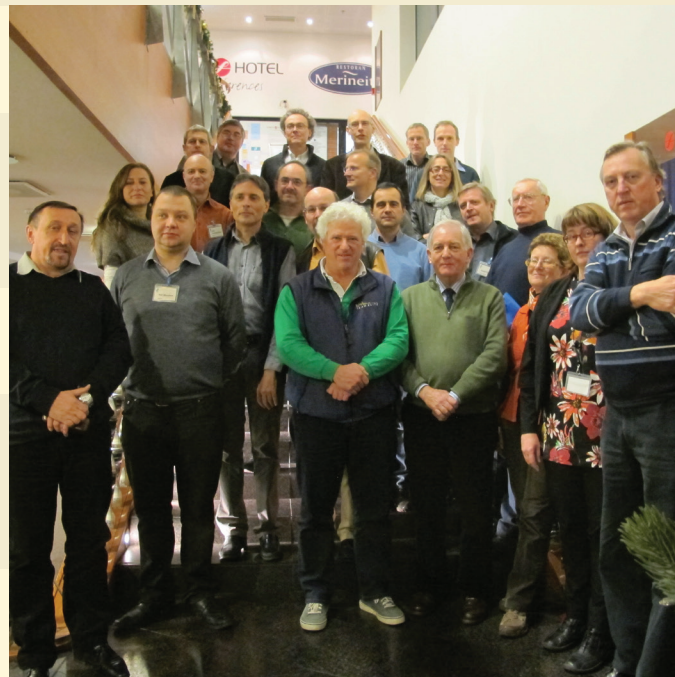


# Report of the ninth Steering Committee meeting

Tallinn, Estonia  
3-5 December 2013



Summary of the meeting  
Work Plan for 2014

# Report of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee Tallinn, Estonia, 3-5 December 2013

## Opening of the meeting

T. Maaten (Estonian University of Life Sciences), the EUFORGEN National Coordinator of Estonia opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to Estonia. On behalf of the Estonian Ministry of Environment, M. Lamp (Vice-Chancellor for forestry and nature conservation) then welcomed the participants to Tallinn. He highlighted the importance of forest resources for his country and also acknowledged the importance of science in supporting policy making. He then wished a fruitful meeting. J. Koskela (EUFORGEN Coordinator) welcomed the participants on behalf of Bioversity International and thanked the Estonian Ministry of Environment for hosting the meeting in Tallinn. He expressed his gratitude to T. Maaten for supporting the organization of the meeting. J. Koskela also forwarded apologies from O. Souvannavong (FAO) who was unable to attend the meeting.

All participants briefly introduced themselves. J. Koskela presented the draft agenda of the meeting which was then adopted. M. Bozzano, E. Hermanowicz and J. Koskela were nominated as rapporteurs of the meeting.

## Session 1: Global initiatives on forest genetic resources

### Update to the FAO work on forest genetic resources

J. Koskela introduced, on behalf of O. Souvannavong (FAO), the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR), which was adopted by the FAO Conference in June 2013. The GPA-FGR identifies a total of 27 strategic priorities for action at the national, regional and international levels. The strategic priorities were drafted by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR) at its second meeting in January 2013 and revised by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session held in April 2013. He noted that the ITWG-FGR will further discuss the implementation of the GPA-FGR during its third meeting which is scheduled for 2014. According to FAO, regional networks and programmes, such as EUFORGEN, play an important role in facilitating the implementation of the GPA-FGR. J. Koskela also briefed the Steering Committee on the preparation of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR) report. The draft SoW-FGR report was presented by FAO to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the CGRFA for its review but FAO has not yet announced when the final report will be ready. However, it is expected that the report will be published in 2014. The tentative results of the report show that the potential of forest genetic resources for alleviating poverty, enhancing food security and ensuring sustainable forest management remains largely unexplored. Furthermore, the draft report revealed that further efforts are needed at the national, regional and global levels to improve FGR conservation, to strengthen related research and development work and to make available better information on these resources. Therefore, the purpose of the GPA-FGR is to improve the situation in the future.

M. Rusanen (Finland), who is also a member of the ITWG-FGR, provided additional information on the preparation of the GPA-FGR. She gave an overview of the strategic priorities and noted that they are grouped into four priority areas: 1) improving the availability of, and access to, information on FGR, 2) conservation of FGR (*in situ* and *ex situ*), 3) sustainable use, development

and management of FGR, and 4) policies, institutions and capacity-building. She further explained that the importance of different strategic priorities varies across countries and regions, and emphasized that several national and regional level priorities have already been addressed in Europe.

The Steering Committee discussed the GPA-FGR and its implications for the EUFORGEN work and exchanged views on the role of EUFORGEN in implementing the GPA-FGR in Europe. The Steering Committee noted that the past and ongoing EUFORGEN activities contribute directly to most regional-level strategic priorities identified in the GPA-FGR, such as development of regional conservation strategies, harmonization of technical standards for FGR inventories, establishment of information systems on FGR, facilitating exchange of genetic material for R&D and encouraging information sharing. The Steering Committee agreed that EUFORGEN should contribute to the implementation of the GPA-FGR in Europe and continue its collaboration with FAO in this regard. Furthermore, the Steering Committee acknowledged the work done by FAO in preparing the SoW-FGR report. It also stressed the importance of making European country reports available online as soon as FAO has released the SoW-FGR report. Links to the country report should also be created to the country pages of the EUFORGEN website.

## **Session 2: Forest genetic resources in the pan-European collaboration on forests**

### **Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014)**

J. Koskela presented an update on the EUFORGEN activities in 2012-2013 (see the technical report for 2012 for details). He noted that all five working groups were operational in 2012-2013 but only the two new groups met in 2013. The Working Group on FGR conservation and climate change organized its first meeting at Bioversity on 18-20 June 2013 and the second meeting will be hosted by the Centre for Genetic Resources Netherlands in Wageningen in February 2014. The Working Group on FGR-related policies also organized its first meeting at Bioversity on 10-12 September 2013 and the second meeting is scheduled for January 2014. In 2013, the three other Working Groups (on genetic conservation strategies, genetic monitoring and forest reproductive material) have revised their draft reports based on the comments provided by the Steering Committee in December 2012. J. Koskela also informed that the draft report on forest reproductive material was presented to a larger group of EUFORGEN experts for further discussion during a workshop which was held in Kostrzyca, Poland on 1-3 October 2013. Concerning the EUFGIS Portal, he reported that the countries have entered 509 new conservation units into the database since December 2012. Currently, the database includes 3137 units for 98 tree species in 31 countries.

