

# **European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)**

## **Phase IV (2010–2014)**

### **Technical report and financial summary for 2014**

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## **1. Introduction**

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is a collaborative programme between European countries to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources (FGR). It was established in October 1994 as a pan-European implementation mechanism for Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the first Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE, now called FOREST EUROPE), held in Strasbourg in 1990. EUFORGEN also contributes to the implementation of Vienna Resolution 4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe) (2003). The Programme also contributes to implementation of relevant decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Furthermore, EUFORGEN contributes to the implementation of regional-level strategic priorities of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR), which was adopted by the FAO<sup>3</sup> Conference in 2013.

EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries and coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with FAO. EUFORGEN activities are mainly carried out by experts from the member countries. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries and it has overall responsibility for the Programme.

During Phase IV (2010–2014), the EUFORGEN objectives are as follows:

1. Promote appropriate use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management to facilitate adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change
2. Develop and promote pan-European gene conservation strategies and improve guidelines for management of gene conservation units and protected areas
3. Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.

EUFORGEN carries out its activities through working groups and workshops. The working groups, each consisting of approximately ten experts, are established by the Steering Committee to address specific issues under Objectives 1 and 2. The Steering Committee also defines the tasks, deadlines and expected outputs for the working groups, whose findings are reported back to the Steering Committee for further action. The results of the working groups are discussed during workshops through which a broader group of experts and stakeholders are engaged in the EUFORGEN activities.

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<sup>1</sup> During the reporting period the coordinator for EUFORGEN was Jarkko Koskela. With effect from 1 November 2015, the EUFORGEN coordinator is now Michele Bozzano.

<sup>2</sup> With effect from 1 December 2006, IPGRI and INIBAP operate under the name "Bioversity International", Bioversity for short.

<sup>3</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Under Objective 3, EUFORGEN is maintaining the EUFGIS Portal and its network of National Focal Points, which was created during the EC-supported project Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources<sup>4</sup> (2007–2011). In addition, the National Coordinators and the EUFORGEN Secretariat contribute to international reporting efforts on FGR.

This document provides highlights of EUFORGEN activities in 2014. It also includes a summary on expenditures and financial contributions in 2014. A detailed financial report for 2014 is available as a separate document and has been sent to the member countries.

## **2. Participation in EUFORGEN**

In 2014, EUFORGEN had a total of 25 member countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom). Romania also joined Phase IV but it is no longer considered a member country due to its outstanding financial contributions for 2010–2011 onwards.

The Secretariat continued the dialogue with non-member countries in Europe and encouraged them to join EUFORGEN. However, no new countries joined the Programme in 2014.

## **3. Pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources**

### **3.1. EUFORGEN working groups**

In 2014, EUFORGEN operated five working groups on the following topics:

1. Assessment of genetic conservation status of forest trees in Europe and development of pan-European genetic conservation strategies
2. Development of genetic monitoring methods for genetic conservation units of forest trees
3. Development of guidelines for the use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change
4. Management of genetic conservation units in the face of climate change
5. Incorporation of conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies.

The tasks and expected outputs of the working groups were agreed by the Steering Committee. Each working group consisted of about ten experts who were selected from the pool of national experts nominated by the National Coordinators (1–3 experts nominated for Objectives 1 and 2). Each member country had at least one expert in these working groups. Other nominated experts (so called ‘e-mail contributors’) had the opportunity to provide their inputs by email and during workshops.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.eufgis.org](http://www.eufgis.org)

### **3.1.1. Working group on genetic conservation strategies**

This working group was tasked by the Steering Committee to:

- review the earlier work done by the EUFORGEN Networks
- carry out an assessment of genetic conservation status for model species based on the EUFGIS data
- carry out a review of knowledge of the genetic diversity of the species
- select the most valuable genetic conservation units from the pan-European perspective
- identify gaps in genetic conservation efforts
- develop genetic conservation strategies at the level of groups of species
- prepare a report on the above.

Progressively improved drafts of the report were presented to the Steering Committee at its 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings.

### **3.1.2. Working group on genetic monitoring**

The working group on genetic monitoring was assigned to prepare:

- synthesis of existing documents
- analyses of EUFGIS and other databases relevant to genetic monitoring purposes
- recommendations for improving EUFGIS data standards for genetic monitoring
- options for genetic monitoring methods, including defining time intervals
- cost assessment of the options for genetic monitoring methods
- a report on the above.

