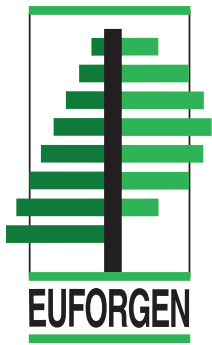




Forest Management Network

Summary of the second meeting

Bucharest, Romania, 23-25 November 2006



European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)

Opening of the meeting

Istvan Töke, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Romania opened the meeting and welcomed participants from 20 countries. He highlighted the importance of forest genetic resources as part of forest management and expressed the interest of Romania to contribute to the pan-European activities in this area.

J. Hubert, Chair of the Network also welcomed the participants to the meeting. All participants introduced themselves and briefly informed others on their national responsibilities in the area of forest management and gene conservation. J. Koskela, EUFORGEN Coordinator welcomed the participants on behalf of the EUFORGEN Secretariat and introduced the meeting agenda, which was then adopted without changes.

N. Foley and M. Peltonen were selected as rapporteurs for the first day and T. Eysteinnsson and B. Van der Aa for the second day. D. Paitaridou also agreed to help rapporteurs.

EUFORGEN update

J. Koskela provided an update to various EUFORGEN-related activities. Firstly, he informed the participants on the implementation of IPGRI's new strategy, which reflects a broader focus on agricultural biodiversity, including forest biodiversity. The strategy emphasizes the use of biological diversity for alleviating poverty and improving livelihoods. He also introduced the new internal structure of the Institute and mentioned that with effect from 1 December 2006, IPGRI will operate under the name "Bioversity International", Bioversity for short. The new Web address of Bioversity will be www.bioversityinternational.org. The EUFORGEN work continues as part of the activities of the Regional Office for Europe despite these changes.

Regarding EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009), he informed the participants that a total of 32 countries have officially signed the agreement to join Phase III, including four new member countries (Georgia, Greece, Moldova and Romania). Some of the old member countries are still finalizing the official process and the EUFORGEN Secretariat is continuing discussions with several potential new member countries. He also provided an update to the activities of other EUFORGEN Networks (Conifers, Scattered Broadleaves and Stand-forming Broadleaves). The work of these species-oriented Networks included some activities which are also relevant for the Forest Management Network and it was discussed that these activities need to be coordinated well across all Networks. It was agreed that the work plans of the species-oriented Networks would be disseminated to the participants to show the names of the task force participants of the other Networks in the activities.

J. Koskela then reported the outputs of a workshop on climate change and forest genetic diversity, organized by IPGRI and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) in Paris on 15-16 March 2006. The workshop was hosted by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery and attended by nearly 80 participants from 25 countries. Firstly, the workshop recommended that management of forest genetic diversity should be better linked with national forest programmes and other strategies, such as national adaptation strategies to climate change, for example. Secondly, the workshop recommended that forest management practices that maintain evolutionary processes of forest trees and support natural regeneration of forests should be promoted, especially in areas where long-term natural regeneration is self-sustainable despite climate change. Thirdly, the workshop also stressed that the adaptation of forest trees to climate change can be accelerated through tree breeding and transfer of potentially suitable reproductive material. Finally, it urged the European forest research community to carry out more interdisciplinary studies (e.g. tree physiology, forest genetics, pests and diseases, forest management and economics, and modelling) on the impacts of climate change on forests with the

support of the policy makers. The full summary report of the workshop is available at the EUFORGEN Web site (www.euforgen.org).

The Paris workshop was part of the MCPFE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) Work Programme to implement Vienna Resolution 5 (Climate change and sustainable forest management in Europe). The recommendations were also reported to the MCPFE Round Table Meeting in Wroclaw, Poland on 24-25 April 2006. This meeting initiated preparations for the next Ministerial Conference (to be held in Warsaw on 5-7 November 2007) and the discussions continued during the Expert Level Meeting in Warsaw on 9-10 October 2006. J. Koskela mentioned that the Warsaw Conference is likely to make one declaration and two resolutions. The declaration would reaffirm the commitment of the MCPFE process to a wide range of issues, such as continued regional dialogue on forests, sustainable forest management and forest law enforcement and governance. Climate change and forest genetic diversity have also been suggested as important issue that need to be included in the declaration. The resolutions will address 1) forest and water, and 2) wood and energy.

On 24-26 October 2006, MCPFE and the Secretariat of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) also organized a workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC in Vilnius, Lithuania. The meeting reviewed draft guidelines based on earlier IUCN work and developed a revised draft. The suggested guidelines consist of 1) general guidelines in the context of sustainable forest management, 2) ecological guidelines (e.g. to avoid negative impacts of afforestation and reforestation activities, and to promote use of well-adapted species and provenances), and 3) socio-economic guidelines (e.g. take into account the needs of local communities and maintenance of cultural landscapes).

