



Joint GenTree/LIFE GEN MON Stakeholders' event on genetic monitoring

Draft Agenda

Porto Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki (Greece) 24-25 October 2017

Part of research carried out within GenTree project, and implemented within LIFE GEN MON project, is addressing the challenging task of forest genetic monitoring for a large number of tree species across Europe. The LIFE GEN MON project, financed by an EU environmental fund, aims at producing a science-policy communication plan for the long-term support to conservation of forest genetic resources and forest genetic monitoring. Within the GenTree project, the type of indicators selected for genetic monitoring, and how they will be implemented in everyday forest management, will impact forest adaptation models and forest dynamics scenarios.

Main objectives of the meeting

From the GenTree perspective:

- Understand how genetic monitoring is implemented, what are the difficulties encountered on the ground
- Understand how genetic monitoring can be incorporated into modelling

From the LIFE GEN MON perspective:

- Discuss problems encountered in the use of the identified indicators
- Define a minimum set of indicators that would be valid in the long-run and would define the baseline for long-term monitoring, considering also scientific advances
- Discuss how to raise awareness about the long-term nature of funding needed to carry out genetic monitoring

Arrival of participants on 23 October 2017

Tuesday 24 October		Moderator
8.30	Registration at Porto Palace Hotel, 65, 26th Octovriou Avenue, 54628 – Thessaloniki – Greece)	
9.00-9.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of the meeting Welcome opening from local hosts Presentation of the agenda 	P. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
9:15-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief introduction about the LIFE GEN MON project (H. Kraigher) (10 min) Brief introduction about the GenTree project (B. Fady) (10 min) Presentation of how the theme of the meeting relates to national and international processes addressing conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources (M. Westergren) (15 min) Expectations from the forest service (F. Kiourtsis & Ž. Veselič) (15 min) <p>Q&A (10 min)</p>	P. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
10:15-11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General presentation about genetic monitoring principles (P. Aravanopoulos) (15 min) Definition, selection and establishment of the forest genetic monitoring (FGM) plots and development of a data base (D. Finžgar) (15 min) GenTree sampling design (T. Myking) (10 min) Lab manual and ring tests (M. Bajc) (10 min) <p>Q&A</p>	P. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
11:15-11.45	Coffee/tea break	
11.45-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Continuation of presentations from the session before</i> Open discussion on: should we perform genetic monitoring as part of <i>in situ</i> gene conservation within the genetic conservation units (GCUs) or broader? 	P. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
13:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	<p>Work in groups organized around the following themes</p> <p>Discussion Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discuss already tested protocols for the establishment and monitoring of FGM plots: what can be done by practitioners? discuss linkages between FGM indicators and the indicators of the state of forest genetic resources for reporting to Forest Europe (currently under revision) how to upgrade FGM guidelines at the species and above species levels? how to prepare guidelines for species for which the pilot-FGM-plots and protocols have not been tested in the projects so far? how to include FGM issues and indicators into forest dynamics modelling framework (particularly relevant for GenTree)? 	Groups are moderated by LIFE GEN MON & GenTree staff

	<p>Discussion Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check implementation costs & discuss how to ensure FGR monitoring approaches are not too expensive or too demanding for those in charge of collecting data • Discuss other potential constraints in the implementation of genetic monitoring <p>Discussion Group 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to initialize potential preparation of common action plan(s) that would lead to inclusion of FGM in the national and EU strategies and policies (particularly relevant for LIFE GEN MON)? • Can FGR monitoring be simply implemented within everyday forest management? <p>Discussion Group 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to communicate effectively about forest genetic resources? Discuss communication needs and propose examples of good practices in communication that could be adopted to create awareness and understanding of forest genetic monitoring. <p><i>NB. All participants will rotate across working groups in order to cover all themes in sequence</i></p>	
16:00-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of points emerging from work in groups to plenary • Discussion 	Moderated by LIFE GEN MON & GenTree
16:30-17:00	Coffee/tea break	
17:00-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the discussion • Key points emerging from the various sessions 	Moderated by LIFE GEN MON & GenTree
18:00-18:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-up of the day • A few words about the field visit (by Fotis Kiourtsis) • Closing of the day 	Moderated by LIFE GEN MON & GenTree
20.00	Social dinner	

Wednesday 25 October		Moderator
8:30	Departure for field visit (distance from Thessaloniki, 93 km)	
10:30-12:30	Arrival to destination and visit	P. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
12:30-14:30	Lunch at University Forest facilities in Taxiarchis (36 km away from field site)	
14:30-16:30	<p><i>(at University Forest facilities)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about new aspects that emerged from the field visit • Wrap-up and closing of the meeting 	B. Fady & H. Kraigher
16.30-18:30	Travel back to Thessaloniki	