

EUFGIS



European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources

The EUFGIS Portal provides geo-referenced data on dynamic conservation units of forest genetic resources in Europe. Presently the database contains data on 2360 units and about 106 tree species in 31 countries. The units harbour a total of 3139 tree populations

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EUFGIS is maintained by the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) www.euforgen.org

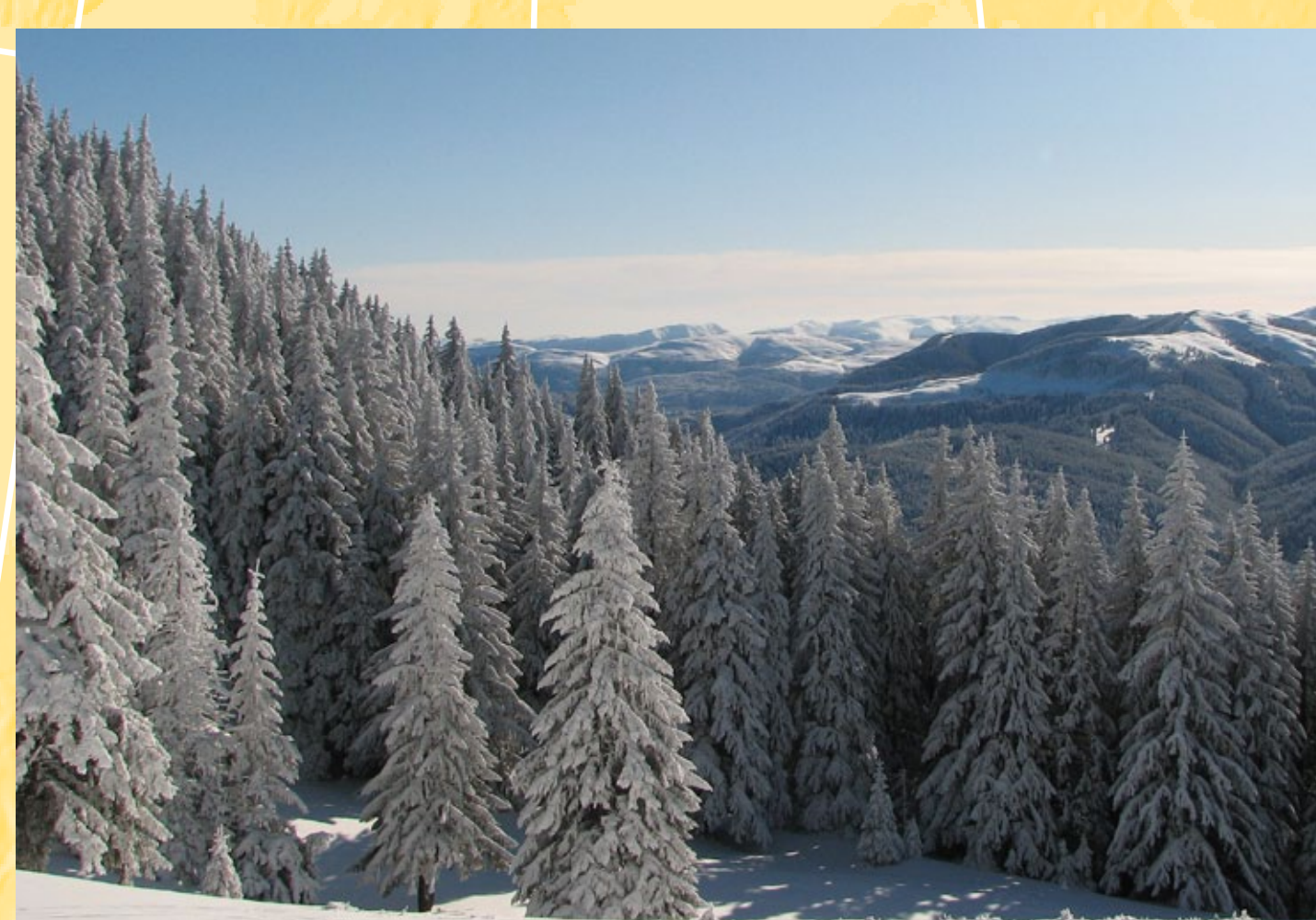


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Dynamic conservation of genetic diversity emphasizes maintenance of evolutionary processes within tree populations to safeguard their potential for continuous adaptation. This can be done either managing tree populations at their natural sites within the environment to which they are adapted (*in situ*), or artificial, but dynamically evolving populations elsewhere (*ex situ*). In the face of climate change, this conservation approach is crucial for the long-term sustainability of forests and forestry in Europe.



Norway spruce gene reserve in Mountain Piatra Mare, Romania.

