



**EUFORGEN**

EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC  
RESOURCES PROGRAMME

# **EUFORGEN STEERING COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE TWENTY- SECOND MEETING**

17-18 JUNE 2025, ONLINE



**22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
EUFORGEN Steering Committee  
17-18 June 2025, online**

## **Contents**

<b>1. Approval of the agenda and rapporteurs' appointment.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Round-table - introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Checklist of SC21 decisions.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. Presentation of key elements of the draft technical and financial reports 2024 .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5. Adding new species to EUFGIS (and used to compute indicator 4.6) .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6. Adding new species to the website.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7. Working Group Dynamic and static <i>ex situ</i> conservation &amp; WG on evacuation .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8. ToR for EUFORGEN evaluation .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>9. 2025 activities and workplan .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10. Nomination of the Task Force for methodology to identify conservation gaps.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>11. Any Other Business.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>12. Date and place for next meeting.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>13. Final approval of decisions 22<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>14. Wrap up and closure of the meeting .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Annex 1 – List of participants.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Annex 2 – Agenda.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## 1. Approval of the agenda and rapporteurs' appointment

Michele Bozzano opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting. The meeting was attended online by 24 National Coordinators appointed for Phase VII, four National Coordinators from Phase VI member countries, one observer, and the members of the EUFORGEN Secretariat (full list of participants is available in Annex 1).

Jonathan Burton (United Kingdom) and François Lefèvre (France) were nominated as rapporteurs. M. Bozzano introduced and updated the agenda (Annex 2), which was approved by the participants.

**Decision:** The agenda of the 22<sup>nd</sup> EUFORGEN Steering Committee (SC) meeting was approved without further changes content-wise. Jonathan Burton (UK) and François Lefèvre (France) were appointed as rapporteurs.

## 2. Round-table - introduction

Each National Coordinator informed about national activities related to aspects of species selection for the future.

## 3. Checklist of SC21 decisions

Anna-Maria Farsakoglou presented the list of decisions taken during the 21<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting and informed about their status. The ongoing activities regarding the species webpages, the report of the workgroup on static and dynamic *ex situ* conservation, the roadmap for the evaluation of the Programme, were discussed during the meeting, while the project heritage proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 4. Presentation of key elements of the draft technical and financial reports 2024

M. Bozzano gave a short presentation on the reports for 2024 informing about the status of the deliverables for Phase VI.

The summary of the financial report was presented, explaining that the carry-over amount from Phase VI to Phase VII, even if higher than the total expenditure 2024, is justified as it covers the operational costs of 90 days, and serves as a buffer as no additional budget from other resources is expected during the years 2025-2027.

**Decision:** The technical and financial reports 2024 were approved.

## 5. Adding new species to EUFGIS (and used to compute indicator 4.6)

The proposal for adding new species in EUFGIS was presented. A background document had been previously made available with the content of the presentation. The criteria for selecting the species that are currently included in EUFGIS, are as indicated in figure 1 below.



### List of species currently in EUFGIS

Also used for the computation of the indicator 4.6

Composed of :

- All spp listed in Annex 1 of the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material
- All spp already entered in the EUFGIS as of November 2019
- All spp identified as model tree species by the EUFORGEN Networks in Phases II and III
- All spp for which JRC has developed species distribution maps in 2020

*Fig 1. Types of species composing the list of species currently in EUFGIS*

Procedure to add new species was discussed by the Steering Committee and the current procedure was accepted as sufficient.

- Proposals to add new species should be sent in writing to the Secretariat, including some general background information on geographical distribution.
- Decisions on adding new species will be made on *ad hoc* basis.
- The main timeframe will be the reporting period indicator 4.6.

Given previously indicated interest to add new species, the Steering Committee decided to open a call to propose new species, until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. This will allow time to prepare the background document for the next Steering Committee meeting.

**Decision:** The Steering Committee decided that no changes would be made to the procedure for proposing new species and no regular timeframe for updates would be established. As interest to add new species has been previously indicated, National Coordinators who wish to propose additional species this year will do so in writing, along with an indication of the geographical range for each species by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. The Secretariat will provide the compiled list as a background document for the next Steering Committee meeting.

## 6. Adding new species to the website

The proposal for adding new species to the website in the section [www.euforgen.org/species](http://www.euforgen.org/species) was presented. The Steering Committee discussed whether new species that are not included in the computation of Forest Europe Indicator 4.6. should be included, and if all the species that are included in the computation of Indicator 4.6 but not yet available on the website should have a webpage, as well as how the webpages should be corrected / edited.

