



# Report of the Seventh Steering Committee meeting

Vienna, Austria  
16-17 September 2010



Summary of the meeting  
Work Plan for 2010-2012



# **Summary of the seventh EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting Vienna, Austria, 16-17 September 2010**

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

T. Geburek opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW) in Vienna. J. Koskela also welcomed the participants on behalf of Bioversity International and thanked the local organizers for the meeting arrangements. He then invited all participants to briefly introduce themselves.

J. Koskela continued by presenting the draft agenda of the meeting which was adopted without changes. M. Rusanen and S. de Vries were unanimously selected as co-chairs of the meeting. M. Bozzano, E. Hermanowicz and J. Koskela were nominated as rapporteurs of the meeting.

## **2. Wrap-up of Phase III (2005-2009) and update to Phase IV (2010-2014)**

J. Koskela presented the main activities of the Programme in 2009 (see the technical report for 2009 for more details). He also provided the Steering Committee with the financial report for the whole Phase III (2005-2009) and noted that the Secretariat has continued prudent management of the financial resources, as requested by the Steering Committee during the previous meeting held in Thessaloniki, Greece in June 2009. As a result of this, the negative opening balance of the trust fund on 1 January 2009 (-US\$ 27,514) was turned into a positive one by 31 December 2009 (US\$ 50,810). The closing balance has been carried forward for Phase IV.

J. Koskela reported that the total actual expenditure during Phase III was US\$ 1,876,680 while the planned Phase III budget, agreed by the Steering Committee in 2004, was US\$ 1,864,538. The member countries provided a total of US\$ 1,733,393 as financial contributions for Phase III. J. Koskela also reported that several countries have outstanding financial contributions for Phase III, and that the Programme managed to maintain the positive closing balance only because of the strong opening balance of the trust fund in January 2005 compensated the lower-than-expected financial contributions during Phase III.

Regarding Phase IV, J. Koskela informed the meeting that a total of 24 countries have joined the new phase by the end of August 2010 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom). He further informed the participants that Switzerland and Turkey have indicated that they would soon sign the agreement for Phase IV.

As a follow-up to the previous Steering Committee meeting, J. Koskela reported that, in December 2009, the UN General Assembly maintained its earlier Scale of Assessment unchanged. Subsequently, the financial contributions of the member countries for Phase IV remain the same as those ones agreed by the Steering Committee in Thessaloniki in 2009 (i.e. unchanged from Phase III). He continued by reminding the participants that the Steering Committee adopted the total budget of US\$ 2,023,830 for Phase IV while the expected financial contributions from the member countries amount only US\$ 1,841,250 for the same period (i.e. the annual gap is about US\$ 36,500). As options to balance the budget and the financial contributions during Phase IV, he proposed that

the Secretariat will seek additional project funding and that the member countries can make voluntary contributions to specific EUFORGEN activities. He also noted that the Secretariat will continue prudent management of the financial resources and seek opportunities to reduce expenditures, when possible. He further noted that in 2010, the positive opening balance of the trust fund from Phase III will help balancing the gap before additional financial resources are obtained.

J. Koskela then revisited the Phase IV objectives and the new mode of operation, including tentative tasks for working groups that were discussed at the previous Steering Committee meeting. He also provided a brief update on the various follow-up actions of Phase III and the Thessaloniki meeting, as well as other activities that were carried out during 2010. Finally, he informed the meeting participants that the cancellation of the Steering Committee meeting in April 2010 due to the volcanic ash clouds across Europe did not cause significant financial losses as Bioversity International was able to recover the funds which were paid to the hotel in Rome to confirm room reservations. Nearly all airline companies also returned the costs of the flight tickets to the National Coordinators.

When commenting progress made since the previous Steering Committee meeting, several National Coordinators acknowledged that substantial amount of work has been carried out. It was also noted that the work of the Networks during Phase III produced valuable results, and that any pending publications and other outputs should be finalized as soon as possible. The Steering Committee asked the Secretariat to follow up these activities with the Networks.

The Steering Committee then adopted the technical report for 2009 and the financial report for 2005-2009. Regarding Phase IV, the Steering Committee recommended that the Secretariat should seek additional project funding for EUFORGEN activities to balance the gap between the budget and the financial contributions. It also encouraged the member countries to provide additional voluntary contributions to specific activities, when possible.

