

European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) Phase IV (2010-2014)

Technical report and financial summary for 2010

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1. Introduction

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is a collaborative programme between European countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. 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 Resolution V4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe) (2003) and the Warsaw Declaration (2007). The FOREST EUROPE Work Programme (adopted in 2008) includes two specific actions on forest genetic resources that support the follow-up of the Warsaw Conference, 1) promotion of conservation and use of forest genetic resources through EUFORGEN to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe, and 2) establishment of a European information system on forest genetic resources (EUFGIS).

EUFORGEN is financed by its member countries and coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The 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 the overall responsibility of the Programme.

On 1 January 2010, EUFORGEN started its fourth phase with slightly revised objectives and a new mode of operation, following the decisions taken by the Steering Committee during its sixth meeting held in Thessaloniki, Greece on 9-12 June 2009. The new objectives of the Programme for Phase IV 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; and
3. Collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.

Instead of the earlier networks, the EUFORGEN now carries out its activities through smaller working groups and workshops. The working groups consist of approximately ten persons and they are established by the Steering Committee to address specific issues under Objectives 1 and 2. It will also define the tasks, deadlines and expected outputs for the working groups, which then report

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

their findings to the Steering Committee for further action. The results of the working groups will be also discussed during workshops through which a broader group of experts and stakeholders will be engaged into the EUFORGEN activities. Regarding Objective 3, the Steering Committee decided that EUFORGEN will maintain the EUFGIS Portal and the network of National Focal Points that were created during the EC-supported project (Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources) (2007-2011).

This document provides highlights of the EUFORGEN activities in 2010. It also includes a summary on expenditures and financial contributions in 2010. A detailed financial report for 2010 is available as a separate document and it has been sent to the member countries.

2. Participation in EUFORGEN

In November 2009, the EUFORGEN Secretariat contacted all Phase III member countries and invited them to join Phase IV of the Programme (2010-2014). Several potential new member countries (e.g. Belarus, Latvia, Ukraine and Russian Federation) were also approached and their interest to join the Programme was inquired. By December 2010, a total of 26 countries had officially joined Phase IV and returned a signed copy of the Letter of Agreement to the Secretariat. These countries are Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

Of the Phase III member countries, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Iceland and Portugal did not renew their membership for Phase IV due to financial constraints. The Secretariat continued the dialogue with these countries and encouraged them to re-join the Programme. No new countries joined the Programme in 2010.

3. Pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources

3.1. Development of EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines

In 2010, national experts continued preparing the Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use of European tree species. These six-page guidelines summarize the latest scientific knowledge of the species, including distribution maps, for practical forest managers. Drafts text of six new Technical Guidelines (Mediterranean firs (*Abies* spp.), Macedonian pine (*P. peuce*), European white poplar (*Populus alba*), Turkey oak (*Q. cerris*), Hungarian oak (*Q. frainetto*) and pubescent oak (*Quercus pubescens*) were further improved by the authoring experts and/or peer-reviewed by other experts. However, no new guidelines were printed in 2010 as Bioversity decided to outsource all editing and layout work as part of the re-organization of its Communication and External Relations Unit. This caused some delays to the editing and layout process of the Technical Guidelines. All published Technical Guidelines, including distribution maps, are available from the EUFORGEN website (www.euforgen.org).

Several countries also continued the translation of selected guidelines into their national languages or published articles based on them in professional forestry magazines. The EUFORGEN Secretariat

facilitated the translation process in different countries by providing a publication template (based on the InDesign software) and instructions, when requested. The translation and production work was done by national institutions and experts. As part of the translation process, several countries also developed an additional factsheet providing national-level information for a given species. Table 1 shows a list of tree species for which translated guidelines are available. Requests for the translated guidelines should be addressed to the national coordinators.

Table 1. List of EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines translated into national languages by the countries (X denotes guidelines translated in 2010, X those translated earlier).

