15th Steering Committee Meeting

EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGY

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Tuesday 24th November 2020
Virtual Meeting

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EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME

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… Let's start with some history

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Back in 2001…

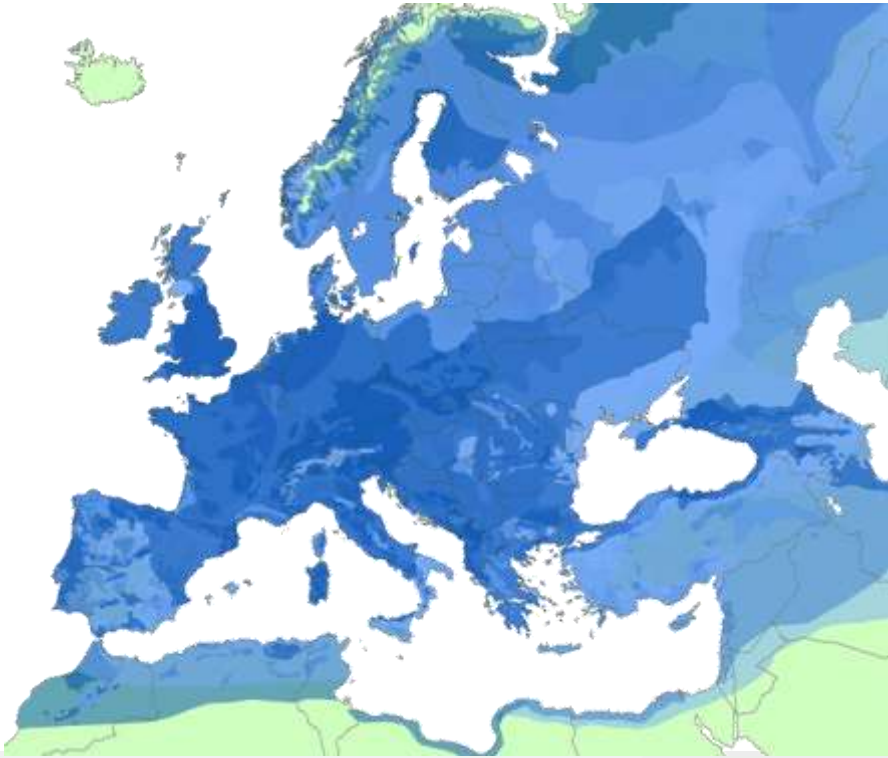
… the status of FGR conservation in Europe:

- Conservation **strategies varied** among countries
- Mainly ***in situ*** as network of unit
- **Diversity of ideas** (Design, Area, Minimum size…)
- Difficulty on the **availability** and **quality** of data
- Reliable **assessment** was almost impossible

Need for pan-European FGR conservation strategy

A discussion started…

- Genetic diversity varies within species ranges
- Species do not restrict themselves to political borders
- All countries of each species distribution need to take part in conservation



Two ideas were born…

… that turned into two vital projects in EUFORGEN's history

EUFGIS project (2007-2011)

- **Pan-European minimum requirements** and data standards
  for genetic conservation units of forest trees
- A **network** of National Focal Points
- EUFGIS **information system**

The Pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest trees

Current strategy (published in 2015)

Concepts of the current strategy

- Works in **absence of genetic knowledge**
- **Defines the targeted level** of genetic conservation for forest trees at the pan-European level
- **Presents the criteria** for selecting dynamic conservation units for the core network
- **Identifies gaps** in the current conservation effort of the species for further action

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Why do we need a new strategy?

- The current strategy defines only conservation, a more **holistic approach** needs to be considered
- "Layers" are only based on **phenotypic** and **environmental** data
- *New* "layer" based on **genetic data** is needed
- Set **priorities among species**
- Accurate **environmental classification**

Drafting Team

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- Ivan Scotti (FORGENIUS)