J. Koskela also updated the participants that the project on the 'Establishment of a European information system on forest genetic resources (EUFGIS)' was accepted by the European Commission in June 2006 under the first call for proposal of the Council regulation on genetic resources in agriculture (EC 870/2004)(more details on the project can be found below). The end of June was also a deadline for the second and last call of proposals and two additional proposals on forest genetic resources were submitted, namely 'Dynamic conservation and utilization of European elms (ELMPOPS)' and 'Dynamic conservation and use of native poplars in Europe (POPGIS)'. Several participants of the Scattered Broadleaves Network were involved in the development of the two project proposals.

Updates on the Network activities

Survey on relevant policies and practices

T. Eysteinnsson presented preliminary results of a survey on relevant policies and practices related to gene conservation and forest management. The survey questions focused on background information on forest in European countries, silvicultural systems used, forest policy, recent trends in forest management and information dissemination to forest owners. A total of 17 countries provided feedback to the online survey.

The survey results showed that the five most economically important tree species in Europe are Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*). Artificial regeneration by planting is also more common than natural regeneration; artificial regeneration covers more than twice the area of natural regeneration and only in two countries natural regeneration is more prevalent than artificial regeneration. A national forest programme is in place in 13 countries and forest genetic resources are addressed in 11 of the national forest programmes. Furthermore, 10 countries have a

national adaptation strategy to climate change and forest genetic resources are addressed in four of these strategies but only in a general way. During the past 10 years, the objectives of forest management have changed in 14 countries, putting more emphasis to nature conservation and socio-economic goals.

Many Network members indicated that they had difficulties in answering some of the survey questions as there are different national definitions for 'clearcut' and 'commercial thinning'. T. Eysteinnsson pointed out that the purpose of the survey was to obtain an impressionist picture of the situation in Europe and help the Network to plan its further activities. Countries that did not yet provide feedback were urged to do so after the meeting. Those countries that already provided feedback were encouraged to double check their earlier answers and make corrections, as needed. The detailed instructions and deadlines were agreed during the second meeting day (see below).

Systematic failures in silvicultural practices

P. Elsasser presented an update to the collection of 'systematic failures' in silvicultural practices from the genetic resources point of view. Firstly, a list of relevant silvicultural practices has been prepared and divided into two groups (silvicultural systems and specific practices). The relevant systems include the regeneration phases of clearcut system, patch cut system/group method and shelterwood system as well as single tree selection system. As additional practices, artificial regeneration, natural regeneration, vegetative sprouting and various thinning methods are also considered important. Furthermore, four relevant cases studies have been identified based on the earlier published studies.

P. Elsasser stressed the weaknesses of a task force approach as a working method as he only received very few inputs. He also suggested that some time should be allocated to task forces during the Network meetings. He concluded that no summary report could be prepared yet based on the available information.

These obstacles and a definition of a 'systematic failure' were then discussed in detail. It was questioned what is the difference between a systematic failure and a mistake in using forest reproductive material, for example. Several participants pointed out that in general failures are not documented well while many participants were able to mention some failures based on their own experiences. The conclusion was that the Network members should be principally looking for things that happen repeatedly or over long periods of time without being corrected. These could include failure to register or monitor the use of forest reproductive material in a proper way or repeatedly selecting presumably suitable material for use in forestry in spite of insufficient knowledge or data.

A. Valadon informed the meeting that he is currently developing a review on the impacts of silvicultural practices to forest genetic diversity in France. For this purpose, he has also collected over 400 references. He suggested that the outcomes of the review could be used for identifying systematic failures in silvicultural practices. However, the review will be written in French but the summary of it could be translated into English. The participants expressed their gratitude to his suggestion and considered it is useful to translate the summary of the review into English.

Economic aspects of forest genetic resources

B. Ditlevsen summarized several issues on economic valuation of forest genetic resources. Better tools are needed to value forest genetic diversity, including uncertainty and potential gains through increasing genetic diversity. Risk considerations should be taken into account in management of forest genetic resources and diversification could be a risk-reducing strategy in

forest management, in particular under climate change. Option values of genetic diversity are potentially large and flexible management strategies could also increase the value of genetic resources for society and private landowners while enhancing adaptation of forests to climate change. It was also discussed that the economical aspects can be seen from two different points of view: 1) economic impacts of incentives that promote the use of high quality FRM and 2) economic impacts of benefits gained with the use of high quality FRM.

B. Ditlevsen also informed the participants about a pilot project on economic aspects of FGR initiated in Denmark in 2006. The main purpose of the project is to identify relevant economic tools that can be used in valuation of FGR. The project will be finalized during 2007. It will focus on concrete genetic resources programmes at the Danish National Forest and Nature Agency, such as the genetic conservation programme and the seed source development programme for tree improvement. The project will develop "economic tools" that are relevant for these genetic resources programmes and oak will be used as a pilot species while developing the economic tools. If there is additional financial support available, the pilot project will be continued as a larger valuation project.

Several Network members expressed their interest to receive information on the progress of the project. B. Ditlevsen agreed to send a brief project description to the Network members who can then provide their comments and suggestions back to him by the end of January 2007.