Species	Dutch	French	German	Italian	Slovenian	Spanish
<i>Abies alba</i>		X		X	X	X
<i>Acer campestre</i>				X		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>				X		
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>				X		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>				X		X
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>					X	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>				X		
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>				X		
<i>Picea abies</i>				X	X	
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>				X		X
<i>Pinus nigra</i>		X	X	X		X
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>		X		X		
<i>Pinus pinea</i>				X		X
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>					X	
<i>Populus nigra</i>	X			X	X	X
<i>Prunus avium</i>				X	X	
<i>Quercus petraea</i>				X	X	X
<i>Quercus robur</i>				X	X	X
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>				X		
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>				X		
<i>Tilia</i> spp.				X		
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>		X				

3.2. Development of a European information system on forest genetic resources

The national EUFGIS focal points finalized their work on compiling and uploading data on dynamic conservation units of forest trees in their countries to the EUFGIS database. The datasets for each unit consist of 26 unit level and 18 population level data standards. Before entering the data into the database, the national focal points checked that the units meet the pan-European minimum requirements for dynamic conservation units of forest trees. Both the data standards and the minimum requirements were developed as part of the EUFGIS project in collaboration with EUFORGEN. The minimum requirements also explain how the units should be managed so that they contribute to dynamic conservation of forest genetic resources. In addition to the EUFORGEN member countries, several non-member countries (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Latvia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Portugal and Ukraine) have also nominated their national focal points to EUFGIS.

The EUFGIS Portal (<http://portal.eufgis.org>) was launched at the final project meeting held in Vienna, Austria on 13-15 September 2010. This new tool for conservation of forest genetic resources makes available, for the first time, geo-referenced and standardized data on the genetic conservation units across Europe. In September 2010, the EUFGIS database contained data on about 2300 units and nearly 100 tree species. During the meeting, preliminary results of the project were also presented to the national focal points and other relevant end-users and stakeholders. Furthermore, the meeting participants also discussed the maintenance and further development of the EUFGIS Portal after the end of the project. The summary report of the final project meeting is available from the project website (www.eufgis.org).

The EUFGIS project and especially the pan-European minimum requirements have prompted many European countries to improve the management of their forest genetic resources and to better document their conservation units. The minimum requirements have been particularly useful for countries with limited budgets and human resources by focusing their efforts to key management issues. In other countries, they have increased collaboration between forest owners and managers, forest geneticists and the broader biodiversity conservation community. The minimum requirements have also contributed to strengthening of regular monitoring of genetic conservation units by relevant national agencies.

4. Activities of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held its seventh meeting in Vienna, Austria on 16-17 September 2010 and it discussed a number of technical and policy issues related to the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe, in addition to the EUFORGEN work. The meeting was originally scheduled to be organized in Rome, Italy on 20-22 April 2010 but it was cancelled due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland that halted most European flights for several days during that week of April. The following chapters provide brief information on selected topics of the meeting. The full report of the Steering Committee meeting is available on the EUFORGEN website (www.euforgen.org).

4.1. Development of EUFORGEN Work Plan

The Steering Committee decided to establish three working groups on the following topics for 2011-2012:

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

The Steering Committee also developed a detailed list of expected outputs for each working group and deadlines for them to present their results. The working groups will consist of a maximum of 10 experts selected from the pool of national experts nominated by the National Coordinators (1-3 experts for Objectives 1 and 2). Each member country will have at least one expert attending the

working group meetings during Phase IV and the rest of the experts will have an opportunity to contribute the work by email and during workshops.

The Steering Committee further decided that a workshop on conservation of forest genetic resources will be organized in September 2012, and that the first and second working groups should present their results during this workshop. The third working group will present its results to the Steering Committee at its next meeting in November 2012.

4.2. Collection of information on forest genetic resources in Europe

The Steering Committee discussed the request from the UNECE and the Liaison Unit Oslo of the Forest Europe to collect data for Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) of the pan-European criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management. The data will be published in the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report, which is being prepared for the Oslo Ministerial Conference.

