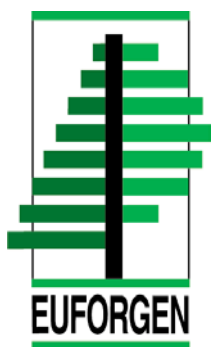




European Forest Genetic Resources Programme

Report of the fourth Steering Committee meeting

26–29 May 2004, Židlochovice, Czech Republic



European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)



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Cover photos:

Top left: Norway spruce gene reserve forest at Koli National Park, Finland (Teijo Nikkanen / EUFORGEN Conifers Network)

Bottom left: Beech forest, Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (Frank Wolter / EUFORGEN Temperate Oaks and Beech Network)

Top right: Horse skidding of Norway spruce, Sweden (Lennart Ackzell / EUFORGEN Conifers Network)

Bottom right: Cherries in pollination bags after controlled crossing, Belgium (Bart De Cuyper / EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network)

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Report of the fourth Steering Committee meeting

Opening of the meeting

E. Teissier du Cros opened the meeting and welcomed EUFORGEN National Coordinators and National Focal Persons from 30 countries, as well as participants from the European Commission (EC) and other international organizations. On behalf of the host country, K. Vančura welcomed the participants to the Czech Republic and provided a short introduction about the local forest administration in Židlochovice and the Czech Republic's forest sector in general.

J. Turok welcomed the participants and thanked the local organizers for the meeting arrangements on behalf of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). He briefly mentioned the outcomes of the recent external reviews that were carried out as part of the regular evaluation cycle of IPGRI, including the regional Networking programmes in Europe. He thanked the National Coordinators and National Focal Persons for their inputs to the reviews and emphasized the importance of the meeting for future collaborative activities on forest genetic resources in Europe.

On behalf of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), P. Sigaud highlighted the EUFORGEN achievements in promoting regional collaboration on forest genetic resources. He also noted that FAO and IPGRI have used EUFORGEN as a model to promote similar efforts in other parts of the world.

F. Steenhoff from the EC Directorate General for Agriculture presented an overview of the new Regulation (EC 870/2004) on genetic resources in agriculture. He also gave an update on the preparations of a Community Programme to support relevant work in the Member States based on this Regulation. In principle, actions on forest genetic resources are eligible for funding under the Regulation. All proposals will be reviewed by independent experts and funding decisions will be based on the quality and relevance of the proposed projects. F. Steenhoff noted that the EC will consider participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and end users favourably. Participation of non-EU countries will be assessed on a case by case basis, depending on the bilateral agreements between the EC and a given country. Finally, he encouraged the participants to use appropriate ways to bring relevant issues to the attention of the EC, i.e. through contact with their national representatives in the Standing Committees and through members of the European Parliament.

J. Koskela introduced the meeting agenda, which was then adopted. Various rapporteurs were nominated for each session of the meeting (A. Alexandrov, J. Van Slycken, T. Eysteinnsson and P. Goikoetxea, L. Koop, M. Bozzano, B. Ditlevsen and L. Paule). Members of the Phase III task force were asked to act as rapporteurs for discussions during the relevant session.

Seminar on forest biological diversity and sustainable forest management in Europe

Pan-European process on forests

P. Borkowski summarized the outputs of the pan-European dialogue on forests, i.e. the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)¹. The MCPFE

¹ More information can be found at www.mcpfe.org

process has recognized the importance of forest genetic resources and adopted several commitments in this area. He highlighted the linkages between the MCPFE Work Programme, the follow-up of the Fourth Ministerial Conference (held in Vienna, 2003) and the EUFORGEN programme.

Forest science and policy making

R. Päivinen presented the overall activities of the European Forest Institute (EFI)² and gave a presentation on the interface between forest science and policy making. He stressed the importance of using scientific information in policy making and the need for a two-way communication between scientists and policy makers. He also mentioned that EFI will organize a conference on the science-policy interface in 2005 as part of the MCPFE Work Programme. A preparatory meeting for this conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland on 13 October 2004, prior to the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting (14-15 October 2004). He welcomed EUFORGEN to contribute to the preparation of the conference and identify relevant research needs in this regard before the preparatory meeting in Warsaw.

Global perspectives on forest genetic resources (FGR)

P. Sigaud gave an overview of the FAO's activities on various genetic resources and recent developments regarding plant genetic resources at global level. He then summarized various efforts in forestry at global level and highlighted the role of FAO's Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) in providing relevant information for policy makers. He also mentioned that FAO is exploring ways to integrate the collection of FGR information into FRA and its country-based reporting system. He continued with examples on FAO's work on FGR and especially on regional FGR workshops, which have facilitated development of international collaboration on FGR in many parts of the world. He presented the ways in which the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has addressed FGR issues and finally the implications of these various global efforts on FGR on the EUFORGEN work in Europe.

Sustainable forest management: update on the UNFF process

L. Ackzell reviewed how the global dialogue on forests has continued from the Rio Conference in 1992 to the present discussion at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). He also clarified the linkages between relevant UN Conventions and other international processes with regard to sustainable forest management (SFM). He then provided an update on the outputs of the Fourth Session of UNFF in Geneva (3-14 May 2004). The conference managed to make some progress and new resolutions related to social and cultural aspects, the use of forest related scientific knowledge, as well as to monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) issues. However, UNFF4 did not manage to make much progress in promoting cooperation at global level and in dealing with traditional forest related knowledge. Therefore, there are high expectations for the Fifth and final UNFF Session, to be held in 2005, regarding the future of the international arrangement on forests, i.e. whether the UNFF process is able to develop and agree an international convention (and a legally binding instrument) on forests.

Global status and trends of genetic modification in forestry

P. Sigaud presented how FAO is monitoring the development of biotechnology and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), in particular in areas such as crops, animals, food, fisheries and forestry. He further explained that FAO is analyzing GMOs in relation to biological diversity, biosecurity (biological risks management), biosafety (transboundary

² Please visit at www.efi.fi

movement of GMOs) and ethics. He presented some examples on the use of GMOs in the agricultural sector and reported that the global area of transgenic crops had increased from 1.7 million hectares in 1996 to 67.7 million hectares in 2003. He also provided the current status of transgenic crops in various countries and in specific crops.

Recently FAO carried out a survey on research and use of GM trees in forestry and the results showed that the forest sector is far behind the agricultural sector in this regard. However, many studies have been made or are underway on GM trees and their impact on the forest sector, but so far only a few commercial plantations have been established. He reported that the total area of GM tree plantations was less than 500 hectares in 2002 and that most of these plantations are located in China. Finally, he summarized the potential benefits and risks associated with the use of GM trees in forestry.

Plenary discussion

It was pointed out that various issues related to forest biological diversity and sustainable forest management (SFM) are becoming increasingly cross-sectoral and that this is also reflected in implementation of various MCPFE resolutions. Within the concept of SFM, ecological, economic and socio-cultural issues are of equal importance. It was stressed that while FGR have traditionally been considered as an ecological issue within the MCPFE process, they also have significant economic implications for SFM. The importance of forest genetic diversity in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change was also raised in the discussions.

Close-to-nature forestry was mentioned as an example of management practices with consequences on genetic diversity of forests. It was recommended that EUFORGEN should analyze the impacts of the different management practices on FGR. EUFORGEN should also develop position papers concerning forest policy issues such as regulations and incentives. Extension was also repeatedly mentioned as being a very important issue, especially increasing the awareness among forest managers on the appropriate use of forest reproductive material.

It was recommended that EUFORGEN could formulate guidelines for “genetically friendly” silviculture based on existing knowledge. Scientists were also encouraged to continue research efforts in this regard and fill the gaps in the existing knowledge. It was underlined that close-to-nature silviculture does not mean “doing nothing”. It was concluded that EUFORGEN could play an important role in developing additional technical guidelines and appropriate documents for policy discussion, as needed.

The discussion reflected concerns regarding the usefulness of the Council Directive (1999/105/EC) on the marketing of forest reproductive material in promoting SFM. While the Directive requires traded material to be documented in a certain way, it does not provide any guidance for appropriate use of forest reproductive material. Furthermore, only material used for forestry purposes is required to be documented while similar material used for non-forestry purposes, such as amenity tree planting for example, does not have to be documented. In the long term, this may reduce adaptability of forest trees, especially if unknown material is used close to gene conservation areas. Broader impacts to SFM are also likely since many forest managers tend to use the cheapest material available rather than paying appropriate attention to selecting well-adapted material for given environmental conditions.

The role of scientific information in policy making was also discussed. As part of the MCPFE process, the Signatory States and the EC have committed themselves to make forest related

decisions based on science, support for existing research and an increase interdisciplinary research. However, there are indications that scientific information has often a minor role in decision making and this situation was considered worrying. It was recommended that EUFORGEN should actively disseminate relevant information on FGR to policy makers and other stakeholders.

EUFORGEN Phase II

At the beginning of the sessions on Phase II and III, L. Ackzell (Chair of the first session), briefed the participants on the expectations of the sessions and stressed the importance of receiving feedback from all participants for the development of the new Phase.

J. Koskela presented the Technical and Financial Report of Phase II. It was recommended to link the grey literature database to the IUFRO Global Forest Information System. The report was then approved without amendments. It is included in the meeting report as Annex I.

Review of Phase III proposal

The National Coordinators and National Focal Persons were invited to make short statements regarding Phase III. L. Ackzell then summarized the “round table” discussion. The statements emphasized the usefulness of EUFORGEN and its role in strengthening national efforts on FGR. Regarding Phase III, many National Coordinators and National Focal Points indicated that during the new phase, EUFORGEN should operate through a mixture of species-oriented and thematic Networks. The importance of moving towards practical implementation of various guidelines and linking gene conservation with SFM was also highlighted.

J. Koskela then provided an introduction to the Phase III proposal and the process behind it. In January 2004, following the outputs of the MCPFE process during 2003, the Secretariat requested feedback from National Coordinators and National Focal Persons regarding Phase II and their ideas for Phase III. By February 2004, seven National Coordinators had indicated their interest to join a task force to develop ideas and a draft proposal for the Steering Committee. The task force also met in Rome on 26 April 2004.

Following this short introduction, the Steering Committee reviewed, chapter by chapter, the Phase III proposal during the following sessions (see the meeting agenda in Annex III). This review process and its outputs are reported below.

Chapters (1) *Introduction* and (2) *Mandate of the proposal* were adopted with minor changes. It was proposed to add references to other relevant MCPFE resolutions (a list of these was added as a footnote) and to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Chapter (3) *Scope of Phase III* was discussed in detail and part of the text was rephrased. The task force members were asked to add comments to the text, especially with regard to the importance of highlighting the appropriate use of forest reproductive material.

Substantial discussions took place regarding the objectives and mode of operation for Phase III. The three objectives proposed for Phase III were adopted with small changes and the order of priority was changed for objectives 2 and 3. Consequently, the list of activities under each objective was reviewed in detail and several changes were made. It was also discussed

whether outputs or milestones should be added. However, it was concluded that the Networks should identify these while developing their workplans for the new Phase.

While discussing chapter (5) *Mode of operation*, the sub-chapters on the role of 'National Coordinators and Steering Committee' and 'International Secretariat' were adopted with minor changes. The Steering Committee decided to establish the proposed new thematic Network on 'Forest Management'. Similarly, it was agreed that the work on information management should be strengthened and the Steering Committee decided to establish an Information Working Group.

Members of the Forest Management Network will be nominated by National Coordinators following the current nomination practice. It is recommended that participants in the Network should hold national responsibilities in areas related to forest policy, national forest programmes or forest management. This should ensure that the Forest Management Network has a mixture of participants with expertise on both forest management and gene conservation. Representatives for specific tasks (e.g. development of information standards, proposals, etc) of the Information Working Group will be nominated by all the Networks (1-3 representatives each). Outside expertise can be invited to participate in carrying out these tasks, as needed.

It was agreed that the Network structure of the Programme needs to be re-organised in response to the requirements of the Vienna Resolution V4 and the new objectives and activities. Furthermore, it was stressed that new activities cannot be developed without taking into consideration budget constraints.

The discussion on species-oriented work focussed on the question of whether there should be four (Conifers, Noble Hardwoods, Oaks and Beech, Poplars) or three Networks (Conifers, Broadleaves with scattered distribution pattern and Broadleaves with continuous distribution) during Phase III. Several arguments were presented supporting both alternatives. Because a decision on the number of species-oriented Networks could not be taken by consensus, it was agreed to take a vote. A total of 14 member countries supported the proposal on three species-oriented Networks while 10 member countries supported the four-Network proposal. The representative of Hungary was not present during the final session when voting took place.

