

Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS) (009 AGRI GEN RES 870/2004)

Terms of Reference for a National Focal Point

The EUFORGEN National Coordinators (or relevant authority in case of non-member countries) are kindly asked to nominate a National Focal Point to compile data on dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees in their country and to provide the data to the information system once it is established.

The National Focal Point is expected to hold responsibility for collecting and maintaining information on forest genetic resources (FGR) as part of National Forests Genetic Resources Inventory (NI) or any similar arrangement a country may have in place for obtaining and maintaining the data. The National Focal Point should also be familiar with using databases and other information management tools and technologies.

The role of the National Focal Point is to:

- Participate in the European workshop on FGR documentation (Denmark, 22-24 Oct 2007) (the EUFGIS project will cover travel expenses)
- Provide feedback to a survey on national requirements for gene conservation units of forest trees and related documentation activities and systems in his/her country (the results will be reported during the workshop)
- Participate in a sub-regional training workshop on the information system to learn how to upload the data and use the system (to be organized during winter-spring 2009, the EUFGIS project will cover travel expenses)
- Gather relevant information on the dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees and compile the national data sets for selected tree species
- Upload the national data sets into the information system
- Provide additional information and data on FGR, as needed

The EUFGIS project started on 1 April 2007 and it will end on 30 September 2010. During this period, the National Focal Point is expected to compile the national data on dynamic gene conservation units of forest trees, following data standards which will be developed by the EUFGIS project in collaboration with the EUFORGEN Networks. The project is targeting, as a first step, to obtain the data for 20 tree species at pan-European level. He/she should also upload the data sets into the information system and update the data, as needed.

At its fifth meeting on 22-24 May 2007, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee (consisting of the National Coordinators from all EUFORGEN member countries) underlined that the EUFGIS project should be implemented in close collaboration with the EUFORGEN Networks. The Steering Committee also concluded that the information system should remain as part of EUFORGEN after the project period.

Ideally, the National Focal Point remains responsible for updating the national data in the information system after the project has ended. At any point of time, during the project period or after it, the National Coordinator (or relevant authority in case of non-member countries) can re-nominate a new National Focal Point (e.g. due to staff changes in a given institute). The sixth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee, to be held in spring 2009, will make further decisions regarding the maintenance of the information system as part of EUFORGEN.