



“Strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/peripheral populations (MaP-FGR) of forest trees to climate change in Europe.”

Minutes of the 1ST Management Committee Meeting

**COST Office
Avenue Louise 149, Brussels, Belgium**

8 November 2012

Minutes Summary

Action Chair: Fulvio Ducci (IT) fulvio.ducci@entecra.it

Vice-Chair: Annika Telford (UK) annt@ceh.ac.uk

WG1: Gathering of already available data and compilation of ecological, genetic and global change information, and particularly climate effects, on FGR and distribution of MaP populations

Leader: Annette Menzel (DE) amenzel@wzw.tum.de

WG2: Gathering of already available data and compilation of ecological, genetic and global change information, and particularly climate effects, on FGR and distribution of MaP populations

Leader: Giovanni Giuseppe Vendramin (IT) giovanni.vendramin@igv.cnr.it

WG3: Mainstreaming genetic diversity into sustainable forest management in the context of global change, considering both conservation and use of FGR

Leader: Bruno Fady (FR) bruno.fady@avignon.inra.fr

WG4: Coordination and organization of all networking, databases management, training and communication activities: conferences, workshops, training schools, web toolbox, open access databases, reports, publications, STSMs

Leader: Christophe Besacier (FR) christophe.besacier@fao.org

STSM Manager: Christophe Besacier (FR) christophe.besacier@fao.org (STSMs to be handled by WG4)

DC Rapporteur: Antonio Gasco Guerrero (ES)

GH institute: CRA SEL, Council for Research and Experimentation on Agriculture, Research Centre for Forestry (IT)

GH FSAC rate: 15%

Financial Rapporteurs: Paraskevi Alizoti (EL) and Georg von Wühlisch

First Grant Period: 1 January 2013 - 31 December 2013

Allocated budget: (22+1 Parties) 209.000,00€

WB plan:

STSMs	32 500 €
Meetings	120 000 €
Training School	23 800 €
Dissemination	4 500 €
Scientific Expenditure	181 800 €
FSAC	27 200 €
Total	209 000 €



1. Welcome

The participants of the inaugural meeting of COST Action FP1202 were welcomed by the Science Officer for this Action, Melae Langbein, who explained that she would chair the meeting until the election of a chairperson for the Action, which was carried out under agenda item 7.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda of the meeting as found in Annex 1 was approved without changes or additions by the members of the Management Committee (MC) of FP1202.

3. Status of the COST Action

The Science Officer presented the status of COST Action FP1202, highlighting the following important dates (as found at (http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202?parties) FP1202:

Action details

MoU	oc-2011-2-10938
CSO Approval date	07/06/2012
Start of Action	08/11/2012
Entry into force	27/06/2012
End of Action	07/11/2016

The SO informed the MC of the error on the COST website, the MoU for FP1202 is in fact COST 4131/12 (whereas oc-2011-2-10938 is the reference for the proposal that led to this Action).

According to the official records of the COST Council secretariat, at the date of the first MC meeting:

- 21 Parties had accepted the MoU.

Participations

Country	Date	Status
▶ Austria	05/10/2012	Confirmed
▶ Belgium	06/11/2012	Confirmed
▶ Bulgaria	20/07/2012	Confirmed
▶ Denmark	04/10/2012	Confirmed
▶ Finland	30/07/2012	Confirmed
▶ France	05/10/2012	Confirmed
▶ Germany	06/07/2012	Confirmed
▶ Greece	29/08/2012	Confirmed
▶ Hungary	14/06/2012	Confirmed
▶ Italy	02/08/2012	Confirmed
▶ Latvia	26/10/2012	Confirmed
▶ Netherlands	27/06/2012	Confirmed
▶ Norway	16/08/2012	Confirmed
▶ Poland	14/09/2012	Confirmed
▶ Portugal	14/08/2012	Confirmed
▶ Romania	27/06/2012	Confirmed
▶ Serbia	10/09/2012	Confirmed
▶ Slovakia	27/08/2012	Confirmed
▶ Spain	19/06/2012	Confirmed
▶ Switzerland	02/11/2012	Confirmed
▶ United Kingdom	13/06/2012	Confirmed
Total: 21		