Following the result of the vote, the work carried out by the Mediterranean Oaks, Noble Hardwoods, *Populus nigra*, Temperate Oaks and Beech Networks will be restructured into two Networks addressing broadleaved tree species. It was further decided that for the first Network meeting of the broadleaves species with scattered distribution pattern, countries can nominate two representatives, if they wish.

A new task force will be established to define the official names of the two new Broadleaves Networks and how the current broadleaved species will be allocated between the two new Networks. The task force should also provide recommendations regarding the need to address new species (e.g. *Populus tremula*, exotic conifers, etc) in the three species-oriented Networks.

It was decided that the species-oriented Networks will meet less frequently, up to three times during Phase III. Smaller working groups can be created within the species-oriented Networks to address species-specific or thematic issues. It was also agreed that representatives for species-oriented and thematic Networks should be nominated for the complete Phase III period instead of meeting by meeting in order to make the work of the Networks more efficient. It was also agreed that during Phase III, countries can nominate

representatives to all those Networks in which they are interested and able to provide contributions.

Chapter (6) *Documentation and information policy* was adopted with minor changes. Several comments supported the proposed change for reporting activities, i.e. that coordinated country reporting will be done once every 3-4 years instead of at the Network meetings. The Steering Committee further agreed that the country-based information will be compiled into the proposed publication on 'European Forest Genetic Resources in 200X', which should be published before the next Ministerial Conference in Warsaw.

The issue of language used in EUFORGEN publications was also discussed. It was agreed that the Programme will continue to produce its publications in English. It was further agreed that if technical guidelines and other relevant publications need to be translated into other languages, then individual countries are encouraged to do so with their own resources. The EUFORGEN Secretariat will provide the necessary templates for this purpose.

J. Turok presented the proposed budget for Phase III for discussion. The Steering Committee agreed that the budget can be increased from the previous one to cover inflationary effects (Phase II budget and country contributions were already endorsed in 1998). However, the Steering Committee requested the Secretariat to reduce the proposed budget (ca. US\$1 935 000) and also revise the proposed annual financial contributions of countries for Phase III. During the final session on the last day of the meeting, a new budget (ca. US\$1 864 000) and revised annual financial contributions were then endorsed (see Appendices 1 and 2 in the Phase III document (Annex II)).

Opportunities and events relevant for EUFORGEN

New EC Regulation on genetic resources in agriculture (EC 870/2004)

J. Koskela gave a short overview on the new EC Regulation and presented potential project proposals that some of the EUFORGEN Networks have been developing. These focus on 1) *ex situ* conservation of elms, 2) inventory and development of a database on natural populations of *Populus* spp., 3) *Malus* and *Pyrus* spp. based on an offer for collaboration from a Working Group of the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR), and 4) an inter- Network action for an inventory of gene conservation units and development of an online database to support further development of common action plans.

The Steering Committee requested IPGRI and the Secretariat to coordinate the development of the inter-Network proposal for the inventory work so that it will also enhance collaboration with non-EU countries. A task force will be established to assist the Secretariat in developing the proposal and the following countries indicated their interest in contributing to the task force: Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and United Kingdom (to be confirmed). The National Coordinators of these countries were asked to identify participating persons after the meeting. The Secretariat was requested to keep the Steering Committee informed regarding the development of this inter- Network proposal.

Regarding the other proposals, it was decided that EUFORGEN can be referred to if (1) the proposals involve institutions that participate in the activities of the EUFORGEN Networks; and (2) if EUFORGEN can be used to show linkages to end users and facilitate dissemination of project outputs through its Networks. The Steering Committee will be kept informed of any new proposals associated with the EUFORGEN Programme.

It was also proposed that the country hosting the next Steering Committee meeting could lead the development of a proposal under *accompanying actions* (as indicated in the text of the Council Regulation No 870/2004) and seek funding for an international workshop on FGR to be organized in conjunction with the next Steering Committee meeting.

International capacity-building programme on forest genetic resources

T. Geburek presented a new, five-year training programme which focuses on forest biodiversity in five regions (Eastern Europe, central West Asia and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America). The programme will be implemented by IPGRI in collaboration with Austrian institutes and funded by the Austrian Government as part of its financial support to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The programme consists of training workshops to be conducted in the five regions and fellowships for young professionals from developing countries to carry out research in Austrian institutes. Linkages with EUFORGEN and other regional networking programmes were highlighted during the discussion.

External review on IPGRI activities in Europe

J. Turok presented the main outputs of the external review of IPGRI's work in Europe, which was carried out in September 2003. The recommendations highlighted the importance of the networking programmes (EUFORGEN and ECP/GR) for facilitating collaborative work on plant genetic resources in Europe. IPGRI's Regional Office for Europe was also encouraged to maintain its geographical focus in Eastern Europe and take a more proactive role in the Balkan countries to facilitate the establishment of national programmes on plant genetic resources in the sub-region. A summary of the review recommendations was distributed during the meeting.

Wrap-up session

The proposal for Phase III was endorsed. No other issues were raised during the final session.

Slovenia offered to host the next Steering Committee meeting in 2007. Slovenia also agreed to coordinate development of a proposal for the Community Programme (based on EC 870/2004) so that an international workshop on FGR could be organized in conjunction with the next meeting.

J. Koskela thanked the local organizers for the excellent arrangements and the meeting participants for their inputs to the finalization of the Phase III agenda. K. Vančura also expressed his appreciation to the participants and then closed the meeting.

Annexes

Annex I: Technical and financial report of EUFORGEN Phase II (2000-2004)³

1. Introduction

EUFORGEN is a collaborative programme among European countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. It was established in October 1994 as an implementation mechanism for Resolution 2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the First Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), held in Strasbourg in December 1990. This resolution called for the development of a functional but voluntary instrument of international collaboration to promote and coordinate *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources, the exchange of reproductive material and monitoring of progress in these areas.

The Programme is fully financed by its participating countries. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all participating countries and it has the overall responsibility of the Programme. EUFORGEN has been operating through species-oriented Networks which bring together scientists and managers to exchange information, discuss needs and develop conservation methods for priority tree species. Countries' financial contributions are used for the overall coordination of different activities, Network meetings, publications and dissemination of information while the Network members in participating countries carry out agreed activities with their own resources as inputs in-kind.

During its second meeting in Austria in November 1998, the Steering Committee recommended the continuation of the Programme into Phase II and endorsed a proposal for it. The Steering Committee also invited the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) to make necessary preparations for Phase II and to coordinate the Programme in technical collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The preparations for Phase II were completed during 1999 and Phase II formally started on 1 January 2000 for a period of five years.

The fourth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee will take place in Židlochovice, Czech Republic, 26–29 May 2004. The purpose of this meeting is to evaluate the progress made by the Programme during Phase II and make recommendations and decisions regarding Phase III (2005-2009). National Coordinators from all participating countries were invited to attend the meeting. In addition, Focal Persons from associated, non-participating countries of the European region were also invited to attend as observers. Representatives of IPGRI and FAO will attend the meeting in their capacity as coordinating agencies of the Programme. During the first day of the meeting (26 May 2004), representatives from the European Commission (EC), the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw and the European Forest Institute (EFI) will also provide their contributions during a seminar on forest biological diversity and sustainable forest management.

This document provides highlights of the progress made during Phase II. Financial contributions provided by the countries, a summary of the audited financial reports for 2000-2003 and a budget forecast for 2004 are also presented.

³ Presented by Jarkko Koskela, EUFORGEN Coordinator, at the fourth EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting, Židlochovice, Czech Republic, 26–29 May 2004.

2. Progress made during 2000-2004

2.1. Implementation of Resolution S2 and participation in the MCPFE process

In 1994, EUFORGEN started its activities by creating four pilot Networks for black poplar, cork oak, noble hardwoods and Norway spruce to implement Resolution S2. A fifth Network was initiated for social broadleaves (temperate oaks and beech) in 1997. For Phase II, the Steering Committee maintained the mode of operation through species-oriented Networks while the scopes of the Networks were broadened. The current Networks are 1) Conifers; 2) Mediterranean Oaks; 3) Noble Hardwoods; 4) *Populus nigra* (including work on white poplar, *P. alba*); and 5) Temperate Oaks and Beech. The name of the last Network (earlier Social Broadleaves) was changed at the third Steering Committee meeting held in Jönköping, Sweden in 2002.

During the third meeting in Sweden, the Steering Committee evaluated the mid-term achievements of Phase II and concluded that the activities developed within all the Networks reflected the common needs. The Steering Committee also endorsed the interest of the Networks to increase cooperation with countries outside of geographic Europe and encouraged the Networks to develop or continue cooperation with non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, the Steering Committee discussed the practical implementation of gene conservation strategies and established a task force to develop a EUFORGEN strategy for future activities. Based on the output of the strategy task force, the Steering Committee prepared a brief statement for the MCPFE Expert Level Follow-up meeting held in 2002. The statement highlighted the implementation of the Strasbourg Resolution S2 and outlined the perspectives for future collaboration in Europe. Subsequently, the MCPFE process again recognized the importance of forest genetic resources during the fourth Ministerial Conference in Vienna in April 2003.

Under the Vienna Resolution V4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe), the Signatory States and the European Community undertook a commitment to “*promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continue the pan-European collaboration in this area*”. Resolution V4 recognized the achievements of EUFORGEN in promoting international collaboration on forest genetic resources and broadened the EUFORGEN mandate from Resolution S2.

Following the Vienna Ministerial Conference, the MCPFE held an Expert Level meeting in October 2003 to develop a new Work Programme for the implementation of the Vienna Resolutions. Forest genetic resources were identified as a separate focus area under Resolution V4 in this Work Plan. The MCPFE agreed to “*promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continue pan-European collaboration in this area through the EUFORGEN Networks*” and assigned IPGRI and FAO as leading organizations for this specific action. Several countries such as Austria, Estonia, Greece, Poland and Sweden supported the inclusion of forest genetic resources into the new Work Programme during the meeting.

In January 2004, following the outputs of the MCPFE process, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee initiated the development of Phase III for 2005-2009. The Secretariat requested feedback from all National Coordinators in participating countries as well as Focal Persons in non-member countries. The Steering Committee also established a task force to develop ideas for Phase III and to draft a proposal for further discussion. The Phase III task force met at IPGRI on 26 April 2004 and discussed the draft proposal, which was then finalized for the Steering Committee meeting in May 2004.

According to the feedback received from National Coordinators, participating countries consider that EUFORGEN has met its objectives for Phase II and that it has been useful in promoting collaboration at pan-European level. The feedback also indicated that national activities have also benefited from the Programme during Phase II. Regarding the mode of operation for future activities, the majority of National Coordinators considered that Phase III should be built on a mixture of species-oriented and thematic Networks. Thematic areas highlighted in the feedback were related mainly to policy issues, practical implementation of gene conservation, sustainable forest management and information management.

The Steering Committee is expected to make decisions regarding Phase III during its fourth meeting in the Czech Republic in May 2004. The detailed survey feedback and the draft proposal for Phase III are made available for the Steering Committee as background documents for this meeting.

As of April 2004, EUFORGEN has 32 member countries that have been providing both technical and financial inputs to the Programme (Table 1). A country is considered a member of EUFORGEN when it has signed the official Letter of Agreement to join Phase II with IPGRI and then paid its annual financial contribution regularly. Most of the member countries joined Phase II when it was launched in January 2000 and others joined soon after that. The most recent country to join EUFORGEN Phase II was Iceland that signed the Letter of Agreement in February 2004.

Most countries have regularly paid their financial contributions while some countries have experienced difficulties in fulfilling their financial commitments. During Phase I, several eastern European countries were participating EUFORGEN using funds through donor-funded projects but faced difficulties in making their payments once these projects ended. In other countries, the problems have often been related to administrative changes and the pending payments for a given year have usually been paid in the following year.

