



RESOLUTION S2

Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources

The Signatory States and International Institution,

considering that, above and beyond the conservation of forest species, the essential objective is the conservation of the genetic diversity of these species, which are an essential part of mankind's heritage,

considering the seriousness of the risk of the impoverishment or modification of this great diversity,

noting, furthermore, that the priceless wealth represented by the intra-specific variability of species currently present in Europe is often largely due to their very wide natural distribution, which covers a wide range of ecological conditions,

recognizing, also that the use of genetically-improved materials is of great importance for afforestation and restocking, in particular where this is for the purpose of the production of timber,

commit themselves to implement in their own countries, using whatever methods seem most appropriate, a policy for the conservation of forest genetic resources.

THE PRINCIPLES

1. Our responsibility vis-à-vis future generations and the urgency of the problems lead us to undertake, without waiting for the scientific answers, immediate actions within the framework of available resources.
2. The strategy chosen should take into account the present state of knowledge and of the concerns expressed, and give preference to simple, stable and long-lasting methods capable of taking into account developments in knowledge and demand.
3. The variability to be conserved is the total genotypic variability (between species, races and individuals) and not just the variability of individual genes.

4. In view of the objectives and constraints set out above, *in situ* conservation should be emphasized and integrated in the field of forest management. *Ex situ* conservation in the form of collections of genotypes as well as the conservation of seeds or of *in vitro* cultures, are other complementary possibilities that should not be neglected.
5. The conservation of the genetic diversity of forest species that are currently of secondary importance should, initially, and as a general rule, be assured by preserving forest ecosystems and rare forest species.
6. The specific means for conserving forest genetic resources whose principles are set out above should be backed up by recommendations drawn up by each country on the silvicultural techniques practised, at least in public forests.

Note: these recommendations may cover, for example, protection against contamination or dilution of genetic resources within zones identified as being of special interest, the maintenance of sufficient diversity in the choice of afforestation and restocking species, the keeping - at least for public forests - of records covering the exact identity of the reproduction materials used for planting and regeneration, etc.

7. The bodies dealing with the coordination and technical organization of national and methodologically-specific programmes to conserve forest genetic resources should be adequately supported.

AN INSTRUMENT FOR COOPERATION ON CONSERVATION OF GENETIC DIVERSITY OF EUROPEAN FORESTS

1. To facilitate and extend the efforts undertaken at national and international levels, a functional but voluntary instrument of international cooperation should be found without delay from among the existing relevant organizations to promote and coordinate:
 - 1.1. *in situ* and *ex situ* methods to conserve the genetic diversity of European forests;
 - 1.2. exchanges of reproductive materials;
 - 1.3. the monitoring of progress in these fields.