### **3. Collection of information on forest genetic resources in Europe**

M. Bozzano presented a data collection process for Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) of the pan-European criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management. He informed the meeting participants that the UNECE and the Forest Europe have again requested EUFORGEN to provide the data on Indicator 4.6 for the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report, which is being prepared for the next Ministerial Conference to be held in Oslo, Norway in June 2011.

M. Bozzano first revisited the three categories of data which are collected for Indicator 4.6, i.e. area managed for conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ* gene conservation) and area managed for seed production. He then continued by presenting the results of the previous data collection process based on the State of Europe's Forests 2007 report.

The EUFORGEN Secretariat will send each National Coordinator an Excel file which they should then fill in with the requested data based on the situation in their country in 2010. The Secretariat will also contact its focal points in non-member countries and also invite them to contribute to the process. M. Bozzano pointed out that this time the National Coordinators can obtain the *in situ* data from the EUFGIS Portal. He noted that the new pan-European minimum requirements for dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees are likely to result in lower areas managed for *in*

*situ* conservation as compared to the data collected in 2007. The new EUFGIS definition for areas managed for *in situ* conservation will be explained in the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report.

For the benefit of those National Coordinators who did not attend the final EUFGIS meeting which was held just before the Steering Committee meeting in Vienna, and which was also hosted by BFW, M. Bozzano presented the new EUFGIS Portal and topics of the case studies which are being prepared by the project partners. He concluded that the EUFGIS Portal will also help the countries to provide data to FAO for the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report. The EUFGIS Portal is available at the following address: <http://portal.eufgis.org>.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the progress made by the EUFGIS project and considered the new EUFGIS Portal as a useful tool not only for the various data collection processes but also for the future work of EUFORGEN. It also encouraged all National Coordinators to provide their contributions to the data collection process.

## **4. Emerging issues on FGR conservation and use**

### **4.1 Access and rights to FGR in the Nordic region**

T. Myking presented tentative conclusions and recommendations based on the results of the NordGen project, titled as "Searching for appropriate legislation regulating access and exclusive rights to forest genetic resources in the Nordic countries". This one-year project reviewed international legislation and issues that are relevant to access and rights to FGR as well as the specific situation and legislation in four Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). NordGen also organized a seminar based on the project results at BFW on 13 September 2010 (further information on this event is available at the NordGen (<http://www.nordgen.org/index.php/en/content/view/full/678>) and EUFORGEN ([www.euforgen.org](http://www.euforgen.org)) websites).

T. Myking noted that three of the four countries have recognized so-called every man's right in their legislation. This gives free access to land and forests. Furthermore, in three countries the legislation does not make distinction between genetic and biological resources. He then continued by presenting some cases in which commercialization and use of FGR had caused problems in terms of benefit sharing.

He concluded that, in general, the project did not identify legal obstacles in the current legislation that could create problems in using and exchanging FGR. However, he pointed out that climate change is likely to increase the movement of FGR between countries and thus there is a need to streamline bureaucratic procedures on access and benefit sharing. He also noted that modern biotechnological methods might increase the use of process patents in the future. Finally, T. Myking proposed that EUFORGEN should address access and benefit sharing issues during a future workshop and discuss relevant developments in legislation, consequences of climate change for the exchange of FGR and possibilities of having common strategies in this regard.

Many National Coordinators expressed their appreciation to T. Myking for taking the initiative and actively disseminating the tentative results of the NordGen project. Access and benefit sharing issues were considered important and highly relevant due to the ongoing negotiation process on access and benefit sharing as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Steering Committee recommended that EUFORGEN should closely follow the international negotiation

process on access and benefit sharing and come back to the issue as needed, as it has potentially strong implications for the exchange and use of FRM in the future.

#### **4.2 Use and transfer of forest reproductive material**

T. Geburek delivered a presentation on the use of forest reproductive material (FRM) in Europe. He started by noting that the transfer of FRM has a long history in Europe with some of the earliest records in Central Europe dating back to 1496. As an example, he presented information on the early transfer of larch to Prussia and Saxony. The first intensive transfer of larch seed to Prussia took place during 1770-1790 but later nearly all of the afforestation efforts with this seed material failed. Between 1820 and 1840, there was another peak of larch introduction, this time to Saxony. Since 1850, the introduced material suffered from severe larch die back while other larch material introduced from the Sudetic Mountains performed well in Saxony. Subsequently, T. Geburek pointed out that the general public misbelieves that the current European forests are more or less natural, i.e. that they originate from local genetic material.