Inappropriate use of forest reproductive material

A. Valadon reported the outputs of the task force which collected examples of inappropriate use of forest reproductive material. The task force developed a short questionnaire and received feedback from 10 countries across Europe. The examples demonstrate clearly how important is the appropriate use of forest genetic resources. The use of unsuitable forest reproductive material cause problems and these often become visible within 5-10 years time. However, in some cases it took more than 30 years before problems could be recognized. The problems include low frost or drought resistance, susceptibility to pests and diseases and poor adaptation to site-specific conditions, for example.

In many countries, the areas affected by these problems are larger than 1000 ha. As an extreme case, A. Valadon highlighted the planting of red oak (*Quercus rubra*) in France where 400,000 ha were planted with the species between 1970 and 2000 but only 27 000 ha of red oak stands persisted in 2004. He also pointed out that there are cases where the use of first generation material has been a failure while the second generation can be successful (e.g. *Cedrus* spp. which turned out to a success but only 100 years after its first introduction in France).

A. Valadon continued summarizing economic and ecological consequences of using unsuitable forest reproductive material. The economic consequences include low wood production and additional costs for replacing damaged trees. As an ecological consequence, he highlighted genetic pollution, i.e. gene flow from a stand of unsuitable material to stands of native origin. This creates not only threats to autochthonous resources but also makes it difficult to identify autochthonous stands of forest trees. He concluded that it is important to ensure a supply of high-quality and well-documented forest reproductive material, adapted to species conditions, for nurseries and forest owners. He also stressed the importance of enforcing national regulations dealing with production and use of forest reproductive material in particular.

The comments made by other participants after his presentation pointed out that there are also many examples of successful use of foreign species or provenances. Regarding the collected examples, qualitative approach on this subject was considered adequate for the time being.

Survey on policy tools to promote the use of high quality FRM

B. Ditlevsen presented main findings of a survey on policy tools to promote the use of high quality FRM. In 2005 the survey was carried out as part of a Nordic project covering 10 countries (preliminary findings were reported at the first Network meeting). In 2006, the same survey was also sent to those Network members who were not included in the 2005 survey. A total of 17 countries provided their responses to the survey.

The results show that 11 countries have specific requirements or regulations that promote the use of quality FRM in state-owned forests while there is no difference in this regard between state-owned and private forests in the remaining countries. Concerning the production of FRM, all countries provide public support to genetic research, tree improvement and/or seed production. The approval of the basic material follows the EU regulation or the OECD Scheme in all countries, except Iceland.

Most countries are promoting dissemination of relevant information to forest managers and owners. A majority of them have developed recommendations and guidelines for choosing provenances, some of which are general while others are more specific. There are also a few countries which have developed user-oriented advisory systems to assist in selecting and using of FRM. The survey results indicate that various grant schemes are being used as tools to encourage the use of high quality FRM by forest managers and owners. Specific provenance requirements are included in such grant schemes in eight countries. In one country (Slovenia), seedlings are provided free of charge by the state to ensure the use of appropriate FRM.

The survey shows that the production of high quality FRM is well covered by policy tools in the countries. The most critical and challenging part is how to make sure that forest owners use high quality FRM. Even when there are strong legislative regulations, the control of compliance is usually weak. Market forces and trade mechanisms often work against quality favouring cheap material which is of low quality in most cases. On the other hand, if markets are functioning as they should, high quality can be an advantage in competition. One potential systematic failure was identified in the discussion: seed producers may restrict their seed collection to few clones or seed trees to minimize costs and maximize profits.

Increasing public awareness on the importance of suitable FRM remains an important task. Denmark is developing an interactive advice service available in the internet that helps forest owners to select appropriate material for forest regeneration. Economic incentives, such as grant schemes, are powerful tools to promote the use of high quality FRM.

Discussion on the work plan

The meeting continued discussing FRM based on an article by T. Myking and T. Skroppa. The article describes a legal case between a seed dealer and a nursery related to certification of FRM and seed production in open pollinated hybrid seed orchards.

In 2000, a Norwegian seed dealer imported hybrid larch seeds produced in a seed orchard containing one clone of Japanese larch used as mother and two clones of European larch serving as fathers. In 2002, the hybrid larch seeds were sold to two Norwegian forest nurseries, and during the following spring one of the nurseries had produced 106 000 larch seedlings, ready for delivery. A total of 41,000 seedlings had been sold when Norwegian control authorities decided that the assumed hybrid larch seedlings could not be used in forest plantations. It turned out that the seed lot contained only 10 % hybrids, the remaining seeds being from self pollinations of the Japanese mother clone.

The nursery sued the seed dealer for loss of income from plant sale. After a long legal process, a decision by a higher court was maintained and it concluded that the seed dealer could only be held responsible for an amount equal to the cost of the seed. The court also expressed the opinion that the nursery should know the uncertainties involved in producing hybrid seed in an open pollinated seed orchard and that the percentage of hybrids is likely to vary. The article will be published in the November issue of IPGRI Newsletter for Europe (No 33) which is available at www.biodiversityinternational.org/Regions/Europe/index.asp.

