,700
Poland	0.501	0.921	C	C	11,000	12,700
Serbia	0.021	0.040	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Slovakia	0.063	0.171	B1	B2	5,500	8,600
Slovenia	0.096	0.100	B1	B2	5,500	8,600
Spain	2.968	2.973	D	D	13,750	15,800
Sweden	1.071	0.960	D	C	13,750	12,700
Switzerland	1.216	1.047	D	D	13,750	15,800
Turkey	0.381	1.328	B2	D	7,500	15,800
United Kingdom	6.642	5.179	E	E	33,000	38,000
Annual total					316,000	352,300
Total over five years					1,580,000	1,761,500

(1) UN Scale of Assessment approved for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, as established by General Assembly Resolution 61/237 adopted on 22 December 2006

(2) UN Scale of Assessment approved for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, as established by General Assembly Resolution 67/238 adopted on 24 December 2012

(3) see the next page

Appendix 2b: EUFORGEN Phase V (2015–2019): annual financial contributions (in US\$) from countries with potential commitment.

Country	UN rates (%) Phase IV (1)	UN rates (%) Phase V (2)	Category Phase IV	Category Phase V	Annual contribution (US\$) Phase IV	Annual contribution (US\$) Phase V
Albania	0.006	0.010	A	B1	2,200	6,300
Armenia	0.002	0.007	A	A	2,200	2,500
Austria	0.887	0.798	C	C	11,000	12,700
Azerbaijan	0.005	0.040	A	B1	2,200	6,300
Belarus	0.020	0.056	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Belgium	1.102	0.998	D	C	13,750	12,700
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.006	0.017	A	B1	2,200	6,300
Cyprus	0.044	0.047	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Georgia	0.003	0.007	A	A	2,200	2,500
Iceland	0.037	0.027	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Latvia	0.018	0.047	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Malta	0.017	0.016	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Moldova	0.001		A	A	2,200	2,500
Montenegro	0.001	0.005	A	A	2,200	2,500
Portugal	0.527	0.474	B2	B2	7,500	8,600
Romania	0.070	0.226	B1	B2	5,500	8,600
Russian Federation	1.200	2.438	D	D	13,750	15,800
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.005	0.008	A	A	2,200	2,500
Ukraine	0.045	0.099	B1	B1	5,500	6,300
Annual total					102,100	127,400
Total over five years					510,500	637,000

(1) see the previous page

(2) see the previous page

(3) Key to calculation of annual contributions to EUFORGEN (US\$)

Threshold	Category	Annual contribution (US\$) Phase IV	Annual contribution (US\$) Phase V
$x < 0.01$	A	2,200	2,500
$0.01 \leq x < 0.1$	B1	5,500	6,300
$0.1 \leq x < 0.5$	B2	7,500	8,600
$0.5 \leq x < 1.0$	C	11,000	12,700
$1.0 \leq x < 5.0$	D	13,750	15,800
$x \geq 5.0$	E	33,000	38,000

Annex 1. EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2014 as agreed by the 10th Steering Committee meeting.

Task/Activity	Outputs	Date (When activity will be completed)	Who	Comments
Working group on genetic conservation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release the report (PDF and printed) 	15 Dec 2014	WG Leaders/ Secretariat	
Implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation of the selection of the core network units (14 pilot species) with maps (data cut-off date: 13 March 2014) • Confirmation of the selected units by countries for the core network • False gaps feedback 	June 2014 5 Sept 2014 5 Sep 2014	Secretariat National Coordinators National Coordinators	
Working group on genetic monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release the report (PDF and printed) 	15 Dec 2014	WG Leaders/ Secretariat	
Implementation of the genetic monitoring scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send the core network units (6 species, data cut-off date: 13 March 2014) for the confirmation of monitoring units • Confirmation of the monitoring units by the countries 	5 Sep 2014 15 Dec 2014	Secretariat National Coordinators	
Working group on forest reproductive material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release the report (PDF and printed) 	15 Dec 2014	WG Leaders/ Secretariat	
Working group on FGR conservation and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the draft report • Develop a 2-page summary to the report • Release the report (PDF and printed) 	15 Dec 2014	WG Members/ Secretariat	SC comments by 15 July 2014
Working group on FGR-related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the draft report • Develop a 2-page summary to the report • Release the report (PDF and printed) 	15 Dec 2014	WG Members/ Secretariat	SC comments by 15 July 2014