The overall commitment of European countries to the MCPFE process has increased during the past decade. The process has also been recognized globally and it enjoys an important role in the global dialogue on forests. Most of the countries who signed the Strasbourg Resolution 2 in 1990 also signed the Vienna Resolution 4 in 2003 (Table 1). This indicates countries' continued commitment to and interest in forest biological diversity. Most of the countries participating in the MCPFE process were also among the first ones to sign the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) after the Rio Conference in 1992. Later, the CBD also addressed forest genetic diversity in its Extended Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, which was adopted during the Sixth Conference of Parties in The Hague in 2002. This CBD Programme encourages development of information systems and strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity. Many of the MCPFE Resolutions build on various CBD decisions and subsequently EUFORGEN can also be considered a mechanism through which the participating countries contribute to the implementation of their CBD commitments.

Table 1 . List of countries involved in the MCPFE process and their participation in EUFORGEN during Phase II (2000-2004). The table also shows the signatories of the Strasbourg Resolution 2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources), the Vienna Resolution 4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Country	EUFORGEN Phase II	Resolution S2	Resolution V4	CBD
Albania X		X	X	
Andorra				
Austria* X		X	X	X
Belarus		X	X	X
Belgium* X		X	X	X
Bosnia and Herzegovina				
Bulgaria X		X	X	X
Croatia X		X	X	X
Cyprus* X		X	X	X
Czech Republic*	X	X	X	X
Denmark* X		X	X	X
Estonia* X		X	X	X
European Community		X	X	X
Finland* X		X	X	X
France* X		X	X	X
Georgia			X	
Germany* X		X	X	X
Greece*		X	X	X
Holy See				
Hungary* X		X	X	X
Iceland X		X	X	X
Ireland* X		X	X	X
Italy* X		X	X	X
Latvia*		X	X	X
Liechtenstein		X	X	X
Lithuania* X		X	X	X
Luxemburg* X		X	X	X
Macedonia FYR	X			
Malta* X		X	X	X
Moldova				X
Monaco		X	X	X
Netherlands* X		X	X	X
Norway X		X	X	X
Poland* X		X	X	X
Portugal* X		X	X	X
Romania		X	X	X
Russian Federation		X	X	X
Serbia and Montenegro	X	X	X	X
Slovak Republic*	X	X	X	X
Slovenia* X		X	X	X
Spain* X		X	X	X
Sweden* X		X	X	X
Switzerland X		X	X	X
Turkey X		X	X	X
Ukraine		X	X	X
United Kingdom*	X	X	X	X
Total 32		39	41	40

* Member of the European Union as of 1 May 2004 (a total of 25 countries)

2.2. Network activities

The EUFORGEN Networks have brought together scientists and other forestry professionals to analyze the progress made in conserving forest genetic resources in Europe and to develop conservation strategies and technical guidelines for various tree species. A total of 17 EUFORGEN Network meetings were held during Phase II and participants from 41 countries participated in these meetings (Table 2). The Networks have also greatly facilitated information exchange among European countries and identified research needs for large European research projects. Between the Network meetings, members from participating countries have carried out jointly agreed workplans with their own resources as inputs in-kind to the Programme.

The EUFORGEN Networks have produced a considerable amount of information on forest genetic resources in Europe and developed strategies and recommendations for genetic conservation of a large group of tree species growing in different forest ecosystems throughout the continent. At the end of 2004, the Networks will have achieved their major technical goal for Phase II, i.e. the publication of technical guidelines (see section 2.4.) for more than 30 tree species. All the Networks have made considerable progress during Phase II. The variation in the amount of outputs is due to the fact that the starting points were different for each Network and that the Networks have been working with a highly different number of tree species.

Table 2. List of EUFORGEN Network meetings during Phase II (2000-2004).

Network/Group	Meeting venue and date	No. of countries
Conifers 1	1 st meeting, Brdo/Kranj, Slovenia, 5–7 March 2000	25
	2 nd meeting, Valsain, Spain, 20–22 Sept 2001	27
	3 rd meeting, Kostryca, Poland, 17–19 Oct 2002	25
	4 th meeting, Pitlochry, United Kingdom, 18–20 Oct 2003	26
Mediterranean Oaks	1 st meeting, Antalya, Turkey, 12–14 Oct 2000	13
	2 nd meeting, Gozo, Malta, 2–4 May 2002	9
	3 rd meeting, Ohrid, Macedonia, 6–8 Nov 2003	11
Noble Hardwoods	5 th meeting, Blessington, Ireland, 17-19 May 2001	24
	6 th meeting, Alter do Chão, Portugal, 9–11 June 2002	31
	7 th meeting, Arezzo, Italy, 22–24 April 2004	27
<i>Populus nigra</i>	6 th meeting, Isle sur La Sorgue, France, 6–8 Feb 2000	17
	7 th meeting, Osijek, Croatia, 25–27 Oct 2001	18
	8 th meeting, Treppeln, Germany, 22–24 May 2003	17
	9 th meeting, Frauenfeld, Switzerland, 16–18 Sept 2004	to be held
Temperate Oaks and Beech	3 rd meeting, Borovets, Bulgaria, 22–24 June 2000	24
	4 th meeting, Bergen, Norway, 14–16 June 2001	27
	5 th meeting, Zemplínska Šírava, Slovakia, 21–23 June 2003	21
Inter-Network Group	1 st meeting, Antalya, Turkey, 15–16 Oct 2000	6
	2 nd meeting, Vienna, Austria, 26 Feb 2002	7

For Phase II, the Steering Committee established an Inter-Network Group composed of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the five Networks. The objective for this Group is to harmonize priorities and activities among the differently advancing Networks. The Group has met twice during Phase II. One of the main outcomes of the Group was the preparation of the concept regarding the future collaborative work on genetic conservation in Europe. This concept,

called 'master plans' (and later 'common action plans') (more details in section 2.3.), was then presented to the Steering Committee in Sweden in 2002.

The contributions made by the following persons in chairing various Networks during Phase II are gratefully acknowledged:

Conifers

- Until March 2000: Veikko Koski, Finland (Chair)
- March 2000 onwards: Csaba Mátyás, Hungary (Chair); Bruno Fady, France (Vice-Chair)

Mediterranean Oaks

- Until October 2000: Maria Carolina Varela, Portugal (Chair)
- October 2000 onwards: Luís Gil, Spain (Chair); Vlatko Andonovski, Macedonia FYR (Vice-Chair)

Noble Hardwoods

- Until May 2001: Gösta Eriksson, Sweden (Chair); Jochen Kleinschmit, Germany (Vice-Chair)
- May 2001 onwards: Mari Rusanen, Finland (Chair); Peter Rotach, Switzerland (Vice-Chair)

Populus nigra

- May 1999 onwards: Sven M.G. de Vries, Netherlands (Chair); Davorin Kajba, Croatia (Vice-Chair)

Temperate Oaks and Beech

- Until June 2001: Antoine Kremer, France (Chair); Thomas Geburek, Austria and Ladislav Paule, Slovakia (Vice-Chairs)
- June 2001 onwards: Ladislav Paule, Slovakia (Chair); Ned Cundall, UK (Vice Chair, moved to Canada in September 2003)

The next chapters highlight some of the concrete outputs of the EUFORGEN Networks during Phase II.

2.3. Development of conservation strategies

The EUFORGEN Networks have developed long-term gene conservation strategies for the individual species or groups of species. The main objective of these strategies is to ensure continuous evolution of European forest trees. *In situ* conservation efforts are given a first priority but it is emphasized that *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures should be used in a complementary manner, according to threats and species-specific needs for genetic conservation. The Networks have linked gene conservation activities in various countries and also significantly contributed to the development of a commonly agreed basis for genetic conservation for those species the Networks have been working with.

The conservation strategies for various species have been published in meeting reports or species-specific technical publications. During Phase II, the Noble Hardwoods Network has developed conservation strategies for black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), walnut (*Juglans* spp.) and elms (*Ulmus* spp.). The *Populus nigra* Network produced a technical bulletin on the *in situ* conservation of black poplar in 2001 and currently the Mediterranean Oaks Network is finalizing a similar bulletin for cork oak. The Temperate Oaks and Beech Network also has a first bulletin draft available for temperate oaks (*Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur*). The Conifers Network developed a conservation strategy for Norway spruce already in 1997 and this is

also applicable to many other conifers species which were identified as target species when the Network broadened its scope to other conifers.

Following the Steering Committee discussion in Sweden in 2002, several EUFORGEN Networks initiated the development of common action plans, which aim at the sharing of responsibility for conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. The common action plans are an effort to create pan-European networks of primarily *in situ* conservation units for selected tree species within their entire distribution ranges. *Ex situ* conservation units outside species' natural distribution ranges can also be included if they contribute to dynamic gene conservation. The common action plans do not attempt to create a new European conservation programme (cf. Natura 2000) but merely to locate the already existing gene conservation units in various countries and obtain geo-referenced data on these to provide a pan-European picture.

As indicated by the name, these action plans are very much focused on how to implement the conservation strategies in practice. Common action plans can help to identify gaps and overlaps in gene conservation efforts at both national and pan-European level. Subsequently, countries can assess which gene conservation units under their responsibility are the most valuable ones from the pan-European perspective and they can prioritize the use of their human and financial resources accordingly. This will bring long-term benefits for the participating countries and ensure that common goals can be accomplished at minimum cost.

The Conifers Network has started collecting data on *in situ* conservation units of Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) and the Noble Hardwoods Network has initiated a similar effort with Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and lime (*Tilia cordata*). In April 2004, the Noble Hardwoods Network also established a working group to define criteria and minimum requirements for the gene conservation units to be included in the common action plan. The Mediterranean Oaks Network decided to continue with developing additional distribution maps for the oak species, and the *Populus nigra* Network is drafting a density map for natural black poplar stands along European rivers as a first step in developing a common action plan for the species.

2.4. Technical guidelines

In addition to the above-mentioned conservation strategies and technical bulletins, the EUFORGEN Networks have also developed species-specific technical guidelines that are targeted specifically at practical forest managers. These six-page guidelines provide summarized species-specific information on biology and ecology, distribution ranges, importance and use, genetic knowledge, threats to genetic diversity and guidelines for genetic conservation and use. The guidelines present commonly agreed recommendations based on the available knowledge of the species and on widely accepted methods for the conservation of forest genetic resources.

The Conifers Network has published five technical guidelines (Aleppo pine/Brutia pine, Maritime pine, Norway spruce, silver fir and Swiss stone pine) and it is currently developing seven additional ones (black pine, Bosnian pine, common yew, European larch, Italian stone pine, Macedonian pine and Scots pine)(see Appendix 1).

The Noble Hardwoods Network has finalized 10 technical guidelines for black alder, chestnut, common ash, European white elm, limes, oriental sweet gum, service tree, sycamore, wild apple and pear and wild cherry. The Network is now preparing new guidelines for four species (common maple, Italian alder, walnut and wild service tree).

The *Populus nigra* Network has produced the guidelines for black poplar and is now developing the same for white poplar. The Temperate Oaks and Beech Network is developing the guidelines for pedunculate and sessile oaks and beech while the Mediterranean Oaks Network has also drafted recommendations for cork oak. It is expected that the EUFORGEN Networks will have finalized a total of 31 guidelines by the end of 2004.

The published guidelines have been widely distributed and the Secretariat has received several requests for additional copies. The Secretariat has also advertised the guidelines through an Italian forestry magazine and this pilot public awareness effort revealed a strong interest among practical forest managers. Once all guidelines have been finalized, the complete set will be distributed to relevant forestry magazines in different countries in Europe. The Secretariat encourages the participating countries to translate the guidelines into their national languages and will provide a template for this purpose, upon request.

2.5. Descriptors and databases

Standardized descriptors are commonly used for *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources (for their documentation and exchange) but they are also needed for *in situ* conservation. The EUFORGEN Networks have also made efforts to develop these standards, as a necessary step in ensuring minimum genetic conservation requirements for target species in the long term. In 2000, the *Populus nigra* Network finalized a standardized list of descriptors for inventories of black poplar stands. Other Networks had already developed similar descriptors for inventories of conservation stands of various species during Phase I.

The *Populus nigra* Network has further developed a database on clonal collections of black poplar in different countries. This database is currently hosted and maintained by the Istituto di Sperimentazione per la Pioppicoltura (ISP), in Casale Monferrato, Italy. It is available through ISP's Web site (<http://www.populus.it/nigranet.php?lingua=EN>) and is also linked to the EUFORGEN Web site. A total of 13 countries have provided information on their national collections for the database, which now contains more than 3100 entries. Each country has also been given a password for on-line access to update the information on its national collection. ISP also hosts and maintains another database on the black poplar core collection (see next chapter for details). Following the black poplar database, the Network is now developing a similar database for white poplar clonal collections in various European countries. This database will be hosted by Spain.