It was recalled that according to the COST rules (specifically COST 4154/11 III.2.3) COST countries (including those that have indicated the intention to accept the MoU) may accept the MoU within the twelve month period after the approval by the CSO. Thus COST countries

wishing to join FP1202 have until 6 June 2013 to accept the MoU of the Action (COST4131/12 – Annex 2). After this date the approval of the MC of the Action is needed (including for any countries currently listed as “intentions” that do not complete the process of accepting the MoU before this date). 3 (BA, IL,TR) of the 19 COST countries listed in the proposal of FP1202 have not yet accepted the MoU or formally indicated the intention to do so. The SO encouraged the Action to make sure that these countries are aware of the deadline by which they should complete the process of accepting the MoU of the Action. .

COST Action budgets are allocated annually on the basis of the number of Parties having accepted the MoU of the Action and on the Action’s performance as assessed by the Domain Committee and the COST Office. For FP1202:

- the first Grant Period will run from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, and
- the budget for this period will be set according to the number of parties that have accepted the MoU of the Action, thus approximately €145 000.

4. Presentation of the delegations

A total of 24 participants from the following 19 Parties attended the meeting: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Greece (EL), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), Netherlands (NT), Norway (NO), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Serbia (RS), Slovakia (SK), Spain (ES), Switzerland (CH), United Kingdom (UK).

With 19 of the 21 (90%) Parties having accepted the MoU to date represented at this meeting the quorum of 2/3 required under the COST rules (specifically COST 4154/11 Annex II Article 8) is attained.

The COST Office was represented by the Science Officer of the COST Domain on Forests, their Products and Services Melae Langbein. The list of participants in the meeting is presented in Annex 3, their contact details can be found on the COST website at http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202?management. Each participant introduced him/herself and his/her main research interests related to the COST Action.

5. General information on COST mechanism and on the funding of coordination

5.1 General information on COST

The Science Officer presented to the participants the COST mechanism to promote scientific and technical co-operation in Europe. Relevant information can be found on the COST Website at <http://www.cost.esf.org/module/download/6163> and the presentation is found in Annex 4.

The mission of COST is to “strengthen Europe in scientific and technological research for peaceful purposes through the support of cooperation and interaction between European researchers”. COST’s main characteristics are:

- “Bottom-up” - no fixed programmes / priorities
- À la carte participation -Coordination of national efforts through networking
- Networks based on funded (research) projects
– national responsibility

- Open to global cooperation in the mutual interest
- Building bridges between research communities
- Enabling agent – focus on Early Stage Researchers
- Pan-European dimension
- Scientific scope incl. pre-normative and public utility research & technologies
- Focus on multidisciplinary cooperation fostering innovation
- Equal access / Open Call
- Transparent procedures

COST Actions are thus open networks that should aim to be as inclusive as possible. They are not a closed club that is unable or unwilling to accommodate new participants.

The key bodies involved in COST were described, including the:

- CSO (responsible for the governance of COST including the overall strategy and steering, the approval of new Actions, the approval of participation of institutions from non-COST countries (through its executive group, JAF) and the approval of any requests for the prolongation/extension of Actions),
- Domain Committees (responsible, within their Domain, for assessment of proposals for new Actions, monitoring of ongoing Actions, evaluation of completed Actions, dissemination and exploitation of results of a COST Action and strategic developments in its domain),
- Management Committees (responsible for supervising and co-ordinating implementation of the Action, ensuring scientific coordination at a national level, managing the Action's budget, submitting the work and budget plan and the annual Monitoring Progress Report), and
- Working Groups (a small number of researchers working together comprising MC members or other scientists from the Parties, invited experts / speakers (at workshops / conferences) and members from non-COST country institutions.

As described in the COST Vision 2020 (COST 252/09) COST aims to be an inclusive and flexible international framework for the benefit of the European scientific community with worldwide geographical coverage which will be further extended in a pragmatic way by continuing to involve non-member countries in its Actions and through a more structured series of collaborative arrangements. COST thus welcomes the participation of researchers from institutions in countries outside the COST countries ("non-COST country institutions"). In order to join a COST Action a non COST country institution must make a specific application using the proscribed template and its application must be approved by the MC, the relevant Domain Committee and JAF (the executive group of the Committee of Senior Officials). Once a non-COST country institution has been fully approved as a participant in the Action it will be listed on the Action page on the COST website. Special provisions apply for funding the participation of researchers from particular groups of countries:

- The Near Neighbour countries (Balkan countries (Albania, Montenegro); Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, The Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia) and Eastern European countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,

Moldova, Russia and Ukraine) – participants from these countries are eligible for reimbursement by COST;

- Reciprocal Agreement countries (Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South African)
 - Participants from these countries can apply to their country’s “Reciprocal Agreement implementing agent” for funding to travel to CSOT Action meetings, and
 - Participants from the COST countries can apply to COST to undertake a “Reciprocal Short Term Scientific Mission (RSTSM)” to visit the participating institution in one of the Reciprocal Agreement countries.

The participants were also informed about the COST Strategy towards increased support of early stage researchers (COST295/09) and informed that certain of the support measures proposed therein provide guidance to the MC regarding actions it should take in this regard, in particular:

- Setting a target figure (in terms of a percentage of the Action budget) that will be spent on STSMs,
- Financing Training Schools from the Action budget,
- Establishing an Action “think tank” to provide additional opportunities for ESRs,
- Encouraging ESRs to apply for one of the DC-administered Conference Grants for Early Stage Researchers, and
- Appointing ESRs as the Leader of some of the Working Groups.

5.2 Implementation of COST Actions

The participants were informed about framework within which COST Actions must be implemented. This framework is defined by the following documents:

- COST Code of Conduct (COST4160/10) (Annex 5)
- Rules and procedures for implementing COST Actions (COST 4154/11) (Annex 6)
 - Rules of Procedure for Management Committees of COST Actions (Annex 6a)
- COST Vademecum – Instruments for financing of COST Action activities (Annex 7)
 - COST Vademecum (Part B) – Grant System (Annex 7a)
 - COST Vademecum (Part A) – Pay-as-you-go System (Annex 7b)
- Guidelines for Monitoring, Evaluation and Dissemination Results of COST Actions (COST 4112/11) (Annex 8)
- COST Strategy for Early Stage Researchers (COST295/09) (Annex 9)

In particular the participants were informed that COST Action MCs are required to respect a good balance in terms of gender, geography and Early Stage Researchers in the management (specifically in the appointment of Core Group Members) and the conduct (eg allocation of reimbursement places, STSMs, Training School student grants etc) of the Action’s activities. According to the COST rules (specifically COST 4111/11) gender balance and the participation of Early Stage Researchers must be discussed by the MC at each meeting and the key points of the discussion recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The MC must use the standard MC Agenda template provided by COST as the agenda for all subsequent MC meetings. This agenda appears as Annex 10.

5.3 COST Code of Conduct

The Science Officer informed the participants about the COST Code of Conduct (COST4160/10), noting in particular that:

- COST expects from all participants ethical behaviour of researchers involved in COST activities at all levels. COST strives to avoid any kind of conflicts of interest in its framework.
- All participants in COST should follow good practice in terms of a code of conduct and should not plagiarise or copy or use material in any unauthorised manner and should respect the rights and confidentiality of their colleagues, including IPR.
- It is mandatory that any potential conflict of interest be declared.
- In the case of the assessment of proposals for COST Actions, DC members and other assessors should not involve themselves in the assessment of proposals in which they have a personal or financial interest (this means that anyone that participated in the assessment of a proposal may not join the resultant Action).
- The basic principle of this Code of Conduct is to rely on the trustworthiness and own sense of responsibility of the persons involved. Self-certification and open declaration of potential Conflicts of Interest is the first expected action.

The following examples of things that would breach the COST Code of Conduct, and appropriate solutions/ approaches in each situation were given:

- Assessing a proposal and joining the resultant Action
=> if interested to join the Action do not assess the proposal
- Chair approving expenditure/ financial reports that would benefit his/ her institution
=> if Chair's institution is Grant Holder then Vice Chair must sign financial reports and communicate MC approval to the COST Office/ Grant Holder
- Chair/ STSM Manager approving STSM when their institution is the host or the applicant is from their institution/ family
=> if your institution is host/ applicant get someone else to give the approval (Chair/ Vice Chair/ STSM Manager).