J. Koskela continued by providing a follow-up to various issues that were discussed by the Steering Committee at its previous meeting. In December 2012, the Steering Committee had discussed the draft text for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, developed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). The Steering Committee considered that this draft agreement on European forest should make a specific reference to the conservation of forest genetic resources in its biodiversity-related paragraphs, and noted that the agreement should also promote appropriate use of genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management. Subsequently, the Steering Committee developed a wording proposal for the third session of the

INC held in Antalya, Turkey in early 2013. The Coordinator presented the wording proposal to the INC-3 session and it received support from several countries, including the EU. However, after lengthy discussion on biodiversity related issues, the INC decided to use the term “forest biodiversity at all levels” to keep the text as general and short as possible, and to not make specific references to different level of biological diversity in the draft agreement text. Concerning the collaboration with the EC, the small task force, which was established in Paris, had developed a proposal on FGR measures that could be included into the new EC Regulation on rural development and submitted the proposal to the EC via the representatives of several Member States. Furthermore, the Secretariat had sent the opinion letter on the new EU seed law to the EC (DG SANCO) in March 2013.

J. Koskela also briefed the Steering Committee on the other activities carried out by the Secretariat. He presented a summary of his observations on the LBA negotiations based on the INC-3 and INC4 sessions he attended in 2013 as well as an overview of the FOREST EUFOPE activities. Furthermore, the Secretariat had provided inputs to two projects supporting the FOREST EUROPE work (i.e. Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (CI-SFM) and Integration of Biodiversity Conservation with Forest Management (Integrate)). These projects were coordinated by the European Forest Institute (EFI). Concerning the maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal, he noted that the Secretariat had continued screening data and providing technical support to the national focal points. A new search function was also developed (as part of the FORGER project) to link the EUFGIS database with the GD<sup>2</sup> database containing genetic diversity data on tree populations that have been sampled by earlier European research projects. Finally, he reported that the EC released in June 2013 a new publication on the achievements of the 17 projects that were implemented in 2006-2011 with the support of the AGRI GEN RES programme. The publication includes a summary of the EUFGIS project prepared by the Secretariat.

J. Koskela then presented an update to the membership situation and the financial report for 2012. As of December 2013, EUFORGEN has a total of 25 member countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom). J. Koskela reported that the opening balance of the trust fund was US\$ 195,290 on 1 January 2012 and that Bioversity International received US\$ 335,250 during 2012 as financial contributions to EUFORGEN. The actual Programme expenditure was US\$ 327,964 in 2012 while the planned budget for 2012 was US\$ 436,180. The closing balance of the trust fund was US\$ 202,576 on 31 December 2012 and it was carried forward for 2013. The saving was largely created by the fact that a number of EUFORGEN meetings have been organized in collaboration with European projects during Phase IV. These projects have also covered some Secretariat staff time. In 2013, Bioversity International has so far received US\$ 283,750 as financial contributions to EUFORGEN. As of November 2013, the outstanding financial contributions totalled US\$ 54,250. J. Koskela noted that several countries with outstanding financial contributions have informed the Secretariat that the payments will be made in December 2013. He concluded that the Secretariat will continue prudent management of the financial resources.

At the end of his presentation, J. Koskela informed the Steering Committee that M. Ann Tutwiler has been the new Director General of Bioversity since 15 July 2013. She joined Bioversity from the position of Special Representative of FAO to the UN and World Economic Forum, based in Geneva, Switzerland. J. Koskela also briefed the Steering Committee on the preparation of Phase IX (2014-2018) of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR).

ECPGR is currently continuing the hosting negotiations with Bioversity after the the Global Crop Diversity Trust withdraw its earlier bid to host the ECPGR Secretariat in Bonn, Germany.

The Steering Committee thanked the Secretariat for the technical and financial reports. It also expressed its satisfaction with the progress made. The Steering Committee then adopted the technical and financial reports for 2012. All National Coordinators were urged to inform the Secretariat if their country experience any problems related to the 2013 financial contributions.

### **Expected revision of the pan-European C&I set for sustainable forest management as part of the FOREST EUROPE process**

J. Koskela briefed the Steering Committee on the key findings and recommendations of the EFI project on “Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (CI-SFM)”. The project recommends the FOREST EUROPE process to open the current set of pan-European C&I for revision. The project noted that the criteria for sustainable forest management (SFM) do not need much revision as the main principles of SFM have not changed. Instead, the indicators which are used for monitoring the progress made in implementing SFM need to be revised. He explained the EFI will present the results of the project to the Expert Level meeting of FOREST EUROPE in early 2014. After that, FOREST EUROPE will decide whether the C&I will be opened for revision.

The Steering Committee welcomed the findings of the EFI project and noted many indicators, including Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources), could be made more meaningful. The Steering Committee recommended the Secretariat to follow up closely the FOREST EUROPE discussions on the revising the pan-European C&I set. It was also noted that the results of the EUFGIS work provide both ideas for improving Indicators 4.6 and more accurate data for this indicator.

### **Session 3: Initiatives of the European Commission relevant to forest genetic resources**

#### **Conservation of forest genetic resources and the new EC Regulation for rural development**

The Steering Committee exchanged views on the draft EC Regulation for rural development, especially its Article 35 which outlines eligible actions on forest genetic resources. The Steering Committee welcomed the fact that forest genetic resources have been included, for the first time, as eligible actions for rural development programmes, and that the EU Member States are encouraged to give specific attention to the promotion and conservation of forest genetic resources.