The Steering Committee agreed to develop webpages only for the species included in Indicator 4.6. Currently there are webpages for 110 species while the total number of species included in the computation of Indicator 4.6 are 159.

The content of the current pages was created on basis of a bibliographic review. The process to make corrections/additions will be considered on a case-by-case basis until such time that demand indicates that a more defined procedure is required. The Secretariat is responsible for the information displayed on the web pages.

**Decision:** The Steering Committee decided that no changes are required to the current pages, that no dedicated experts would be appointed for individual species and that any suggested changes requested for the pages will be handled on an *ad hoc* basis. The Steering Committee also decided that all species used to compute Forest Europe Indicator 4.6 will be incorporated into the EUFORGEN website and asked the Secretariat to develop the relevant pages.

## 7. Working Group Dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation & WG on evacuation

The Steering Committee discussed the next steps and timeline for the release of the report of the Working Group on static and dynamic *ex situ* conservation and the Working Group on evacuation.

A.M. Farsakoglou presented the table of contents of the draft report. The part with recommendations is still being elaborated. A few changes to the previous draft were made based on the feedback by the Steering Committee. The roadmap was presented (see figure 2)

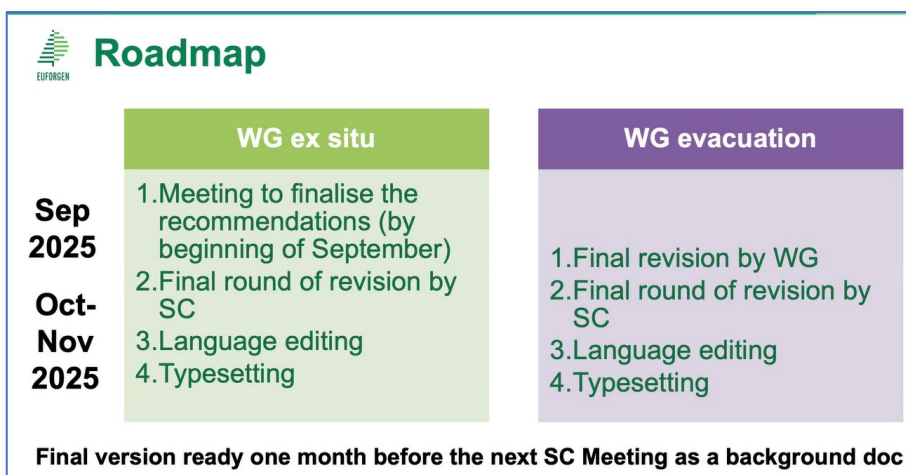


Fig.2. Roadmap Working Group on dynamic and static ex situ conservation & WG on evacuation

Relevant to this topic, the OptFORESTS<sup>1</sup> project will organise a webinar in early November 2025 (2 half-days) on how to detect genetic decline from theory to practice. The webinar will be organised by NIBIO during two half days, and the Secretariat has been asked to co-organise the webinar on behalf of EUFORGEN. While the findings of the webinar will come too late to include in the final report recommendations, it was agreed that the Secretariat will be involved in the joint webinar and the report will be finalised in parallel. This webinar will be an opportunity to disseminate information on the work of the WG.

**Decision:** The Steering Committee agreed to the proposed roadmap towards the finalisation and release of the report “Dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation”. The finalised version for the adoption of the report will be shared with the Steering Committee one month before the next Steering Committee meeting as a background document.

## 8. ToR for EUFORGEN evaluation

The Terms of Reference for EUFORGEN's evaluation, prepared by the Task Force, was presented. The Task Force is composed of Mari Rusanen (Finland), Joukje Buiteveld (The Netherlands), Tor Myking (Norway), Cestaw Koziol (Poland), Hojka Kraigher (Slovenia) and the Secretariat.

The overall evaluation will be split in two parts: the evaluation of the *Modus operandi* and the evaluation of the EUFORGEN Programme's achievements over the past 30 years.

The first part, the evaluation of the *Modus operandi* will be done based on a self-assessment, led by the EUFORGEN Steering Committee and starting in 2028: it will be a basis for the preparation of Phase VIII.

The second part, the evaluation of the EUFORGEN Programme will assess the Programme's achievements over the past 30 years with special focus on the last two phases (Phase V and Phase VI). Its aim is to obtain an assessment of the achievements with reference to the ongoing strategic plan that will be used by the Steering Committee to define the future direction of EUFORGEN, ensuring its continued relevance, value and to increase its impact. Stakeholders who will be involved in the evaluation will be: National Coordinators, Working Group members, FGR researchers, policy makers and representatives of relevant agencies and organisations. National level contacts should be included.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.optforests.eu/>

The methodology will be based on literature and documents review, stakeholder surveys and stakeholder interviews, comparative benchmarking with similar initiatives, and an assessment on communication and dissemination. Reference will be made to the review carried out in 2017.