He stressed that we do not know to what extent FRM is moved within the European Community, how much is imported from outside, and where the moved or imported material is finally used. He showed data from Austria and Germany indicating that large portions of FRM used are imported to these two countries. He also reported the findings of intensive DNA field sampling (3.9 x 3.9 km grid) of Norway spruce in Austria which revealed that many stands were of unknown origin.

T. Geburek concluded that countries need to better document their FRM transfer and use to obtain reliable data for assessing the genetic risks and the adaptation potential of European forests in view of climate change and to meet the increasing demands for sustainable management of renewable resources. He also noted that the adaptive genetic variation of forest tree species should be better assessed, and that the genetic quality of FRM in Europe should be enhanced by both classical and molecular breeding.

Several National Coordinators acknowledged the problem that most countries do not collect and maintain records on where FRM, imported or not, is used within a country. However, it was pointed out that it should be possible to track how much of FRM is moving between countries as national authorities are obliged keep records of exported and imported FRM. The Steering Committee concluded that the transfer of FRM has a role to play in facilitating adaptation of forests to climate change and that EUFORGEN should try to develop guidelines for using and transferring FRM in the context of climate change, even if no comprehensive data is available on the current use of FRM within countries.

### **5. Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan (2010-2012)**

The Steering Committee spent the afternoon of 16 September and large part of 17 September discussing various activities and developing a work plan for 2010-2012. The summary of these discussions is presented below and the agreed work plan can be found in Annex 1 of this report.

The Steering Committee started the session by revisiting the Phase IV objectives and areas of work (see p. 44 of the report of the sixth Steering Committee meeting (2009) for details). Minor changes were suggested to the wording of the objectives and to the areas of work but it was concluded that

these should be kept as agreed in Thessaloniki and that the discussions should focus on specific tasks.

The Steering Committee then reviewed the tentative list of the tasks identified in June 2009 for the working groups, i.e. (not in order of priority);

1. Assessment of gene conservation status of forest trees in Europe (based on the common action plans and the new data made available by the EUFGIS information system) and development of pan-European gene conservation strategies;
2. Development of genetic monitoring methods for gene conservation units of forest trees;
3. Development of guidelines for use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change;
4. Incorporation of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies (and how to support these kind of linkages at national level); and
5. Management of gene conservation units in the context of climate change.

Several National Coordinators noted that these tasks should be prioritized as it would not be possible to address all of them during 2010-2012. Furthermore, it was stressed by many that Task 1 and 4 involve large amount of work and that they could both be split into two separate tasks. Regarding Task 4, many National Coordinators felt that it is up to the countries to implement it at national level. Others agreed with this but pointed out that a working group should analyse how successful countries have incorporated conservation and use of forest genetic resources into their national forest programmes and propose methods and approaches for those countries which have not yet done this. It was also pointed out that this topic does not involve only technical issues but that it also depends on how countries have organised their work on conservation of forest genetic resources and the availability of human and financial resources at national level.

Regarding Task 1, it was clarified that the task is feasible as the EUFGIS Portal provides a good starting point for the work, and that there are well-established methods based on gap analysis available for carrying out the assessment of the gene conservation status of forest trees across their distribution range in Europe. It was also pointed out that Task 1 needs to build on the earlier work on the common action plans done by the EUFORGEN Networks. To make this task even more feasible, it was agreed that the working group should focus on the model tree species already identified by the Networks as part of the earlier efforts. Furthermore, for communication purposes, it was noted that the term “common action plan” should be replaced by pan-European gene conservation strategies for forest trees.

The questions were raised on financial resources available for the working groups and how they would be established. J. Koskela clarified that the Phase IV budget includes financial resources for 10 working group meetings (max. 10 experts per meeting) during 2010-2014 so if there are five working groups, each of them can meet twice. He further explained the process of selecting experts for the working groups. The EUFORGEN Secretariat has contacted the National Coordinators in the member countries and asked them to provide a list of persons in the country who have relevant experience and knowledge to contribute to the areas of work under Objectives 1 and 2. For both objectives, the National Coordinator can nominate 1-3 experts. Once the tasks and outputs of the working groups have been agreed by the Steering Committee, the Secretariat will prepare a tentative list of selected experts from the pool of nominated experts in all member

countries. The tentative list will be circulated to the Steering Committee for its comments 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.