Progressively improved drafts of the report were presented to the Steering Committee at its 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings.

### **3.1.3. Working group on forest reproductive material (FRM)**

The third working group was requested by the Steering Committee to:

- review existing work from EUFORGEN Networks and relevant European projects
- synthesize existing (national) guidelines
- select (widely used) model species
- identify critical factors related to climate change and future needs to transfer FRM
- summarize lessons from provenance trials for seed transfer
- consider if any relevant information should be added to the accompanying documents as specified in relevant schemes covering the movement of FRM
- compile a list of existing models and tools that can be used for future forest management planning and transfer of FRM
- list the issues related to the climate change context
- prepare a report on the above.

Progressively improved drafts of the report were presented to the Steering Committee at its 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings.

### **3.1.4. Working group on FGR conservation and climate change**

The fourth working group was tasked by the Steering Committee to further develop genetic conservation methods (both *in situ* and *ex situ*) in the context of climate change. More specifically, the Steering Committee requested the working group to:

- review relevant outputs of the previous Forest Management Network
- review predictions of climate change and their consequences for conservation of FGR
- review findings on the most threatened tree species and populations
- develop recommendations for management of genetic conservation units
- develop complementary *ex situ* approaches
- prepare a report on the above.

The working group met twice; the first meeting was hosted by Bioversity International in Maccarese, Italy on 18–20 June 2013 and the second one by the Centre for Genetic Resources in Wageningen, Netherlands on 4–6 February 2014. The working group provided an update to the EUFORGEN Steering Committee during its ninth meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 3–5 December 2013. The draft report was presented to the EUFORGEN Steering Committee for review during its tenth meeting. The Steering Committee endorsed the report and asked the working group and the Secretariat to finalize the report for publication.

### **3.1.5. Working group on FGR-related policies**

In 2012, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee requested this working group to review policies related to forest genetic resources as a follow-up to the earlier policy-related work of EUFORGEN. The main tasks of the working group were to explore ways to promote incorporation of the conservation and use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies, and to make recommendations for further action at the pan-European level. More specifically, the Steering Committee requested the working group to:

- review relevant outputs of the previous Forest Management Network
- examine the impact of the Nagoya Protocol and the possible sector-specific approach of access and benefit sharing (ABS) on relevant policies (national or European level)
- prepare advice on FGR for policymakers responsible for revision or development of national forest programmes
- analyse possible implication of a Legally Binding Agreement on forests in Europe on national forest programmes referring to FGR
- analyse the options to incorporate FGR into any relevant European or national policy documents
- review and identify policies and agreements relevant to forest genetic resources
- prepare a report on the above.

The working group held two meetings at Bioversity International in Maccarese, Italy, on 10–12 September 2013 and 20–22 January 2014. The working group provided an update to the EUFORGEN Steering Committee during its 9th meeting, held in Tallinn, Estonia, 3–5 December 2013. The draft report was then presented to the 10th meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, in June 2014. The Steering Committee reviewed the draft report for finalization and publication.

## **3.2. European information system on forest genetic resources (EUFGIS)**

The EUFGIS portal (<http://portal.eufgis.org>) makes available geo-referenced data on the dynamic conservation units of forest trees in Europe. The data is provided and frequently updated by national focal points based on pan-European minimum requirements and data standards for these units. The dataset for each unit consists of 26 unit level and 18 population level data standards. Before entering the data into the database, the national focal points must check that a given unit meets the pan-European minimum requirements for these units. The data standards and the minimum requirements were developed during the EUFGIS project (2007–2011), and they have been endorsed by the EUFORGEN Steering Committee. The minimum requirements also explain how the units should be managed so that they contribute to the dynamic conservation of forest genetic resources. The portal has continued to be maintained and further developed by EUFORGEN after the EU-supported project ended in March 2011.

In 2014, the national focal points in EUFORGEN member and associated countries continued compiling new data on the units and uploading the data into the EUFGIS portal. A total of 45 new genetic conservation units were added into the database in 2014. At the end of 2014, the EUFGIS portal contained data on 3,166 units, which are managed for the genetic conservation of 100 tree species. The units harboured a total of 3,968 tree populations. The number of data providing countries (31) as well as countries with national focal points (36) remained unchanged during 2014.