National Coordinators from Greece and Hungary informed others that preparations have been started in their country to seek funding for conservation of forest genetic resources as part of forestry measures to be included in the new rural development programmes. Other National Coordinators reported that relevant ministries in their countries have not yet started preparing new rural development programmes. Some National Coordinators noted, disappointingly, that their ministries have already indicated that no forestry measures will be included into new rural development programmes although conservation of forest genetic resources is specifically

mentioned as an eligible forestry measure. The Steering Committee encouraged all National Coordinators in the EU Member States to continue discussions with relevant ministries on the possibility of developing measures on forest genetic resources into the new rural development programmes. It was also agreed that those countries which are successful in preparing measures on forest genetic resources into their rural development programmes should share their experiences with others countries. It was noted that the EC expects the Member States to submit their applications for the funds allocated to the rural development programmes by 2016.

### **Forest genetic resources and the new EU Forestry Strategy**

The Steering Committee exchanged views on the new EU Forestry Strategy and expressed its satisfaction that the role of forest genetic resources is clearly recognized in the document. It was noted that the Strategy will be finalized soon and that Council Conclusions are already being prepared. The Member States have asked the EC to prepare an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy. The EC is expected to clarify its plans concerning the Action Plan in early 2014. The Steering Committee agreed that it is too early to discuss how EUFORGEN could provide technical support or advice to development of the new Action Plan and that this topic should be discussed again in 2014.

## **Session 4: EC funding opportunities**

### **Update on EC funding opportunities for collaborative projects on forest genetic resources**

J. Koskela briefed the Steering Committee on possible EC funding opportunities. Concerning the development of a new AGRI GEN RES programme, he informed that the EC (DG AGRI) had opened a consultancy tender for a preparatory action for an EU programme for conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources in agriculture in August 2013 (with deadline in early November 2013). This preparatory action should, within 24 months, carry out a comprehensive review and analysis of the state of the art of genetic resources work within the EU and provide comprehensive recommendations for future EC investments in this area. J. Koskela noted that this preparatory process will be an opportunity to the EUFORGEN community to provide further inputs and ideas for the development of a new AGRI GEN RES programme. Once the action has delivered its findings, the EC is expected to make a decision on the new AGRI GEN RES programme in 2016.

J. Koskela continued by introducing the Horizon 2020 programme (i.e. the new EC Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014-2020) and presenting some expected calls for proposals based on a draft EC Work Programme for 2014-2015. The first calls during this period are likely to include several opportunities for developing FGR-related project proposals. One expected call in 2014 is aiming at integrating and opening existing national and regional research infrastructures of pan-European interest. This call mentions topics such as "Plant and forestry material resources" and "Research infrastructures for forest ecosystem and resources research". Furthermore, under the theme "Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy", another expected call is focusing on "Genetic resources and agricultural diversity for food security, productivity and resilience" with

two sub-calls, “Traditional resources for agricultural diversity and the food chain” in 2014 and “Management and sustainable use of genetic resources” in 2015. Under the same theme, a third expected call is addressing “Improved data and management models for sustainable forestry” with two sub-calls, “Improved forest data” in 2014 and “Improved forest management models” in 2015. J. Koskela concluded that the first calls for 2014-2015 will be officially opened by the EC on 11 December 2013.

The Steering Committee recognized that it is likely to take several years before the EC makes a decision on the possible new AGRI GEN RES programme. However, it is important to provide inputs to the planned preparatory process if such an action is launched. It was recognized that this preparatory action will largely shape the future funding from the EC for the FGR work in Europe.

Concerning the expected H2020 calls, many National Coordinators commented that any project proposals should be designed so that they support the continuation of the earlier EUFORGEN work, such as the maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal. The implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy and the genetic monitoring scheme were also identified as examples of EUFORGEN work that could be supported by the possible projects. It was recognized that the implementation of the genetic monitoring scheme across Europe would require extensive and long-term financial resources which are difficult to secure through short-term project funding. Therefore, it was noted that it would be possible to collect baseline data for genetic monitoring of limited number of tree species through a short-term project (usually four years). In the future (i.e. after 10 years), another project could then collect the data again and this would allow genetic monitoring to be carried out by comparing the datasets.

Regarding the role of the EUFORGEN Secretariat in coordinating proposal development, some National Coordinators suggested that the Secretariat could coordinate the development of a project proposal in 2014 or 2015. However, others pointed out their earlier view that the Secretariat should not coordinate proposals for research projects but for collaborative projects which aim at improving the management of forest genetic resources in Europe (cf. the EUFGIS project). The National Coordinators agreed that it make sense for EUFORGEN, including the Secretariat, to focus its efforts on few potential calls, such as the 2014 research infrastructure call and the 2015 call on the management and sustainable use of genetic resources.

It was agreed that the Secretariat can explore opportunities for participating in the development of H2020 proposals and that it should keep the Steering Committee informed on the emerging opportunities. Furthermore, it was agreed that the H2020 calls would be discussed again at the next Steering Committee meeting in 2014 when the final text of different calls are known. F. Lefèvre (France) informed the others that INRA is tentatively planning to coordinate a proposal development for the 2015 call on the management and sustainable use of genetic resources.

## Session 5: The future of EUFORGEN

The Steering Committee exchanged views on the future of EUFORGEN and on the preparatory process that should be put in place before making a decision on this issue in 2014.

J. Frýdl (Czech Republic) noted that EUFORGEN should continue its work and that good arguments are needed to demonstrate this to the policymakers. H. Kraigher (Slovenia) mentioned that the results of EUFORGEN work have been useful for the work at the national level, in particular to formulating relevant policies and increasing awareness on the importance of forest genetic resources. She further proposed that EUFORGEN workshops could develop strategic documents of European interest in the future. S. Orlovic (Serbia) supported the continuation of EUFORGEN and emphasized that the implementation of the GPA-FGR, testing of genetic resources and climate change should be priorities during the next phase. D. Kajba (Croatia) also supported the continuation of EUFORGEN and noted that its future activities should involve more policymakers. He further mentioned the earlier Forest Management Network was a good opportunity for many policymakers to contribute to the EUFORGEN work.

