

Second EVOLTREE Stakeholder Group Meeting Eisenstadt (Austria), 16-17 September 2009



INTRODUCTION

Establishing and facilitating a permanent dialogue with stakeholders belongs to the priorities of the EVOLTREE Network (www.evoltree.eu). EVOLTREE is a Network of Excellence aimed at establishing common research infrastructures in Europe to progress in the scientific understanding how forest ecosystems are responding to climate change.

The involvement of the stakeholders will ensure that research findings influence policies and will contribute to sustainable use of forests and their biodiversity. The workshop will illustrate to non-specialists the most recent scientific findings related to how forest ecosystems respond to major environmental changes. The presentations will stimulate a discussion with the stakeholders on possible actions to support sustainable use and conservation of forest resources based on the most advanced scientific understanding.

During the first day, the various ongoing European research frameworks and initiatives related to different aspects of intraspecific diversity of trees will be presented, to illustrate their different focus and complementarities. A visit has been scheduled to see the DNA repository center, a common infrastructure set up within the framework of EVOLTREE, established at the Austrian Institute of Technology in Seibersdorf.

During the second day, the main issues covered in the presentations include a review on what we know about past and future responses of European forest ecosystems to climate change, a scientific perspective on the possible options to mitigate the effects of climate change (eg., moving forest reproductive material), an overview on how recent findings on tree genomics can support conservation programmes, how molecular markers can be used to trace movement of timber, etc. The preparation of policy briefs that contain recommendations based on scientific findings will also be discussed in this occasion.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wed 16 September		
8.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening of the meeting: welcome address and introduction to the meeting (Bioversity)/ Self-introduction of the participants 	Chairs: Jozef Turok/ Jarkko Koskela (Bioversity International)
9.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is forest genomic and why the network of Excellence EVOLTREE was established: main outputs (research findings, common infrastructure) and future perspectives (speaker: Antoine Kremer, EVOLTREE coordinator) 	
9.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of the new phase of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN): focus and structure (speaker: Jarkko Koskela, EUFORGEN coordinator) 	
10.00	Coffee break	
10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of ongoing European projects related to tree genetic resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TREEBREEDEX (speaker: Gerry Douglas), ○ NovelTree (speaker: Catherine Bastien), 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EnergyPoplar (speaker: to be confirmed), ○ EUFGIS (speaker: Jarkko Koskela) ○ Cost action on the Evaluation of Beech Genetic Resources for Sustainable Forestry (speaker: Georg von Wuehlich) <p>Future initiatives: ongoing European projects related to tree genetic resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brief introduction to the collaborative initiative FoResTTrac (speaker: Antoine Kremer) 	
13.00	Lunch	
14.15	Departure to reach Seibersdorf and visit the common DNA repository center at the Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	
15.00	Arrival at Seibersdorf and presentation of the repository centre (speaker: Silvia Fluch) followed by a visit of the infrastructure	
17.00	Departure from Seibersdorf to reach the Esterhazy winery in Trausdorf for a wine-tasting experience	
19.00	Trip back to Eisenstadt	
19.45	Social dinner at restaurant Henrici in Eisenstadt	

Thu 17 September		
8.45	Presentation of scientific findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insight from tree genetics and genomics on how to move forest reproductive material in the face of climate change (speaker: Reiner Finkeldey) 	Chairs: Jozef Turok/ Jarkko Koskela (Bioversity International)
9.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examples of practical applications of tree genetic and genomic research: incorporating genomic insight into forest management, screening for drought resistance (speaker: Bruno Fady) 	
10.15	Coffee break	
10.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Molecular tools for certification of plant material (speaker: Giovanni Giuseppe Vendramin) 	
11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Application of modelling approaches to anticipate future scenarios with regard to European forests (speaker: Koen Kramer) <p>Questions and answers</p>	
12.30	Lunch	
13.30 to 16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plenary discussion on future dissemination activities in EVOLTREE: feedback from the Stakeholders on the draft of policy-briefs prepared and inputs to the preparation of a Stakeholders session in occasion of the EVOLTREE final conference. <p>Closing of the meeting</p>	