During Phase II, the various grey literature databases created by the Networks were merged into a single EUFORGEN grey literature database. Some overlapping references have been removed from the database and currently it includes nearly 2000 references. The database is available through the EUFORGEN Web site.

2.6. Exchange of genetic material

The core collection for black poplar established by the *Populus nigra* Network includes material provided by more than 20 countries. It is maintained by ISP in Italy and duplications are held in eight other countries (Austria, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine). However, the duplications are not fully complete since the core collection is continuously being developed. During Phase II, efforts have been made to receive new entries from additional European countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Ireland, Moldova and Slovenia) as well as outside Europe (Algeria and China).

The *P. nigra* Network was involved in an EU-funded research project (1997-2001) on genetic diversity of black poplar populations in Europe. After this project, the Network initiated the development of a population collection, which is held in Hungary. In addition to Hungary,

this collection also contains material from five other countries (France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain). The Network has also initiated the development of a core collection for white poplar. This collection is hosted by Hungary with a duplicate in Germany. However, the white poplar core collection contains less material than the black poplar one and the Network members have put more effort into increasing the material available in the white poplar core collection.

The Mediterranean Oaks Network facilitated the exchange of cork oak genetic material within an EU-funded research project during 1996-2000. Many of the Network members collaborated within this project during which acorns of cork oak were collected from seven countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia). Subsequently, a total of 17 field trials were established in all these countries (except Algeria) within the project. This network of trials holds a unique collection of cork oak genetic material as it contains material throughout the species' natural range in the Mediterranean basin.

2.7. Exchange and dissemination of information

The EUFORGEN Networks have been actively exchanging information during their meetings and other joint efforts. The EUFORGEN Web site has been the main tool for information dissemination and it has been one of the most visited pages within the whole IPGRI Web site. In June 2003, the EUFORGEN Web site went through a major restyling and several additional features were made available to further improve the accessibility to relevant information. The EUFORGEN homepage can be accessed through the IPGRI Web site (http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/networks/euforgen/euf_home.asp) or directly at www.euforgen.org. EUFORGEN also has an electronic listserv but its use has been sporadic during the past few years.

A good example of exchange of information is the development of species distribution maps which have been published as part of the EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines. The Secretariat prepared draft maps based on readily available information on a given species. Subsequently the maps were circulated to the Network members who then amended or revised the draft distribution areas in their own countries. The development of these distribution maps has also involved many partners outside Europe, e.g. in North Africa and West Asia.

EUFORGEN publications are regularly distributed to the Steering Committee and Network members, as well as to other interested parties. The EUFORGEN Secretariat often receives other kinds of information requests and these are redirected to the specific Networks for their attention or action, as needed.

2.8. Publications and public awareness material

A list of EUFORGEN publications during Phase II is presented in Annex 1. Most of the publications consist of technical guidelines or meeting reports, which contain country introductory reports, country updates, different Network outputs and discussion or review papers on various topics. The EUFORGEN Networks have also published or are currently developing several technical bulletins, which include a glossary of terms on forest genetic resources. In addition, the *Populus nigra* Network published an identification sheet for black poplar during Phase I and it was later translated into Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Similar identification sheet was developed for white poplar.

For public awareness purposes, the EUFORGEN Networks and the Secretariat have developed posters and other similar material, such as general information brochures on EUFORGEN and Network-specific leaflets. All the Networks have also developed CD-ROMs or image collections containing photographs on various aspects of the species they are

working with. In some countries, the EUFORGEN Network meetings have received a wide coverage in the local press and, in some cases, even in national TV broadcasts. In 2000, the EUFORGEN Secretariat also produced a press release to mark the 10th year since the adoption of the Strasbourg Resolution S2 on conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe.

2.9. Wider influences of EUFORGEN

EUFORGEN has been able to harness its extensive links throughout Europe to enhance collaboration among European countries and with relevant European Union programmes and policies during Phase II. Furthermore, the Programme has collaborated with several other international organizations on relevant issues and also contributed to the work on forest genetic resources at a global level.

The EUFORGEN Networks have created an effective platform for the European forest genetic resources community to identify research needs and develop research projects for calls within the EU Framework Programmes for research. Results have then been disseminated through the Networks once research projects have been completed. The Networks have also incorporated new knowledge into the development of the technical guidelines and other outputs. This has facilitated the implementation of research findings. The Networks have also enhanced the overall collaboration and exchange of information on forest genetic resources between the EU Member States and non-EU countries.

EUFORGEN has also contributed to the development of new programmes and policies at the EU level. In April 2004, after several years of preparations, the European Commission established a new programme for genetic resources in agriculture and EUFORGEN was frequently consulted during the process. This programme will support conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of genetic resources in agriculture during the period 2004-2006.

EUFORGEN has facilitated the development and implementation of bilateral projects on forest genetic resources in Europe. The Noble Hardwoods and Temperate Oaks and Beech Networks have had a direct influence on the extension of a four-year project on the conservation of broadleaved forest genetic resources in southeastern Europe, financially supported by the government of Luxembourg and implemented through IPGRI.

Similarly, EUFORGEN contributed to a training workshop on forest genetic resources that was jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria and IPGRI, in technical collaboration with the FAO Forestry Department. This two-week workshop, held in Austria in May 2001, was targeted for young scientists and practitioners from 15 countries mainly in Eastern Europe. The workshop has led to the development of training material and a new multi-year training programme on forest genetic resources to be funded by Austria and implemented by IPGRI together with Austrian institutes. A similar training course was also organized by the Spanish National Institute for Agricultural Research for participants from Latin America in November 2002. This training course is expected to be organized again in 2004. The role of EUFORGEN in facilitating these training initiatives has been to provide information and relevant products from the different Networks and assisting countries in identifying participants.

During Phase II, EUFORGEN has also intensified its collaboration with several international organizations such as the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO). EUFORGEN collaborated with EFI, IUFRO and several other research organizations in developing a joint statement for the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue, which was organized as part of the Vienna Ministerial Conference in

April 2003. Furthermore in 2003, EFI requested EUFORGEN inputs for the development of criteria and indicators for assessing forest biological diversity in Europe. This work was contracted to EFI by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and EUFORGEN is expected to provide additional inputs in 2004.

In September 2003, EUFORGEN contributed to a symposium on forest genetic resources and sustainable forest management, organized by the North American Forestry Commission and IUFRO prior to the World Forestry Congress in Quebec, Canada. During the Congress exhibition, IUFRO and IPGRI/EUFORGEN also shared a joint public awareness booth.

IPGRI and FAO have used EUFORGEN as an example for similar regional initiatives on forest genetic resources in other parts of the world, namely the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) and the Sub-Saharan Forest Genetic Resources Programme (SAFORGEN). EUFORGEN has also provided advice and experience with networking (lessons learned) to these programmes, as well as relevant contacts for them in Europe.

3. Staff changes in the EUFORGEN Secretariat

During Phase II, several staff changes have taken place in the EUFORGEN Secretariat. In January 2003, Jarkko Koskela started as the new EUFORGEN Coordinator following Jozef Turok, who had coordinated the Programme since its establishment. Simone Borelli worked as Scientific Assistant (50% of his time) for EUFORGEN during September 1999–October 2001. Michele Bozzano started in this position in January 2002. In February 2004, with the support from IPGRI, the temporary position of Scientific Assistant was changed to a position of ‘Programme Specialist, Forest Genetic Resources’ and Michele Bozzano was selected for this new position. EUFORGEN covers 50% of the costs of this position. Since March 2001, Lidwina Koop has been providing excellent support as Programme Assistant (50% of her time) for EUFORGEN.

4. EUFORGEN Management Committee

The Management Committee provides technical and management advice to the EUFORGEN Secretariat. During Phase II, the Committee has held its meetings once a year while other interactions between the Committee and the Secretariat have been more frequent. The Committee has been composed of four members; Christel Palmberg-Lerche and Pierre Sigaud from the FAO Forestry Department, and Jan Engels and Weber Amaral from IPGRI. In February 2003, Christel Palmberg-Lerche retired from FAO and therefore also from the Committee. The continuous support and advice of the Committee members are gratefully acknowledged.

5. Financial report 2000-2004

Audited annual financial reports for 2000-2003 have been sent to the Implementing Agencies and National Coordinators in the participating countries. These reports provide a summary of the financial contributions and the expenditure during 2000-2003, based on the annual reports. A forecast of the financial situation at the end of 2004 is also provided.

The budget for Phase II, approved at the second Steering Committee meeting in 1998, estimated that US\$302 840 were needed annually to maintain the level of activities established during the first Phase. The financial contributions provided by the participating

countries, however, did not reach this level during 2000-2003 (see Appendix 2). This was due to the fact that some countries joined Phase II after 2000 and that a few countries have had outstanding contributions. It is expected that these outstanding contributions will be received during this year in addition to the expected 2004 contribution (US\$308 500).

Although the financial contributions have accounted for less than what was planned in 1998, the Programme has maintained a healthy financial balance. During 2000-2002, the annual expenditure remained lower than what was originally budgeted while the expenditure exceeded the planned annual budget in 2003. It is estimated that the 2004 expenditure will also exceed the planned budget. The higher expenditure in 2003 and 2004 is due to the fact that several Programme activities and outputs have been or will be finalized during the two final years of Phase II. Furthermore, since early 2003, currency exchange rates (i.e. the strong euro as compared to US\$) have increased the costs of various activities, in addition to inflation.

In January 2003, the opening balance of the trust fund was US\$135 365. During the same year, nearly all financial contributions for 2003 were received, as well as several outstanding contributions from the previous years. In 2003, a total of US\$336 283 was received while the annual expenditure was US\$312 001. Subsequently, the beginning balance was US\$159 647 in January 2004. The financial contributions for 2004 are expected to be US\$308 500 and a forecast for the 2004 expenditure in US\$379 711. It is estimated that ca. US\$88 000 will be carried forward for Phase III. The estimate does not include the few outstanding financial contributions from the previous years and therefore the final balance to be carried forward may be higher at the end of 2004.

Appendix 1: List of EUFORGEN publications 2000-2004.**In preparation (2004)**

- Alexandrov A.H. and V. Andonovski. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Demesure-Musch B. and S. Oddou-Muratorio. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Ducci F. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Italian alder (*Alnus cordata*) International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Ducci F., J Fernandez Lopez, M.E. Malvolti and K. Russell. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Walnut (*Juglans regia*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Ducouso A. and S. Bordacs. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for pedunculate and sessile oaks (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Gil L. and M.C. Varela. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for cork oak (*Quercus suber*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Isajev V., B. Fady and H. Semerci. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Black pine (*Pinus nigra*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Koskela J., S.M.G. de Vries, D. Kajba and G. von Wuehlisch, compilers. *Populus nigra* Network, Report of the seventh meeting (25–27 October 2001, Osijek, Croatia) and the eighth meeting (22–24 May 2003, Treppeln, Germany). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Matras J. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for European larch (*Larix decidua*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Mátyás C., L. Ackzell, C.J.A. Samuel. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Nagy L. and F. Ducci. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for (*Acer campestre*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Palancean I. and N. Alba. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for European white poplar (*Populus alba*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Varela, M.C., G. Eriksson, R. Lumaret, L. Gil Sanchez, M.P. Díaz Fernández and J. Turok. EUFORGEN Technical Bulletin: Gene conservation and management of *Quercus suber*. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Vendramin G.G. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Vendramin G.G. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Bosnian pine (*Pinus leucodermis/ P. heldreichii*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

2004

- Ulber M., F. Gugerli, G. Bozic. 2004. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Swiss stone pine (*Pinus cembra*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Vančura K., B. Fady, J. Koskela and C. Mátyás, compilers. 2004. EUFORGEN Conifers Network, Report of the second meeting (20-22 September 2001, Valsain, Spain) and the third meeting (17-19 October 2002, Kostrzyca, Poland). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy. (in press)