National focal points have been nominated by Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

## **3.3. EUFORGEN Workshops**

### **3.3.1. Training workshop on FGR Inventories and Databases**

The training workshop was organized in Zagreb, Croatia in March 2014, in collaboration with the department of Forest Genetics, Dendrology and Botany of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Zagreb and it was attended by 27 experts from 25 countries. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the FORGER project. The workshop targeted the EUFGIS national focal points and its main objective was to update the skills of the focal points in managing the EUFGIS database, including the new search engine which provides a link to the Geo-Referenced Database on Genetic Diversity (GD<sup>2</sup>). The EUFGIS-GD<sup>2</sup> search engine ([http://portal.eufgis.org/search/#search\\_gd2](http://portal.eufgis.org/search/#search_gd2)) was developed as part of the FORGER project.

In addition, the workshop participants discussed the uses of EUFGIS and other databases, and how FGR inventories in Europe could be further improved.

The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss progress made in national FGR documentation efforts since the EUFGIS workshop in 2012, to provide training on the EUFGIS Portal and its new features and to provide recommendations for EUFORGEN and the FORGER project.

The workshop developed specific recommendations for the improvement of the EUFGIS portal and Intranet, for the EUFORGEN Steering Committee.

For the further improvement of the EUFGIS **portal**, it was recommended to allow the visualization of species distribution maps (plain and classified according to Metzger 2013), when plotting the EUFGIS Units of the given species. It was also suggested to develop a video tutorial explaining how to use the portal. In addition, it was suggested to display on the portal the units' environmental classification.

For the further improvement of the EUFGIS **Intranet**, the workshop recommended that:

- the Units' environmental classification should be assigned and made visible in the Intranet as soon as a new unit is entered in the system
- The selection of the core network units (i.e. based on the "Pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest trees and establishment of a core network of dynamic conservation units") should be made visible in the Intranet
- Replacement of the unit and/or suggestion for additional units should be possible from the Intranet
- Make possible to store additional information on the unit when available (like published material) and allow the possibility to add links if the unit was subject of any study or research
- Add possibility to add pictures of the unit
- Add a field to record extreme event that have affected the unit
- Add a field to state why the unit was removed from the database
- Add the possibility to enter Polygon coordinates of the unit and derivate the climatic variables from the polygon
- Update the user manual as appropriate
- Explore the possibility of creating a link with more accurate climatic and soil databases when available

The workshop also developed specific recommendations for the EUFORGEN Steering Committee:

- In case of a horizon 2020 project it is perceived crucial to use EUFGIS database for storing data on monitoring (or by proper linking EUFGIS to a new external database)
- Data should be made downloadable from the portal (i.e. 'data sharing agreement' to be finalized and signed)
- Resources for a EUFGIS Focal Points meeting every 2 years should be allocated
- EUFORGEN National Coordinators are encouraged to support the work of the EUFGIS Focal Points to make sure that all units from national datasets are uploaded in the database.
- National Coordinators should consider including marginal tree populations in the core network (with proper flagging)
- Information, from published work, on the level of quantitative variation (heritability values) might be of use as indicate of the adaptive potential of the population.

In addition the workshop participants stressed the importance of acknowledging the work of the EUFGIS National Focal Points when using EUFGIS data.

### **3.4. Development of EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines**

No new technical guidelines were published in 2014. The technical guidelines published so far (32 in total) and the distribution maps are available from the EUFORGEN website ([www.euforgen.org](http://www.euforgen.org)).

## **4. Activities of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee held its tenth meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 16 to 18 June 2014. In addition to reviewing the draft reports of the working groups, the National Coordinators reviewed the progress made by the Programme to analyse current and future needs for international cooperation on forest genetic resources in Europe and endorsed the continuation of EUFORGEN. The following chapters summarize the main activities and discussion points of the Steering Committee in 2014.

