

EUFORGEN

European Forest Genetic Resources Network

PROJECT TEAM

National Co-ordinator: John Fennessy, COFORD*

Species Networks:

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Scattered broadleaves: Elaine O'Connor,
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Stand-forming broadleaves: John Fennessy,
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Thematic Networks:

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COMPLETION DATE

This is an ongoing programme, with Phase III scheduled for completion at the end of 2009.

OBJECTIVES

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) was established in 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) in 1990. EUFORGEN is co-ordinated by Bioversity International (www.bioversityinternational.org) and has participants in over 30 European countries. The programme operates through networks in which policy-makers, scientists and managers agree work programmes, exchange information and identify needs and priorities to enhance pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources. In Ireland the programme is serviced by COFORD, in co-operation with the Forest Service.

PROGRESS

EUFORGEN Networks are developing common action plans for target tree species to strengthen

gene conservation efforts on a pan-European basis. The action plans aim at sharing of responsibility for forest genetic resource conservation among European countries. During 2007 the EUFGIS (Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources) project, co-ordinated by Bioversity International and co-funded by the European Commission under the Council Regulation (No. 870/2004) on genetic resources in agriculture, initiated the development of an information system for dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees in Europe.

OUTPUTS

The fifth steering committee meeting, at Novomesto, Slovenia, reviewed progress of the EUFORGEN programme in mid Phase III (1 January 2005 - 31 December 2009) and discussed the outcomes of the MCPFE, addressing updates on activities and their implications to the EUFORGEN work programme.

The second Stand-forming Broadleaves¹ network meeting in Novi Sad, Serbia, progressed the common action plans for stand-forming broadleaves. Reports were presented on the development of technical guidelines for stand-forming broadleaves.

In October 2007, the focal points met representatives of the EUFORGEN Networks, invited speakers and the project partners at a workshop in Birkerød, Denmark. The workshop discussed the present documentation efforts of the gene conservation units in Europe, identified future needs and made recommendations for the development of the EUFGIS information system. The third meeting of the Forest Management Network was held at Rovaniemi, Finland.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Meetings are scheduled for all networks in 2008.

¹ *Stand-forming broadleaves are species such as oak and beech that are generally found as pure stands in their natural range throughout Europe.*