2003

- Alan M. and Z. Kaya. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for oriental sweet gum (*Liquidambar orientalis*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Alía, R. and S. Martín. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Bozzano M. and J. Turok, compilers. 2003. EUFORGEN Mediterranean Oaks Network, Report of the second meeting, 2-4 May 2002, Gozo, Malta. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Collin E. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Fady, B., H. Semerci and G. Vendramin. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and Brutia pine (*Pinus brutia*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Fernandez-López J. and R. Alia. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Kajba, D. and J. Gracan. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Black alder (*Alnus glutnosa*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Pliūra, A. and M. Heuertz. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Rotach, P. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Service tree (*Sorbus domestica*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Rusanen, M. and T. Myking. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Russel, K. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Skrøppa, T. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for Norway spruce (*Picea abies*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

- Stephan R., I. Wagner and J. Kleinschmit. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for wild apple and pear (*Malus sylvestris* and *Pyrus pyraeaster*) International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Svejgaard Jensen J. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for lime (*Tilia spp*) International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Vanden Broeck A. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for black poplar (*Populus nigra*) International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Wolf H. 2003. EUFORGEN Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use for silver fir (*Abies alba*). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

2002

- Turok, J., G. Eriksson, K. Russel and S. Borelli, compilers. 2002. EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network, Report of the fourth meeting, 4-6 September 1999, Gmunden, Austria and fifth meeting, 17-19 May 2001, Blessington, Ireland. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

2001

- Borelli, S. and M.C. Varela, compilers. 2001. EUFORGEN Mediterranean Oaks Network, Report of the first meeting. 12-14 October 2000, Antalya, Turkey. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Borelli, S., A. Kremer, T. Geburek, L. Paule and E. Lipman, compilers. 2001. EUFORGEN Social Broadleaves Network, Report of the third meeting, 22-24 June 2000, Borovets, Bulgaria. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Lefèvre, F., N. Barsou, B. Heinze, D. Kajba, P. Rotach, S.M.G. de Vries and J. Turok, compilers. 2001. *In situ* conservation of *Populus nigra*. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Turok, J., C. Mátyás, B. Fady and S. Borelli, compilers. 2001. EUFORGEN Conifers Network, Report of the first meeting. 22-24 March 2000, Brdo/Kranj, Slovenia. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

2000

- Borelli, S., S. de Vries, F. Lefèvre and J. Turok, compilers. 2000. EUFORGEN *Populus nigra* Network, Report of the sixth meeting. 6-8 February 2000, Isle Sur La Sorgue, France. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Turok, J. and T. Geburek, editors. 2000. International collaboration on forest genetic resources: the role of Europe, second EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting, 26-29 November 1998, Vienna, Austria. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.
- Turok, J., A. Kremer, L. Paule, P. Bonfils and E. Lipman, compilers. 2000. EUFORGEN Social Broadleaves Network, Report of the second meeting, 3-6 June, Birmensdorf, Switzerland. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

Appendix 2: Financial contributions received in US\$ during EUFORGEN Phase II (until 15 May 2004).

Country	Annual contribution*	Contributions received in US\$				Outstanding 2000-2003	Contribution 2004**
		2000	2001	2002	2003		
Albania	2,000		2,000	2,000	2,000		2,000
Austria	10,000	10,000	0,000	0,000	10,000		10,000
Belgium Walloon Region	6,250	6,250	,250	,250	6,250		6,250
Belgium Flemish Region	6,250	6,250	,250	,250	6,250		6,250
Bulgaria	5,000	5,000	,000	,000		5,000	
Croatia	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		5,000
Cyprus	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Czech Republic	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Denmark	10,000	10,000	,000	,000	10,000		10,000
Estonia	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		5,000
Finland	10,000	10,000	,000	,000	10,000		10,000
France	30,000	30,000	,000	,000	29,989	11	
Germany	30,000	30,000	,000	,000	30,000		30,000
Hungary	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Iceland	5,000						5,000
Ireland	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		5,000
Italy	30,000		30,000	30,000	30,000		292
Lithuania	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Luxembourg	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000		5,000
Macedonia	2,000		2,000			4,000	
Malta	2,000	2,000	,000	,000	2,000		
The Netherlands	12,500	12,500	,500	,500	12,500		12,500
Norway	10,000	10,000	,000	,000	10,000		10,000
Poland	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Portugal	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		5,000
Slovakia	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Slovenia	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		5,000
Spain	12,500	12,500	2,500	2,500	12,500		
Sweden	12,500	12,500	,500	,500	12,500		12,500
Switzerland	12,500	12,500	2,500	2,500	12,500		12,500
Turkey	5,000	5,000	,000	,000	5,000		
Serbia and Montenegro	5,000			5,000	5,000		5,000
United Kingdom	30,000	30,000	,000	,000	30,000		30,000
Total	308,500	264,500	293,500	301,500	296,489	9,011	192,292

* approved at the 2nd Steering Committee meeting in 1998

** contributions received by 15 May 2004

Appendix 3: EUFORGEN Phase II budget (US\$), a summary of expenditures during 2000-2003 based on final audited annual reports and estimated expenditures for 2004.

Details	Phase II Budget*	Total Expenditure	Expenditure				Balance***	
			2004**	2003	2002	2001		2000
Coordinator 4	00,000	364,470	88,092	80,663	44,958	75,068	75,689	35,530
Secretariat support	225,000	173,308	53,935	62,747	19,515	18,772	18,339	51,692
Network meetings	375,000	366,056	60,000	89,952	69,686	83,579	62,839	8,944
Steering committee meetings	100,000	79,501	45,000	0	34,501	0	0	20,499
Secretariat travel	65,000	50,707	13,000	13,356	11,152	10,493	2,706	14,293
Communication and office consumables	50,000	50,040	10,000	10,040	10,000	10,000	10,000	-40
Publications	125,000	126,886	66,000	19,350	15,800	10,909	14,827	-1,886
Overhead (13%)	174,200	157,427	43,684	35,894	26,730	27,147	23,972	16,773
Total	1,514,200	1,368,395	379,711	312,001	232,342	235,968	208,372	145,805

* Approved at the 2nd Steering Committee meeting in 1998

** Forecast

*** Difference between planned budget and actual expenditure

Fund beginning balance in Jan 2004

Funds expected in 2004

Estimated total expenditure in 2004

Estimate of funds to be forward to Phase III

159,647

308,500

379,711

88,436

Annex II: Implementation plan of EUFORGEN Phase III (1 January 2005–31 December 2009)⁴

1. Introduction

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) was established in October 1994 as an implementation mechanism for Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) of the first Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), held in Strasbourg, France in December 1990. This resolution called for the development of a functional but voluntary instrument of international collaboration to promote and coordinate *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources, the exchange of reproductive material and monitoring of progress in these areas.

After Phase I (1995-1999), EUFORGEN continued facilitating international collaboration on forest genetic resources in Europe through Phase II (2000-2004). The Programme has been operating through species-oriented Networks which have brought together scientists and managers to exchange information, discuss needs and develop conservation methods and technical guidelines for target tree species. By April 2004, 32 European countries had signed an agreement to participate in EUFORGEN Phase II (see Table 1 of Annex I, p. 12).

Most European countries have been actively involved in the Programme and its networks, addressing issues related to forest genetic resources. Several countries outside geographical Europe have also collaborated with EUFORGEN. The Programme is overseen by a Steering Committee, which is composed of National Coordinators from all participating countries. The Steering Committee also has the overall responsibility of the Programme, which is coordinated by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in technical collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In April 2003, the European ministers responsible for forests gathered for the fourth Ministerial Conference in Vienna. Among other commitments, the ministers highlighted the importance of linking conservation of forest genetic resources with sustainable forest management and endorsed the continuation of European collaboration in this field. As a response to this commitment, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee initiated the development of a third phase of the Programme for 2005-2009. In January 2004, the EUFORGEN Secretariat requested feedback from the National Coordinators regarding the outcomes of Phase II and their proposals for the development of Phase III. Following this, the Steering Committee established a task force⁵ to discuss and prepare a proposal for Phase III to be discussed at the fourth Steering Committee meeting in the Czech Republic on 26-29 May 2004. The development of Phase III was based on the future strategy already outlined by the Steering Committee after its third meeting in Sweden in 2002.

Following the above-described process, this document was prepared by the Phase III task force for consideration by the Steering Committee. The document describes the mandate for Phase III, the scope and objectives, the mode of operation and the budget. It was discussed and endorsed at the fourth Steering Committee meeting in the Czech Republic in May 2004. Subsequently, the document will guide the implementation of EUFORGEN activities and administration of the Programme during Phase III.

⁴ This document was developed by the Phase III Task Force and endorsed at the fourth EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting, Židlochovice, Czech Republic, 26-29 May 2004.

⁵ Phase III Task Force members: Thomas Geburek (Austria), Mari Rusanen (Finland), Eric Teissier du Cros (France), John Fennessy (Ireland), Davide De Laurentis (Italy), Vlatko Andonovski (Macedonia FYR) and Sven M.G. de Vries (Netherlands).

2. Mandate for Phase III

The MCPFE process has recognized the achievements of EUFORGEN in promoting international collaboration on forest genetic resources. Under the MCPFE Resolution V4 (Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe), the Signatory States and the European Community undertook a commitment to *“promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continue the pan-European collaboration in this area”*. Resolution V4 broadens the earlier EUFORGEN mandate, originally based on Resolution S2 (Conservation of forest genetic resources) in 1990.

Following the fourth Ministerial Conference, a MCPFE Expert Level meeting developed a new Work Programme for the implementation of the Vienna Resolutions in October 2003. Forest genetic resources were identified as a separate focus area in the new Work Programme to implement Resolution V4. The MCPFE Work Plan agreed to *“promote the conservation of forest genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management and continue pan-European collaboration in this area through the EUFORGEN Networks”* and assigned IPGRI and FAO as leading organizations for this specific action.

During Phase III, EUFORGEN will continue to operate under the MCPFE framework as an implementation mechanism for the relevant policy commitments on forest genetic resources⁶. Through Resolution V4, the ministers responsible for forests reaffirmed that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity is an essential element for their sustainable management. This commitment builds on former MCPFE work and reflects global decisions, especially in the framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources also have a significant role in implementing Resolution V5 on *“Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe”* following commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity specifically encourages development of information systems and strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity. While participating in EUFORGEN and implementing jointly agreed strategies and actions, each country contributes to fulfilling its CBD commitments.

The European Commission has also recognized the role of EUFORGEN in promoting conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in its 25 Member States. In April 2004, it released a new Council Regulation to establish a Community programme on genetic resources in agriculture (including forest genetic resources). The role of EUFORGEN in facilitating collaboration among the Member States is specifically highlighted in this Regulation. Furthermore, the European Plant Conservation Strategy, developed by the Council of Europe and Planta Europa as part of the Global Plant Conservation Strategy, also addressed how EUFORGEN work can contribute toward the goals of the Strategy.

⁶ Strasbourg Resolution S2 (Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources); Helsinki Resolutions H1 (General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe), H2 (General Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity of European Forests) and H4 (Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change); Lisbon Resolution L2 (Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management); Vienna Resolutions V4 (Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe) and V5 (Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe).

In conclusion, all these policy commitments give a very strong mandate for the development of a third phase of EUFORGEN.

3. Scope of Phase III

During its third meeting in Sweden in 2002, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee discussed future activities of the Programme and decided to develop a strategy focusing beyond Phase II. The Steering Committee recognized that by the end of Phase II, the Programme will have achieved its main technical objective, i.e. publication of Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation and use of more than 30 tree species. The future strategy was finalized in autumn 2002 and it was also submitted to the MCPFE Expert Level follow-up meeting, which was held before the Vienna Ministerial Conference.

In this strategy, the Steering Committee agreed that EUFORGEN should promote gene conservation as an integral part of sustainable forest management and that it should focus on facilitating practical implementation of recommendations presented in the Technical Guidelines. It was also stressed that the Programme needs to expand its scope towards identifying genetically sustainable forest management practices, estimating related conservation and management costs, and facilitating implementation of European networks of representative gene conservation units.

The Steering Committee indicated in its strategy that continued collaboration on forest genetic resources among countries is essential, while each country can independently manage its forest genetic resources. Countries recognized that through pan-European collaboration they can do so more efficiently and in a more cost-effective way. For this reason, the Steering Committee also discussed development of common action plans for target tree species in Europe during its previous meeting in Sweden.

Conservation of forest genetic resources should include an increased awareness of the use of appropriate forest reproductive material. Furthermore, protection of genetic diversity through best silvicultural practices should be an integral part of sustainable forest management.

