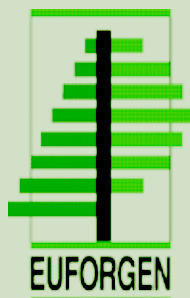


EUFORGEN Phase IV (2010-2014) launched



In January 2010, EUFORGEN launched its fourth phase to continue advancing conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe. The Programme also serves as a platform for pan-European collaboration in this area and an implementation mechanism of relevant resolutions of the "Forest Europe" process (previously Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe).

During Phase IV, EUFORGEN will focus on 1) promoting appropriate use of forest genetic resources to facilitate adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change; 2) developing pan-European

gene conservation strategies; and 3) making available reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe. The work will be carried out through small working groups and workshops instead of the earlier Networks, as agreed by the Steering Committee in 2009. As of June 2010, a total of 21 countries have officially joined Phase IV.

EUFORGEN has been finalizing several additional Technical Guidelines for genetic conservation of Mediterranean firs (*Abies* spp.), Italian alder (*Alnus cordata*), walnut (*Juglans regia*), Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce*) and European white poplar (*Populus alba*). It will soon initiate data collection on forest genetic resources for the next report on

the State of Europe's Forests, which will be released during the Oslo Ministerial Conference on 14-16 June 2011. EUFORGEN is also preparing its comments to the green paper on forest protection and information in the EU.

The EUFORGEN Steering Committee will have its seventh meeting in Vienna, Austria on 16-17 September 2010, to develop a detailed workplan for the next two years. The meeting was originally scheduled for April 2010 but had to be postponed due to the flight problems caused by the volcanic ash clouds across Europe. Further information on Phase IV is available on the EUFORGEN website (www.euforgen.org).



A beech forest near Leuven, Belgium. Photo: J. Koskela, Biodiversity International

EUFGIS Portal under development



The EUFGIS project (Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources) is now finalizing its activities, including the development of an online portal. During the past months, the National Focal Points have also been finalizing the uploading of data on the dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees into the EUFGIS database. As of June 2010, the database contained information on

nearly 2000 gene conservation units, managed for 127 target species.

The project partners are currently testing the database as part of the preparation process for case studies which will assess the status of the gene conservation efforts in Europe and identify needs for further development of gene conservation strategies for forest trees at the pan-European level. The case studies will be presented at the

final project meeting in Vienna, Austria on 13-15 September 2010. The EUFGIS Portal will also be launched officially during the final meeting.

The EUFGIS project is co-funded by the European Commission (Council Regulation No 870/2004 on genetic resources in agriculture) and coordinated by Biodiversity International. Further information is available on the project website (www.eufgis.org).