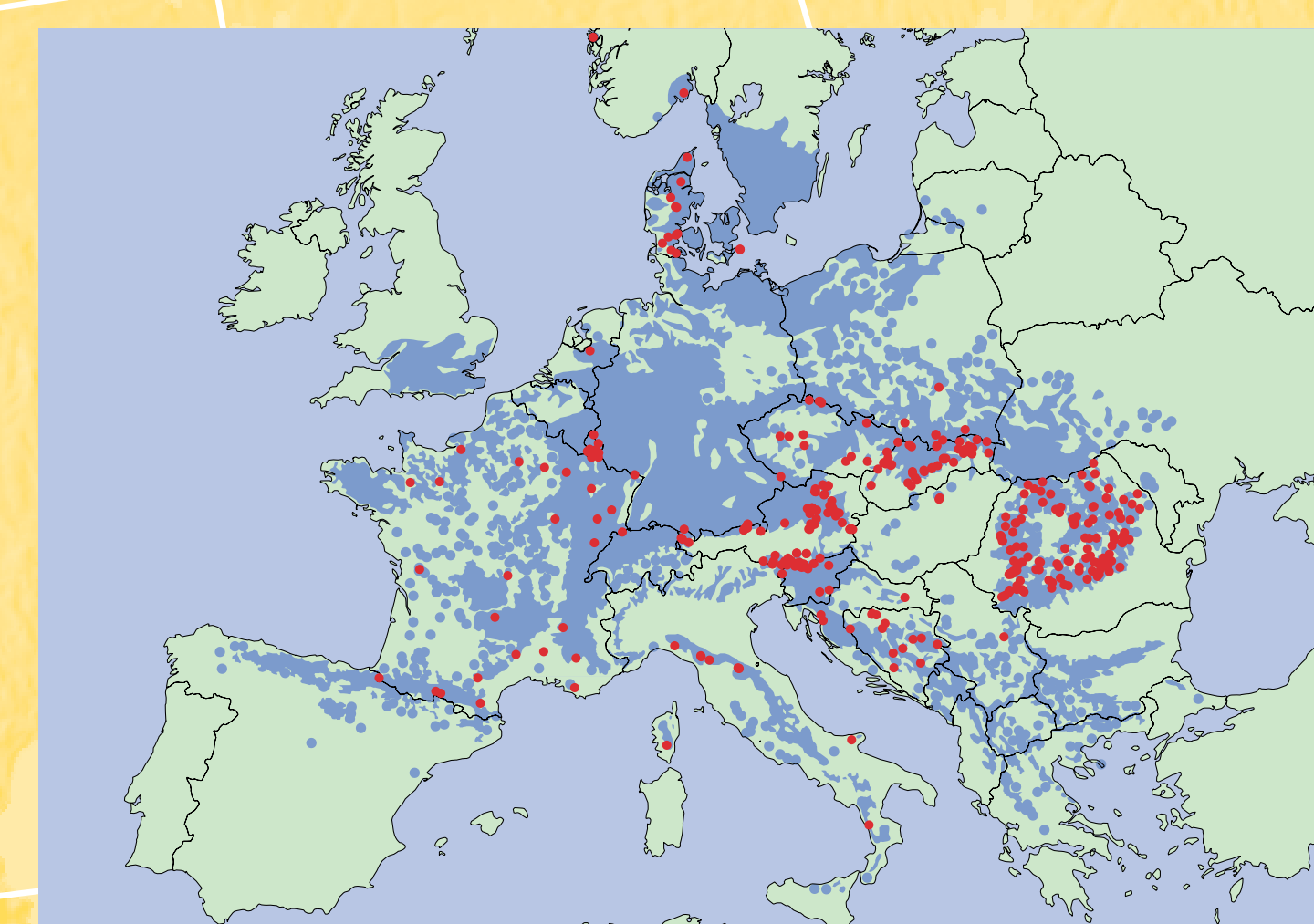
Forest genetic resources are conserved in networks of forests areas harbouring tree populations which have adapted to specific environmental conditions or have distinct characteristics. These genetic conservation units are typically located in forests managed for multiple uses, protected areas or seed stands. As part of the EUFGIS project (2007-2011), European countries developed minimum requirements for the units and collected harmonized data on them for a common database. The units have a designated status as genetic conservation areas of forest trees at national level. The pan-European minimum requirements also specify the minimum size of a unit depending on tree species and conservation objectives.

One or more tree species have also been recognized as target tree species for each unit.

The units are actively managed, i.e. silvicultural techniques are applied, as needed, to favour genetic processes within target tree populations. The monitoring of the units is carried out by visiting them regularly to observe that they have not been damaged.

National Focal Points

National focal points have online access to the database which serves as a documentation platform linking national inventories on forest genetic resources across Europe. This supports the countries in their efforts to conserve forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management, as agreed by the Forest Europe process.



Distribution map of European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and its gene conservation units (red dots).

The countries have used the database for reporting efforts, such as the State of Europe's Forests and the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources reports. It can also be used for identifying gaps in genetic conservation efforts within the distribution ranges of forest trees, developing genetic conservation strategies for forest trees at pan-European level and sampling tree populations for research purposes.