T. Myking (Norway) considered that EUFORGEN is still needed and that highlighted the development of recommendations for assisted migration as a priority topic for the future work. He also suggested developing a template for best practices on transferring forest reproductive material, for example. He also stressed that the adaptation of forests to climate change remains an important topic. R. Alía (Spain) noted that the working group approach has increased the focus of EUFORGEN activities and produced good outputs. He recommended to that this way of operating should also be continued in the future and that EUFORGEN could possibly broaden its focus. G. Kandemir (Turkey) pointed out that EUFORGEN has helped improving FGR conservation at the national level and increasing awareness on genetic resources. She suggested that EUFORGEN could focus more on the impacts of climate change in its future activities.

F. Lefèvre (France) considered the implementation of the EUFORGEN outputs by the countries as the next challenge and noted that EUFORGEN still has a role to play in facilitating the countries' efforts. He also noted that EUFORGEN has remained behind in utilizing the latest research results in its work and that the time lag in transferring the scientific findings into recommendations for practical work should be addressed during the next phase. M. Rusanen (Finland) echoed that the implementation of the EUFORGEN outputs is the crucial next step, especially the filling the gaps identified by the pan-European genetic conservation strategy. She further suggested that EUFORGEN should continue analysing relevant policies and promoting the integration of genetic aspects into them. S. Bordács (Hungary) commented that EUFORGEN is still needed but stressed that solid arguments are needed to justify the continuation of the Programme. He also emphasized that the maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal is an important task and then mentioned assisted migration, management of *in situ* stands and genetic monitoring as priority topics for future work. D. Paitaridou (Greece) considered that EUFORGEN has been useful in strengthening the role genetic conservation as part biodiversity conservation. She also noted that the EUFORGEN work has helped to initiate discussions on developing a national FGR strategy in Greece.

S. de Vries (Netherlands) pointed out that the EUFORGEN work should remain connected to the FOREST EUROPE process and that the Programme should continue consistently pursuing its original mission that is still important, i.e. conservation of forest genetic resources. Additionally, he



proposed that EUFORGEN could organize an event or symposium at the end of Phase IV to disseminate the results of its work. He noted that such an event could also initiate new partnerships and research ideas for future projects. P. Rotach (Switzerland) acknowledged that EUFORGEN has made good progress and stressed that the practical implementation of FGR conservation remains an important task for the countries. He recommended that EUFORGEN activities should continue to be carried out through small working groups and pay more attention to topics related forest management and silviculture. S. Black-Samuelsson (Sweden) endorsed the working group approach and also suggested developing specific projects on relevant topics, such as the role of FGR in coping with pest and diseases causing forest damages. She noted that EUFORGEN should continue following the ABS-issues and various EU processes. She also listed the maintenance of the EUFGIS Portal and the collaboration with FAO in implementing the GPA-FGR as important areas of future work. Finally, she noted that continuing efforts to convince the Russian Federation to join EUFORGEN is considered as a high priority by Sweden.

J. Fennessy (Ireland) supported the continuation of EUFORGEN as it has served well as a platform for regional collaboration and sharing information. He also suggested that EUFORGEN should continue producing technical guidelines for genetic conservation of additional tree species. He further identified appropriate use of forest genetic resources and integration of forest management and conservation efforts as important topics. A. Alexandrov (Bulgaria) noted that EUFORGEN has been useful and he is optimistic concerning the future of EUFORGEN although the times are changing. He pointed out that the future of the Programme depends on the member countries and expressed his support for continuing the work. J. Matras (Poland) recommended that FGR conservation should also be carried out at the ecosystem level and that more collaboration is needed with the agricultural sector especially in conserving genetic resources of fruit tree species. Concerning genetic monitoring, he noted that it is important that EUFORGEN will initiate this process.

T. Maaten (Estonia) confirmed that EUFORGEN is still needed but that it should focus more on the use of forest genetic resources in the future. He also pointed out that EUFORGEN should focus on more applied topics and prepare practical guidelines. G. Scarascia-Mugnozza (Italy) stressed the importance of providing policymakers with relevant information and linking research findings to practical work. He also emphasized the role of EUFORGEN in networking and sharing information. M. Liesebach (Germany) noted that his country is interested in continuing its support to EUFORGEN if there are good arguments for it and encouraged the Programme to continue operating through small working groups in the future. Concerning the EUFGIS work, he stressed that the quality of the conservation units is more important than the number of the units. Furthermore, he mentioned that we should not just try to protect genetic resources but actively manage them. He also identified ABS and climate change as important topics for the future work of EUFORGEN. Finally, he pointed out that forestry differs considerably from agriculture and that this fact several consequences for management of genetic resources as well.

F. Wolter (Luxembourg) commented that the current objectives of EUFORGEN remain relevant for the next phase. He also acknowledged the role EUFORGEN has played in networking and compiling information, as well as representing the European FGR community in the international arena. He continued that EUFORGEN should continue raising awareness on forest genetic resources, seeking additional funding for its activities and influencing development of relevant policies. J. Hubert (United Kingdom) confirmed that the small working groups have been a more effective way of operating as compared to the earlier large networks. He also noted that sharing of

knowledge in the context of EUFORGEN has been more useful than just sharing information. He proposed organizing a conference at the end of every phase to disseminate the results of EUFORGEN work more broadly to policymakers. Finally, he pointed out that science is progressing quickly and subsequently genetically modified organisms (GMOs) might also become a debated issue in the forest sector.

At the end of the round-table discussion on the future of EUFORGEN, the Steering Committee agreed that a task force should be established to further analyse the presented feedback and to prepare a proposal for the future work of EUFORGEN.

## **Session 6: Reports/updates of the EUFORGEN Working Groups**

### **Development of guidelines for the use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change**

T. Maaten presented the revised report on the use and transfer of forest reproductive material (FRM) in Europe in the context of climate change. He noted that the working group on FRM had incorporated and addressed the comments provided by the Steering Committee in December 2012. He further explained that the comments received from other experts during the Kostrzyca workshop, held in October 2013, have been reflected in the report. He then revisited the expected outputs the working group had been asked to deliver and continued by presenting the updated table of contents and the main findings of the report. At the end of his presentation, he explained the 11 recommendations of the report as well as the Kostrzyca workshop recommendations in more detail.

