Joint GenTree/LIFEGENNMON Stakeholders' event on genetic monitoring

Agenda

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

Part of the research carried out within the GenTree project, and implemented within the LIFEGENMON project, is addressing the challenging task of forest genetic monitoring for a large number of tree species across Europe. The LIFEGENMON 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 LIFEGENMON 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	• Opening of the meeting by the local hosts (Ph. Aravanopoulos, N. Fragiskakis) • Welcome opening by Local Authorities (General Director of Forests, Greece; Chairman, School of Forestry & Environment, Aristotle University) • Presentation of the agenda	Ph. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
9:15-10:15	• Brief introduction about the LIFEGENMON 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 (Ch.Sarvani - P. Bekiaroglou & Ž. Veselič - B. Rantaša) (15 min) Q&A (10 min)	Ph. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
10:15-11:15	• 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. Kavaliauskas & D. Finžgar & P. Hasilidis) (15 min) • Gentree sampling design (T. Myking) (10 min) • Lab manual and ring tests (M. Bajc) (10 min) Q&A	Ph. Aravanopoulos & F. Kiourtsis
11:15-11.45	Coffee/tea break	
11.45-13:00	• *Continuation of presentations from the session before* • Open discussion on: should we perform genetic monitoring as part of *in situ* gene conservation within the genetic conservation units (GCUs) or broader?	Ph. Aravanopoulos & G. Rousakis
13:00	Lunch	

14:00-16:00	Work in groups organized around the following themes DG1- • discuss already tested protocols for the establishment and monitoring of FGM plots: what can be done by practitioners? • 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)? DG2- • 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 DG3- • 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 LIFEGENMON)? • can FGR monitoring be simply implemented within everyday forest management? DG4- • 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. *NB. All participants will rotate across working groups in order to cover all themes in sequence*	Groups are moderated by GenTree & LIFEGENMON team members
16:00-16:30	• Presentation of points emerging from work in groups to plenary • Discussion	Moderated by LIFEGENMON & GenTree
16:30-17.00	Coffee/tea break	
17.00-18:00	• Continuation of the discussion • Key points emerging from the various sessions	Moderated by LIFEGENMON & GenTree
18:00-18:30	• Wrap-up of the day • A few words about the field visit (by Fotis Kiourtsis) • Closing of the day	Moderated by LIFEGENMON & 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 & P. Bekiaroglou
12:30-14.30	Lunch at University Forest facilities in Taxiarchis (36 km away from field site)	
14:30-16:30	*(at University Forest facilities)* • 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	