### **4.1. Review of progress made during 2013–2014**

During its tenth meeting, the Steering Committee reviewed the technical and financial reports for 2013 and discussed the 2014 update presented by the Secretariat. The Steering Committee noted that EUFORGEN has made good progress in its activities and thanked the Secretariat for the prudent management of financial resources. The Steering Committee also adopted the technical and financial reports for 2013.

### **4.2. State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) released the first State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report in June 2014. This global report was developed based on the data provided by 86 countries, covering over 85% of the global forest area, and several thematic studies commissioned by FAO. The global report highlights the EUFGIS Portal and the EUFORGEN programme as models for information systems and regional collaboration on forest genetic resources.

Nineteen European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine) submitted their country reports to FAO. These reports are available from the FAO website ([www.fao.org/3/a-i3825e/i3825e01.htm](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3825e/i3825e01.htm)) and from the country pages of the EUFORGEN website: [www.euforgen.org/member-countries](http://www.euforgen.org/member-countries).

### **4.3. Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management**

The FOREST EUROPE process in 2014 opened the existing set of pan-European criteria and indicators (C&I) for revision. Indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM) are a useful tool for forest policy formulation and decision making, forest monitoring, and communication. In Europe, a first set of indicators for SFM was adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> FOREST EUROPE in Lisbon in 1998. The original set was reviewed and improved at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference, in Vienna in 2003. In 2014 FOREST EUROPE signatories decided to update the pan-European set of indicators for SFM. A comprehensive and intensive process involving FOREST EUROPE signatories and observer organizations was scheduled for the first half of 2015, in order to present the updated set at the 7<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in Madrid in October 2015.

#### **4.4. Development of a proposal for the Horizon 2020 call on management and sustainable use of genetic resources - SFS-7B-2015**

Horizon 2020, the EU Research and Innovation programme, opened for a call in 2014 on ‘Genetic resources and agricultural diversity for food security, productivity and resilience: Management and sustainable use of genetic resources (SFS-7B-2015)’. Bioversity (representing EUFORGEN) has been invited by the INRA (leading institution in the person of Bruno Fady<sup>5</sup>), to be part of a consortium developing a proposal titled “Optimising the management and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe (GenTree)”. Bioversity International was also asked to lead the work package on dissemination to ensure strong collaboration with the EUFORGEN community.

The planned work package on FGR conservation builds on the earlier EUFORGEN work and the project proposal, if accepted, can provide some financial resources for further development of the EUFGIS database and/or EUFORGEN meetings.

#### **4.5. Development of a proposal for EUFORGEN Phase V**

At its ninth meeting, held in Tallinn, Estonia on 3–5 December 2013, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee reviewed the progress made during Phase IV (2010-2014) and concluded that the Programme had produced several important outputs, such as the EUFGIS database, a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees and a pan-European protocol for genetic monitoring of selected conservation units. The Steering Committee considered that follow-up work was needed to implement these initiatives and to keep the EUFGIS database up to date. It also took note of the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of FGR (GPA-FGR) by the FAO Conference in June 2013. Subsequently, the Steering Committee decided to establish a task force consisting of six National Coordinators, namely François Lefèvre (France), Bernd Degen (Germany), Giuseppe Scarascia-Mugnozza (Italy), Tor Myking (Norway), Hojka Kraigher (Slovenia) and Gaye Kandemir (Turkey), to prepare a proposal for Phase V (2015-2019). The task force met at Bioversity International in Maccaresse, Italy on 19–20 February 2014 and held several additional telephone meetings. The proposal presented an implementation plan of EUFORGEN Phase V, including the mandate, the scope and objectives, the mode of operation and the budget.

During the 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting, the National Coordinators endorsed the continuation of EUFORGEN.

During Phase V, EUFORGEN will continue the pan-European implementation of Strasbourg Resolution 2 and other relevant FOREST EUROPE commitments on forest genetic resources. Furthermore, the Programme will contribute to the implementation of relevant decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GPA-FGR. EUFORGEN will operate as before through working groups and workshops but with updated objectives. The Programme will disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe, coordinate the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe, and prepare analyses on topics and issues relevant for the use of forest genetic resources. EUFORGEN will also continue to maintain the EUFGIS information system.