5.4 Financing mechanisms at COST – COST Grant System

The participants were informed that only the first meeting of the Action is held under the PAYG system where participants are reimbursed directly by COST. All subsequent activities will be held under the COST Grant System wherein COST will provide funding to a Grant Holder organisation appointed by the MC at point 8 of the agenda and the Grant Holder organisation will be responsible for the scientific and administrative coordination and management of the Action in accordance with the COST rules. As mentioned under point 4 the Action budget is calculated each year on the basis of the number of COST countries having accepted the MoU and the Action's performance as assessed by the Domain Committee and the COST Office. The budget for the upcoming Grant Period will be communicated to the Action Chair and the Grant Holder and a budget and work plan developed, approved by the MC and sent to the COST Office for approval. The Action's budget plan must be efficient and justified in terms of COST's

mission and strategic orientations and the Action's objectives as described in the MoU.

Participants were informed how they will receive meeting invitations, confirm their participation and download their personalised meeting-specific reimbursement form under the COST Grant System. A summary of these instructions (which can be forwarded to participants that were not present at the meeting and to those that subsequently have difficulty following the process) is found in Annex 11.

5.5 COST instruments and eligible expenses

The participants were informed that according to the COST rules (specifically the COST Vademecum) COST can provide financing to Actions for Meetings, Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs), Training Schools and Dissemination.

The participants were informed that, subject to the rules described in the COST Vademecum: For Meetings:

support can be provided for

- participant travel reimbursement, and
- a contribution to the expenses of Local Organisers (noting that under COST 4154/11 "The cost of organisation elsewhere [than Brussels] shall be borne by the Local Organiser", which means in practice that the Local Organiser should at least cover their personnel costs in organising the meeting and make no venue-related charges for meetings held at their institution).

it was noted that "registration/ participation fees" are specifically ineligible for reimbursement by COST and MCs should therefore, when approving Local Organisers for future meetings, ensure that Local Organisers do not charge high registration/ participation fees, in particular:

- it is NOT appropriate for the organisation of COST Action meetings to be subcontracted to commercial organisations with a profit making objective that then charge participants high fees including significant amounts for staff time, and
- if participants that have paid a "registration/ participation fee" for a COST Action meeting are then unable to attend that meeting (due to any reason at all including serious illness) it is not possible to claim reimbursement of this fee from COST.

When approving the location of future Action meetings the MC must choose locations that are well justified economically and/ or scientifically and are easily accessible. The location approved by the MC must be the exact location of the meeting (not a town nearby/ approval or a region).

For STSMs

- STSMs are intended mainly for the benefit of Early Stage Researchers, however participants that do not qualify as ESRs may apply for a STSM in well-justified cases
- The financial support available for STSMs lasting three months or less is €2500
- For ESRs only it is possible to extend the STSM beyond three months up to a maximum of six months, in which case the maximum financial support available is €3500
- STSMs must start and finish within one of the Action's Grant Periods (it is not currently possible for a STSM to start in one Grant Period and finish in another)

For Training Schools

- The ratio of Trainers to Trainees should not be higher than 1:5 (or at most 1:3)
- The Trainee grant should be set at 2-4 different levels in view of the differing travel costs that Trainees travelling different distances will have
- Training School programmes must incorporate a mix of theoretical and practical sessions (often on a morning theory afternoon practical basis)
- The (majority of the) Trainers should be MC/ WG Members of the Actions, the (majority of the) Trainees should be ESRs from COST countries and Near Neighbour countries
- Trainee grants should be well distributed across the participating countries (the MC should set a limit eg no more than 1/10 of the available Trainee grants to any one country (additional local Trainees not in receipt of grants may also attend)

5.6 Monitoring of the Action

The participants were informed that according of the COST rules (specifically 4112/11) monitoring running Actions is one of the key tasks of a Domain Committee. The two main ways that the Domain Committee monitors running Actions in its Domain are through the:

- Appointment of one of the DC Members as a “DC Rapporteur” to the Action to monitor the Action and provide feedback to the DC on its performance, and
- Organisation of an Annual Progress Conference at which the Chairs of all running Actions must present.