When experts for a given working group are being selected, the geographical distribution of the member countries will be kept in mind as well as countries' participation in previous working groups. Each member country will have at least one expert contributing to a working group during Phase IV. Draft outputs of the working groups will be circulated to all nominated experts under a given objective for their comments and review. This will ensure that those experts who have not been selected for a working group will have an opportunity to provide their contributions and ideas. The working groups will report their results during workshops and/or the Steering Committee meetings. The selection process and the mode of operation of the working groups is also described in the Phase IV document, adopted by the Steering Committee in 2009 (see p. 47 of the report of the sixth Steering Committee meeting for details).

While developing the tasks for the working groups, the Steering Committee also discussed how to obtain additional funding for the EUFORGEN activities. It was noted that there is an open call (KBBE.2011.1.1-04: Sustaining and managing forest tree genetic resources) for research projects under the EC's Knowledge Based Bio-economy (KBBE) Programme. It was then suggested that the Secretariat should coordinate the development of a proposal for this KBBE call. J. Koskela informed the Steering Committee that Bioversity had already been invited to participate in a tentative consortium coordinated by ALTERRA (The Netherlands). Other potential partners include BFW (Austria), Metla (Finland), INRA (France), vTI (Germany), EMK (Hungary), CNR (Italy) and UKW (Poland). He explained that by participating in this consortium, Bioversity seeks additional funding for further development of the EUFGIS Portal and possibly for other EUFORGEN activities as well as to supplement the financial resources available in the Phase IV budget.

Some National Coordinators felt strongly that the Secretariat should coordinate development of a separate proposal for a research project for the KBBE call, and that the partners should be selected among the Steering Committee members. Several others felt that the Secretariat can participate in a relevant research consortium but that if it assumes responsibility for coordinating a proposal development process, it should focus on coordinating collaborative projects which directly contribute to the implementation of conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe (i.e. not research projects). The EUFGIS project was highlighted as a successful example of such non-research projects. It was also pointed out that there is strong competition for EC-funded research funding such as the KBBE call, and that the possibilities of a Secretariat-coordinated consortium to develop a successful research proposal for the KBBE call are likely to be low. Some National Coordinators recommended that the Secretariat should be encouraged to explore opportunities for additional funding but that the Steering Committee should be kept better informed on these efforts. It was also pointed out that there are many other EC funding schemes, such as the COST and Wood Wisdom Programmes, which offer opportunities for seeking additional funding for EUFORGEN activities. Finally, the Steering Committee decided to establish a task force to assist the Secretariat in identifying additional funding opportunities. A. Alexandrov, S. de Vries, J. Fennessy, H. Kraigher, F. Lefèvre, T. Myking and G. Scarascia volunteered to participate in this task force.



The Steering Committee concluded that three working groups should be established for Tasks 1, 2 and 3, and that they should carry out their work during 2011-2012. It was agreed that Tasks 4 and 5 should be discussed again during the next Steering Committee meeting in 2012. Regarding Task 4, it was also decided that the next Steering Committee meeting should include a half-day event during which successful examples of incorporation of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies would be presented for further discussion and action.

The Steering Committee then discussed in detail the expected outputs for each working group and the deadlines for them to present their results (see Annex 1). It was agreed that a workshop on conservation of forest genetic resources should be organized in September 2012, and that the first and second working groups should present their results during that workshop. The third working group should present its results to the Steering Committee at its next meeting in 2012. The organization of another workshop on the use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management (during 2013-2014) will be discussed during the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would remind National Coordinators of the member countries which have not yet nominated their experts. The National Coordinators should then provide their expert nominations to the Secretariat by 30 November 2010. The Secretariat will develop the tentative lists of selected experts for the three working groups and circulate them to the Steering Committee for comments and approval. Experts will be selected from countries which have signed the Letter of Agreement for Phase IV. The establishment of the working groups should be finalized by 31 January 2011 and the Secretariat will then support the working groups in initiating their work.

