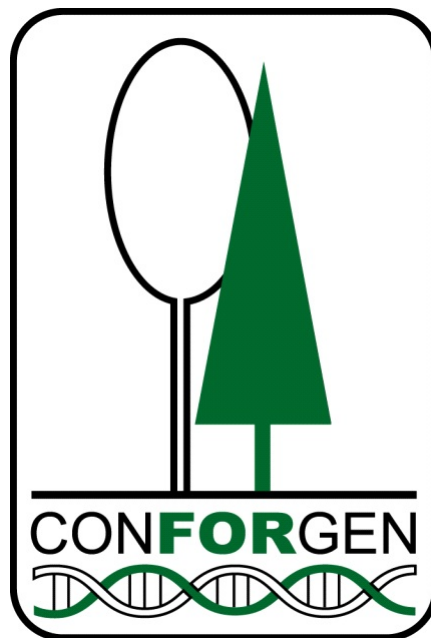


CONFORGEN

Business Plan

2008 – 2010



Coordinating the conservation of forest genetic resources
across Canada

For further information
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Business plan approved at **CONFORGEN** Steering Committee
business meeting held in association with the
Second Forum on the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources,
“Applied Forest Genetic Conservation”
Quebec City, 29 August 2008

CONFORGEN

Business Plan 2008 – 2010

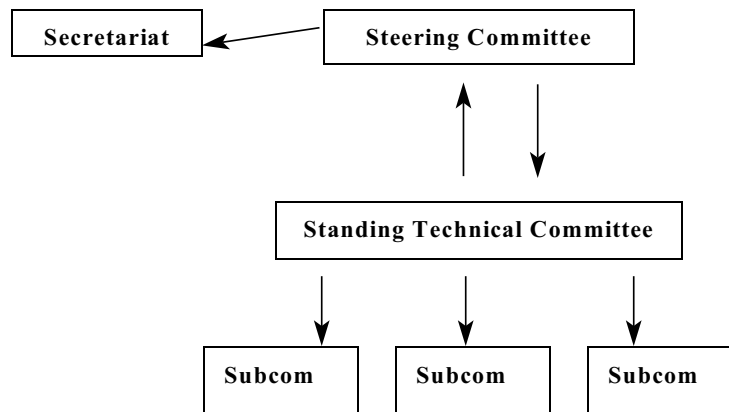
1.0 Introduction

The business plan is organized into 6 sections. Section 2 defines the structure of the Canadian Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources Program (CONFORGEN). Section 3 presents the objectives. Section 4 identifies the role of the Secretariat, Steering Committee, Standing Technical Committee, and Technical Subcommittees. Section 5 identifies activities, milestones, and deliverables for 2008 – 2010. Section 6 presents examples of activities for consideration beyond 2010.

2.0 CONFORGEN Structure

CONFORGEN, a Canadian program for CONservation of FORest GENetic resources, was initiated by Canadian Forest Service (CFS) scientists following discussions with a spectrum of non-CFS stakeholders. The initiative was launched at the Forum on the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources held in Charlottetown, PEI, July 28–29, 2006.

CONFORGEN is envisioned to be collaborative and cooperative with partners from other federal and provincial government departments, First Nations, industry, academia, and ENGOS (environmental non-governmental organizations). The structure includes a Secretariat, provided by the CFS; a Steering Committee, made up of representatives from the jurisdictions; a Standing Technical Committee; and several Technical Subcommittees (as needed).



Secretariat: manage program activities, make and maintain contacts, facilitate information exchange, and organize periodic Forums.

Steering Committee: identify relevant forest genetic resource conservation issues and prioritize responses, set objectives, develop and approve work plans, and provide direction to the Secretariat and Standing Technical Committee.

Standing Technical Committee: advise Steering Committee on technical issues and establish Technical Subcommittees as directed by the Steering Committee for relevant issues and priorities.

3.0 Objectives

- To promote conservation of genetic resources of native tree species
- To define pan-Canadian science-based guidelines for conservation of genetic resources of native tree species in all aspects of sustainable management
- To monitor and report consistently on genetic resources of native tree species in support of Canada's national and international commitments.
- To identify emerging issues and highlight research priorities

4.0 Secretariat and Committee Structure and Membership

4.1 Secretariat

One CONFORGEN member fulfills the Secretariat role. At the present time the Secretariat is provided by CFS. The provision of this role will be reviewed periodically.

