

CONFORGEN

Objectives and Accomplishments for 2010–2013:

1. Submit annual progress reports to the Information and Knowledge Working Group of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) and collaborate where appropriate.

Contribution was made to “ LIMITED REPORT Tree Species Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change: Final Technical Report Submitted to the Climate Change Task Force”. Mark Johnson (lead author) Available on-line at:

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/HFP/external!/publish/ClimateChange/Partner_Publications/Vulnerability_of_Canadas_Tree_Species_to_ClimateChange_Technical_Report_SRC.pdf

CCFM has not had formal meetings, so there has not been the opportunity to contribute at this level.

2. Organize and deliver a series of web-deployed seminars.

The theme for the series was Assisted Migration. Six seminars were delivered. The presentations were posted on the CONFORGEN web site www.conforgen.ca

3. Organize and deliver a Forum on the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources at the 2011 and 2013 Canadian Forest Genetics Association (CFGAs) meetings.

A Forum was held in 2011 at the CFGA conference in Thunder Bay, ON. The theme was “Impact of Climate Change on Forest Genetic Resources: Mitigation Strategies”. In 2013, the Forum was held at the CFGA conference in Whistler, BC. The theme was “Contribution of Genomics to Developing Forest Genetic Resources Conservation Strategies”.

4. Continue to develop genetic conservation guidelines for tree species.

Guidelines have been written for three species. The guideline for butternut serves as a template. A guideline was written for western white pine, reviewed by the Steering Committee, and sent back for revision. A draft for eastern white cedar was completed and circulated to the Guidelines Subcommittee for review. Guidelines were proposed for: black ash, bur oak, limber pine, whitebark pine, and Garry oak.

5. Facilitate obtaining funding to support forest-tree genetic resource gap analysis across Canada.

This was not followed up on given budget restrictions with the Canadian Forest Service. Dr. Andreas Hamman, chair of the CONFORGEN GAP Analysis Subcommittee (University of Alberta), had

informed us of his plans to pursue this work. Letter of support was written to assist his efforts with an NSERC grant submission.

6. Contribute to a national-level background paper on assisted migration addressing scientific, policy, social, and economic issues. The need for this was identified by the CCFM Climate Change Task Force and the background paper will be submitted to CCFM.

This was not conducted. It may be premature given the state of scientific knowledge in this area. Efforts were directed instead to collecting jurisdictional data necessary for producing the Canadian Forest Genetics Report for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in assisting with the preparation of the global report (see below).

7. Contribute to FAO's State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report (SoWFGR) by assisting where appropriate in the preparation of the country report for Canada.

Canadian Report on the State of Forest Genetic Resources: Nine provinces contributed data, via a survey, for chapters on *ex situ* conservation and tree breeding/seed production programs. Steering Committee members reviewed the final draft of this report.

Additional efforts as a result of producing the Canadian report were presented which included: *Global Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. CONFORGEN jurisdictional data (e.g., priorities for work) were incorporated into the global report.

8. Collate and summarize the results of the pan-Canadian survey on the status of native tree species.

Following the survey that was conducted in 2012, Steering Committee members assigned a rating for each species in their jurisdiction based on ratings assigned by survey respondents. These ratings were evaluated and a national rating was assigned to each species. The national rating summary was returned to Steering Committee members for review and approval. This information can be used by Wild Species Canada when their survey is updated in 2015. Quebec is currently writing a report on the status of forest genetic resources in Québec and will include results from the CAFGRIS survey to evaluate if the conservation status of a species has changed from 2003 to 2012.

9. Synthesize data from the survey conducted for the SoWFGR report.

The Canadian Forest Service prepared a North American summary report for the FAO's North American Forestry Commission's meeting in 2012 using country report data from Canada. This report may lead to collaboration opportunities among Canada, United States and Mexico for species with ranges that span borders.