## **6. EUFGIS Memorandum of Agreement**

J. Koskela briefly presented the final draft of the EUFGIS Memorandum of Agreement, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of Bioversity in hosting the Portal and those of the data providers in compiling and uploading the data into the Portal. He noted that now the agreement gives the countries an option of not disclosing detailed geographical coordinates of the units, should this be necessary to comply with national laws and/or regulations. This option has also been implemented in the EUFGIS database.

Several National Coordinators noted that they did not have further changes to the agreement. Some also noted that they had asked their legal units to review the text and that this review did not raise any questions. However, some National Coordinators wanted to clarify the use of the data outside the EUFORGEN community. J. Koskela explained that the EUFGIS Portal was developed based on the principle that the data would be made available to the public without limitation or restraint (excluding the geographical coordinates as needed). He also noted that, based on the grant agreement, the European Commission is expecting the results of the project to be disseminated and made available to relevant end-users and stakeholders.

It was agreed that, after the meeting, the Secretariat should clarify in writing the use of the data and how users of the data should make reference to it, after which the Memorandum of Agreement could be considered as adopted. J. Koskela clarified that the terms of use explaining these points are being developed on the basis of the Memorandum of Agreement and, once finalised, the document would be published on the EUFGIS Portal. The draft terms of use will be

circulated to the National Coordinators for their comments before the document is published and before the data download function is activated in the EUFGIS Portal.

## **7. State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report**

O. Souvannavong (FAO Forestry Department) presented an update on the preparatory process of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report and outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). As background information, he reminded that the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of CGRFA, held in June 2007, recommended the preparation of the SoW-FGR report for 2013. In May 2008, the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) also welcomed the decision to prepare the report and during the same year, the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions were also informed on the process. In March 2009, the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry further supported the preparation of the report and requested the FAO Forestry Department to collaborate with the CGRFA.

O. Souvannavong continued by informing the meeting participants that the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of CGRFA, held in October 2009, approved the proposed outline of the report as well as an indicative schedule for its preparation. The SoW-FGR report will be based on country reports, thematic studies and inputs from international organizations. He also briefly presented the country reporting guidelines which were finalized in June 2010 and which are also available on the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/21933-1-0.pdf>).

He then informed the participants that the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of CGRFA had established a new Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR). This working group will oversee the development of the SoW-FGR report and it has a total of 27 members, including five European countries (Finland, France, Italy, Norway and Spain). Subsequently, the CGRFA requested the Director-General of FAO to review the role of the Panel of Experts on FGR which has been advising the FAO Forestry Department since 1968.

O. Souvannavong reported that FAO had sent an official request for nomination of national focal points for the SoW-FGR report to its member countries at the end of April 2010 and that, so far, only 10 European countries have nominated their focal points. He also urged the National Coordinators to follow up the nomination process with relevant ministries, unless they had already been informed about the process. He noted that the national focal points are then expected to coordinate the preparation of the country reports which should be submitted to FAO by 1 July 2011.

O. Souvannavong further presented a tentative list of 12 thematic studies which would be included in the SoW-FGR report and noted that FAO would contact experts in different countries for their inputs to the thematic studies. He then concluded his presentation by listing the next steps in the process of developing the SoW-FGR report. The events include the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO on 4-8 October 2010, COP 10 of the CBD on 18- 29 October 2010, the first meeting of the new ITWG-FGR in March 2011 and the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of CGRFA in July 2011.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to O. Souvannavong and FAO for keeping it updated on the development of the SoW-FGR report. Several National Coordinators noted that they had not received any information on the nomination of the national focal points for the

process. It was agreed that National Coordinators should follow up the nomination process with relevant ministries in their country, unless they had already been informed of the process. It was also stressed that it is important that all countries in Europe contribute to the development of the SoW-FGR report.

## 8. Updates on relevant projects and initiatives

As the discussions on the new work plan took more time than scheduled, it was agreed to cancel this session and make the presentations available on the EUFORGEN website instead. The presentations on the 5<sup>th</sup> International Poplar Symposium, EVOLTREE, the Forest Ecosystem Genomics and Adaptation conference and the FORESTRAC project (Forest Ecosystem Genomics Research: Supporting Transatlantic Cooperation) are available at the Steering Committee webpage ([http://www.euforgen.org/about\\_euforgen/steering\\_committee/sc07.html](http://www.euforgen.org/about_euforgen/steering_committee/sc07.html)).