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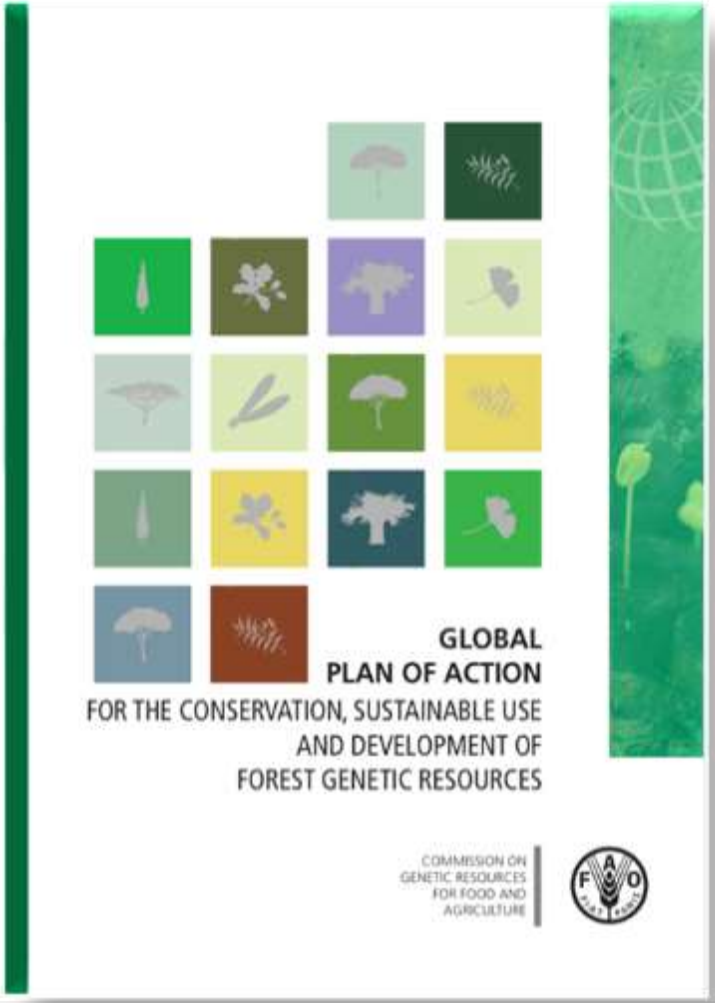

Global Plan of Action – FAO

4 Priority Areas

Priority Area 1

Improving the availability of, and access to, inofrmation on FGR

Priority Area 2

In situ and *ex situ* conservation of FGR

Priority Area 3

Sustainable use, development and management of FGR

Priority Area 4

Policies, institutions and capacity-building

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Main Chapters

Chapter 2
Conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Chapter 3
Enabling the transition

Main Chapters

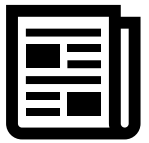
Chapter 2
Conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources

- Improving the availability of, and access to, information on forest genetic resources
- Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources
- Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources

Conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Improving the availability of, and access to, information on forest genetic resources

- Characterisation of Forest Genetic Resources
- Availability and Access to Information
  - Information Needed for the optimal Conservation and Use of FGR
  - Information systems
- Training and Operability of the Information System



Conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources

In situ and *Ex situ* Conservation

- Dynamic Conservation,
  In situ and *Ex situ*
- Static Conservation,
  Ex situ
- Complementarity of *In situ* and *Ex situ* Conservation

Conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources

Establishing a Conservation Procedure for FGR

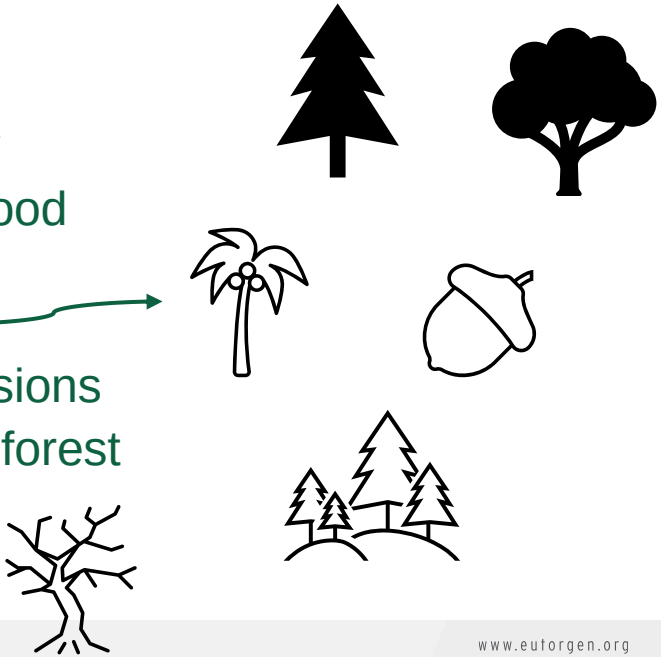
- Main Principles
- Genetic Conservation Units
- Pan-European core network
- Selecting GCUs for the core network
- Management and monitoring of GCUs
- Reporting
- Prioritisation at the European level and Operability of the IS

Conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources

Status and recommendations

- Balancing genetic gain and genetic diversity
- Information systems for FRM and sharing good practices
- Non-local forest reproductive material
- Reinforce research and science-based decisions
- Integrate conservation recommendations in forest management
- Threats to forest health