The Steering Committee revisited the three categories of data which are collected for Indicator 4.6, i.e. area managed for conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ* gene conservation) and area managed for seed production. It was agreed that the EUFORGEN Secretariat will send each National Coordinator an Excel file which they should then fill in with the requested data based on the situation in their country in 2010. The Secretariat will also contact its focal points in non-member countries and invite them to contribute to the process. The Steering Committee encouraged all National Coordinators and focal points to provide their contributions to the data collection process.

4.3. Use of forest genetic resources

The Steering Committee discussed tentative results of a NordGen project, titled as "Searching for appropriate legislation regulating access and exclusive rights to forest genetic resources in the Nordic countries". This one-year project reviewed international legislation and issues that are relevant to access and rights to forest genetic resources, as well as the specific situation and legislation in four Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). The project report is now available from the website of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (<http://www.fni.no/doc&pdf/FNI-R0911.pdf>).

The Steering Committee expressed its interest in the Nordic initiative and noted that access and benefit sharing issues are also increasingly discussed in other European countries. Access and benefit sharing issues were considered important and highly relevant due to the ongoing negotiation process on access and benefit sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Steering Committee recommended that EUFORGEN should closely follow the international negotiation process on access and benefit sharing as it has potentially strong implications for the exchange and use of forest genetic resources in Europe the future.

Regarding forest reproductive material (FRM), the Steering Committee noted that the problem is that most countries do not collect and maintain records on where FRM, imported or not, is used within a country while the exchange of FRM between countries is usually documented by relevant

national authorities. However, the exchange data remains scattered at national level and the past or current FRM exchange has not been analyzed at the pan-European level. The Steering Committee concluded that the transfer of FRM has a role to play in facilitating adaptation of forests to climate change and that EUFORGEN should try to develop guidelines for using and transferring FRM in the context of climate change, even if no comprehensive data is available on the current use of FRM within countries.

4.4. State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report

FAO presented its plans for the development of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report and invited the Steering Committee to comment the planned process. FAO had sent an official request for nomination of national focal points for the SoW-FGR report to its member countries in April 2010. The National Coordinators were urged to follow up the nomination process with relevant ministries. The national focal points are then expected to coordinate the preparation of the country reports for FAO. The country reporting guidelines are available on the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/21933-1-0.pdf>). In addition to the country reports, the SoW-FGR will be based on thematic studies and inputs from international organizations. The SoW-FGR report will be presented to the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) in 2013.

FAO further informed the Steering Committee that the 12th Session of CGRFA, held in 2009, had established a new Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR). This working group will oversee the development of the SoW-FGR report and it has a total of 27 members, including five European countries (Finland, France, Italy, Norway and Spain). The first meeting of the ITWG-FGR is scheduled for April 2011.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to FAO for keeping it updated on the development of the SoW-FGR report. It also noted that SoW-FGR report will be an important milestone for the work on forest genetic resources at the global level. The Steering Committee encouraged all National Coordinators to follow up the nomination of the focal points and the preparation of the country reports in their country. The Steering Committee also recommended that all countries in Europe contribute to the development of the SoW-FGR report.

5. Activities of the EUFORGEN Secretariat

5.1. Inputs to the FOREST EUROPE process

The EUFORGEN Coordinator attended two Expert Level meetings of the FOREST EUROPE process (Oslo, 23-24 March 2010 and Geneva, 14-15 December 2010) which started the preparations for the sixth Ministerial Conference to be held in Oslo in June 2011. The discussions focused on the future direction and role of the FOREST EUROPE process, and especially whether European countries should launch a negotiating process for a legally binding agreement on forests in the pan-European region after the Oslo Conference. These discussions led to a decision to prepare concrete options on the future of the FOREST EUROPE process for ministers to decide at the Oslo Conference. Further information is available on the FOREST EUROPE website (www.foresteuropa.org).

