



European Forest Genetic Resources Programme

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) promotes conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe. A total of 34 countries collaborate in this area as part of the MCPFE process.



Identification of black poplar (*Populus nigra*)

EUFORGEN was established in 1994 to implement Strasbourg Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) adopted by the first Ministerial Conference held in France in 1990. It also contributes to the implementation of Vienna Resolution 4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe). EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries and coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with FAO.

Objectives

- Promote practical implementation of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management
- Facilitate further development of methods to conserve genetic diversity of European forests
- Collate and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe

Networks

EUFORGEN operates through networks that bring together scientists, policy-makers and managers from the member countries to exchange information, discuss needs and develop strategies and methods for better management of forest genetic resources.

- Forest Management Network
- Conifers Network
- Scattered Broadleaves Network
- Stand-forming Broadleaves Network

Outputs

The outputs of the technical and scientific collaboration within EUFORGEN continue to benefit national efforts in managing forest genetic resources. The outputs include:

- Technical guidelines for genetic conservation and use of forest trees
- Long-term forest genetic resources conservation strategies
- Revised distribution maps of forest trees in Europe
- Publications and public awareness material
- Descriptors and databases
- Collections of genetic material



Use of forest genetic diversity helps mitigate the effects of climate change.

Climate change and forest genetic diversity

Genetic diversity ensures that forest trees can survive, adapt and evolve under climate change. In 2006, a workshop organized by Bioversity International and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) discussed the role of forest genetic diversity in mitigating the effect of climate change on European forests and developed recommendations for the future MCPFE work in this regard. This also contributed to the implementation of Vienna Resolution 5 (Climate change and sustainable forest management in Europe).

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Jarkko Koskela
EUFORGEN Coordinator
Bioversity International
Regional Office for Europe
Rome, Italy
E-mail: j.koskela@cgiar.org
www.euforgen.org



EUFORGEN is coordinated
by Bioversity International
www.bioversityinternational.org