A timeline for the evaluation was presented and potential evaluators discussed. The evaluation could be done either by an EFI staff member (but not member of the EUFORGEN Secretariat) or by an external service provider. The Steering Committee decided that before approving the suggested timeline, the Terms of Reference (ToR) should be revised with a more detailed description of expected work breakdown, evaluator skills and expertise, and the target audience. Besides the evaluator, a reference group will be established with representatives of the Steering Committee to support the evaluator.

The Steering Committee was asked to send suggestions for potential candidates for evaluation. A total budget of 20,000€ was allocated for all the relevant activities related to the EUFORGEN evaluation. Once the ToR have been reviewed then the Secretariat will contact potential candidates for quotations; a minimum of three quotes is required for the procurement process.

The document will be available for comments in the MS Teams working space with a deadline of 4 July 2025. The Task Force will then prepare the revised document. This final draft will be circulated to the Steering Committee for approval.

**Decision:** The Steering Committee decided that the ToR require further elaboration before seeking an evaluator. The document will be open for feedback until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July by the NCs and the TF will have another meeting to implement the feedback received and revise the ToR. Suggestions for potential evaluators may be added to the document. Final approval of the ToR can be done by email and does not require an *ad hoc* Steering Committee meeting. The evaluation of the *Modus Operandi* will be done internally and will be done separately to the overall evaluation of the EUFORGEN Programme

## 9. 2025 activities and workplan

A.M. Farsakoglou presented an update on the activities for the first year of Phase VII, based on the Implementation plan.

- EUFORGEN 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary video<sup>2</sup>. National Coordinators were asked to disseminate the video and subtitles in other languages can be added upon request.
- Information on the countries that joined Phase VII.
- FRM dissemination theme status stemming from the “Genetic aspects linked to production and use of forest reproductive material (FRM): Collecting scientific evidence for developing guidelines and decision support tools for effective FRM management” report: theme three is available online; the other themes are in process; the delay was due to staffing in the communication team.
- A joint webinar “Mechanisms of natural and anthropogenic selection on trees in the forest<sup>3</sup>” in collaboration with OptFORESTS<sup>4</sup> project was held on 11 April 2025
- Indicator 4.6 short and long version reports that will contribute to the Forest Europe’s SoEF2025 were circulated.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqVBgMg87t0>

<sup>3</sup> [Joint EUFORGEN-OptFORESTS webinar: Mechanisms of natural and anthropogenic selection on trees in the forest: EUFORGEN - European forest genetic resources programme](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.optforests.eu/>

- A side event will be sponsored by EUFORGEN and FORGENIUS during the next Forest Europe Expert Level meeting in September in Sweden. The objective is to introduce the new Phase of EUFORGEN and the latest findings on conservation and characterisation of forest genetic resources. M. Bozzano and I. Scotti (FORGENIUS Coordinator) will give presentations.

## 10. Nomination of the Task Force for methodology to identify conservation gaps

The Task Force to develop a concept on how to collect existing methodologies/documents and how to develop a methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs based on additional data (genetic, phenotypic, environmental zones etc.) was established during the meeting. A first version of the concept developed by the Task Force will be available for the next online Steering Committee meeting and the aim is to finalise the concept by the next physical meeting in 2026.

The members nominated for the Taskforce are:

- François Lefèvre (France) maybe later be replaced by Aurore Desgroux (French EUFGIS NFP)
- Tom Sim (UK)
- Andreas Rudow (Switzerland)
- Maurizio Sabatti (Italy) with the support of Maurizio Marchi (Italian EUFGIS NFP).

The output of the task force will be to prepare a concept on how to develop the methodology to be followed, but not to identify the conservation gaps themselves. The focus will be on pan-European core network while considering that there can be national priorities.

The Task Force will start in September, aiming to produce a draft for the next online Steering Committee meeting and to finalise it as a background document for the Steering Committee meeting in 2026.

**Decision:** The nominated members of the Task Force to develop a concept on how to collect existing methodologies/documents and how to develop a methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs based on additional data (genetic, phenotypic, environmental zones etc.) are: François Lefèvre (France) maybe later be replaced by Aurore Desgroux (French NFP), Tom Sim (UK), Andreas Rudow (Switzerland), Maurizio Sabatti (Italy) with the support of Maurizio Marchi (Italian EUFGIS NFP). A first version of the concept will be available for the next online Steering Committee meeting, aiming to finalise it by the next physical Steering Committee meeting.