In 2010, the EUFORGEN Secretariat also contributed to preparations of the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report. The process was led by the UNECE/FAO Timber Section (Geneva) and the Liaison Unit Oslo with inputs from a range of experts and organisations. Large part of the data for the report was collected through the national correspondents of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment. Similarly to the previous reports, the EUFORGEN Secretariat was asked to collect the data for Indicator 4.6 (forest genetic resources) and to provide written inputs to the report. As part of the reporting work, the EUFORGEN Coordinator attended two meetings of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on monitoring of sustainable forest management, held in Ispra, Italy on 26-28 January 2010 and in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-17 December 2010.

In December 2010, the Liaison Unit Oslo also invited the EUFORGEN Secretariat to prepare a summary of the implementation of the Strasbourg Resolution 2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) during the period of 2007-2011.

5.2. Coordination of the EUFGIS project

The EUFORGEN Secretariat continued coordinating the implementation of the EUFGIS project (Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources). In addition to Bioversity International, the project partners included the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW) (Austria), the Danish Nature Agency (Denmark), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) (France), the National Forest Centre (NLC) (Slovakia), the Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI) (Slovenia) and Forest Research (UK). The project was launched on 1 April 2007 for a period of 3.5 years and in 2010, it was extended until March 2011. It was co-funded by the European Commission (EC) (€553,860, 50% of the total budget) under the Council Regulation No 870/2004 on genetic resources in agriculture (DG Agriculture and Rural Development) and implemented in close collaboration with all EUFORGEN member countries and several associated countries. Further information is available on the project website (www.eufgis.org).

The project partners discussed the development of the EUFGIS Portal during the third meeting of the Project Steering Group, held at Bioversity in Maccaresse, Italy on 2-3 February 2010. The project partners also reviewed the functionality of the existing portals, such as the EURISCO catalogue on *ex situ* collections of plant genetic resources in Europe (<http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>), the System-wide Information Network for Genetic Resources (SINGER) of the CGIAR Centres (<http://singer.grinfo.net>) and the Crop Wild Relatives Portal (<http://www.cropwildrelatives.org>). Furthermore, they also reviewed other relevant databases, such as the Data Portal of the Global Bioversity Information Facility (GBIF), the World Database on Protected Areas (<http://www.wdpa.org>) and the European Forest Data Centre (EFDAC) (<http://efdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu>).

After the meeting, the EUFORGEN Secretariat continued the development of the EUFGIS Portal in collaboration with informatics specialists at Bioversity. The EUFGIS central database and the intranet were already created in 2009. In 2010, the functionality of the database and the intranet was further improved based on the feedback received from the national focal points during four sub-regional training workshops held in 2009. The Secretariat also continued providing technical support on the use of the database and the intranet to the national focal points.

The EUFGIS Portal (<http://portal.eufgis.org>) was launched at the final project meeting held in Vienna, Austria on 13-15 September 2010. After the final meeting, the project partners continued improving the functionality of the EUFGIS Portal and finalizing other project activities. In 2010, the project partners also carried out numerous dissemination efforts targeted to forest managers, conservation specialists and the scientific community.

5.3. Collaboration with the European Union

In 2009, the Steering Committee discussed ways to increase collaboration between EUFORGEN and the European Union, which is also a signatory of the FOREST EUROPE commitments, including Strasbourg Resolution 2. This was considered important as issues related to forest genetic resources are handled in a rather fragmented way within the EC. Several National Coordinators stressed that it would be important for the Steering Committee to approach the Standing Forestry Committee to highlight the importance of the conservation and use of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management. The Steering Committee also recognized that the Working Party on Forestry of the Council of the European Union is another important body to collaborate with. The Steering Committee encouraged the National Coordinators in the EU Member States to keep their country's representative in the Standing Forestry Committee informed about the EUFORGEN activities.