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<sup>5</sup> Institut national de la recherche agronomique (INRA) - Ecologie des Forêts Méditerranéennes (URFM), Avignon, France



## **5. Activities of the EUFORGEN Secretariat**

### **5.1. Inputs to the working group and workshops**

The Secretariat coordinated the activities of the five working groups and took care of the practical arrangements for the two working group meetings that took place in 2014. Furthermore, the Secretariat staff contributed to the preparation of the reports of the working groups and carried out supporting literature reviews and GIS analyses. In 2014, the Secretariat also organized one European training workshop on forest genetic resource inventories and databases.

### **5.2. Maintenance of the EUFGIS portal and related activities**

The Secretariat continued to provide helpdesk support to the EUFGIS national focal points in 2014. The EUFGIS portal was also further improved as part of the FORGER project. In addition, the Secretariat continued screening the quality of the data entered into the EUFGIS database and communicated any referred inconsistencies or problems in the national datasets to the national focal points for their action.

### **5.3. FORGER project**

The FORGER project (Towards the Sustainable Management of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe) started in March 2012 for a period of four years. The project is coordinated by Alterra (The Netherlands) and the consortium includes BFW (Austria), Metla (Finland), INRA (France), vTI (Germany), EMK (Hungary), CNR (Italy) and UKW (Poland) in addition to Bioversity International. The project aims to integrate and extend existing knowledge to provide science-based recommendations on the management and sustainable use of FGR for the EC, policymakers, forest managers, and managers of protected areas. The project has five objectives: (1) improve and analyse FGR inventories in Europe, (2) develop a common protocol for measuring and monitoring genetic diversity, (3) analyse past, current and future use and management of FGR, (4) provide improved tools, guidelines and recommendations, and (5) disseminate and communicate the results to stakeholders. The total budget of the project is € 3.8 million of which the EC contribution is € 3 million.

Bioversity International (EUFORGEN Secretariat) leads the work package on communication, dissemination and knowledge transfer and contributes to two other work packages (one on improving FGR inventories in Europe and the second on developing tools, guidelines and recommendations).

EUFORGEN is considered a key stakeholder of the project. The Steering Committee has nominated two National Coordinators to serve in the External Advisory Board of the project. The EUFORGEN working groups and the EUFGIS national focal points have been engaged in knowledge transfer activities during 2014 (Training workshop on forest genetic resources Inventories and Databases).

The annual meeting of the project was in Wageningen, the Netherlands, 2–3 April. The project partners shared their results and discussed the progress made. The External Advisory Board of the project was also invited to participate in the annual meeting. Further information on the project is available on the FORGER website ([www.fp7-forger.eu](http://www.fp7-forger.eu)).

## **5.4. Inputs to the FOREST EUROPE process and related work**

In 2014, the EUFORGEN Coordinator attended several FOREST EUROPE process related events: i) Expert Level Meeting in Valladolid, Spain, on 4–5 February 2014, ii) Round Table on updating the Sustainable Forest Management Tools, Cuenca, Spain, 3 November 2014, iii) Round Table on Topics for the 7th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference, Cuenca, Spain, 4–5 November 2014, iv) Expert Level Meeting for the preparations of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference, Cuenca, Spain, 6–7 November 2014. Bioversity International is an observer of this process and EUFORGEN is also included in the work programme as one of the international activities supportive to the follow-up of the Oslo Ministerial Conference held in June 2011. The work programme and the minutes of all the meetings are available on the FOREST EUROPE website ([www.foresteuropa.org](http://www.foresteuropa.org)).

### **5.4.1. Side event in conjunction with FOREST EUROPE meetings**

The EUFORGEN Secretariat and the Liaison Unit Madrid of the FOREST EUROPE process organized a side event in Cuenca, Spain on 3 November 2014. The side event was an opportunity to present to FOREST EUROPE delegates of signatory countries and international experts the EUFORGEN Programme and to explain how it contributes to the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe.

Jarkko Koskela (EUFORGEN Coordinator at that time) provided an overview of the history and activities of the Programme, other members of the EUFORGEN community also contributed to the event: Sven de Vries, from the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands, presented the new pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees in detail. Kjersti Bakkebo Fjellstad, from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, highlighted the implications of global, European and national policies for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources. Lastly, Ricardo Alía of the Forest Research Centre of INIA, Spain, summarized his experiences with the activities and achievements of EUFORGEN.