The Steering Committee thanked the working group for preparing the revised report and acknowledged the large amount of work done. The members of the Steering Committee then provided some further comments and suggestions for the finalization of the report. It was suggested that the level of confidence (low/medium/high) of the recommendations would be useful to be indicated in the report. It was also noted that the chapter on the new EU Regulation on Plant Reproductive Material needs to be updated once it is known what will be the final outcome of the ongoing debate between the EC and the Member States. Many National Coordinators expressed their satisfaction to the quality of the report. However, it was also noted that it was rather long and that some chapters (e.g. Chapter 6 and 7) could be shortened. Furthermore, the working group was asked to consider if some case studies could be moved to annexes. It was also commented that the language used in the report is rather technical/scientific and that this aspect should be addressed during the final editing process. It was also considered useful if the working group could develop a two-page executive summary of the report and if more terms could be explained in boxes, for example. Finally it was proposed that the recommendations could be sorted based on their time scale, and that the recommendations could be more clearly formulated so that they reveal better what is considered as an option and what is a more solid recommendation or conclusion.

The Steering Committee also discussed its role in endorsing the content of the report. It was proposed that the authors of the report remain responsible of the content of the report while the Steering Committee should endorse the overall conclusions and the recommendations. Subsequently, the Steering Committee endorsed the 11 recommendations and recommended the

report to be finalized and published as soon as possible. It was further clarified that all reports of the working groups will be published as EUFORGEN publications. The members of the working groups may also consider developing manuscripts to scientific journals based on the reports. Furthermore, a leaflet could be produced based on the recommendations.

### **Development of a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees**

S. de Vries presented the revised report of the working group on the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees. He noted that this working group had also received comments from the Steering Committee in December 2012 and that it had addressed them while revising the report. He started by showing the list of expected outputs and then presented the content of the report. He also explained in detail the revised environmental zoning the working group had developed based on the new global environmental stratification and the new results of the gap analysis.

The Steering Committee congratulated the working group for its work and the revised report. Many National Coordinators also noted that the preparation of the pan-European strategy is a major milestone of the EUFORGEN work. It was commented that the identification of conservation targets (country x environmental zones) and gaps in the conservation efforts still needs some further work. In case of many species, there are still so called “false gaps” that appear due to the fact that the environmental zoning and the species distribution maps have different spatial resolutions. Therefore, it was recommended that the National Coordinators should identify the false gaps appearing for the pilot species in their country and communicate them to the Secretariat during the confirmation process for establishing the core networks of conservation units. Furthermore, it was commented that the issue of the false gaps should be better explained in Chapter 5 of the report. It was also noted that the number of maps in the report could be reduced by focusing on only those ones that are needed to explain the approach used for developing the strategy. Furthermore, it was commented that all maps should be double-checked as for some species and countries there were two different versions of the maps in the report.

The Steering Committee then endorsed the report and asked the working group and the Secretariat to finalize it for printing. The Steering Committee also exchanged some views on the follow-up work to implement the strategy and the process for establishing the core networks of the units.

### **Development of a genetic monitoring system for dynamic conservation units of forest trees in Europe**

F. Aravanopoulos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) presented the revised report of the working group on genetic monitoring. Similar to the other groups, this working group had also received comments from the Steering Committee to its draft report in December 2012. F. Aravanopoulos noted that the comments had been incorporated into the revised report. He then presented the content of the report and the changes made. He also explained in detail the identification of genetic monitoring zones that was revised using the same aggregated environmental zoning of Europe that was used by the working group on the pan-European conservation strategy. He clarified that the monitoring units will be selected, as much as possible, from the core networks, as was agreed by the Steering Committee in 2012. Concerning the earlier request by the Steering Committee to identify less species for genetic monitoring, he also reported

that the working group proposes focusing only on six species (*Abies alba*, *Castanea sativa*, *Quercus petraea*, *Picea abies*, *Pinus halepensis* and *Populus nigra*). Each country can also propose additional units for genetic monitoring, if necessary. Finally, he presented the recommendations of the working group and highlighted the need for developing a manual for the genetic monitoring protocol.

The Steering Committee congratulated the working group for preparing the revised report and provided some additional comments for the finalization of the report. It was noted that the terminology used for referring to the conservation units should be harmonized the working group on the pan-European genetic conservation strategy. The same should be done for some maps and the way the aggregated environmental zoning is referred to in the two reports. It was also recommended that the selection of the monitoring units should be together with the selection of the units for the core networks. The Steering Committee endorsed the report and asked the working group and the Secretariat to finalize it for printing.

The Steering Committee then discussed various options for the implementation of the genetic monitoring scheme. It was agreed that it is important to finalize the selection of the monitoring units as soon as possible. The Steering Committee members expressed different opinions to the question whether the data collection can be started without a project providing additional funding for this work. F. Aravanopoulos noted that the collection of samples should be started as soon as possible but that the analysis of the samples can be done later when additional financial resources have been obtained. He stressed the urgency of collecting the baseline data as soon as possible since the monitoring will actually only start when the units have been sampled for the second time after 10 years. It was also suggested that when a proposal will be developed for implementing the genetic monitoring scheme, model species that will be included should be selected carefully to make sure that they are representative and to avoid too high costs.

### **Management of genetic conservation units in the context of climate change**

S. de Vries presented an update to the activities of the working group on FGR conservation and climate change. He first revisited the tasks and expected outputs given to the working group and then presented the draft outline for the report. During his presentation, he also explained the discussions of the working group on different topics as well as its tentative recommendations.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to the work done by the working group so far and provided some comments and further guidance for the development of the draft report. Many comments related to the issue of assisted migration. It was noted that assisted migration is often understood as moving populations and their genetic material from south to north. However, it was questioned whether the report should also analyse the need for north to south transfers (especially in case of boreal tree species) to speed up the adaptation of tree populations to harsher conditions and later consider moving the adapted genetic material back to north. It was recommended that the working group should also analyse the present situation and future needs for introduced tree species in addition to indigenous tree species in Europe. Furthermore, both natural and artificial migration processes should be discussed in detail in the report. Some National Coordinators also wondered if the report will discuss the selection of seed sources for assisted migration and suggested to add a case study on this topic. Finally, it was proposed that the selection and establishment of *ex situ* conservation units, or at least the principles for this, should

be elaborated in the report. On behalf of the working group, S. de Vries thanked the Steering Committee for the comments and noted that they will be taken into account when the working group will prepare its draft report.