The management of forest genetic resources, including gene conservation, remains within the national sovereignty and responsibility of each participating country. However, in light of the EUFORGEN achievements of the past 10 years, there are strong reasons for continuation of support for international collaboration on forest genetic resources in Europe. There are a number of reasons for this: firstly, the distribution ranges and gene-ecological zones of forest trees do not respect national borders. Secondly, the countries remain inter-dependent on each other on the use of genetic resources of tree species, particularly for genetic improvement and the trade of forest reproductive material, although this inter-dependence is not as strong as in the agricultural sector. Thirdly, appropriate management of genetic resources is a cornerstone of long-term sustainability of forestry, especially under global climate change. Therefore, the inter-dependence of countries on forest genetic resources is likely to increase in the future. The same reasons also create a need for increased sharing of information on forest genetic resources among countries and should include all countries to cover the entire distribution range of European tree species, with particular emphasis on neglected species and populations. In this context, attention should also be given to adapted populations of exotic tree species, as well as a consideration to strengthen linkages with policy makers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders.

The common action plans aim to create pan-European networks of conservation units for selected tree species. The concept of common action plans does not attempt to create a new European conservation programme (cf. Natura 2000) but merely to locate the already existing gene conservation units in various countries and obtain geo-referenced data on these to build the pan-European picture for further action. This concept helps to identify gaps or possible overlaps in gene conservation efforts at pan-European level. EUFORGEN can also support individual countries, if needed and requested, in their efforts to implement practical gene conservation as part of sustainable forest management and to improve forest-related policies regarding gene conservation issues.

In its working strategy EUFORGEN should also develop a flexible approach to deal with emerging issues.

4. Objectives for Phase III

Following the scope for Phase III and the MCPFE Resolutions, the overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe, and to facilitate pan-European collaboration in this area. More specifically, the objectives for Phase III are as follows:

1. Promote practical implementation of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management;
2. Facilitate further development of methods to conserve genetic diversity of European forests;
3. Collate and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.

The Steering Committee endorsed the following activities to be carried out during Phase III to meet the agreed objectives (Table 1).

5. Mode of operation

EUFORGEN continues to operate as a multilateral trust fund. Individual countries formally join EUFORGEN Phase III by signing a Letter of Agreement with IPGRI in which the financial contribution to be made by a country is also specified. This Agreement will be deemed invalid if the country does not meet its financial obligations for two consecutive years. IPGRI will continue hosting the EUFORGEN Secretariat and coordinating the Programme activities in technical collaboration with FAO.

5.1. National Coordinators and Steering Committee

When joining EUFORGEN Phase III, each country is required to nominate a National Coordinator as the official contact person between the Secretariat and the participating country for all matters relating to the Programme. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee is composed of National Coordinators from all the participating countries and it has the overall responsibility of the Programme. IPGRI and FAO are entitled to nominate their representatives as observers in the Steering Committee meetings. Experts may be invited for Steering Committee activities. The role of the National Coordinators is to:

Table 1. EUFORGEN objectives and Programme activities during Phase III.

Objectives	Activities
Promote practical implementation of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources as an integral part of sustainable forest management.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote implementation of recommendations presented in the Technical Guidelines at national level, as needed or requested; 2. Support integration of gene conservation and appropriate use of genetic resources into national forest programmes and policies; 3. Collaborate with the MCPFE process and other relevant international, regional and national initiatives and processes; 4. Provide advice to countries on issues related to forest genetic resources, if requested; 5. Facilitate implementation of common action plans and use of best management practices; 6. Develop protocols to evaluate genetic consequences of different management practices and identify genetically appropriate management practices in collaboration with forest managers and policy makers.
Facilitate further development of methods to conserve genetic diversity of European forests.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop common action plans as part of pan-European gene conservation strategies; 2. Develop common methods for genetic monitoring; 3. Revise Technical Guidelines and develop new ones, as needed; 4. Highlight negative consequences of the use of inappropriate forest reproductive material; 5. Develop methods to promote genetically sustainable regeneration; 6. Improve collaboration between nature conservation and gene conservation efforts in Europe; 7. Facilitate the expansion of the Programme to recruit non-participating countries to cover the entire distribution ranges of European tree species.
Collate and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness among policy makers, forestry professionals and the general public on the importance of forest genetic resources; 2. Compile and make available geo-referenced data on gene conservation units in Europe; 3. Develop EUFORGEN position papers (e.g. for the MCPFE process); 4. Publish reports on the state of forest genetic resources in Europe and other relevant issues; 5. Maintain the existing Web site and develop a new online information infrastructure, as needed; 6. Facilitate exchange of information among countries.

1. Participate in the Steering Committee activities and meetings;
2. Promote EUFORGEN and its activities at national level;
3. Liaise between the Secretariat and relevant ministries;
4. Ensure that necessary resources are channelled to the Programme;
5. Liaise between the Secretariat and the national institutions involved in the EUFORGEN activities;
6. Nominate permanent country representatives to the EUFORGEN Networks and their working groups (when necessary), and maintain regular contacts with them; and
7. Assist national institutes in carrying out the EUFORGEN activities.

The Steering Committee will meet twice during Phase III. If needed, it can establish *ad hoc* task forces between the meetings to prepare future activities and analyze relevant issues.

Decisions at Steering Committee meetings are taken by consensus. If necessary in certain cases, the Steering Committee members will vote to reach decisions based on a simple majority of votes. Each country has one vote while IPGRI and FAO representatives have no voting rights. Between meetings should the need arise for a decision to be made on an urgent issue, the Secretariat will contact the Steering Committee members by Email and action will be taken upon receiving feedback in the given timeframe. The Steering Committee will:

1. Review the progress made and decide upon future activities of the Programme;
2. Review technical and audited financial reports prepared by the Secretariat;
3. Approve the budget of the Programme;
4. Review Network activities; and
5. Discuss issues relevant to EUFORGEN and the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe.

5.2. International Secretariat

An International Secretariat manages EUFORGEN and coordinates the activities of the Programme and its Networks. Using the resources provided by the countries, IPGRI appoints the EUFORGEN Coordinator and other staff to work for the Programme with the Steering Committee and the Networks.

Technical and scientific advice to the Secretariat is provided by the Management Committee, which is composed of two representatives of FAO and two representatives of IPGRI. The Management Committee meets yearly to discuss technical and scientific issues relevant to EUFORGEN. The minutes of these meetings will be circulated to the Steering Committee.

The role of the EUFORGEN Secretariat is to:

1. Ensure that the implementation of the Programme and its activities are in accordance with the mandate given by the MCPFE process and the Steering Committee;
2. Provide information relevant to the Steering Committee meetings well in advance;
3. Be responsible for the financial management of the Programme;
4. Liaise between the Steering Committee, the Networks and the Management Committee;
5. Provide support for the Network activities and ensure that the agreed actions are carried out;
6. Prepare reports and other publications;
7. Gather and disseminate relevant information; and
8. Represent EUFORGEN and facilitate collaboration with relevant international organizations and processes.

The Secretariat reports on the activities of the Programme to the Steering Committee annually and at each meeting of the Steering Committee. An audited financial report will be sent to the National Coordinators annually.

5.3. EUFORGEN Networks

5.3.1 Species Networks

During Phase II (2000-2004), EUFORGEN operated through five species-oriented Networks, i.e. 1) Conifers, 2) Mediterranean Oaks, 3) *Populus nigra*, 4) Noble Hardwoods and 5) Temperate Oaks and Beech. The EUFORGEN achievements have been accomplished by

Network members from participating countries who have carried out jointly agreed workplans with their own resources as inputs in-kind to the Programme.

The EUFORGEN Networks have produced a considerable amount of information on forest genetic resources in Europe and developed strategies and recommendations for genetic conservation for a large group of tree species growing in different forest ecosystems throughout the continent. The amount of outputs and activities among the Networks is varied. This is due to the fact that the starting points were different for each Network and that the Networks have been working with a variable number of tree species. Furthermore, the number of countries participating in each Network is quite variable and this influences its outputs and activities.

Based on the survey carried out in early 2004, the majority of National Coordinators in the participating countries favoured a mixture of thematic and species-oriented Networks to carry out and organize the EUFORGEN activities during Phase III. In 2003 and early 2004, the present EUFORGEN Networks were asked to discuss Phase III during their meetings and provide inputs to the Steering Committee. Many Networks expressed their desire to continue the work based on the species-oriented approach. However, they also identified the need to establish new thematic Networks to complement their efforts during Phase III. Some of the Networks also discussed the sub-regional approach in organizing their work, but concluded that the Pan-European approach is more appropriate to promote gene conservation.

The new EUFORGEN mandate clearly calls for intensified thematic efforts, especially in enhancing the integration of gene conservation into practical forest management. In their feedback, a few countries even considered that EUFORGEN Networks should be built around thematic issues only. However, species-oriented Networks are still considered necessary by the vast majority because they have an important role to play in developing and implementing common action plans.

The Steering Committee discussed the future role of the five species-oriented Networks. It was agreed that the Network structure of the Programme needs to be re-organized in response to the requirements of Vienna Resolution V4 and the above-mentioned new objectives and activities.

It was decided to merge the four Networks dealing with broadleaved tree species (i.e. Mediterranean Oaks, *Populus nigra*, Noble Hardwoods and Temperate Oaks and Beech) into two new species-oriented Networks focusing on scattered and widely distributed broadleaves species. During Phase III, there will be three species-oriented Networks addressing the following groups of tree species (Figure 1):

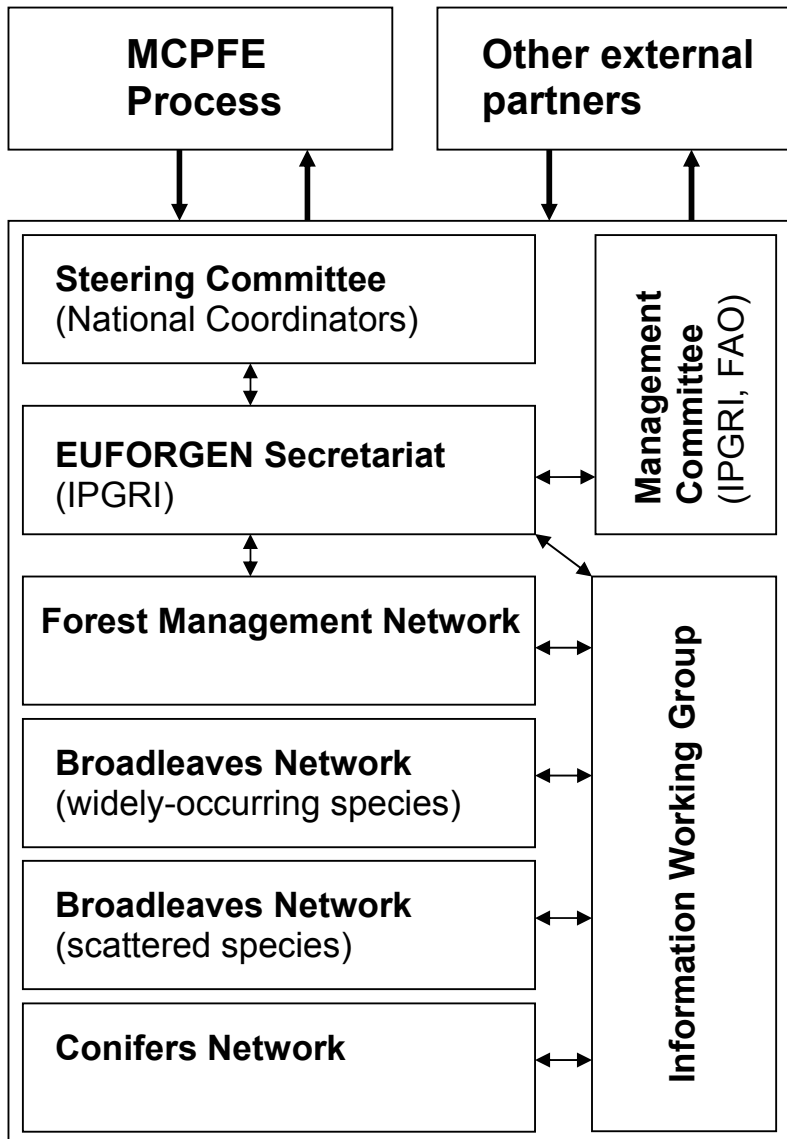
1. Conifers;
2. Broadleaves with scattered distribution; and
3. Broadleaves with wide distribution pattern.