5.6.1 DC Rapporteur

As required under the COST rules (specifically COST 4112/11 §3) the Domain Committee Forests, their Products and Services (DC FPS) has appointed one of its members as the Rapporteur to this Action in order to assist the DC in monitoring the Action over the next four years and in conducting the final evaluation at the end of the four years. The DC Rapporteur for FP1202 is Antonio Gasco Guerrero (ES) gasco.antonio@inia.es. The Rapporteur must be copied on all correspondence relating to the Action and invited to Action meetings. The Rapporteur may not participate actively in the Action’s activities (eg the Rapporteur may not be a Local organiser, a scientific presenter, a Trainer, a Trainee, a STSM Host or Recipient etc) as this would be a conflict with the Rapporteur’s monitoring duties. Any such participation by the Rapporteur would be a breach of the COST Code of Conduct.

5.6.2 Annual Progress Conference

The participants were informed that as required under the COST rules (specifically COST 4113/11) a FPS Domain Annual Progress Conference (APC) is held each year (usually in early March). The APC is organised in accordance with the COST Guidelines for the organisation of the Annual Progress Conference (APC) (COST 4113/11). FPS Action Chairs will be advised in each September/ October of the documents that must be submitted for the APC and when these documents must be submitted (usually in the following January). Currently the documents that must be submitted are:

- Action Brochure (by all Actions)
- Action Monitoring Progress Report (by Actions running for longer than 6 months at the time of the APC)
- Action Presentation (by all Actions but different templates for Actions running for more than and less than 6 months at the time of the APC).

At each Annual Progress conference the DC Members and Actions Chairs will be provided with an overview of each Actions:

- average participant reimbursement, and
- budget % spent on each of the CGS expenditure categories: (meetings (both participant reimbursements and local organiser support grants), STSMs, Training Schools, Dissemination and FSAC

and this information will be used by the DC and the COST Office in assessing the efficiency and strategic orientation of the Action's financial management for the purposes of determining the performance-related adjustment to the Action budget.

5.7 Ending the Action

The MC was informed that ending Actions must:

- Complete the Action section of the Final Evaluation Report (> 1 month before end of Action/ Final Conference)
- Write an "ended Action summary" (500 words) for COST Annual Report
- Organise a "final conference" (see below)
- Update the Action brochure (focusing on outcomes and impacts and using the past tense)

Ending Actions may also produce a final publication (eg book) funded by COST (outside Action budget).

In particular the MC was informed that the purpose of the Action's "Final Conference" is to disseminate Action's outcomes and impacts and facilitate evaluation of the Action. Therefore the Action's final conference is not a standard "scientific conference" with a programme of "invited expert" speakers from outside the Action. The MC was reminded that the requirements of ending Actions may change over the life of the Action and revisions will be communicated as the Action approaches its end.

6. Agreement on the internal rules of procedure for the Management Committee of the COST Action.

The MC adopted as its rules of procedure the Rules of Procedure for Management Committee (COST 4154/11 Annex II) which appear as Annex 5a.

7. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

Recalling that according to the COST rules (specifically Rules and Procedures for Implementing COST Actions (COST 4154/11) Annex II: "Rules of procedure for Management Committee" Article 7) "The MC shall appoint from among its members representing Parties or European bodies, by a simple majority vote, a Chair and a Vice-Chair for the duration of the Action" the Science Officer invited volunteers or nominations for each position. The MC elected the following MC Members as Chair and Vice Chair of the Action:

- Chair – Fulvio Ducci (IT) fulvio.ducci@entecra.it
- Vice Chair – Annika Telford (UK) annt@ceh.ac.uk

The template that Financial Rapporteurs must use in assessing the Action's Yearly Financial Reports is http://www.cost.eu/download/financial_rapporteur_template.

8. Selection of the Grant Holder and Financial Rapporteur(s)

The MC appointed CRA SEL, Council for Research and Experimentation on Agriculture, Research Centre for Forestry (IT), fulvio.ducci@entecra.it as the Grant Holder for the Action, represented in the Management Committee by the institution's Scientific Representative (Fulvio Ducci (IT)).

The MC agreed that the Grant Holder will be entitled to claim 15% of the Action's scientific expenditure as the Grant Holder's Financial & Scientific Administration and Coordination ("FSAC") fee. The Grant Holder Scientific Representative confirmed that the Grant Holder will respect the COST rules with regard to flat rates when making participant reimbursements.

The MC appointed the following two Financial Rapporteurs (the role of the Financial Rapporteurs is described in the COST Vademecum (Part B) Grant System):

- Georg von Wühlisch (DE) georg.vonwuehlich@vti.bund.de,
- Paraskevi Alizoti (EL) alizotp@for.auth.gr.