### **The implications of global, European and national policies on the conservation and use of forest genetic resources**

J. Hubert provided an update to the discussions of the working group on FGR-related policies. He listed the expected outputs before presenting the outline of the report content. He also explained briefly the policies that will be covered by the report. He further asked the Steering Committee to clarify whether it wishes to receive a reference document or a document which also provides some analyses of various policies and make recommendations for further action and policymaking.

The Steering Committee thanked the working group for its efforts so far and provided some comments based on the proposed outline of the report. It was recommended that the working group prepares an analytical report that will discuss, as much as possible, the implications of various policies for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources and not just a reference document. It was noted the target audience of the report will be the FGR community and practical forest managers, not policymakers. Subsequently, the language of the report should be tailored for this target group by avoiding legal or policy jargon and using a simplified terminology. It was recommended that the report should give an emphasis on legally-binding agreements, such as the Nagoya Protocol and the CBD. On the other hand, it was noted that it is also important to focus on the EU policies and not just global agreements. J. Hubert thanked the Steering Committee for its comments and agreed to forward them to the working group for further discussion.

### **Session 7: Collection of information on forest genetic resources in Europe**

M. Bozzano presented the data collection process on Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources) for the forthcoming State of Europe's Forests 2015 report. The data on areas managed for 1) conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ*) and 2) seed production will be collected by the Secretariat during spring 2014. The Secretariat is expected to submit the data and a summary report to the UNECE and the Liaison Unit Madrid of FOREST EUROPE in autumn 2014. M. Bozzano clarified what areas should be reported under each category and briefly presented the data on Indicator 4.6 that was collected in 2010 for the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report. He concluded by noting that all National Coordinators are expected to provide the data by the end of May 2014 so that the Secretariat can provide a summary of the data for the Steering Committee to review at its next meeting.

The Steering Committee expressed its commitment to the data collection process and urged all National Coordinators to provide the requested data. It was also noted that EUFORGEN should contribute to the revision of the pan-European C&I when FOREST EUROPE decides to do so. Furthermore, it was proposed that EUFORGEN could also document static *ex situ* conservation collections in Europe more systematically in the future, similar to the dynamic units which have been documented in the EUFGIS Portal.

## **Session 8: EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2014**

The Steering Committee discussed follow-up actions based on the working group presentations and other issues discussed during the meeting. Subsequently, it agreed an updated work plan for 2014 (see Annex 1 for details).

### **Follow-up tasks for the working groups**

The working groups on genetic conservation strategies, genetic monitoring and forest reproductive material were asked to finalize their reports based on the additional comments provided by the Steering Committee. All groups should also prepare a two-page executive summary to be included in the report. The working groups should finalize the reports by 14 February 2014 after which the Secretariat will take care of the final editing and publication process. By 14 February, the Secretariat should also compile the updated lists of selected conservation units for the core networks of the 14 pilot species and then circulate country-based lists to the National Coordinators for their final confirmation (by 31 May 2014). During this process, the National Coordinators will be also asked to comment the selection of monitoring units for the six species that were proposed by the working group on genetic monitoring. This working group was also tasked to prepare the manual for the genetic monitoring protocol by 15 December 2014.

### **Establishment of Phase V Task Force**

The Steering Committee decided to establish a task force to develop a proposal for Phase V (2015-2019). The task force was requested to prepare, in collaboration with the EUFORGEN Secretariat, a detailed proposal for Phase V and present it to the 10th meeting of the Steering Committee (16-18 June 2014) for further discussion and decision. The task force was also encouraged to involve EUFORGEN focal points in the non-member countries in the preparatory process and seek their inputs and ideas. It was agreed that the task force should finalize the draft proposal by 16 May 2014 so that all National Coordinators have enough time to consult relevant ministries before the next Steering Committee meeting. National Coordinators from France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovenia and Turkey were selected to the task force.

### **Preparation for EC funding opportunities**

The Steering Committee revisited its earlier discussion on the expected H2020 funding opportunities. It was agreed that the Secretariat will inform the Steering Committee once the H2020 calls have been officially published and then start exploring opportunities for participating in the development of H2020 proposals. The Secretariat will keep the Steering Committee informed on the progress and the H2020 calls will be discussed again at the next meeting.

### **Additional activities to be carried out by the Secretariat in 2014**

J. Koskela briefed the Steering Committee on additional activities that the Secretariat has planned for 2014. These include continuing providing inputs to the FOREST EUROPE process (Expert Level meeting in February 2014; the data collection process on Indicator 4.6; discussions on possible

revision of pan-European C&I set) and to the FAO work (e.g. the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry in June 2014 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on FGR in July 2014). Furthermore, he informed that a workshop on FGR inventories will be organized for the EUFGIS national focal points in March 2014. This workshop will be organized in collaboration with the FORGER project.

## **Session 9: Updates on relevant projects**

### **FORGER project**

J. Frydl briefed the Steering Committee on the activities of the FORGER project (Towards the Sustainable Management of Forest Genetic Resources in Europe), which is funded by the EC (FP7-KBBE Programme). The four-year project (March 2012-February 2016) is coordinated by Alterra (Netherlands) and it has a total of 9 partners, including Bioversity International. The project aims at integrating and extending existing knowledge to provide science-based recommendations on the management and sustainable use of FGR for the EC, policy makers, forest managers, and managers of protected areas. FORGER has five objectives, namely 1) improve and analyze FGR inventories in Europe, 2) develop a common protocol for measuring and monitoring genetic diversity, 3) analyze past, current and future use and management of FGR, 4) provide improved tools, guidelines and recommendations, and 5) disseminate and communicate the results to stakeholders.

