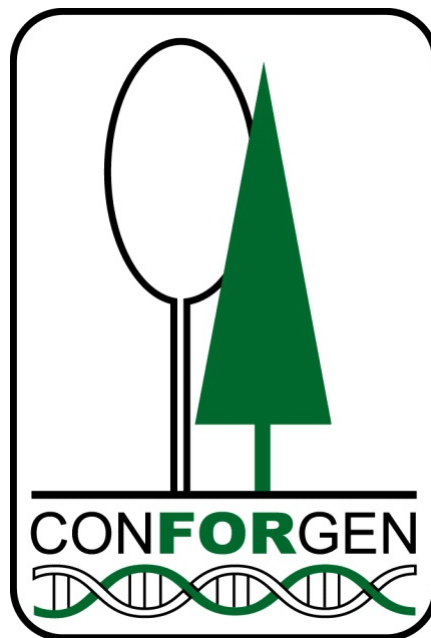


CONFORGEN

Business Plan

2010 – 2013



Coordinating the conservation of forest genetic resources
across Canada

For further information
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CONFORGEN

Business Plan 2010 – 2013

1.0 Introduction

The business plan is organized into 6 sections. Section 2 presents the objectives of the Canadian Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources Program (CONFORGEN). Section 3 defines the structure. Section 4 identifies the role of the Secretariat, Steering Committee, Standing Technical Committee, and Technical Subcommittees. Section 5 identifies activities, milestones, and deliverables for 2010 – 2013. Section 6 presents examples of activities for consideration beyond 2013.

2.0 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.

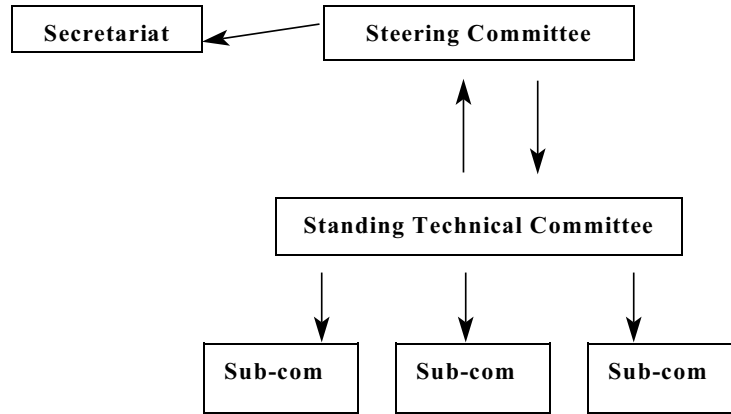
To monitor and report consistently on genetic resources of native tree species in support of Canada's national and international commitments.

To identify emerging issues and highlight research priorities.

3.0 CONFORGEN Structure

CONFORGEN, a Canadian program for CONservation of FORest GENetic resources, was launched at the Forum on the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources held in Charlottetown, PEI, July 28–29, 2006.

CONFORGEN is collaborative and cooperative with partners from federal and provincial government departments, First Nations, industry, academia, and ENGOS (environmental non-governmental organizations). The structure includes a Secretariat; a Steering Committee, made up of representatives from the jurisdictions; a Standing Technical Committee; and several Technical Sub-Committees (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 Sub-Committees as directed by the Steering Committee for relevant issues and 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 Canadian Forest Service. 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. Tannis Beardmore 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 co-chaired by Dr. Brenda McAfee of Environment Canada. 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:

Forum: A Forum will not be held in 2010 in association with the Canadian Forest Genetics Association Meeting. Instead, we will have a series of web seminars in the fall of 2010 addressing assisted migration. The business meeting that is held in association with the CFGA Meeting and Forum will be conducted by conference call in the fall of 2010. We recognize the importance of having the Forum in association with the CFGA meeting and our next Forum will be held with the CFGA meeting in 2011 and 2013.

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

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

Assisted Migration: This subcommittee is addressing policy, and biological or ecological issues related to assisted migration.

2012 FGR Survey: This subcommittee is responsible for collating and summarizing the information for a pan-Canadian perspective of the conservation needs for tree species.

5.0 Short-term Objectives, Activities, and Deliverables for 2010 – 2013

5.1 Objectives:

1. Submit annual progress reports to the Information and Knowledge Working Group of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) and collaborate where appropriate.
2. Organize and deliver a series of web-deployed seminars on assisted migration.
3. Organize and deliver the Forum on the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources at the 2011 or 2012 and 2013 Canadian Forest Genetics Association (CFGGA) meeting.
4. Continue to develop genetic conservation guidelines for tree species.
5. Facilitate obtaining funding to support forest-tree genetic resources gap analysis across Canada.
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.
7. Contribute to FAO's State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report (SoW FGR) by assisting where appropriate in the preparation of the Canadian report.
8. Collate and summarize the results of the pan-Canadian survey on the status of native tree species.
9. Synthesize data from the survey conducted for the SoWFGR report.

4.2 Milestones:

1. CCFM reporting and collaboration:
 - a. Submit annual update on activities July 2011, 2012, 2013
 - b. In anticipation of the next round of Criteria and Indicators (C & I) contribute where appropriate to indicators dealing with the conservation of forest genetic resources July 2012 (status of species at risk is provided in Canada's report to the FAO State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources) February 2012
2. Deliver a series of web-deployed seminars on assisted migration December 2010
The webinars started February 2012
3. Deliver the third Forum on the conservation of forest genetic resources
..... July or August 2011

- Deliver the fourth Forum on the conservation of forest genetic resources
 July 2013
- 4. Complete conservation technical guidelines for ten tree species July 2013
- 5. Initiate a national gap analysis project April 2011
- 6. Participate in writing the assisted migration background paper December 2011
- 7. Collect and compile information for the SoW FGR December 2012
- 8. Survey:
 - a. Steering Committee members vet jurisdictional results December 2012
 - b. Steering Committee reviews national-level results March 2013
 - c. Steering Committee approves how/where the results will be disseminated
 beyond CAFGRIS March 2013
- 9. Write several papers for publication in scientific journals July 2013

6.0 Looking Ahead

1. Further discussions on how to achieve a stable support base considering financial commitment from jurisdictions to support the work, CCFM, and other appropriate agencies.
2. Develop and publish guidelines for conservation of forest genetic resources for additional species for which information is available including results from a gap analysis.
3. Continue to populate CAFGRIS focusing on relevant jurisdictional *ex situ* and *inter situ* data and to provide up-to-date genetic information on all tree species in Canada.
4. Develop a national *ex situ* conservation network with the National Tree Seed Centre in collaboration with CONFORGEN to coordinate national level *ex situ* conservation activities.

Appendix 1

Steering Committee

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Appendix 2

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