

EUFORGEN

EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES PROGRAMME



RECOMMENDATIONS WITH POLICY RELEVANCE

DECEMBER 2019

These recommendations were identified through a consultative process within EUFORGEN Member countries.

→ **Conserve forest genetic resources at all levels - key for the adaptation to climate change**

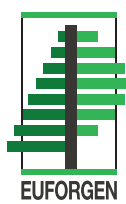
Climate change is a severe threat to forests. Genetic diversity ensures that forest trees can survive, adapt and evolve under changing environmental conditions. Future management options to adapt forests to climate change heavily rely on the availability of appropriate forest genetic resources. All European countries should collaborate to implement the pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest trees which aims to conserve the evolutionary potential of European forest tree species in a network of dynamic genetic conservation units. Moreover, the conservation of forest genetic resources needs to be improved at all levels of sustainable forest management in order to secure future adaptation of forest to climate change and the continued delivery of its services.

→ **Facilitate the appropriate choices of forest reproductive material**

The use of forest reproductive material that is genetically fitted for a specific site requires a sound knowledge about its identity, adaptive traits and adaptation potential. The identification and characterization of forest reproductive material should be improved, and science based tools should be developed and made available to support end-users and the regulating framework in the decision making. Key information should include inter alia provenance recommendations, indicators for genetic diversity and, when available, results of genetic tests.

→ **Monitor adaptation and evolutionary potential of transferred forest reproductive material**

Since forest reproductive material has been moved across Europe for a long time and in the future assisted migration is likely to become one of the adaptive measures for climate change, it is crucial to monitor adaptation and evolutionary potential of the moved material under different environmental conditions. An online information system for geo-referenced records of the origin, movement and use of forest reproductive material should be created to record the production, marketing and end use of the forest reproductive material and, where available, performance data too.



EUFORGEN (European Forest Genetic Resources Programme) is an international cooperation programme promoting the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe as an integral part of sustainable forest management. The Programme was established in 1994, following the adoption of the 1990 resolution by the 1st Forest Europe Ministerial Conference. More than 30 European countries have contributed to EUFORGEN and its work, to date. Currently, 28 countries provide direct financial support to the Programme. The EUFORGEN Secretariat is hosted by European Forest Institute.

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