## 11. Any Other Business

No further points were raised. Jonathan Burton (UK) asked if other nations have ongoing tree species prioritisation projects for forestry to please contact them directly.

## 12. Date and place for next meeting

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting will be held online around the first or second week of December. The 24<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting will take place in person; tentative dates are 20-24 April 2026.

The Steering Committee was asked to inform the Secretariat in case they are interested in hosting the meeting. A field trip could be part of the programme depending on distance and timing. Ideally a visit to a GCU would be a preferred option. The meeting will last three days, including a half-day field trip.

**Decision:** The next online meeting will take place around the first or second week of December 2025. The next physical Steering Committee Meeting will take place tentatively the week 20-24 April 2026,

including a field trip (if it is within a short distance). National coordinators can nominate their countries by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.

### **13. Final approval of decisions 22<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting**

The Steering Committee discussed the outcomes of the meeting and approved the decisions of each session.

**Decision:** The Steering Committee approved the decisions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> EUFORGEN Steering Committee Meeting.

### **14. Wrap up and closure of the meeting**

A feedback survey will be sent to the participants in the meeting with deadline 26 June 2025.

M. Bozzano closed the meeting and thanked the participants for attending.

Annex 1 – List of participants



**22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee  
17-18 June 2025, online**

**List of participants**

**EUFORGEN National Coordinators\***

*\*nominated for Phase VII*

An Vandenbroeck\*  
Service Public of Wallonia  
Forest Tree Seed Center of Marche-en-Famenne

**Belgium**

Mladen Ivanković\*  
Croatian Forest Research Institute

**Croatia**

Josef Frýdl\*  
Forestry and Game Management Research  
Institute (FGMRI)  
Czech Republic

Mari Rusanen\*  
Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)

**Finland**

François Lefèvre\*  
INRAE - Ecologie des Forêts  
Méditerranéennes

**France**

Bernd Degen  
Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute

**Germany**

László Nagy\*  
Forest Research Institute, University of  
Sopron

**Hungary**

Brynjar Skúlason  
(representing Adalsteinn Sigurgeirsson\*)  
Land and Forest Iceland

**Iceland**

Brian Clifford\*  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the  
Marine (DAFM)

**Ireland**

Maurizio Sabatti\*  
University of Tuscia - Innovation in biological  
systems, food and forestry (DIBAF)

**Italy**

Darius Kavaliauskas\*  
Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture  
Academy - Lithuanian Forest Research  
Institute

**Lithuania**

Martine Neuberg\*  
Administration de la nature et des forêts

**Luxembourg**

Thierry Diedenhofen  
Administration de la nature et des forêts

**Luxembourg**

Duca Ethelbert Erasmus\*  
Environment and Resources Authority

**Malta**

Joukje Buiteveld\*  
Centre for Genetic Resources Netherlands

**Netherlands**

Tor Myking\*  
Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research

**Norway**

Czeslaw Koziol\*  
The Kostrzyca Forest Gene Bank

**Poland**

Isabel Carrasquinho  
Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e  
Veterinária (INIAV)  
**Portugal**

Marina Nonic\*  
Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade  
**Serbia**

Roman Longauer\*  
National Forest Centre  
**Slovakia**

Hojka Kraigher\*  
Slovenian Forestry Institute  
**Slovenia**

Felipe Pérez Martín  
Ministry of Ecological Transition and the  
Demographic Challenge (MITECO)  
**Spain**

Sanna Black-Samuelsson\*  
Swedish Forest Agency  
**Sweden**

Andreas Rudow\*  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)  
Institute of Terrestrial Ecosystems  
**Switzerland**

Svitlana Los\*  
Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry &  
Forest Melioration  
**Ukraine**

Jonathan Burton\*  
Forestry Commission  
**United Kingdom**

### **Observers**

Amira Tiefenbacher  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)  
Institute of Terrestrial Ecosystems  
Switzerland

**EUFORGEN Secretariat**  
European Forest Institute (EFI), Barcelona  
Office  
Sarah Adams  
Michele Bozzano  
Anna-Maria Farsakoglou  
Lidwina Koop

### **Unable to attend**

Heino Konrad\*  
Federal Research and Training Centre for  
Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape  
**Austria**

Christina Kjærby\*  
Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark,  
Nature Agency  
Denmark