The participants then discussed the next steps in the Network activities and these discussions also continued during the second meeting day. The follow-up activities and deadlines are summarized below.

Finalization of the new work plan

Survey on relevant policies and practices: It was decided that the online survey would be continued to obtain feedback from those countries that have not yet provided their inputs. Those countries that already responded to the survey may make corrections and additions if/as needed. The Secretariat will send out a new message with the survey link to all Network members after the meeting. All Network members should then provide their inputs to the survey or revise the earlier data **by 31 December 2006**. They should at least answer the questions on forest policy, legal or policy instruments and recent trends as these are the most important parts of the survey. Despite the evident weaknesses in some of questions, it was decided that the questionnaire would be left as it is now. T. Eysteinnsson will provide further information (e.g. definition of key concepts) to make answering easier. He can also be contacted by email for further clarifications, if any member still has difficulties in understanding the survey questions.

The previous task force (T. Eysteinnsson, M. Dopazo Gonzales, M. Peltonen and N. Foley) will continue its work and the Secretariat will provide it with the new survey results. T. Eysteinnsson will prepare a draft report of the survey and circulate it to the other members of the task force for revision. The task force will send the draft report to the Secretariat **by 30 March 2007** and it will be circulated for all Network members for further comments.

Systematic failures in silvicultural practices: It was agreed that A. Valadon should send a draft of the French review to the Secretariat **by 31 March 2007**. The Secretariat will then translate summaries of different chapters into English and distribute them to the Network **by 31 May 2007**. Subsequently, the Network will discuss how to proceed with identifying the systematic failures and make a decision on this during the next meeting.

Economic aspects of forest genetic resources: B. Ditlevsen will send the proposal and additional information on the Danish project to the Secretariat **by 31 January 2007**. The Secretariat will circulate the proposal to the Network members who can then send their comments directly to B. Ditlevsen.

Inappropriate use of forest reproductive material: Those who still want to provide examples of inappropriate use of forest reproductive material should send the information to A. Valadon **by 31 December 2006**. The examples should be new as compared to those cases he presented during his presentation. The task force (A. Valadon, T. Eysteinnsson, N. Foley, C. Jasser and M. H. Almeida) will then prepare a draft summary of the examples **by 30 June 2007** after which the Secretariat will circulate it for comments to the Network members.

Survey on policy tools to promote the use of high quality FRM: New feedback can be provided to B. Ditlevsen by **31 December 2006**. He will then prepare a draft summary of the survey by **31 March 2007** and the Secretariat will circulate it for comments to all Network members.

Finally, the meeting discussed how to make the results of the Network activities available to a wider audience. It was concluded that there is a need for complete reports for experts or managers as well as executive summaries for policy makers. It was pointed out that similar work (i.e. genetic consequences of forest management practices and inappropriate use of FRM) is also being done by the species-oriented EUFORGEN Networks and that all the efforts could be published in a coordinated way. The Forest Management Network could develop thematic guidelines, similar to the technical guidelines prepared by the species-oriented Networks. It was proposed that the main conclusions from the surveys on policy and practice, systematic failures and inappropriate use of reproductive material should be developed for the next Ministerial Conference, to be held in Warsaw in early November 2007. The Network members are also welcome to prepare short news on relevant gene conservation efforts at national level to be published at the EUFORGEN Web site.

Seminar on forest management and forest genetic resources in Romania

Romanian forests

C. Pahontu presented an overview of forests and forestry in Romania. Romania has 6.39 million hectares of forest, mostly in mountainous areas. It is divided into two functional groups with respect to management: protection forests (54% of area) and production forests (46%). Forest land is gradually being returned to former owners, including individuals, communities and municipalities, which often have little knowledge of forestry. In 1991, 350,000 hectares were given back to private owners and by 2000, the area had increased to 1.9 million hectares. There are over 800,000 private forest owners in Romania with a small average size of forest area (1-2 hectares). Now the challenge is to establish forestry associations to promote forest management in private forests.

The National Forest Programme of Romania aims to encourage sustainable management of both in private and public forests, mitigate the consequences of restitution, increase wood production and build support for sustainable forest management. The aim is also to increase forest area by 1% during the next four years.

New aspects concerning forest reproductive materials in Romania

M. Olaru made a presentation on forest reproductive material in Romania including the history of seed stand selection and seed orchard establishment for various species. A catalogue of approved seed stands was first published in 1979 and the last updated version released in 2001. Since 1981, Romania has been affiliated with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Scheme for control of FRM moving in international trade. The area of seed stands in Romania has declined somewhat during the recent years. In 2001, there were 25,303 hectares of seed stands for conifers (10 species) and 32,795 hectares for broadleaves (14 species). In 2005, the area of seed orchards was 468 hectares for conifers (eight species) and 232 hectares for broadleaves (10 species).