As a follow-up to these discussions, EUFORGEN organized, in collaboration with the Polish Science Contact Agency (PoISCA), a round-table meeting on forest genetic resources in Brussels on 8 February 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss European collaboration in this area and opportunities for better incorporation of forest genetic resources into research, environment, agricultural and rural development policies of the EC. The meeting was attended by several officers from different EC units and other stakeholders. The list of participants and presentations are available on the PoISCA website (www.polsca.eu, see 'Passed events').

The interactions between the EUFORGEN Secretariat and the EC continued throughout 2010 in the context of the EUFGIS project. Furthermore, the EUFORGEN Coordinator was invited by the DG Agriculture and Rural Development to attend the 24th meeting of the AGRI GEN RES Committee and to present the results of the EUFGIS project. In addition to the AGRI GEN RES projects, the meeting also discussed country-specific actions on genetic resources in agriculture (including forest trees) supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to implement the EC's Rural Development Policy. Furthermore, the meeting participants exchanged views and ideas concerning the future of the AGRI GEN RES Programme. However, it was noted that the EC will formally make decisions on a possible new programme after the evaluation of the current programme has been carried out in late 2011 or early 2012.

5.4. Publications and public awareness efforts

The Secretariat supported the national experts in their efforts to prepare the new Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use of European tree species. In addition to coordinating the editing process and commenting draft texts, the Secretariat also compiled new species distribution

maps and updated some of the earlier developed maps. New arrangements for the language editing and layout work were also explored following the changes at Bioversity. The Secretariat also continued facilitating the translation of selected guidelines by the countries into their national languages.

In 2010, the Secretariat continued maintaining and improving the EUFORGEN and EUFGIS websites, which also provide brief news on forest genetic resources in Europe. The National Coordinators have been asked to develop content for the country pages of the EUFORGEN website, which provide a brief overview of how forest genetic resources are managed in a given country. Publications and other relevant national information are also displayed on the country pages. Several interviews of the project partners were prepared during the final EUFGIS meeting and these are available on the EUFGIS website.

The EUFORGEN activities were also reported in several articles of Bioversity's Regional Newsletter for Europe in 2010. The Newsletter serves as an informal forum for the exchange of news and views within the genetic resources community in Europe.

5.5. Other activities

The EUFORGEN Coordinator attended the final meeting of COST E52 Action on "Evaluation of Beech Genetic Resources for Sustainable Forestry", held in Burgos, Spain on 4-6 May 2010, and delivered a presentation on genetic conservation efforts of beech (*Fagus sylvestris*) in Europe. The abstract of the presentation is available in the Book of Abstracts of the meeting (pp. 71) (<http://sites.google.com/site/beecheeting/>) and the full presentation on the EUFGIS website (www.eufgis.org).

In September 2010, the EUFORGEN Secretariat contributed to the organization of two events held in Vienna in conjunction with the final meeting of the EUFGIS project. On 13 September 2010, NordGen Forest organized a dissemination seminar of the NordGen Forest project (Access and rights to forest genetic resources in the Nordic region) titled as "Who owns the genes of the forest trees?". On 15 September 2010, the Federal Research Centre for Forest, Natural Hazards, and Landscape (BFW) organized a seminar on genetic aspects of biodiversity conservation and forest management in collaboration with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The summaries of the two events are available on the EUFORGEN website (http://www.euforgen.org/about_euforgen/news_archive.html).

The EUFORGEN Coordinator attended as an observer the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry at FAO in Rome on 4 October 2010. The EUFORGEN Coordinator was also invited by FAO to deliver a presentation at the World Forestry Week Session on Biodiversity during the COFO meeting. The presentation highlighting the EUFORGEN and EUFGIS work is available at the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cofo/65260/en/>).

