



North
American

Forest
Commission



Forest Genetic Resources Working Group

Originally established in 1961 as the Working Group on Forest Tree Improvement, it became the Working Party on Forest Tree Improvement in 1966 and was subsequently changed to the Study Group on Tree Improvement by the NAFC in 1970. In 1993, working group delegates voted to change the name to Forest Genetic Resources Working Group, which was approved by the NAFC to better reflect the group's long-term focus.

Mandate

Generate, share and disseminate knowledge that is crucial for the conservation and the sustainable use of North American forest generations.

Objectives

1. To promote the collection, exchange and dissemination of information on forest genetic resources so that in situ and ex situ programs of conservation and sustainable use are based on sound knowledge.;
2. To promote cooperation and coordinate research, conservation, training, and knowledge exchange among member countries on genetic resource conservation challenges.
3. To facilitate the international exchange of forest genetic resources.
4. To encourage and promote genetic improvement programs for important commercial forest species as a component of forest conservation and as a contribution to the socio-economic well-being of North America.

Impacts

1. Increased awareness of the role of genetic diversity for the sustainable management and resiliency of forest ecosystems through:

- Regional and national guidelines and recommendations for specific actions like seed-source transfer
- Publications
- Training sessions

2. Increased awareness on climate change to forest genetic resources through:

- Guidelines for assisted migration
- Model scenarios
- Conferences
- Training sessions

3. Transfer of information and knowledge on North American forest genetic resources to international organisations:

- Contribute to FAO's integration of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources
- Contribute to other national and regional networks on conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in Canada (ConFORGen) and Latin America Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN) etc.