4.2 Steering Committee

Membership includes one CFS representative; one representative from each of the Provinces and Territories, appointed by the Forest Genetics Council or similar committee where one exists or appointed by a provincial/territorial natural resources department; and a First Nations representative. See Appendix 1 for list of members. The Steering Committee is chaired by one member of the Committee who is elected for a 3-year term. At the present time the Chair is held by Dr. Judy Loo of the CFS. The Chair of the Standing Technical Committee participates as an observer.

The Steering Committee meets via conference calls as required. Minutes are distributed by the Secretariat at least a week before calls. Tasks assigned to Steering Committee members may be delegated to non-committee members as members see fit.

4.3 Standing Technical Committee

The Standing Technical Committee is composed of eight to twelve experts in the areas of genetics and/or conservation, from across Canada and from various institutions, appointed by the Steering Committee. Current membership is listed in Appendix 2. The Chair is elected for a 3-year term and participates on the Steering Committee as an observer. The Standing Technical Committee is chaired by Dr. Tannis Beardmore of the CFS. Committee members are appointed for three years, renewable, with provision for overlap to ensure continuity.

4.4 Technical Subcommittees

Each Technical Subcommittee is chaired by a member of the Standing Technical Committee. Chairs select candidates for subcommittees.

The following technical subcommittees are currently active:

2008 Forum: This subcommittee organized a second Forum to be held in Quebec City in conjunction with the Canadian Tree Improvement Association Meeting in August 2008.

Conservation Guidelines: This subcommittee will develop guidelines for the genetic conservation of indigenous forest tree species.

Genetic Conservation Gap Analysis: This subcommittee will develop methodology for extending existing gap analyses (BC, Alberta) to other parts of Canada.

5.0 Short-term Objectives, Activities, and Deliverables for 2008 – 2010

5.1 Objectives:

1. Obtain a commitment from the Information and Knowledge Working Group of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) to support the role for genetic conservation in their mandate, and coordinate with the Climate Change Task Force.
2. Organize and deliver a Forum on the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources at the 2010 Canadian Forest Genetics Association (CFGAs) meeting.
3. Complete an initial draft of genetic conservation guidelines.
4. Complete a conceptual plan identifying requirements to extend a forest-tree genetic resources gap analysis across Canada.
5. Conduct a pan-Canadian survey on the status of native tree species.
6. Expand and incrementally populate CAFGRIS (Canadian Forest Genetic Resources Information System).

5.2 Milestones:

1. CCFM endorsement and collaboration:
 - a. Follow up on April 2008 meeting with the Information and Knowledge Working Group September 2008
 - b. Contact the Climate Change Task Force and identify opportunities for CONFORGEN to contribute to their priorities/goals August – October 2008
 - c. Participate in next round of Criteria and Indicators (C & I) August 2010
2. Deliver the third Forum on the conservation of forest genetic resources August 2010
3. Conservation technical guidelines:
 - a. Submit guideline template and plan to Steering Committee October 2008
 - b. Complete guidelines for ten tree species August 2010
4. Gap analysis:
 - a. Submit draft plan to Steering Committee to be determined
 - b. Final plan approved by Steering Committee February 2010
5. Survey:
 - a. Complete development to allow deployment of the survey on the web April 2009
 - b. Conduct the survey May – September 2009
6. CAFGRIS:
 - a. Complete Phase 2 expansion April 2009
 - b. Populate with survey results May 2010

6.0 Looking Ahead

1. Achieve a stable support base with financial commitment from jurisdictions to support the work.
2. Publish “Technical Guidelines for the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources” for additional species for which information is available.
3. Continue to populate CAFGRIS to provide up-to-date genetic information on all tree species in Canada.
4. Identify potential funding sources for a pan-Canadian gap analysis.
5. Initiate a pan-Canadian gap analysis for 30 – 50 key tree species.
6. Develop and publish guidelines for conservation of forest genetic resources for 30 tree species (*in situ*, *ex situ*, “*inter situ*”) using gap analysis results.
7. Provide recommendations and information to CCFM C&I group for 2010 reporting and beyond.

Appendix 1

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