The Steering Committee agreed to establish a new task force to define the official names of the new broadleaved species Networks and how the current broadleaved species will be allocated between the two new Networks. The task force should also provide recommendations regarding the need to address new species (e.g. aspen (*Populus tremula*), exotic conifers, etc.) in the three species-oriented Networks.

It was decided that the species-oriented Networks will meet less frequently, up to three times during Phase III. Smaller working groups can be created within the species-oriented

Networks to address species-specific or thematic issues. It was also agreed that the Network representatives should be nominated for the complete Phase III period instead of meeting by meeting in order to make the work of the Networks more efficient.

Figure 1. Organizational structure of EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009)



5.3.2. Thematic Network and information management

In addition to re-organizing species-oriented Networks, two new thematic structures will be created for Phase III (Figure 1):

1. Forest Management Network, promoting gene conservation as part of sustainable forest management;
2. Information Working Group, focusing on information management and public awareness efforts.

Representatives for the Forest Management Network will be nominated by National Coordinators following the current nomination practice. It is recommended that participants in the Network should hold national responsibilities in areas related to forest policy, national forest programmes or forest management. Furthermore, it was also recommended that each species Network should be represented in the Forest Management Network. This should ensure that the new thematic Network has a mixture of participants with expertise on both forest management and gene conservation. Similarly to other Networks, representatives of the Forest Management Network should be nominated for the complete Phase III period.

Regarding the Information Working Group, it was decided that representatives for its activities will be nominated by all Networks (1-3 participants each), as required to accomplish certain tasks. Expertise from outside EUFORGEN may be invited to contribute to specific tasks. The Information Working Group will replace the Inter-Network Group of Phase II and create a permanent platform for inter-Network collaboration within EUFORGEN. One of the tasks of this Working Group will be to harmonize the information management among the Networks.

6. Documentation and information policy

EUFORGEN is frequently asked to provide relevant information to the MCPFE process and for other purposes. The Steering Committee decided to revise EUFORGEN's publication and information policy to better meet these requirements.

During Phase III, countries shall report on their overall activities on forest genetic resources and progress made at regular intervals (3-4 years) instead of providing species-by-species updates during the Network meetings. This information shall then be published as a EUFORGEN publication (entitled "European Forest Genetic Resources Report-200X", before the next MCPFE) including additional papers on the current and relevant topics. This publication will provide a comprehensive picture of the state of forest genetic resources in Europe and will be useful for policy makers and help to increase public awareness, as well as promote sustainable forest management.

Following this change in reporting efforts, the Network meetings will have more time to focus on relevant themes and issues. The Networks can develop their publications to meet the interest of wider audiences, independently of the meeting cycle. Summary reports of the EUFORGEN meetings will not be produced as EUFORGEN publications but in a simple format and will be distributed shortly after the meetings.

Using the Information Working Group as a platform, the species-oriented and thematic Networks can jointly agree information standards and streamline their efforts in producing new databases, publications, public awareness tools, etc. The Networks should collaborate through the Information Working Group while preparing project proposals and other joint efforts, such as the common action plans. The Information Working Group can also help the Secretariat to further develop the EUFORGEN Web site as an information portal on forest genetic resources in Europe.

The EUFORGEN Secretariat will facilitate the translation and further adaptation of existing publications, Technical Guidelines and other public awareness material at national level. However, it was agreed that translation and printing costs should be covered nationally.

7. Budget for Phase III

The proposed budget for Phase III and allocation of funds over the period of five years is presented in Appendix 1. It is estimated that a total budget of approximately US\$1 865 000 is needed to carry out the Programme activities. The average annual budget is ca. US\$373 000.

Expected annual contributions from participating countries to cover the costs of the Programme are shown in Appendix 2a. Ranking of the countries for different categories of the annual financial contribution are based on the United Nations assessment rates (for the year 2003) which take into account the economic development and the financial situation of its member countries. An expected annual commitment from the current member countries is US\$354 650 (Appendix 2a) while the potential contribution from possible new member countries amounts to US\$65 250 per year (Appendix 2b). It is projected that ca. US\$88 000 will be carried forward from Phase II to Phase III. Additional financial resources to support specific Programme activities can be sought by developing project proposals for relevant calls and donors.

Overall coordination of the Programme and Secretariat support accounts for 43% of the total budget. The funds allocated for Steering Committee meetings and publications have been slightly reduced in relative terms while more funds have been allocated for Network operations. New items in the budget are the IPGRI Newsletter for Europe and public awareness tools and actions. During Phase II, these two items have been a part of the publication costs. IPGRI provides in-kind contributions to the Programme by maintaining the overhead charges at 13% instead of applying its standard rate (25%). The overhead charges cover the provision of office space at IPGRI for the Secretariat as well as the input and time of IPGRI professional staff to the Programme. An additional 1% of the total budget is allocated to IPGRI for communication costs and office consumables.

Appendix 1: Estimated budget (in US\$) for EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009).

Annual breakdown of Phase III budget

	Phase II	Phase III	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Coordinator at IPGRI*	400,000	496,220	91,616	95,280	99,092	103,055	107,177
Secretariat scientific support (50%)*		159,255	29,403	30,579	31,802	33,074	34,397
Secretariat administrative support (50%)*	225,000	144,559	26,690	27,757	28,867	30,022	31,223
Secretariat staff travel	65,000	65,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Steering Committee (meetings)	100,000	90,000	0	0	45,000	0	45,000
Thematic Networks (meetings and operations)		200,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Species-oriented Network (meetings and operations)	375,000	300,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Publications and dissemination of information	125,000	100,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Newsletter (50%, two issues per year)		20,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Public awareness tools/action		25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Communication and office consumables	50,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sub-total 1,340,0	00	1,650,034	299,709	305,616	356,761	318,151	369,797
Overhead (13%)**	174,200	214,504	38,962	39,730	46,379	41,360	48,074
Total	1,514,200	1,864,538	338,671	345,346	403,140	359,511	417,871

* Yearly increases are based on a 2% inflation and 2% performance increase per year

** This includes provision of office space within IPGRI headquarters, the input and time of IPGRI professional staff, etc.

Percentage use of funds by category during Phase II and Phase III

Category	Phase II	Phase III
Coordination and Secretariat support	41%	43%
Staff travel	4%	4%
Steering Committee meetings	7%	5%
Network operations (meetings, actions)	25%	27%
Publications 8%		5%
Newsletter		1%
Public awareness		1%
IPGRI 15	%	14%
Total 10	0%	100%

Appendix 2a: EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009): annual contributions in US\$ from countries with expected commitment.

Country	UN rates (%) ¹	Category ²	Annual contribution (US\$)
Albania 0.0	03	A 2,200	
Macedonia FYR	0.006	A 2,200	
Estonia 0	.010	B1 5,500	
Bulgaria 0	.013	B1 5,500	
Malta 0.0	15	B1 5,500	
Lithuania 0.0	17	B1 5,500	
Serbia and Montenegro	0.020	B1 5,500	
Iceland 0.0	33	B1 5,500	
Cyprus 0	.038	B1 5,500	
Croatia 0.0	39	B1 5,500	
Slovakia 0	.043	B1 5,500	
Luxembourg 0.0	80	B1 5,500	
Slovenia 0	.081	B1 5,500	
Hungary 0	.120	B2 7,500	
Czech Republic	0.203	B2 7,500	
Ireland 0.2	94	B2 7,500	
Poland 0	.378	B2 7,500	
Turkey 0.4	40	B2 7,500	
Portugal 0.4	62	B2 7,500	
Finland 0	.522	C 11	,000
Norway 0	.646	C 11	,000
Denmark 0.7	49	C 11	,000
Austria 0	.947	C 11	,000
Sweden 1.0	27	D 13	,750
Belgium 1.1	29	D 13	,750
Switzerland 1.2	74	D 13	,750
Netherlands 1.7	38	D 13	,750
Spain 2.5	19	D 13	,750
Italy 5	.065	E 33	,000
United Kingdom	5.536	E 33	,000
France 6	.466	E 33	,000
Germany 9	.769	E 33	,000
Annual total		35	4,650
Total over five years		1,	773,250

¹ UN Scale of Assessments approved for the year 2003, as established by General Assembly Resolution 55/5B adopted on 22 December 2000

² Key to calculation of annual contribution to EUFORGEN (US\$):

Threshold	Category	Annual contribution
$x < 0.01$	A	2,200
$0.01 \leq x < 0.1$	B1	5,500
$0.1 \leq x < 0.5$	B2	7,500
$0.5 \leq x < 1.0$	C	11,000
$1.0 \leq x < 5.0$	D	13,750
$x \geq 5.0$	E	33,000

Appendix 2b: EUFORGEN Phase III (2005-2009): Annual contributions in US\$ from countries with potential commitment.

Country	UN rates (%) ¹	Category ²	Annual contribution (US\$)
Armenia 0.002		A 2,200	
Moldova 0.002		A 2,200	
Azerbaijan 0.004		A 2,200	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.004	A 2,200	
Georgia 0.005		A 2,200	
Latvia 0.010		B1 5,500	
Belarus 0.019		B1 5,500	
Ukraine 0.053		B1 5,500	
Romania 0.058		B1 5,500	
Israel 0.415		B2 7,500	
Greece 0.539		C 11	,000
Russia 1.200		D 13	,750
Annual total			65,250
Total over five years			326,250

¹ UN Scale of Assessments approved for the year 2003, as established by General Assembly Resolution 55/5B adopted on 22 December 2000

² Key to calculation of annual contribution to EUFORGEN (US\$):

Threshold	Category	Annual contribution
$x < 0.01$	A	2,200
$0.01 \leq x < 0.1$	B1	5,500
$0.1 \leq x < 0.5$	B2	7,500
$0.5 \leq x < 1.0$	C	11,000
$1.0 \leq x < 5.0$	D	13,750
$x \geq 5.0$	E	33,000

Annex III: Meeting agenda**Fourth EUFORGEN Steering Committee Meeting, Židlochovice, Czech Republic, 26–29 May 2004**

Tue 25 May 2004		
16:00-19:00	Bus transport from Ruzyne Airport in Prague to Židlochovice (approx. 200 km)	Prague
19:30	Welcome to Židlochovice Castle (Karel Vančura)	
20:00 D	inner	Židlochovice Castle
	Accommodation is provided at either Židlochovice Castle or Hotel Centro in Hustopeče (participants arriving earlier and/or by own vehicles can check in during the afternoon)	
Wed 26 May		
07:00 Bre	akfast	Hotel/Castle
08:00	Transport from Hotel Centro to the Castle (20 km, for those who stay in the hotel)	
09:00	Opening of the meeting (Chair: Eric Teissier du Cross) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome addresses by the host country, IPGRI and FAO • Keynote address by Fred Steenhoff, European Commission, DG Agriculture • Adoption of the agenda and nomination of rapporteurs 	Conference Centre, Židlochovice Castle
10:30 C	offee/tea break	
11:00	Seminar on forest biological diversity and sustainable forest management in Europe (Chair: Sven de Vries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-European process on forests (Piotr Borkowski, MCPFE Liaison Unit, Poland) • Forest science and policy making (Risto Päivinen, European Forest Institute, Finland) 	
12:30 Lu	nch	Židlochovice Castle
14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global perspectives on forest genetic resources (Pierre Sigaud, FAO Forestry Department) • Sustainable forest management: update on the UNFF process (Lennart Ackzell, National Board of Forestry, Sweden) • Global status and trends of genetic modification in forestry (Pierre Sigaud, FAO Forestry Department) 	
16:00	Coffee/tea break	
16:30-18:00	Linking conservation of forest genetic resources and sustainable forest management: the role of EUFORGEN (Chair: Bjerne Ditlevsen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussion 	
19:00 D	inner	Židlochovice Castle
Thu 27 May		
07:00 Bre	akfast	Hotel/Castle
08:00	Transport from Hotel Centro to the Castle (20 km, for those who stay in the hotel)	
09:00	EUFORGEN Phase II (Chair: Lennart Ackzell) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and financial report of Phase II (Jarkko Koskela) • Discussion and adoption of the report 	Conference Centre, Židlochovice Castle
10:30 C	offee/tea break	
11:00	Review of Phase III proposal (Chair: Lennart Ackzell)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to the Phase III proposal (Jarkko Koskela) ● Mandate for Phase III (Task Force) 	
12:30 Lu	nch	Židlochovice Castle
14:00	Review of Phase III: continued (Chair: Sven de Vries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scope of Phase III (Task Force) ● Objectives (Task Force) 	
16:00 C	offee/tea break	
16:30-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mode of operation (Task Force) 	Brno
18:00-19:00	Visit to the city of Brno	
19:00 D	inner	Brno
Fri 28 May		
07:00 Bre	akfast	Hotel/Castle
08:00	Transport from Hotel Centro to the Castle (20 km, for those who stay in the hotel)	
09:00	Review of Phase III: continued (Chair: Tore Skrøppa) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mode of operation, continued ● Documentation and information policy (Task Force) 	Conference Centre, Židlochovice Castle
10:30 C	offee/tea break	
11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget for Phase III (Jozef Turok) ● Other issues related to Phase III 	
12:30 Lu	nch	Židlochovice Castle
14:00	Opportunities and events relevant for EUFORGEN (Chair: Hojka Kraigher) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New EC Regulation on genetic resources (Jarkko Koskela) ● Discussion on the EUFORGEN approach to the new Regulation 	
16:00 C	offee/tea break	
16:30-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International training programme on FGR (Thomas Geburek) ● IPGRI update: external reviews and the development of a new strategy (Jozef Turok) 	
19:00	Dinner	Free choice
Sat 29 May		
07:00 Bre	akfast	Hotel/Castle
08:00	Departure for field excursion	
12:30 Lu	nch	Mikulov Castle
15:00-18:00	Wrap-up session (Chair: Karel Vančura) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adoption of the Phase III document and recommendations ● Any other business ● Date and place of next meeting ● Closing remarks 	
20:00 So	cial Dinner	Židlochovice Castle
Sun 30 May		
07:30 Bre	akfast	Hotel/Castle
09:00	Departures for Ruzyne Airport in Prague (as needed)	