The side event was attended by 18 participants. It is relevant to note the fact that EUFORGEN was referred to as a successful example of pan-European technical collaboration.

The summary and presentations of the side event are available on the FOREST EUROPE website:

<http://www.foresteuropa.org/news/pan-european-collaboration-forest-genetic-resources-celebrated-cuenca-spain>

## **5.5. Collaboration with FAO**

The Secretariat staff attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Committee on Forestry (COFO) on 23–27 June 2014 and contributed to a side event on the ‘Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR): examples of national, regional and international activities’ organized by FAO, Bioversity International and the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The EUFORGEN Coordinator gave a presentation on ‘Development and implementation of regional conservation strategies: the example of the EUFORGEN Programme’. This event aimed to give the COFO-22 delegates an opportunity to learn more about the GPA-FGR and ongoing activities at the national, regional and global levels that contribute to its implementation.

## **5.6. Publications and public awareness efforts**

Brief news updates on forest genetic resources in Europe were released on the EUFORGEN and EUFGIS websites. The National Coordinators were also asked to provide content for the country pages of the EUFORGEN website. Publications and other relevant national information are displayed on the country pages.

### **5.8.1. Video to celebrate 20 years of the Programme**

To celebrate its anniversary, EUFORGEN Secretariat has produced a short film in which two National Coordinators - Sven de Vries (Netherlands) and Jason Hubert (United Kingdom) – present some achievements of EUFORGEN and explain why continued regional collaboration on forest genetic resources is needed.

The video is available from EUFORGEN website or directly from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yp3SVe41XDI>

## **6. Wider influences of EUFORGEN**

### **6.1. EVOLTREE Network**

In 2014, the EUFORGEN Secretariat continued its collaboration with the EVOLTREE Network (Evolution of Trees as Drivers of Terrestrial Biodiversity) which operates under the European Forest Institute (EFI). The EVOLTREE Network maintains the common research infrastructures (databases and intensive study sites) which were established during the EC-funded project of the same name in 2006–2010 and provides training (short courses and summer schools). Currently the Network has 23 member institutes (including Bioversity International) and all interested institutes are welcome to join it. The EVOLTREE annual meeting took place in Prague, Czech Republic on 26 August 2014. Further information on EVOLTREE activities is available from its website ([www.evoltree.eu](http://www.evoltree.eu)).

## **7. Financial summary for 2014**

In January 2014, the opening balance of the EUFORGEN trust fund was US\$ 182,878. During 2014, Bioversity International received a total of US\$ 298,105 as financial contributions from member countries. In December 2014, the outstanding contributions for Phase IV were US\$ 46,750 (Spain (2013 and 2014), Greece (2014) and Romania (2010 and 2011)) The Secretariat has reminded these countries regarding their outstanding financial contributions.

The outstanding contributions for Phase III (2005–2009) were US\$ 33,700. At the Tenth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, held in Edinburgh, UK, 16–18 June 2014, it was agreed that “the outstanding financial contributions of Georgia, Iceland, FYR Macedonia, Moldova and Portugal for Phase III (2005-2009) will be written off”.

In 2014, the Secretariat continued prudent management of the financial resources as the number of member countries (25) was still lower than expected (31). Furthermore, the FORGER project covered some EUFORGEN expenditures (e.g. Secretariat staff time, and maintenance and further development of EUFGIS).

The planned budget for 2014 was US\$ 411,320 but the actual total expenditure in 2014 was only US\$ 318,743. The closing balance of the trust fund was US\$ 162,240 on 31 December 2014 and it was carried forward for 2015. A detailed financial report for 2014 is available as a separate document and has been sent to the member countries.

## **8. Publications resulting from EUFORGEN/EUFGIS work**

Collin E., Bozzano M., 2014. Implementing the dynamic conservation of elm genetic resources in Europe: case studies and perspectives. *iForest* 586- 591. doi: 10.3832/ifor1206-008

Koskela, J., Vinceti, B., Dvorak, W., Bush, D., Dawson, I.K., Loo, J., Kjaer, E.D., Navarro, C., Padolina, C., Bordács, S., et al., 2014. Utilization and transfer of forest genetic resources: a global review. *For. Ecol. Manage.* 333, 22–34.