Romania has already incorporated the Council Directive (EC No.105/1999) on the marketing of FRM into its national legislation. The Forest Regime Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development and the Territorial Inspectorates of Forest Regime and Hunting are the designated authorities for the inspection of the production, use and internal trade of FRM. The Forest Research and Management Planning Institute is the authority for the certification of

FRM for international trade according to the OECD Scheme. Romania has a very detailed system for defining provenances, including geographic location, climate and soil/site characteristics.

Romanian forest genetic resources conservation and management

G. Parnuta gave a talk on conservation and management of forest genetic resources in Romania. The efforts started in 1993 and have been carried out by the Forest Research and Management Planning Institute (ICAS) in Bucharest. As a general rule, a gene conservation unit consists of a core area (minimum size of 10 hectares) and the surrounding buffer zone, both of which are catalogued and described. The national catalogue contains 347 gene conservation units for 27 main tree species, covering an area of 11,305 hectares.

He then presented in detail the Romanian gene conservation strategy and achievements based on in situ conservation, ex situ conservation (both stands and biotechnological methods), various provenance, progeny and hybrid trials, clonal collections of poplars and willows and progenitor collections.

Updates on relevant meetings and projects

OECD meeting on forest reproductive material in Hungary

S. Bordács reported on the outputs of the biennial meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, held in Siófok, Hungary on 4-6 October 2006. The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Scheme was established in 1967 as a certification tool to facilitate international trade of forest reproductive material. It is mostly used in Europe and North America but there is also increasing interest in African countries to adopt the scheme. Currently 22 countries participate in the scheme and three additional countries have applied to join it.

The main issue of the meeting was to discuss amending the four categories of forest reproductive material now included in the scheme (i.e. source-identified, selected, untested seed orchards and tested). A survey showed that 99% of seed certified in 2002-2003 was either source-identified or selected. This shows that seed certified under the two more advanced categories is seldom used for international trade. Therefore, the meeting agreed to revise the categories and keep only two of them (source-identified and selected). Material of the two excluded categories could, at the present time, be subject to international trading under bilateral contracts, where and when needed. The decision will be submitted to the OECD Committee for Agriculture for endorsement so that it could be adopted at a next Council meeting in May 2007.

S. Bordács also mentioned that a database of OECD approved basic material was launched in 2004 and it is available at www.oecd.org/agr/forest. The database contains information on 253 forest tree species for which the total area of seed stands is 18 million hectares. The meeting agreed that better data is needed from some countries and all delegates are invited to check their national data and report changes to OECD, as needed.

EVOLTREE Network of Excellence

B. Vinceti presented an update to the EVOLTREE project (EVOLution of TREES as drivers of terrestrial biodiversity) which is funded by the EC under the 6th framework programme for research. The project started officially on 1 April 2006 and the kick-off meeting was organized in Bordeaux, France on 26-28 April 2006. EVOLTREE is a consortium of 25 partner institutes from 15 European countries and it is coordinated by A. Kremer (INRA, France).

The main aim of the project is to support integration of work on forest genomics in Europe by developing common research infrastructures and exchanging human resources. More specifically, EVOLTREE will 1) assemble and integrate the complementary disciplines in the field of ecological genetics and genomics (ecosystem genomics), 2) establish and implement a European research platform in this field in the form of “laboratory without walls”, 3) install the common infrastructures (e.g. a repository centre), field experimental sites, data management systems, and 4) spread high level excellence to the scientific community, end-users and to the general public.

The project also includes jointly executed research activities, which will 1) identify genes of adaptive significance to climate change in three model tree genera (*Pinus*, *Populus* and *Quercus*), phytophagous insects (*Limantria*) and mycorrhizal fungi (*Laccaria* and *Glomus*), 2) assess the level and distribution of nucleotide diversity in genes of adaptive significance in trees, insects and mycorrhizal fungi, 3) assess the impact of trees on the composition of communities by studying interactions between trees and their associated species, and 4) investigate the evolutionary processes in trees by reconstructing their past history and predicting their future response to climate change.

Biodiversity International has a leading role in the dissemination activities. As part of these efforts, EVOLTREE will set up a stakeholder group to facilitate two-way dialogue between scientists and policy makers in particular. The stakeholder group will consist of representatives of different interest groups such as the scientific community, policy makers, conservation agencies, land managers, forest owners, and forest services. This will create an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions on relevant issues to support forest management practices and participate in major scientific events organized by EVOLTREE. The Forest Management Network is considered to have an important role in the stakeholder group and all Network members are welcome to join in the stakeholder group (please contact B. Vinceti or J. Koskela for this).