Annex IV: List of participants

National Coordinators

Thomas Geburek
 Department of Forest Genetics
 Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests
 Hauptstrasse 7
 1140 Vienna
Austria
 Tel: (43-1) 878382109
 Fax: (43-1) 878382250
 Email: thomas. bfw.gv.at

Jos Van Slycken
 Institute for Forestry and Game Management
 Gaverstraat 4
 9500 Geraardsbergen
Belgium
 Tel: (32-54) 437110
 Fax: (32-54) 436160
 Email: Jozef. in.vlaanderen.be

Alexander Alexandrov
 Forest Research Institute
 Kliment Ohridski Blvd 132
 1756 Sofia
Bulgaria
 Tel: (359-2) 9620442
 Fax: (359-2) 9620447
 Email: bulnet.bg

Joso Gračan
 Forest Research Institute
 Cvjetno naselje 41
 10450 Jastrebarsko
Croatia
 Tel: (385-1) 6273 000
 Fax: (385-1) 6273 035
 Email: umins.hr

Karel Vančura
 Forestry Department
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Tešnov 17
 117 05 Praha 1
Czech Republic
 Tel: (420-2) 21812357
 Fax: (420-2) 21812988
 Email: mze.cz

Bjerne Ditlevsen
 Danish Tree Improvement Station
 Krogerupvej 21
 3050 Denmark
Denmark
 Tel: (45) 49190214
 Fax: (45) 49160016
 Email: ns.dk

Mari Rusanen
 Finnish Forest Research Institute
 Box 18
 01301 Vantaa
Finland
 Tel: (358-10) 211 2518
 Fax: (358-10) 211 2205
 Email: mari. metla.fi

Eric Teissier du Cros
 INRA
 20, Avenue Vivaldi
 84000 Avignon
France
 Tel: (33-4) 90135911
 Fax: (33-4) 90135959
 Email: eric. avignon.inra.fr

Thorsten Hinrichs
On behalf of Ms Dorothea Steinhauser
 Bundesministerium für Verbraucherschutz
 Ernährung and Landwirtschaft, BMVEL
 Referat 533
 Rochusstrasse 1
 53123 Bonn
Germany
 Tel: (49-228) 5294287
 Fax: (49-228) 5294318
 Email: thorsten. bmvel.bund.de

Csaba Mátyás
 Faculty of Forestry
 University of West Hungary
 PO Box 132
 9401 Sopron
Hungary
 Tel: (36-9) 518395
 Fax: (36-99) 329840
 Email: emk.nyme.hu

Thröstur Eysteinnsson
Iceland Forest Service
Box 98
700 Egilsstaðir
Iceland
Tel: (354-471) 2100
Fax: (354-471) 2172
Email: skogur.is

John Fennessy
COFORD (National Council for Forest
Research and Development)
Agriculture Building
UCD
Belfield, Dublin 4
Ireland
Tel: (353-171) 67700
Fax: (353-171) 61180
Email: john.coford.ie

Davide De Laurentis
Corpo Forestale dello Stato
Ministero per le Politiche Agricole
Via Giosue Carducci 5
00187 Roma
Italy
Tel: (39-06) 46657066
Fax: (39-06) 4873362
Email: d.corpoforestale.it

Vaidotas Lygis
Forest Seed Farming and Tree Breeding Service
Liepu 2
Girionys
53101 Kaunas region
Lithuania
Tel: (370) 37547347
Fax: (370) 37547771
Email: mssc.lt

Vlatko Andonovski
Faculty of Forestry
University Ss. Cyril and Metodij
PO Box 235
1000 Skopje
Macedonia, FYR
Tel: (389-2) 3135033
Fax: (389-2) 3079748
Email: unet.com.mk

Sven M.G. de Vries
Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands
Wageningen University and Research
c/o ALTEERRA
PO Box 47
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel: (31-317) 477841
Fax: (31-317) 424988
Email: sven.wur.nl

Tore Skrøppa
Norwegian Forest Research Inst.
Høgskoleveien 8
1432 Ås
Norway
Tel: (47-64) 949067
Fax: (47-64) 942980
Email: toreskogforsk.no

Jan Matras
Forest Research Institute
Bitwy Warszawskiej 1920r 3
00973 Warszawa
Poland
Tel: (48-22) 7150478
Fax: (48-22) 7150313
Email: bles.waw.pl

Maria Carolina Varela
Estação Florestal Nacional
INIA
Quinta do Marques
2780-159 Oeiras
Portugal
Tel: (351-21) 4463700
Fax: (351-21) 4463702
Email: carolina.efn.com.pt

Sasa Orlovic
Poplar Research Institute
Antona Cehova 13
PO Box 117
21000 Novi Sad
Serbia and Montenegro
Tel: (381-21) 540384
Fax: (381-21) 540385
Email: polj.ns.ac.yu

Ladislav Paule
Faculty of Forestry
Technical University
Masarykova 24
960 53 Zvolen
Slovakia
Tel: (421-45) 5206221
Fax: (421-45) 5332654, 5350608
Email: vsld.tuzvo.sk

Hojka Kraigher
Slovenian Forestry Institute
Veččna pot 2
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: (386-1) 2007820
Fax: (386-1) 2573589
Email: hojka. gozdis.si

Pablo Goikoetxea
On behalf of Alejandro Lopez de Roma
Centro de Investigaciones Forestales, INIA
Ctra. de la Coruña km 7,5
28040 Madrid
Spain
Tel: (34- 91) 3476772
Fax: (34- 91) 3476883
Email: nia.es

Lennart Ackzell
National Board of Forestry
Vallgatan 8
551 83 Jönköping
Sweden
Tel: (46-36) 155706
Fax: (46-36) 166170
Email: lennart.svo.se

Hasan Özer
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Gevre ve Orman Bakanligi
APK Ataturk Bulvari 153
Bakanliklar, Ankara
Turkey
Tel: (90-312) 4177725
Fax: (90-312) 4179160
Email: yahoo.com

Observers

Dalibor Ballian
Šumarski Fakultet u Sarajevu
Zagrebacka 20
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel: (387-33) 614003-130
Fax: (387-33) 611349
Email: bih.net.ba

Piotr Borkowski
Head of the Liaison Unit Warsaw
MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw
Ul. Bitwy Warszawskiej 1920 r. Nr 3
00973 Warsaw
Poland
Tel: (48-22) 3317031
Fax: (48-22) 3317032
Email: p. u-warsaw.pl

Andreas D. Drouzas
Directorate of Forest Resources Development
Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Ippokratous 3-5
10164 Athens
Greece
Tel: (30-210) 2124591
Fax: (30-210) 3612710
Email: a. minagr.gr

Risto Päivinen
European Forest Institute (EFI)
Torikatu 34
80100 Joensuu
Finland
Tel: (358-13) 2520213
Fax: (358-13) 124393
Email: efi.fi

Gheorghe Postolache
Botanical Garden (Institute)
Academy of Sciences of Moldova
Str. Gh Asachi, 62/4, ap. 6
2028 Chisinau
Moldova
Tel: (373-22) 720269
Fax: (373-22) 281828
Email: mail.ru

Bartolomeo Schirone
Universita degli Studi della Tuscia
Via S. Camillo de Lellis
011000 Viterbo
Italy
Tel: (39-0761) 357391
Fax: (39-0761) 357413, 357250
Email: unitus.it

Fred Steenhoff
European Commission
DG AGRI F.1 Environment and Forestry
Rue de la Loi 130 10/185
1049 Brussel
Belgium
Tel: (32-2) 2958534
Fax: (32-2) 2966255
Email: fred.cec.eu.int

Irina Tvauri
V. Gulisashvili Mountain Institute of Forestry
Mindeli 9
0186 Tbilisi
Georgia
Tel: (995-32) 317234
Fax: (995-32) 317234
Email: yahoo.com

Roman Volosyanchuk
Ukrainian Research Institute of
Forestry and Forest Melioration
Pushkinska 86
61024 Kharkiv
Ukraine
Tel: (380-57) 7041002
Fax: (380-57) 7041009
Email: hotmail.com and
uriffm.com.ua

FAO

Pierre Sigaud
Forest Resources Division
Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Tel: (39-06) 57055135
Fax: (39-06) 57055137
Email: pierre.ao.org

IPGRI

Jozef Turok
Regional Director
Regional Office for Europe
International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
(IPGRI)
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Italy
Tel: (39-06) 6118250
Fax: (39-06) 61979661
Email: j.cgiar.org

EUFORGEN Secretariat

Jarkko Koskela
EUFORGEN Coordinator
IPGRI Regional Office for Europe
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Italy
Tel: (39-06) 6118223
Fax: (39-06) 61979661
Email: j.giar.org

Michele Bozzano
Programme Specialist
IPGRI Regional Office for Europe
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Italy
Tel: (39-06) 6118221
Fax: (39-06) 61979661
Email: m.cgiar.org

Lidwina Koop
Programme Assistant
IPGRI Regional Office for Europe
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino)
Italy
Tel: (39-06) 6118251
Fax: (39-06) 61979661
Email: l.giar.org

Unable to attend

Maxhun Dida
Forest and Pasture Research Institute
Rruga Halit Bega nr 23
Tirana
Albania
Tel: (355-43) 71237
Fax: (355-43) 71242
Email: albaniaonline.net

Xenophon Hadjikyriacou
Forestry Department
Ministry of Agriculture
1411 Nicosia
Cyprus
Tel: (357) 22805504
Fax: (357) 22781419
Email: yahoo.com

Kalev Jögiste
Forest Research Institute
Estonian Agricultural University
Kreutzwaldi 5
51014 Tartu
Estonia
Tel: (372-7) 313168
Fax: (372-7) 313153
Email: eau.ee

Frank Wolter
Service de l' Aménagement des Bois
Administration des Eaux et Forêts
BP 2513
1025 Luxembourg
Luxemburg
Tel: (352) 402201216
Fax: (352) 402201250
Email: Frank. ef.etat.lu

Eman Calleja
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Department of Agriculture
Notabile Road
Attard
Malta
Tel: (356) 415488/419125
Fax: (356) 493176/ 415488
Email: orbit.net.mt

Markus Bolliger
BUWAL/Swiss Forest Agency
Eidg. Forstdirektion
3003 Bern
Switzerland
Tel: (41-31) 3247787
Fax: (41-31) 3247789
Email: Markus. buwal.admin.ch

C.J.A. Samuel
Forest Research
Northern Research Station
EH25 9SY Roslin, Midlothian
United Kingdom
Tel: (44-131) 4456927
Fax: (44-131) 4455124
Email: cja. forestry.gsi.gov.uk