## 9. Wrap-up session

Some National Coordinators reported that, due to the current economic situation and various austerity measures implemented by governments, they are struggling to find sufficient financial resources for their work on conservation of forest genetic resources. Subsequently, they raised their concern on the fact that, in 2009, the Programme budget was increased from Phase III to Phase IV (i.e. from US\$ 1,864,538 to US\$ 2,023,830). It was suggested that the Secretariat prepares a historical overview of EUFORGEN expenditures for the next meeting. It was also proposed that the technical reports could contain more detailed information on the activities and outputs produced by the Secretariat. However, several other National Coordinators noted that the current level of details in the technical reports is adequate.

J. Koskela enforced his earlier statement that the Secretariat would continue prudent management of the financial resources and noted that the implementation of Programme activities depends more on the annual financial contributions from the member countries rather than on the estimated Phase IV budget. He noted that the comments made would be taken into account when the Secretariat will produce the next technical report and encouraged National Coordinators to send him further comments by email. He also agreed that the Secretariat would produce the historical overview of the expenditures for the next Steering Committee meeting.

S. de Vries, Chair of the session, noted that the Secretariat should keep the Steering Committee better informed on its fundraising efforts in the future. Furthermore, he recommended that the Secretariat first consults the Steering Committee by email before it engages in development of project proposals.

It was then agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be organized in November 2012. F. Lefèvre offered to host the next meeting in France and S. de Vries thanked him for the offer. It was agreed that the Secretariat and F. Lefèvre would discuss the venue and the dates for the next meeting and then inform the Steering Committee accordingly.

S. de Vries thanked the local organizers for the excellent meeting arrangements and the Secretariat for its work. He also thanked the meeting participants for their contributions to the discussions. With no further business, he then closed the meeting.

## Annex 1. EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2010-2012 as agreed by the seventh Steering Committee meeting.

Task/Activity	Outputs	Date (When activity will be completed)	Who	Comments
1. Assessment of gene conservation status of forest trees in Europe and development of pan-European gene conservation strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the earlier work done by the EUFORGEN Networks on Common Action Plans (CAPs) including selection criteria for DGCUs</li> <li>2. To carry out the assessment of gene conservation status for model species based on the EUFGIS data</li> <li>3. Carry out a review of the knowledge on the genetic diversity of the species</li> <li>4. Select the most valuable DGCUs from the pan-European perspective</li> <li>5. identify gaps in the network of DGCUs to improve the long term sustainability</li> <li>6. Construction of strategies at the level of group of species</li> <li>7. Draft report</li> </ol> <p>The Steering Committee established a task force to assist the Secretariat in identifying additional funding opportunities for this and other tasks.</p>	<p>Report ready by June 2012</p> <p>Results to be presented at a workshop on FGR conservation in Sep 2012</p>	<p>The Working Group members will be selected in Dec 2010</p> <p>TF members: H. Kraigher, T. Myking, G. Scarascia, S. de Vries, F. Lefevre, J. Fennessy and A. Alexandrov</p>	
2. Development of genetic monitoring methods for gene conservation units of forest trees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Synthesis of existing documents</li> <li>2. Analyses of the EUFGIS and other databases relevant (e.g. ICP forest) for genetic monitoring purposes</li> <li>3. Recommendations for improving EUFGIS data standards for genetic monitoring</li> <li>4. Present options for genetic monitoring methods, including defining time intervals for monitoring (per groups of tree species)</li> <li>5. Cost assessment of the options for genetic monitoring methods</li> <li>6. Draft report</li> </ol>	<p>Report ready by June 2012</p> <p>Results to be presented at a workshop on FGR conservation in Sep 2012</p>	<p>The Working Group members will be selected in Dec 2010</p>	