9. Working plan for the implementation of the COST Action (based on the Memorandum of Understanding):

9.1 Objectives and working programme

The objectives of the Action are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) COST 4131/12 (Annex 2). The newly elected Chair, Fulvio Ducci presented a summary of the Action background on strengthening conservation: a key issue for adaptation of marginal/ peripheral populations of forest tree to climate change in Europe.

According to the MoU the main objective of the Action is generate relevant knowledge on the role and use of the genetic resources of marginal/peripheral populations (MaP FGR) to adapt forests to global change using a multidisciplinary approach.

9.2 Working method - organisation and management

It was agreed that, as per the MoU of the Action, the Action will be carried out mainly through 4 Working Groups: WG1:

WG1: Gathering of already available data and compilation of ecological, genetic and global change information, and particularly climate effects, on FGR and distribution of MaP populations (e.g. climatic scenarios and models, forest decline maps, lists of endangered materials).

, WG2: Gathering of already available data and compilation of ecological, genetic and global change information, and particularly climate effects, on FGR and distribution of MaP

populations, WG3: Mainstreaming genetic diversity into sustainable forest management in the context of global change, considering both conservation and use of FGR and WG4:

Coordination and organization of all networking, databases management, training and communication activities: conferences, workshops, training schools, web toolbox, open access databases, reports, publications, STSMs. The Action will also function through Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). All 4 Working Groups will address the relevant key areas as described in the MoU. The Management Committee agreed that the Working Groups must cooperate as closely as possible to ensure the necessary flow of information.

9.2.1 Working Group Leaders

After a comprehensive discussion the following structures and responsibilities were agreed upon:

Working Group 1: *Gathering of already available data and compilation of ecological, genetic and global change information, and particularly climate effects, on FGR and distribution of MaP populations (e.g. climatic scenarios and models, forest decline maps, lists of endangered materials).*

- **Leader:** **Annette Menzel (DE)** amenzel@wzw.tum.de
Deputy Leader : Barbara Galos (HU)
Key activities:
 1. Inventory of regional/national maps and/or links to web sites of climatic maps including future scenarios: all maps and data concerning estimated climate change scenarios should be collected, standardized, possibly geo-referenced in GIS and used to produce a climate scenarios map;
 2. Inventory of regional/national maps and/or links to web sites concerning location of soil types and morphology: all maps and data concerning the soil, topography and geomorphology (i.e. European map of soils, maps of aspects and slopes) should be collected, possibly georeferenced in GIS and used to produce a combined map;
 3. Identification of pedo-climatic parameters characterizing species ranges.
 4. Task covered: Tasks 1 and 2.

- **Working Group 2: Gathering of already available data and compilation of ecological, genetic and global change information, and particularly climate effects, on FGR and distribution of MaP populations**
Leader: Giovanni Giuseppe Vendramin (IT) giovanni.vendramin@igv.cnr.it
Deputy Leader: Jorge Paiva (PT), Paraskevi Alizoti (EL)
Key activities:
 1. Identification of most relevant species;
 2. Identification of skills and gaps in forest genetics research capacity;
 3. Survey and description of conservation and mitigation methods and actions with special reference to climate change;
 4. Survey and description of available FGR;
 5. Survey of the existing information on variability of relevant genetic parameters by species for molecular markers and adaptive traits.
 6. Tasks covered: Tasks 2 and 3

- **Working Group 3: Mainstreaming genetic diversity into sustainable forest management in the context of global change, considering both conservation and use of FGR**
Leader: Bruno Fady (FR) bruno.fady@avignon.inra.fr
Deputy Leader: Filippos Aravanopoulos (EL)
Key activities:
 1. Discussion on the impact of possible scenarios of environmental changes on FGR highlighting risk areas and refuge areas;
 2. Inventory of most endangered populations with need for immediate conservation actions, and identification of suitable areas for rescue;
 3. Suggestions for development of indicators (at regional level) for monitoring FGR for conservation and sustainable forest management in the context of global change;

4. Identification of gaps on information and knowledge on species, areas of distribution and tools, for conservation and use of MaP FGR in COST and neighboring countries;
5. Preparation of Technical Guidelines for forest managers and for national policy makers for conservation of MaP FGR and forest reproductive material for climate change adaptation;
6. Facilitation of exchanges of genetic resources for conservation and research purposes among Europe and neighboring countries, according to international agreements on FGR transfer.
7. Tasks covered: Tasks 3 and 4.