EVOLTREE has also selected seven intensive study sites where common research efforts will be carried out; Valais (Switzerland, alpine altitudinal gradient), Ventoux (France, Mediterranean altitudinal gradient), Solling (Germany, temperate forest), Puszcza Świętokrzyska (Poland, untouched forest), Punkaharju (Finland, boreal forest), Loire (France, riparian forest) and Landes (France, intensively managed forest). The first EVOLTREE Symposium and Workshop on Community Structure and Dynamics was held in Marburg, Germany on 11-13 October 2006. Later, EVOLTREE will organize two international scientific conferences on ecosystems genomics. Further information on the project can be found at www.evoltree.eu.

Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources

J. Koskela updated the participants on the progress in the development of the EUFGIS project. The EUFORGEN Secretariat developed the project proposal in collaboration with partners in six countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Slovakia, Slovenia and the UK) and submitted it in September 2005 to the first call for proposals under the Council Regulation No 870/2004 on genetic resources in agriculture. The proposal was approved by the European Commission in June 2006 and the DG for Agriculture and Rural Development is now preparing a grant agreement for the project.

The project aims at harmonizing minimum requirements for dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees and common information standards at pan-European level, and creating a web-based, permanent information system on national inventories on forest genetic resources in Europe. The role of the EUFORGEN Networks is to provide technical inputs and contribute to the harmonization of minimum requirements for gene conservation units of different trees species and development of information standards for these units. Once established, the information system

will benefit all Networks in their further efforts to develop the common action plans and assess the status of gene conservation efforts for various tree species in Europe.

The project is expected to start its activities on 1 April 2007. All EUFORGEN member countries will be invited to participate in it and the National Coordinators will be asked to nominate a national focal point for the project. The focal points will receive training on FGR documentation and are then expected to compile national data for the information system. However, the project does not have resources to support actual field inventories in different countries. During the first year of the project, a European workshop on FGR documentation will be organized to discuss the present situation and to initiate the harmonization of the minimum requirements for gene conservation units based on the ongoing work of the EUFORGEN Networks.

Brainstorming on new Network activities

S. Bordács proposed that the Network should address the issue of using FRM in the context of energy/biomass plantations. It seems likely that the establishment of biomass plantations with forest trees will increase in the future, especially in Central Europe. As this is not considered as a forestry activity, the FRM used for such purpose does not have to meet the requirement of the Council Directive (EC No.105/1999). Thus there is a danger that poorly documented and low quality seedlings of forest trees may end up planted for forestry purposes if mistakes are made at nurseries or while distributing the seedlings. Other participants also highlighted that there are similar problems in using forest trees of unknown origin for hedges or other amenity purposes. These activities increase the risk of gene flow from maladapted stands or trees to surrounding well-adapted ones and in the worse case, to *in situ* gene conservation stands.

The discussion concluded that the same principles on the control of genetic material that apply to use of FRM for forestry purposes should also be applied to biomass plantations as well. The meeting decided to establish a task force to assess the present situation on the use of reproductive material for non-forestry purposes for the next meeting. In addition to Hungary, Network members from Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal and the UK indicated that this is a problem in their country as well. S. Bordács and I. Bach will develop a format to collect preliminary data from the above-mentioned countries and other members of the task force (C. Jasser, B. Van der Aa, A. Valadon, N. Foley, M. H. Almeida and J. Hubert) should send them the requested information after receiving the form. The deadlines for providing the information will be informed later.

M. H. Almeida suggested that the Network should also look at responses of forest trees to climate change and what changes are needed in forest management. As an example she mentioned that it has been suggested that planting a mix of different provenances could mitigate the future effects of climate change and reduce risks to forest management. It was decided that all Network members should develop ideas for action in this area and identify potential problems brought by climate change for forest management. These could be then discussed in detail during the next meeting. The Secretariat will remind Network members before the next meeting and will compile a list of issues/problems for the next meeting. J. Hubert also announced that a policy brief on climate change and forests will be released in the UK soon and he promised to inform everybody once it is available.

A. Alexandrov suggested addressing the subject of genetically modified trees. However, it was considered that this could be postponed until the next meeting. Currently, the Secretariat of the Convention Biological Diversity (CBD) is preparing a review on this topic and its findings should be available next year.

Wrap-up session

Any other business

P. Elsasser reiterated that future Network meetings should not be held on weekends. He also recommended distributing a draft agenda to participants at least one month before the next meeting.

Several participants expressed their interest in receiving the presentations after the meeting. The Secretariat will prepare a CD-Rom including the presentations and mail a copy to each participant for his/her information.

Date and place of next meeting

The participants agreed that the next meeting should be held in late November 2007. Belgium, Finland and Portugal offered to host the meeting. The Secretariat will be in contact with the Network members in the three countries to compare the costs and the proposed meeting venues. The Secretariat can then decide the dates and the location of the next meeting in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair.