EUFORGEN has been recognized as a key stakeholder by the project. J. Frydl and R. Alia were selected by the Steering Committee to represent EUFORGEN in the External Advisory Board of the project. In 2013, the project and EUFORGEN released a joint search protocol for the GD<sup>2</sup> and EUFGIS databases and a new search function was also added to the EUFGIS Portal. This makes it easier to characterize the genetic diversity conserved within and nearby the genetic conservation units. The project is also testing genetic monitoring methods in selected sites (including four genetic conservation units) and its results will be useful to the further work by EUFORGEN to create a pan-European genetic monitoring system for the conservation units. Furthermore, the key target groups of the project for communication, dissemination and knowledge transfer include the National Focal Points of EUFGIS in addition to the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, working groups and experts. Further information is available on the FORGER website ([www.fp7-forger.eu](http://www.fp7-forger.eu)).

### **EUFORINNO project**

H. Kraigher (Slovenian Forestry Institute, SFI) provided an update to the activities of the EUFORINNO project (European Forest Research and Innovation) which is funded by the FP7 Infrastructures programme. The project is a support action which started in October 2012 and will end in March 2016. It is designed to increase the scientific excellence of the Slovenian Forest Institute (SFI) in monitoring genetic diversity of tree populations, biodiversity and carbon fluxes by upgrading research equipment and strengthening SFI's expertise and human capacity through secondments, seminars, workshops, networking, conferences, management of intellectual property and publishing efforts. These efforts involve eight other European partners who support SFI in

building its long-term strategy by providing training and participating in other project activities. The project activities also contribute to the EUFORGEN work.

### **Wrap-up session**

The Steering Committee recommended the Secretariat to invite a representative of FOREST EUROPE to its next meeting. Furthermore, the Secretariat was asked to explore possibilities to organize the EUFORGEN symposium as a side event of a FOREST EUROPE meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee will be organized on 16-18 June 2014. G. Kandemir offered to host the next meeting in Turkey. M. Sabatti and J. Hubert did the same for Italy and the United Kingdom, respectively. M. Rusanen, Chair of the session, thanked them for their offers. It was agreed that the Secretariat will consider the offers and then decides the venue of the next meeting.

M. Rusanen thanked the local organizers for hosting the meeting and the Secretariat for its work. She also thanked the meeting participants for their contributions to the discussions and the decisions made. With no other business, she then closed the meeting.



## Annex 1. EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2014 as agreed by the ninth Steering Committee meeting.

Task/Activity	Outputs	Date (When activity will be completed)	Who	Comments
Working group on genetic conservation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the report following the Steering Committee comments</li> <li>Develop a 2-page summary to be added to the report</li> <li>Release the report (PDF and printed)</li> </ul>	14 Feb 2014	WG Members	
		14 Feb 2014 May 2014	WG Leaders Secretariat	
Implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulation of selection of core network units (14 pilot species) with maps (cut-off date: 1 January 2014)</li> <li>Confirmation of the selected units by countries for the core network</li> </ul>	14 Feb 2014	Secretariat	
		31 May 2014	National Coordinators	
Working group on genetic monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the report following the Steering Committee comments</li> <li>Develop a 2-page summary to be added to the report</li> <li>Release the report (PDF and printed)</li> </ul>	7 Feb 2014	WG Members	
		7 Feb 2014 May 2014	WG Leaders Secretariat	
Implementation of the genetic monitoring scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send the core network units (6 species, cut-off date: 1 January 2014) for the selection of monitoring units</li> <li>Confirmation of the units</li> <li>Develop a draft manual for the genetic monitoring protocol</li> </ul>	14 Jan 2014	Secretariat	
		7 Feb 2014	WG Members	
		15 Dec 2014	WG Members	
Working group on forest reproductive material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the report following the Steering Committee comments</li> <li>Develop a 2-page summary to be added to the report</li> <li>Release the report (PDF and printed)</li> </ul>	7 Feb 2014	WG Members	
		7 Feb 2014 May 2014	WG Leaders Secretariat	
Working group on FGR conservation and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft report to the email contributors</li> <li>Feedback to the working group</li> <li>Draft report to the Steering Committee</li> </ul>	15 April 2014	WG Members	
		1 May 2014	Email contributors	
		15 May 2014	WG Members	
Working group on FGR-related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft report to the Steering Committee</li> </ul>	15 May 2014	WG Members	

## Annex 2. Agenda of the meeting

Tue 3 December		
09:00	<p><b>Opening of the meeting (Chair: Tiit Maaten, Estonian University of Life Sciences)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by Estonia (Marku Lamp, Vice-Chancellor for forestry and nature conservation, Ministry of Environment)</li> <li>• Welcome by Bioversity International (Jarkko Koskela, EUFORGEN Coordinator)</li> <li>• Welcome by FAO (Oudara Souvannavong, Senior Forestry Officer) (tbc)</li> <li>• Introduction to the meeting and adoption of the agenda</li> <li>• Nomination of rapporteurs</li> </ul>	Conference room "Duetto", Sokos Hotel Viru
09:30	<p><b>Session 1: Global initiatives on forest genetic resources (Chair: Tiit Maaten, Estonian University of Life Sciences)</b></p> <p>Update to the FAO work on forest genetic resources (Oudara Souvannavong, FAO) (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR)</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) discuss the GPA-FGR and its implications for the EUFORGEN work, and 2) exchange views on the role of EUFORGEN in implementing the GPA-FGR in Europe.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Global Plan of Action for FGR (Session1_Doc1)</p>	
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<p><b>Session 2: Forest genetic resources in the pan-European collaboration on forests (Chair: Hojka Kraigher, Slovenian Forestry Institute)</b></p> <p>Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014) (Jarkko Koskela, Bioversity International)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical activities in 2012/2013</li> <li>• Membership status of Phase IV and financial report for 2012</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the progress made during 2013, and 2) adopt the technical and financial reports for 2012.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Technical report for 2012 (Session2_Doc1) Financial report for 2012 (Session2_Doc2) Report of the eight meeting of the Steering Committee, Paris, France, November 2012 (Session2_Doc3) Report of the sixth meeting of the Steering Committee, Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2009 (Session2_Doc4)</p>	
12:00	<p>Expected revision of the pan-European C&amp;I set for sustainable forest management as part of the FOREST EUROPE process (Jarkko Koskela, Bioversity International)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on key findings and recommendations of the EFI project on "Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (CI-SFM)"</li> </ul>	