- **Working Group 4: Coordination and organization of all networking, databases management, training and communication activities: conferences, workshops, training schools, web toolbox, open access databases, reports, publications, STSMs**

Leader: Christophe Besacier (FR) christophe.besacier@fao.org

Deputy Leader: Srdjan Stojnic (RS), a name form the Netherlands (NL) will be also supplied

Key activities:

- Coordination and organization of all networking, databases management, training and communication activities: web-site, organization of conferences, training schools (TS), short term scientific missions (STSM).

Tasks covered: Tasks 1 to 4.

It was decided that WG members would be appointed as follows: **MC Members to inform WG Leaders of their country's WG members by 30 November 2012.**

9.2.2 Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

The MC agreed that STSM applications will be received and administered by WG4. Applications will be assessed by the Core Group (with the exception of anyone whose institute is involved as applicant or host in any application).

The MC agreed that all MC members should encourage, in particular, Early Stage Researchers, to participate in the scheme. It was agreed during the MC meeting that the applications for STSM should be assessed by way of fixed collection dates (or on an as received basis). The first collection date (*day Month 20XX*) will be fixed at the MC Meeting in Rome in January 2013 for STSMs; starting and ending dates will be also fixed at the same meeting [no earlier than (*day Month 20XX*) and finishing no later than (*end of first Grant Period or earlier if decided by MC*)].

It was emphasised that the complete application file (as described in the COST Vademecum), including MC approval, must be received by the Grant Holder at least four weeks before the start date of the proposed STSM. Applications can only be submitted by using the on-line registration tool (www.cost.eu/stsm) described in COST Vademecum and forwarding the necessary documents to the Chair and STSM Coordinator.

9.2.3 Core Group

In accordance with the existing COST rules the MC has set up a Core Group consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and the four Working Group Leaders.

9.2.4 Action website

To facilitate communication between the members of the Action and to promote distribution of information on the research activities relevant to the Action the MC agreed that the Council for Research and experimentation on Agriculture – Research Centre for Forestry (CRA SEL) should manage and maintain the Website for this Action on its server as part of the Grant Holder activities. As soon as this website is established the Grant Holder will send the address of the Action website to the COST Office (fps@cost.eu) so that a link to the site can be established from the Action page (http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1202?) on the COST website.

10. Budget plan

The COST Office reiterated that the Action's priority should be to make efficient arrangements that maximise the number of participants able to be reimbursed within the available budget. The MC decided that the budget for the first Grant Period should be allocated as follows:

STSMs	32 500 €
Meetings	120 000 €
• Meeting travel costs	115 000 €
• Workshop support	5 000 €
Training School	20 800 €
Dissemination	4 500 €
Scientific Expenditure	181 800 €
Grant Holder	27 200 €
Budget	209 000 €

Recalling that specific MC approvals are needed for Action expenditure the MC approved the following items:

- Organisation support grant of up to € 2 500 to the Local Organiser of the January and September meetings
- Dissemination (Website) of up to € 4 500
- Training School in Italy/ France / Spain (to be decided by Core Group once more information is available) with at least 23 Trainees having grants of around € 800, 3 Trainers and an organisation support grant of € 3 000.

The MC decided that MC Members will have 2 weeks in which to accept/ decline the eCOST invitation for Action activities. Any invitations not accepted/declined after two weeks can be cancelled by the Grant Holder and reallocated to other participants that would like to attend the meeting.

11. Place and date of next meeting

11.1 Next meeting

The MC decided that the next meeting of the Action would be:

Date	Event	Location	Justification
23-25 January	MC-WG-Joint meeting with FAO	Rome, IT	In conjunction with the FAO meeting in order to identify and

2013			plan synergies.
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11.2 Long-term planning

The Action established the following long-term planning

Date	Event	Location	Justification
September 2013	MC3-WG	Hungary, TBC at January meeting	Central Europe country where altitudinal range MaP population are located.