With no other business, J. Hubert closed the meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Christoph Jasser
Landesforstdirektion
Bahnhofplatz 1
4020 Linz

Austria

Tel: (43) 664 8298442
Fax: (43) 732 7720 2146 98
Email: christoph(a\$) ooe.gv.at

Beatrijs Van der Aa
Institute for Nature Conservation
Research Institute for Nature and Forest
Gaverstraat 4
9500 Geraardsbergen

Belgium

Tel: (32-54) 437116
Fax: (32-54) 436160
Email: Beatrijs(a\$) nbo.be

Alexander H. Alexandrov
Forest Research Institute
Kliment Ohridski Blvd. 132
1756 Sofia

Bulgaria

Tel: (359-2) 8622052
Fax: (359-2) 9620447
Email: (a\$) bas.bg

Jan Chládek (*representing Josef Frýdl*)
Forestry and Game Management Research
Institute

Jílovište - Strnady
156 04 Praha 5 - Zbraslav

Czech Republic

Tel: (420) 257 892228
Fax: (420) 257 921444
Email: (a\$) vulhm.cz

Bjerne Ditlevsen
National Forest and Nature Agency
Krogerupvej 21
3050 Humlebaek

Denmark

Tel: (45) 49190214
Fax: (45) 49160016
Email: (a\$) sns.dk

Mikko Peltonen
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Department of Forestry
P.O. Box 30 (Hallituskatu 3A)
00023 Government, Helsinki

Finland

Tel: (358-9) 1605 32410
Fax: (358-9) 1605 2487
Email: mikko(a\$) mmm.fi

Alain Valadon
ONF - Conservatoire Génétique des Arbres
Forestiers
2163 Avenue de la pomme de pin
45166 Olivet cedex

France

Tel: (33) 2 38414808
Fax: (33) 2 38414800
Email: alain(a\$) onf.fr

Peter Elsasser
Bundesforschungsanstalt für Forst- und
Holzwirtschaft (BFH)
Institut für Ökonomie
Leuschnerstrasse 91
21031 Hamburg

Germany

Tel: (49-40) 73962 399
Fax: (49-40) 73962317
Email: p(a\$) holz.uni-hamburg.de

Despina Paitaridou
Directorate General for the Development and
Protection of Forest and Natural
Environment
Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Halkokondili 31
10164 Athens

Greece

Tel: (30) 210 2124574
Fax: (30) 210 5240238
Email: (a\$) minagric.gr

Sándor Bordács (*representing Istvan Bach*)
Department of Forestry
OMMI
Keleti Karoly utca 24
1024 Budapest

Hungary

Tel: (36) 1 3369300
Fax: (36) 1 3369094
Email: (a\$) ommi.hu

Thröstur Eysteinnsson
Iceland Forest Service
Midvangi 2-4
700 Egilsstaðir
Iceland
Tel: (354-471) 2100
Fax: (354-471) 2172
Email: (a\$) skogur.is

Noel Foley
Environmental Auditor
Forest Service
Dept of Agriculture and Food
Oliver Plunkett Road
Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Ireland
Tel: (353) 74912 1848
Fax: (353) 74912 2791
Email: noel(a\$) agriculture.gov.ie

Tadeusz Zachara
Instytut Badawczy Lesnictwa
Forest Research Institute
Sekocin Stary, Ul. Braci Lesnej 3
05 090 Raszyn
Poland
Tel: (48-22) 7150686
Fax: (48-22) 7200397
Email: T(a\$) bles.waw.pl

Maria Helena Almeida
(*representing Maria Carolina Varala*)
Instituto Superior de Agronomia
Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa
Tapada da Ajuda
1349 017 Lisbon
Portugal
Tel: (351) 21 3653348
Fax: (351) 21 3645000
Email: (a\$) sa.utl.pt

Mihai Olaru
General Directorate for Forest Development
and Propriety Consolidation
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural
Development
24 Carol Blvd.
Bucharest
Romania
Tel: (40) 307 85 38
Fax: (40) 307 98 03
Email: mihai(a\$) maa.ro

Ani Zavrl Bogataj (*representing Janez Zafran*)
Inspectorate for Agriculture, Forestry, Game
and Fishery, Forestry Inspection
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
Parmova 33
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: (386) 41373295, 17810101
Fax: (386) 17888917
Email: ani(a\$) gov.si

Marta Dopazo Gonzalez
Servicio de Material Genético
DGB - Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Gran Via de San Francisco, 4
28005 Madrid
Spain
Tel: (34) 91 5964639
Fax: (34) 91 596 4905
Email: (a\$) mma.es

Reijer F. Knol
State Forest Service (SBB) Regio Oost
Kamille 1
8265 DH Kampen
The Netherlands
Tel: (31) 570 747140
Fax: (31) 570 747111
Email: r(a\$) staatsbosbeheer.nl

Talat Memis
General Directorate of Forest
Department of Silviculture
Orman Genel Müdürlüğü
2 Nolu Bina
06560 Bestepe, Ankara
Turkey
Tel: (90-312) 2075218
Fax: (90-312) 2075252
Email1: (a\$) ogm.gov.tr
Email2: (a\$) yahoo.com