Tiit Maaten\*  
Institute of Forestry and Rural Engineering  
Estonian University of Life Sciences  
Estonia

Adalsteinn Sigurgeirsson\*  
(*represented by Brynjar Skúlason*)  
Land and Forest Iceland  
**Iceland**

Ecaterina Nicoleta Apostol\*  
National Institute for Research and  
development in Forestry "Marin Dracea"  
Romania

Annex 2 – Agenda

**22<sup>nd</sup> EUFORGEN Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)**  
 17-18 June 2025 (10-13 CEST) Online meeting  
**DRAFT AGENDA**



Moderation: Sarah Adams

**Tuesday 17 June 10:00-13:00 CEST - online**

Time	Session	Purpose Outcome	Background documents
10:00-10:05	<b>Opening of the meeting</b> <b>Approval of the agenda</b>	<b>For discussion and decision</b> Approval of the agenda	Agenda of the meeting
10:05 – 10:45	- <b>Round table – introduction</b> Each <u>NC will have one minute</u> to inform the SC on national activities related to aspects of species selection for the future (All) - <b>Nomination of rapporteurs</b>	<b>For information</b>	List of participants
10:45 – 10:55	<b>Checklist of SC 21 decisions</b> (A.M. Farsakoglou)	<b>For information</b>	Checklist of SC 21 decisions
10:55 – 11:15	<b>Presentation of key elements of the draft technical and financial reports 2024</b> (M. Bozzano)	<b>For discussion and decision</b> The SC approves the technical and financial reports 2024	Draft technical and financial Report 2024
11:15 – 11:30	Break		
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Adding new species in EUFGIS (and used to compute indicator 4.6)</b> (M. Bozzano)	<b>For discussion and decision</b> The SC is informed on the proposal for adding new species in EUFGIS and decides about it	Adding new species in EUFGIS

12:00 – 12:50	<b>Adding new species to the website</b> ( <i>M. Bozzano</i> )	<b><i>For discussion and decision</i></b> The SC is informed on the proposal for adding new species to the website and decides about it	Maintaining Spp pages in <a href="http://www.euforgen.org/species">www.euforgen.org/species</a>
12:50 – 13:00	<b>Wrap-up of first day</b> ( <i>S. Adams</i> )		

### Wednesday 18 June 10:00-13:00 CEST - online

Time	Session	<b><i>Purpose</i></b> Outcome	<b>Background documents</b>
10:00 – 10:40	<b>WG Dynamic and static <i>ex situ</i> conservation &amp; WG on evacuation</b> ( <i>A.M. Farsakoglou</i> )	<b><i>For discussion and decision</i></b> The SC defines the next steps and timeline for the release of the report of the WG on static and dynamic <i>ex situ</i> conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report on dynamic and static <i>ex situ</i> conservation (decision)</li> <li>• Presentation given to the SC in Dec '24</li> <li>• Draft report of the evacuation WG (info only)</li> </ul>
10:40 – 11:15	ToR for EUFORGEN evaluation ( <i>M. Bozzano</i> )	<b><i>For discussion and decision</i></b> The SC approves the ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft ToR on EUFORGEN evaluation</li> <li>• Proposal for the Evaluation of EUFORGEN's modus operandi</li> </ul>
11:15 – 11:30	<b>Break</b>		
11:30 – 12:15	<b>2025 activities and workplan</b> ( <i>A.M. Farsakoglou</i> )	<b><i>For information</i></b> The SC receives an update on the activities for the first year of Phase VII, based on the Implementation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Phase VII implementation Plan</a></li> <li>• Draft Indicator 4.6 SoEF Report LongVersion ShortVersion</li> </ul>
12:15 – 12:30	<b>Nomination of the TF for methodology to identify conservation gaps</b> ( <i>M. Bozzano &amp; A.M. Farsakoglou</i> )	<b><i>For discussion and decision</i></b> The SC nominates the Task Force (TF) that will develop an indicative methodology to identify conservation gaps	

12:30-12:40	<b>AoB</b>		
12:40-12:45	<b>Date and place for the next meeting</b> <i>(M. Bozzano)</i>	<i>For discussion and approval</i>	
12:45 – 12:50	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> EUFORGEN SC Meeting: Decisions final approval</b> <i>(A.M. Farsakoglou)</i>	<i>For discussion and approval</i> The SC discusses on the outcomes of the meeting and approve the decisions of each session	To be developed during the meeting
12:50 – 12:55	<b>Wrap up – Meeting Feedback</b>	<i>For discussion and decision</i>	
12:55 – 13:00	<b>Closure of the meeting</b>		

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