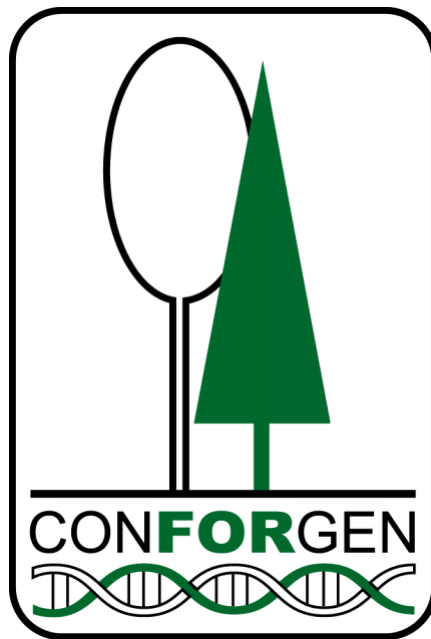


# CONFORGEN

## Business Plan

2013 – 2015



Coordinating the conservation of forest genetic resources  
across Canada

For further information  
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# CONFORGEN

## Business Plan 2013 – 2015

### 1.0 Introduction

The business plan is organized into 6 sections. Section 2 presents the objectives of the Canadian **C**onservation of **F**orest **G**enetic 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 short term objectives, activities, milestones, and deliverables for 2013 – 2015. Section 6 presents examples of activities for consideration beyond 2015.

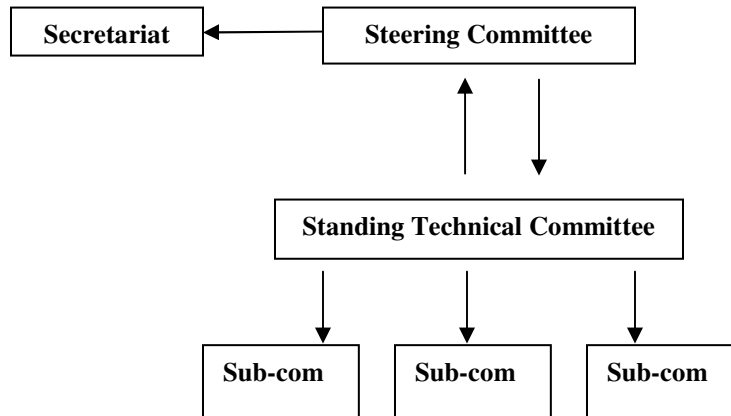
### 2.0 Objectives

- 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**

The Secretariat is provided by Canadian Forest Service (CFS).

### **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 recorded and distributed by the Secretariat. 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. Committee members are appointed for three years, renewable, with provision for overlap to ensure continuity. The Standing Technical Committee provides advice to the Steering Committee.

### **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: This subcommittee organizes a Forum that is held in association with the Canadian Forest Genetics Association conference. The Forums focus on an aspect of genetic conservation.

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

Genetic Conservation Gap Analysis: This subcommittee is investigating extending existing gap analyses (e.g. BC, Alberta) to other parts of Canada.

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

## 5.0 Short-term Objectives, Activities, and Deliverables for 2013 – 2015

### 5.1 Objectives:

1. Promoting forest genetic resource knowledge to national and international agencies such as Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), North American Forestry Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EURFORGEN).
2. Developing genetic conservation guidelines for tree species.
3. Generating new knowledge for the conservation of forest genetic resources.
4. Supporting forest genetic resource's gap analysis.

### 5.2 Milestones:

1.
  - a. CCFM and NRCan collaboration: contribute knowledge and advice for indicators addressing forest genetic resources (e.g. Criteria and Indicators).
  - b. FAO collaboration: contribute knowledge for national-level priorities addressing forest genetic resources (e.g. reporting nationally to the FAO's strategic forest genetic resource priorities).
  - c. Organize and deliver web-deployed seminars.
  - d. Organize and deliver the Forum on Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources at the 2015 Canadian Forest Genetics Association conference.
2.
  - a. Review current guideline template.
  - b. Review, approve and publish four guidelines.
  - c. Prepare additional guidelines.
3.
  - a. Write a scientific paper on *ex situ* priorities for Canada.
  - b. Approve guidelines for *ex situ* collection and storage of forest genetic resources.
  - c. Collate and summarize results of the species of concern survey.
    - (i) Steering Committee reviews national level results.
    - (ii) Steering Committee identifies and approves products and uses for the survey.
4. Encourage jurisdictional GAP analysis

## 6.0 Looking Ahead

1. Explore opportunities for financial support.
2. Continue to populate CAFGRIS focusing on relevant jurisdictional *in situ*, *ex situ* and *inter situ* data and to provide up-to-date genetic information on all tree species in Canada.
3. 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.
4. Contribute to a national-level background paper on the mitigation of climate change impacts on managed forests such as by assisted migration by addressing scientific, policy, social, and economic issues.
5. Explore possible collaboration with EUFORGEN, where there are mutual areas of interest.

## Appendix 1

### Steering Committee

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## **Appendix 2**

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