Jason Hubert
Broadleaved Tree Improvement and Genetic
Conservation
Forest Research
Northern Research Station
Roslin, Midlothian
EH25 9SY
United Kingdom
Tel: (44-131) 445 6947
Fax: (44-131) 445 2176
Email: jason(a\$) orestry.gsi.gov.uk

Observers

Jiří Čáp
VULHM
Forestry and Game Management Research
Institute
Jílovište - Strnady
15604 Praha 5 - Zbraslav
Czech Republic
Tel: (420) 257 892271
Fax: (420) 257 921444
Email:(a\$t) vulhm.cz

Gheorghe Parnuta
Forest Tree Breeding and Genetics Lab
Forest Research and Management Institute
(ICAS)
Sos Stefanesti nr 128
077190 Voluntari, Ilfov
Romania
Tel: (40-21) 2703301
Fax: (40-21) 2703360
Email: gh_(a\$t) icas.ro

EUFORGEN Secretariat

Jarkko Koskela
Bioversity International
Regional Office for Europe
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Italy
Tel: (39) 06 6118223
Fax: (39) 06 61979661
Email: j(a\$t) cgiar.org

Barbara Vinceti
Bioversity International
Regional Office for Europe
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Italy
Tel: (39) 06 6118412
Fax: (39) 06 61979661
Email: b(a\$t) cgiar.org

Unable to attend

Andreas Christou
Department of Forests
26 Loukis Akritas Avenue
1414 Nicosia
Cyprus
Tel: (357) 22819470
Fax: (357) 22781419
Email:(a\$t) d.moa.gov.cy

Josef Frýdl
Forestry and Game Management Research
Institute
Jílovište - Strnady
15604 Praha 5 - Zbraslav
Czech Republic
Tel: (420) 257 892271
Fax: (420) 257 921444
Email:(a\$t) vulhm.cz

Rauno Reinberg
Forest Department
Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7a
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: (372) 6262921
Fax: (372) 6262929
Email: Rauno(a\$t) envir.ee

Istvan Bach
National Inst. for Agricultural Quality
Control
Keleti Karoly utca 24
1024 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: (36-1) 336 9113
Fax: (36-1) 336 9094
Email:(a\$t) ommi.hu

Valmantas Kundrotas
Forest Gene Resources, Seed and Planting
Material Service
Liepu 2
53101 Girionys, Kauno raj.
Lithuania
Tel: (370) 37 547226/ 682 36075
Fax: (370) 37 547 771, (370) 5 2722029
Email1:(a\$t) mgit.lt
Email2: valdas(a \$t) gamta.lt

Fred Trossen
 Direction des Eaux et Fôrets
 16 Rue Eugène Ruppert
 2453 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
 Tel: (352) 402201 223
 Fax: (352) 402201 250
 Email: fred(a\$t) ef.etat.lu

Dumitru Galupa
 Forestry Management and Technology
 Centre
 MOLDSILVA Agency
 Str. Mircesti 42
 Chisinau
Moldova
 Tel: (373-22) 432805, 432808
 Fax: (373-22) 432805
 Email: (a\$t) starnet.md

Arne Steffenrem
 Norwegian Forest Research Institute
 Hogskoleveien 8
 1432 As
Norway
 Tel: (47) 64949051
 Fax: (47) 64942980
 Email: arne(a\$t) skogforsk.no

Maria Carolina Varela
 Secretário de Estado do Desenvolvimento
 Rural e das Florestas - SEDRF
 MADRP- Min. da Agricultura,
 Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pescas
 Praça do Comércio
 1149-010 Lisbon
Portugal
 Tel: (351) 213234642
 Fax: (351) 213234995
 Email1: (a\$t) madrp.gov.pt
 Email2: (a\$t) yahoo.com

Pedja Jovic
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
 Management
 Omladinskih brigada 1
 11070 Beograd
Serbia
 Tel: (381-11) 553 261
 Fax:
 Email: (a\$t) yubc.net

Rudolf Bruchánik
 State Forest of Slovak Republic
 Námestie SNP 8
 975 66 Banská Bystrica
Slovakia
 Tel: (421-48) 4344204
 Fax: (421-48) 4344191
 Email: (a\$t) lesy.sk

Janez Zafran
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Food
 Dunajska 56-58
 1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
 Tel: (386-1) 478 9085
 Fax: (386-1) 478 9021
 Email:

Jonas Bergquist
 Swedish Forest Agency
 Skogsstyrelsen
 55183 Jönköping
Sweden
 Tel: (46-36) 155720
 Fax: (46-36) 166170
 Email1: jonas(a\$t) skogsstyrelsen.se
 Email2: jonas(a\$t) svo.se

Peter Rotach
 Departement Umweltwissenschaften
 Ecosystem Management/Silviculture - ETH
 Zürich
 Universitätsstrasse 22
 8092 Zürich
Switzerland
 Tel: (41-1)6323210
 Fax: (41-1)6321033
 Email: peter(a\$t) env.ethz.ch