3. Development of guidelines for use and transfer of forest reproductive material (FRM) in the context of climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review existing work from EUFORGEN Networks and relevant European projects</li> <li>2. Synthesis of existing (national) guidelines (unless already covered by other investigations)</li> <li>3. Selection of (widely used) model species</li> <li>4. Identify critical factors related to climate change and future needs to transfer of FRM</li> <li>5. Lessons from provenances trials for seed transfer</li> <li>6. Should any further relevant information be added to the <i>accompany documents</i> as specified in the EC Directive and other relevant schemes covering the movement of FRM</li> <li>7. Compile a list of existing models and tools that can be used for future forest management planning and transfer of FRM</li> <li>8. List the issues related to the climate change context</li> <li>9. Draft report (including recommendations)</li> </ol>	Results to be presented to the next SC meeting in Nov 2012	The Working Group members will be selected in Dec 2010	
4. Promote incorporation of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies (and how to support these kind of linkages at national level)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the work of the Forest Management Network</li> <li>2. Prepare a half-day event during the next SC meeting to present successful examples and give guidelines to National Coordinators</li> </ol>	To be discussed at the next SC meeting in Nov 2012		
5. Management of gene conservation units in the context of climate change	To be carried out in 2013-2014	To be discussed at the next SC meeting in Nov 2012		



## Agenda of the meeting

Thursday 16 September 2010	
09:00	<p>Opening of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by Austria</li> <li>• Welcome by Bioversity International (Jarkko Koskela)</li> <li>• Introduction to the meeting and adoption of the agenda</li> <li>• Selection of two Co-Chairs for the meeting and nomination of rapporteurs</li> </ul>
09:15	<p>Wrap-up of Phase III (2005-2009) and update to Phase IV (2010-2014) (Jarkko Koskela)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical report for 2009</li> <li>• Financial report for 2005-2009</li> <li>• Membership status of Phase IV</li> <li>• Financial contributions and the UN Scale of Assessments</li> <li>• Activities in 2010</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the progress made since the previous Steering Committee meeting, 2) adopt the 2009 technical and financial reports, and 3) discuss options to balance the Phase IV budget and the financial contributions.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u>  <i>Technical and financial reports for 2009</i>  <i>Report of the sixth Steering Committee meeting, Greece, June 2009</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee/tea break
11:00	<p>Collection of information on forest genetic resources in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection on Indicator 4.6. (genetic resources) for the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report (Michele Bozzano)</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to comment the data collection process for the next MCPFE/UNECE report and discuss tentative results/ conclusions to be included in the report.</i></p>
11:30	<p>Emerging issues on FGR conservation and use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access and rights to FGR in the Nordic region (Tor Myking)</li> <li>• Use and transfer of forest reproductive material (Thomas Geburek)</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to discuss these issues and their implications to EUFORGEN activities.</i></p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00	<p>Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan (2010-2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of tasks for the working groups</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the tentative list of the tasks, 2) decide the final list of the tasks for Phase IV, and 3) decide which tasks will be carried out during 2010-2012.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u>  <i>Report of the sixth Steering Committee meeting, Greece, June 2009</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee/tea break

16:00-17:30	<p>Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan (2010-2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of specific activities, timeframes and expected outputs for 2010-2012.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the tentative list of the tasks, 2) decide the final list of the tasks for Phase IV, and 3) decide which tasks will be carried out during 2010-2012.</i></p>
19:30/20:00	Social dinner at the Zwoelfapostelkeller Restaurant

### Friday 17 September 2010

09:00	<p>Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan (2010-2012) (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of specific activities, timeframes and expected outputs for 2010-2012.</li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	Coffee/tea break
11:00	Finalization of EUFORGEN Work Plan (2010-2012)
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00	<p>State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the preparatory process and outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Oudara Souvannavong)</li> <li>• Guidelines for country reports</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the guidelines for country reports and provide feedback to FAO, and 2) discuss EUFORGEN contributions to the report.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u>  <i>Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of CGRFA (October 2009)</i>  <i>FAO guidelines for country reporting (latest version 2010)</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee/tea break
16:00	<p>Updates on relevant projects and initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> International Poplar Symposium (Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza)</li> <li>• EVOLTREE project (François Lefèvre)</li> <li>• Forest Ecosystem Genomics and Adaptation Conference (Barbara Vinceti)</li> <li>• Forest Ecosystem Genomics Research: Supporting Transatlantic Cooperation (FORESTTRAC) (Barbara Vinceti)</li> <li>• Other relevant initiatives</li> </ul>
17:00-17:30	<p>Wrap-up session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other business</li> <li>• Date and place of the next meeting</li> <li>• Closing remarks</li> </ul>



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