In autumn 2010, the EUFORGEN Secretariat also contributed to the development of a project proposal for a call (KBBE.2011.1.1-04: Sustaining and managing forest tree genetic resources) under the EC's Knowledge Based Bio-economy (KBBE) Programme. The proposal development was 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. The proposal, titled as “Towards the Sustainable Management of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe”, was submitted to the EC on 25 January 2011. If successful, the project will provide some additional funding for EUFORGEN activities, including the maintenance and further development of the EUFGIS Portal.

6. Wider influences of EUFORGEN

6.1. EVOLTREE Network of Excellence

The EUFORGEN Secretariat continued collaboration with the EVOLTREE project (Evolution of Trees as Drivers of Terrestrial Biodiversity), which is a consortium of 25 research institutes (including Bioversity International) from 15 European countries. The EVOLTREE project was coordinated by INRA (France) and funded by the EC under the sixth framework programme for research. Bioversity International led the dissemination activities of the project.

The EUFORGEN Secretariat provided inputs to the preparations of an international conference on forest ecosystem genomics and adaptation, which was organized by EVOLTREE in San Lorenzo del Escorial, Spain on 9-11 June 2010. The conference included a stakeholder session during which the implications of the EVOLTREE research findings for developing relevant policies and implementing sustainable forest management were discussed. Earlier the Secretariat had contributed to the establishment of the EVOLTREE stakeholder group which consisted of forest managers, conservation agencies, associations of forest owners and forest industry and other non-governmental organizations. The Secretariat also contributed to the preparation of a conference report for publication in the *Tree Genetics and Genome* journal.

The EVOLTREE project ended in September 2010 but some of its activities are continued by the new EVOLTREE Network. It maintains the common research infrastructures established during the project (e.g. databases and intensive studies sites) and provides training (e.g. short courses and summer schools). Further information is available on the EVOLTREE website (www.evoltree.eu).

6.2. FORESTTRAC project

In 2010, the EUFORGEN Secretariat also collaborated with the FORESTTRAC project (Forest Ecosystem Genomics Research: Supporting Transatlantic Cooperation), which is a coordination and support action (2010-2011) funded by the EC’s seventh framework programme for research. The main aim of the project is to prepare a strategic research roadmap between Europe and North America on the adaptation of forest trees to climate changes by linking different disciplines (ecology, genetics, genomics and evolution). The project is coordinated by INRA (France) and it has a total of 11 partners from Europe, Canada and the USA, including Bioversity.

The EUFORGEN Coordinator participated in the project kick-off meeting in Paris on 4-5 March 2010 and later provided some inputs to the development of a review on relevant projects, programmes and research infrastructures in Europe and North America. More information on FORESTTRAC is available on the project website (www.foresttract.eu).

7. Financial summary for 2010

In January 2010, the opening balance of the EUFORGEN trust fund was US\$ 50,810. During 2010, Bioversity International received a total of US\$ 333,982 as financial contributions from the member countries (US\$ 299,500 for 2010 and US\$ 34,482 as outstanding contributions for 2009). In December 2010, the outstanding contributions for 2010 were US\$ 22,000 (Greece, Romania and Serbia) and US\$ 40,575 for Phase III (2005-2009) (Belgium (Flemish Region), Georgia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Portugal). The Secretariat has reminded these member countries regarding their outstanding financial contributions.

The Secretariat continued prudent management of the financial resources during 2010. As the number of Phase IV member countries (26) is lower than expected (31), some spending cuts were also implemented. Additional savings were generated by organizing the Steering Committee meeting in conjunction with the final meeting of the EUFGIS project. Furthermore, European projects (EUFGIS, EVOLTREE and FORESTTRAC) covered some Secretariat staff time in 2010.

The estimated budget for 2010 was US\$ 371,770 but the actual total expenditure in 2010 was only US\$ 195,991. The closing balance of the trust fund was US\$ 188,801 on 31 December 2010 and it was carried forward for 2011. A detailed financial report for 2010 is available as a separate document and it has been sent to the member countries.