Annex 2. Agenda of the meeting

Mon 16 June		
Chair of the morning session: Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission, UK		
09:00	Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to forestry in the UK (Wilma Harper, Head of Corporate and Forestry Services, Forestry Commission, UK) • Welcome by Bioversity International (Jarkko Koskela, EUFORGEN Coordinator) • Introduction to the meeting and adoption of the agenda • Nomination of rapporteurs 	Holiday Inn Edinburgh
09:30	Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014) Update to recent EUFORGEN activities (Jarkko Koskela, Bioversity International) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical activities in 2013 and early 2014 • Membership status of Phase IV and financial report for 2012 <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the progress made, and 2) adopt the technical and financial reports for 2013.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft report of the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee, Tallinn, Estonia, December 2013 (Background document no 1) Technical report for 2013 (Background document no 2) Financial report for 2013 (Background document no 3)</p>	
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	Establishment of the core network of genetic conservation units for forest trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update to the selection of conservation units for the core network and for genetic monitoring (Michele Bozzano, Bioversity International) <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to provide further guidance to the selection of the conservation units for the core network and for genetic monitoring purposes.</i></p>	
11:45	Update to the FAO Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the third session of the ITWG-FGR, 7-9 July 2014 (Mari Rusanen, Finnish Forest Research Institute) <p><i>The Steering Committee may wish to express its opinion on the ABS options for FGR and other topics that will be discussed by the ITWG-FGR during its third session.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> See the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/forestry/fgr/86104/en/</p>	
12:30	Lunch	
Chair of the afternoon session: Tor Myking, Norwegian Forest Research Institute		
14:00	Review of the draft proposal for Phase V (2015-2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the draft proposal for Phase V (Jarkko) 	

	<p>Koskela, Bioversity International)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate (Task Force) • Scope and objectives (Task Force) <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) discuss the draft proposal for Phase V, and 2) provide its comments for the finalization of the proposal.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft proposal for Phase V (2015-2019), May 2014 (Background document no 4)</p>	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00-18:00	<p>Review of the draft proposal for Phase V (2015-2019) (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mode of operation (Task Force) • Communication and dissemination (Jarkko Koskela) • Budget for Phase V (Jarkko Koskela) 	
Tue 17 June		
Chair of the morning session: François Lefèvre, INRA-Avignon, France		
09:00	<p>Reports of the EUFORGEN Working Groups</p> <p>The implications of global, European and national policies on the conservation and use of forest genetic resources (Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission, UK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the draft report of the Working Group on FGR-related policies <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the draft report, and 2) provide comments to the Working Group.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft report of the Working Group on FGR-related policies, June 2014 (Background document no 5)</p>	Holiday Inn Edinburgh
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<p>Approaches to the conservation of forest genetic resources in the context of climate change (Colin Kelleher, National Botanic Gardens, Ireland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the draft report of the Working Group on climate change and FGR conservation <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the draft report, and 2) provide comments to the Working Group.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft report of the Working Group on climate change and FGR-conservation, June 2014 (Background document no 6)</p>	
12:30	Lunch	
Chair of the afternoon session: Tor Myking, Norwegian Forest Research Institute		
14:00	<p>Review of the draft proposal for Phase V (2015-2019) (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the revised proposal for Phase V (Jarkko 	

	Koskela) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the revised proposal for Phase V Adoption of the proposal for Phase V <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the revised draft proposal for Phase V, and 2) adopt the proposal.</i></p>	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00-18:00	Review of the draft proposal for Phase V (2015-2019) (continued)	
20:00	Social dinner	The Pantry, 1-2 North West Circus Place, Edinburgh
Wed 18 June		
Chair of the morning session: Sven de Vries, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands		
09:00	Development of project proposals for the H2020 calls Integrating and opening existing national and regional research infrastructures of European interest (INFRAIA-1-2014-2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to the development of the FORESTING project coordinated by EFI (Jarkko Koskela) Genetic resources and agricultural diversity for food security, productivity and resilience: Management and sustainable use of genetic resources (SFS-7B-2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to the development of the INRA-led consortium (François Lefèvre, INRA-Avignon, France) <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on these project proposals, and 2) provide comments to the finalization of these proposals so that they support the EUFORGEN work.</i></p>	Holiday Inn Edinburgh
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	EUFORGEN inputs to the State of Europe's Forests 2015 report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected for Indicator 4.6. (genetic resources) (Michele Bozzano, Bioversity International) <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the data collected for Indicator 4.6, and 2) provide its suggestions to the preparation of the summary for the State of Europe's Forests 2015 report.</i></p>	
11:30	EUFORGEN Work Plan 2014-2015 <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) update the Work Plan for 2014-2015, 2) decide the follow-up actions to the draft reports presented by the two working groups, and 3) agree on the establishment of 1-2 new working groups as well as their tasks, expected outputs and timeframes.</i></p>	
12:30	Lunch	
Chair of the afternoon session: Mari Rusanen, Metla, Finland		

14:00	EUFORGEN Work Plan 2014-2015 (continued)	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00	Updates on relevant projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New LIFE project – LIFEENMON (Hojka Kraigher, Slovenian Forestry Institute)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The Steering Committee is invited to nominate three representatives for the Advisory Board of the project• External Advisory Board of the FORGER project (Josef Frýdl, Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Czech Republic)• Other relevant projects	
17:00-17:30	Wrap-up session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any other business• Date and place of the next meeting• Closing remarks	

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