	<p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to discuss EUFORGEN inputs to the expected revision of the pan-European C&amp;I set, especially to Indicator 4.6 (genetic resources)</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft report of the EFI project (Session2_Doc5) Report of the CI-SFM final meeting (Session2_Doc6)</p>	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<p><b>Session 3: Initiatives of the European Commission relevant to forest genetic resources (Chair: Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission, UK)</b></p> <p>Conservation of forest genetic resources and the new EC Regulation for rural development</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee members from the EU Member States are expected to share information on planned FGR measures as part of the development of national rural development programmes.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EC, Sep 2013) (Session3_Doc1)</p>	
14:45	<p>Forest genetic resources and the new EU Forestry Strategy</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on the new EU Forestry Strategy, and 2) decide whether it wishes to take any action concerning the development of a new EU Forest Action Plan.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> EC Communication on the new EU Forestry Strategy (Sep 2013) (Session3_Doc2)</p>	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Session 4: EC funding opportunities (Chair: Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission, UK)</b></p> <p>Update on EC funding opportunities for collaborative projects on forest genetic resources (Jarkko Koskela, Bioversity International)</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on the funding opportunities (2014-2015) for new collaborative projects on FGR, and 2) agree how possible project proposal(s) should be developed so that they support the EUFORGEN work.</i></p>	
17:00-18:00	<p><b>Session 4: EC funding opportunities (Chair: Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission, UK)</b></p> <p>Update on EC funding opportunities for collaborative projects on forest genetic resources (round-a-table, max 3 min per National Coordinator).</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) exchange views on the</i></p>	

	<i>future of EUFORGEN and 2) consider establishing a task force to prepare Phase V (2015-2019).</i>	
<b>Wed 4 December</b>		
09:00	<p><b>Session 6: Reports/updates of the EUFORGEN Working Groups (Chair: François Lefèvre, INRA-Avignon, France)</b></p> <p>Use and transfer of forest reproductive material in Europe in the context of climate change (Tiit Maaten, Estonian University of Life Sciences)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the revised report of the Working Group on forest reproductive material</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the revised report prepared by the Working Group, and 2) adopt the report.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the Working Group on forest reproductive material, Nov 2013 (Session6_Doc1)</p>	Conference room "Duetto", Sokos Hotel Viru
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<p>Pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest trees and establishment of a core network of dynamic conservation units (Sven de Vries, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the revised report of the Working Group on genetic conservation strategies</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the revised report prepared by the Working Group, and 2) adopt the report.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the Working Group on genetic conservation strategies, Nov 2012 (Session6_Doc2)</p>	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<p><b>Session 6: continued (Chair: Tor Myking, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute)</b></p> <p>Genetic monitoring methods for dynamic conservation units of forest trees in Europe (Filippos Aravanopoulos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the revised report of the Working Group on genetic monitoring</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) review the revised report prepared by the Working Group, and 2) adopt the report.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Report of the Working Group on genetic monitoring methods, Nov 2012 (Session6_Doc3)</p>	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00	<p>Management of genetic conservation units in the context of climate change (Sven de Vries, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to the development of the Working Group report</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the outline</i></p>	

	<i>of the draft report, and 2) provide the Working Group with further guidance, if requested.</i>	
16:30	<p>The implications of global, European and national policies on the use and conservation of FGR (Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission, UK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to the development of the Working Group report</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) comment the outline of the draft report, and 2) provide the Working Group with further guidance, if requested.</i></p>	
17:00-18:00	<p><b>Session 7: Collection of information on forest genetic resources in Europe (Chair: Jarkko Koskela, Bioversity International)</b></p> <p>State of Europe's Forests 2015 report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection on Indicator 4.6. (genetic resources) (Michele Bozzano, Bioversity International)</li> </ul> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) discuss the data collection process for Indicator 4.6, and 2) express its commitment to the preparation of the next State of Europe's Forests report.</i></p>	
20:00	Social dinner	Olde Hansa – Medieval restaurant, Address: Vana turg 1, Tallinn
<b>Thu 5 December</b>		
09:00	<p><b>Session 8: EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2014 (Chair: Sven de Vries, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands)</b></p> <p><i>The Steering Committee is expected to 1) decide the follow-up actions to be carried out in 2014, and 2) agree the timeframes and expected outputs of these actions.</i></p> <p><u>Background documents:</u> Draft EUFORGEN Work Plan for 2014 (Session8_Doc1)</p> <p>Follow-up actions based on the Working Group reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change</li> <li>• Confirmation process of the genetic conservation units selected for the core network</li> <li>• Selection process of the units for genetic monitoring</li> <li>• Publication of the three Working Group reports</li> </ul>	Conference room "Duetto", Sokos Hotel Viru
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	<p>Establishment of Phase V Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasks, expected outputs and deadlines</li> <li>• Further guidance to the Task Force</li> <li>• Selection of 5-6 National Coordinators to the Task Force</li> </ul>	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	<b>Session 8: continued (Chair: Mari Rusanen, Metla, Finland)</b>	

	Preparation for EC funding opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees</li> <li>● Establishment of the genetic monitoring scheme</li> </ul>	
15:00	Other activities to be included in the Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any other activities</li> </ul>	
15:30	Coffee/tea break	
16:00	Additional activities to be carried out by the Secretariat in 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inputs to the FOREST EUROPE process</li> <li>● Contributions to the FAO work on FGR</li> <li>● Workshop for EUFGIS National Focal Points</li> <li>● Data collection on Indicator 4.6. (genetic resources)</li> <li>● etc</li> </ul>	
16:30	<b>Session 9: Updates on relevant projects (Chair: Mari Rusanen, Metla, Finland)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● External Advisory Board of the FORGER project (Josef Frýdl, Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Czech Republic)</li> <li>● EUFORINNO project (Hojka Kraigher, Slovenian Forestry Institute) (this update will be re-scheduled as the presenter will leave with an early flight)</li> <li>● Other relevant projects</li> </ul>	
17:30-18:00	<b>Wrap-up session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any other business</li> <li>● Date and place of the next meeting</li> <li>● Closing remarks</li> </ul>	

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