Main Chapters

Chapter 3
Enabling the transition

- Networking and capacity development
- Policies
- Science to support the strategy
- Communication and outreach

Enabling the transition

Networking and capacity development

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EUFGIS

- EUFORGEN membership
- EUFGIS expansion
- Forest management and GCUs
- Neighbouring countries

Enabling the transition

Policies

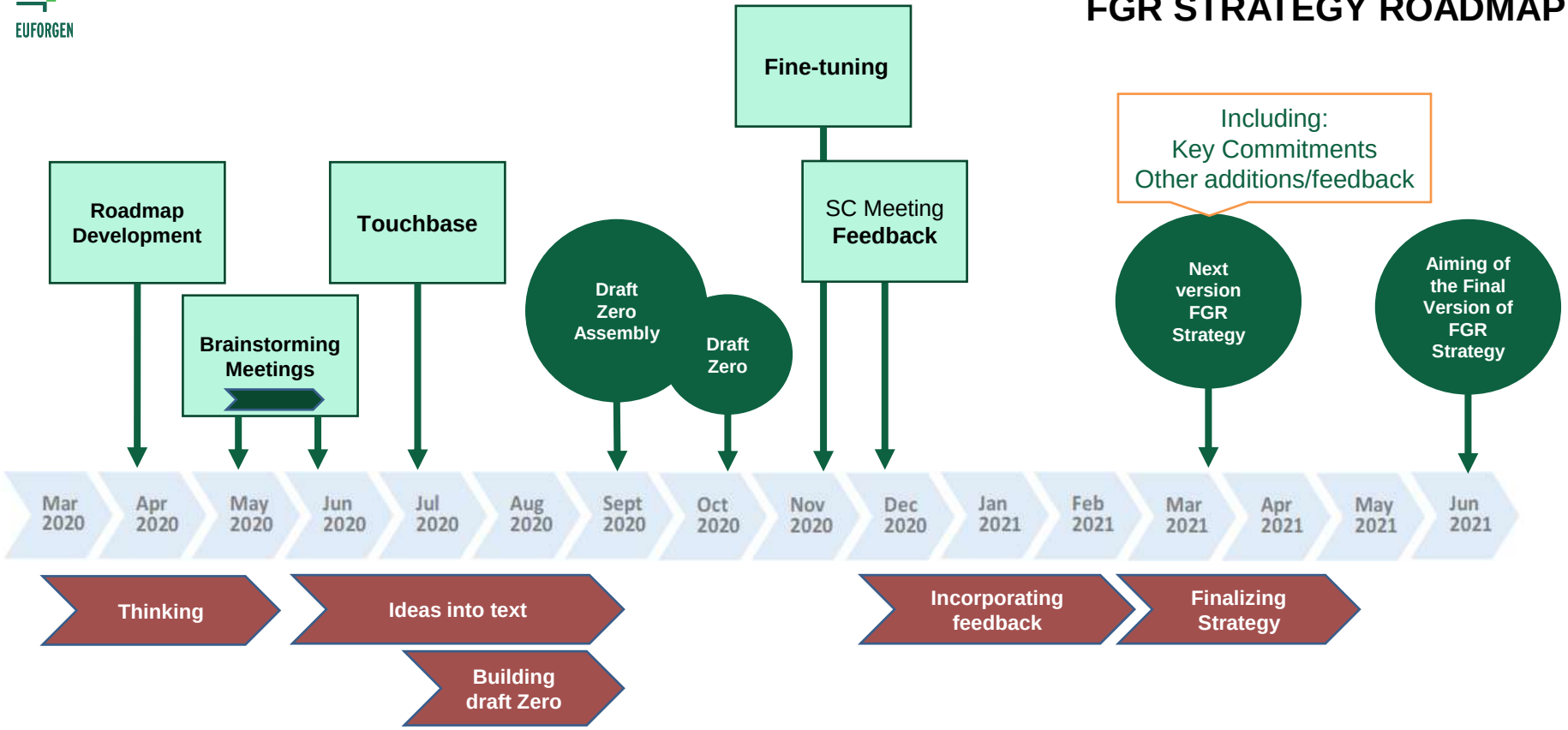
- Conservation of forest genetic resources in EU and international policies
  - Access and benefit sharing
- National programmes
- Support for genetic monitoring

Science to support the strategy

- Research needs

Communication and outreach

FGR STRATEGY ROADMAP



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Annexes

Annex 1: Implementation plan

Annex 2: State of the Art

Annex 3: Minimum requirements for dynamic GCU

Annex 4: Minimum requirements for static ex situ conservation

Annex 5: Environmental classification

Annex 6: Model species