



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES FOR POLICYMAKING AND ACTION

The first-ever State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, published by FAO in 2014, showed that better information on forest genetic resources (FGR) was needed to improve the management of these resources and to monitor the status and trends in the conservation, use and development of FGR at national, regional and global levels. In 2019, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to initiate the development of a new global information system on FGR, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate the reporting efforts by countries for the preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources. In response to the CGRFA request, the FAO Forestry Division initiated the development of the new global information system on FGR, with financial support from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. In this context, the project was designed to build the new information system and to increase the availability of information on FGR for policymaking and action at national, regional and global levels.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project successfully increased the availability of information on FGR for policymaking and action at national, regional and international levels. By increasing the availability of FGR data, the project also strengthened countries' capacity to enhance the conservation and use of FGR as part of sustainable forest management and to make progress towards sustainable development. The project explored various information technology (IT) solutions available for building databases and gathering lessons learned from existing FAO databases. The information system, SilvaGRIS (Global Information System on Forest Genetic Resources), was officially launched during the project, marking a significant milestone in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action). Developed in consultation with NFPs and international partners, SilvaGRIS serves as the global FGR data repository and the monitoring tool for tracking the progress in implementing the Global Plan of Action. In addition, FAO prepared a SilvaGRIS User Manual to support the use of the information system. The manual explains the online data collection questionnaire and reporting function, and how the data can be explored on the SilvaGRIS website to support evidence-based decision-making at national, regional and global levels.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 672 913

Duration
November 2020-June 2025

Resource Partners
Federal Government of Germany,
Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH)

Beneficiaries
National Focal Points (NFPs)
on forest genetic resources (FGR)
in Africa, Asia, Latin America,
the Near East and Southwest Pacific

FAO Programme Priority Area(s)
Better Environment (BE): 3



IMPACT

The project results will support the conservation and sustainable use of FGR, which provide important contributions to food security, livelihoods and sustainable development. The project also contributed significantly to environmental sustainability by making available updated information on the FGR at national, regional and global levels for policymaking and action. The FGR play an important role in enhancing the sustainable use of forest resources and the conservation of forest ecosystems.

ACTIVITIES

- National Focal Points briefed on development of new information system during regional online meetings, between October 2020 and April 2021; their feedback contributed to designing the IT infrastructure.
- Final IT infrastructure divided into two main components: core services and synchronization services, ensuring better maintainability and scalability, and clearer distinction between operational and analytical processes.
- New database successfully populated with data and information submitted by 77 countries.
- Written reports submitted by 37 of the 77 reporting countries (made available online), providing additional information complementing the data submitted through online questionnaire.
- Seven virtual regional training workshops organized on monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (December 2023-February 2024) in Near East and Central Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Southwest Pacific, Europe and North America), attended by 73 national experts.
- Information system, SilvaGRIS officially launched by FAO on 26 March 2025 together with the second global assessment of FGR.



Project Title

Development of a new global information system on forest genetic resources

Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/384/GER
Donor: GenR 2020-3

Contact

Fritjof Boerstler (Budget Holder)
NFO-Director@fao.org

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For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy