



Global Plan of Action for conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources

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Context

2014 – first *Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*

To understand its significance, we must start with the forest:



- Forests cover 30% of land surface; down from 45% (pre-industrial)
- Loss = 13 million ha / year; 200km² / day (net)
- Essential for ecosystem services; livelihoods, food, fuel, shelter, energy, soil and water protection, habitat for 80% of terrestrial biodiversity, carbon
- Of about 80,000 tree species, only about 500 well studied in terms of genetic resources

Income for rural people from wild forest species almost equals income from agriculture (27% : 28%).

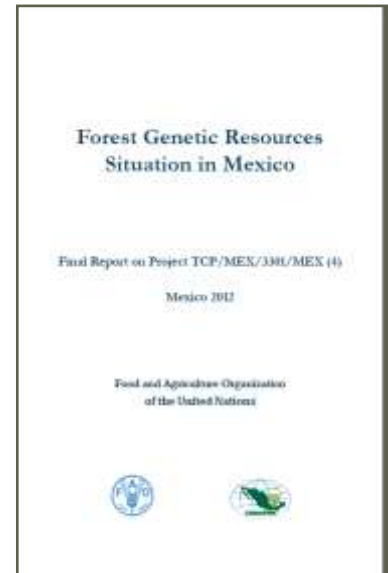
Genetic diversity – evolutionary potential of forest tree species; subject to losses due to governance failures, among other causes

Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources



Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

- Based on key findings of the *Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*
- National reports from more than 80 countries (about 90% of globe's forested area)
- Strategic framework intended to guide and catalyze action at multiple levels



27 Strategic Priorities for action under four priority areas:

- Improving the availability of, and access to, information on forest genetic resources
- In situ and ex situ conservation of forest genetic resources
- Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources
- Policies, institutions and capacity building

Global Plan of Action

- Aims to promote practical and efficient approaches to support and increase the effectiveness of national, regional and global efforts for the sustainable use, development and conservation of forest genetic resources, including the mobilization of financial and human resources, and strengthening institutions.
- Organized by geographic scale: national, regional, global
- Primary responsibility at national level
- Collaboration and coordination among countries within regions will be vital



Level	Priority Area 1: Improving the availability of and access to information on FGR	Priority Area 2: <i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of FGR	Priority Area 3: Sustainable use, development and management of FGR	Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity building
National	SP1. Establish and strengthen national FGR assessment, characterization and monitoring systems	SP5. Develop national strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of FGR and their sustainable use	SP13. Develop and reinforce national seed programmes to ensure the availability of genetically appropriate tree seeds in the quantities and of the (certified) quality needed for national plantation programmes	SP19. Update and integrate FGR conservation and management needs into wider national policies, programmes and frameworks of action at national, regional and global levels
	SP2. Develop national and subnational systems for the assessment and management of traditional knowledge on FGR	SP6. Strengthen the contribution of primary forests and protected areas to <i>in situ</i> conservation of FGR	SP14. Promote restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems using genetically appropriate material	SP20. Develop collaboration and promote coordination of national institutions and programmes related to FGR
		SP7. Promote the establishment and development of efficient and sustainable <i>ex situ</i> conservation systems, including <i>in vivo</i> collections and genebanks	SP15. Support climate change adaptation and mitigation through proper management and use of FGR	SP21. Establish and strengthen educational and research capacities on FGR to ensure adequate technical support to related development programmes

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National		SP8 Support assessment, management and conservation of marginal and/or range limit forest species populations	SP16. Promote appropriate use of emerging technology to support conservation development and sustainable use of FGR	SP22. Promote participation of indigenous and local communities in FGR management in the context of decentralization
		SP9. Support and develop sustainable management and conservation of FGR on farmland	SP17. Develop and reinforce research programmes on tree breeding, domestication and bioprospection in order to unlock the full potential of FGR	
		SP10. Support and strengthen the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in sustainable management and conservation of FGR		
		SP11. Identify priority species for action		

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Regional		SP12. Develop and implement regional <i>in situ</i> conservation strategies and promote eco-regional networking and collaboration		SP23. Promote and apply mechanisms for germplasm exchange at regional level to support research and development activities, in agreement with international conventions
				SP24. Reinforce regional and international cooperation to support education, knowledge dissemination, research, conservation and sustainable management of FGR
International	SP3. Develop international technical standards and protocols for FGR inventories, characterization and monitoring of trends and risks		SP18. Develop and promote networking and collaboration among concerned countries to combat invasive species (animals, plants and microorganisms) affecting FGR	SP25. Encourage the establishment if network activities and support development and reinforcement of international networking and information sharing on FGR research, management and conservation
	SP4. Promote the establishment and reinforcement of FGR information systems (databases) to cover available scientific and traditional knowledge on uses, distribution, habitats, biology and genetic variation of species and species populations			SP26. Promote public, and international awareness of the roles and values of FGR
				SP27. Strengthen efforts to mobilize the necessary resources, including financing

The potential for achieving the strategic priorities depends on several key factors

- Recognition of the importance of the strategic priorities and status of genetic resources for the country in question at multiple levels
- Political will at various levels within the countries
- Governance systems within the countries
- Commitment and resources at international level



Implementation of Global Plan of Action – what's needed?

- The implementation of the Global Plan of Action must be integrated with other strategies and programs at national, regional and global levels, as FGR cannot be effectively conserved and managed in isolation.
- A comprehensive funding strategy must be developed and supported
- Strong collaboration among countries and regions; collaboration with international bodies, conventions, and processes
- Awareness and capacity development

EUFORGEN: Europe's Forest Genetic Resources Conservation Programme – Model for APFORGEN (SP12)

- Establishment of conservation units at national level, meeting regional standards for conserving and monitoring forest genetic resources.
- *In situ* conservation units to maintain evolutionary potential under natural conditions with agreed minimum standards
- Common monitoring and reporting system with a common database useful for research and management decisions.



Conclusions:

- The new ***Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*** provides a framework for countries, regional bodies and international organizations to highlight and respond to the serious challenges as well as the opportunities facing forest genetic resources.
- The degree to which the response will be successful depends on level of commitment, good governance and adequate human and financial resources.
- In many cases, actions and strategies to conserve and sustainably use forest genetic resources requires coordination across national borders.
- Useful models exist for implementing and enforcing practical approaches for managing and conserving forest genetic resources, if political will along with sufficient human and monetary resources are engaged.



Thank you!

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