Noting that dissemination and industrial/ end user involvement are important aspects of COST Actions the MC anticipated the following activities to enhance dissemination and industrial/ end user involvement:

- At present, diffusing the CA FP1202 link on the main institutional web sites.

12. AOB

12.1 Non-COST country institution requests (to join the Action)

The MC approved the following the following non-COST country institutions to join the Action (subject to completion of the necessary documentation and approval by DC FPS and JAF where necessary):

From proposal

Non-COST Participants		
Institutions in Algeria [DZ]		
	Unité de recherche à l'Institut National de Recherche Forestiere (INRF)	Expertise
MC-WG	Dr Mohamed BOUYAICHE	[FPS] Silviculture, desertification, Breeding, genetics
Institutions in Lebanon [LB]		
	Faculty of Science Saint Joseph University	Expertise
MC-WG	Dr Maqda BOU DAGHER KHARRAT	[FPS] Physiology, bioclimatology, sap flow, forestry, climate change
WG	Dr Bouchra DOUAHAY	[FPS] Climate, ecology
Institutions in Morocco [MA]		
	CRF / HCEFLCD	Expertise
WG	Dr Abderrahman AAFI	[FPS] Forestry
WG	Dr Mohamed GHANMI	[FPS] Genetics, conservation
PtP-WG	Dr Hassan SBAY	[FPS] Forest genetics, breeding, conservation
Institutions in Syrian Arab Republic [SY]		
	Agronomy Faculty Tichreen University	Expertise
Ecology and forestry department		
WG	Dr Hafez MAHFOUD	[FPS] Ecology, forestry
MC-WG	Dr Ilene MAHFOUD	[FPS] Ecology, Forest genetic Resources conservation, Forestry, Breeding
WG	Dr Zuheir SHATER	[FPS] Ecology, forestry
WG	Dr Ali WAHEL	[FPS] Ecology, forestry
Institutions in Tunisia [TN]		
	INRGREF	Expertise
MC-WG	Dr Abdelhamid KHALDI	
MC-WG	Dr Mohamed Larbi KHOUJA	
WG	Dr Zouhaier NASR	
WG	Dr Nizar NASRI	
European Bodies Participants		
Institutions in Austria [AT]		
	IUFRO working group 2.04.02	Expertise
Department of Dendrology and Forest Tree Breeding		
WG	Dr Milan LSTIBUREK	[FPS] Quantitative genetics, tree breeding
Institutions in Spain [ES]		
	EFIMED	Expertise
European Forest Institute		
WG	Dr Marc PALAHI	[FPS] Networking
Institutions in Italy [IT]		
	Biodiversity International	Expertise
WG	Dr Jarkko KOSKELA	[FPS] Forest genetic resources, networking
	FAO-FOM	Expertise
Forest Tree Department		
PtP-MC-WG	Dr Christophe BESACIER	[FPS] Genetic resources, networking
PtP-MC-WG	Dr Oudara SOUVANNAVONG	[FPS] Genetic resources, networking

New applications not included in proposal (NCI)

Institution	Country	Name	Email address
International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)	XB	Francisco MOMPIELA MURUZABAL	secretariat@ciheam.org

12.2 Interaction with other COST Actions (or European Projects)

The MC identified the following COST Actions (and European projects) as relevant to the Action and anticipated connecting with them in the following ways:

COST Action/ European project	Way(s) that FP1202 will connect with it
TREE4FUTURE	Luc Paques is involved in FP1202
FORGER	Leader Koen Kramer (NL) is involved in FP1202
EVOLTREE	Governing Board (S.G. Gonzalez-Martinez, Stephen Cavers and Marc Palahi) are also involved in FP1202
FORESTERRA	
AGORA	Marc Palahi is involved in FP1202
LINKTREE	S.G. Gonzalez-Martinez is involved in FP1202
EUFGIS	Jarkko Koskela is involved in FP1202

If accepted, the coordinators of the NOVELTREE and EVOLTREE projects will be invited to join FP1202. Links will be established with COST Actions FP0903, FP1106, FP0804, FP0803, FP0703, FP0701

13. Closing

The meeting closed at 14:45.

Fulvio Ducci
Chair
COST Action FP1202

Melae Langbein
Science Officer
Forests, their Products and Services

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Agenda



FP1202 MC1
Invitation 2012-11-08

Annex 2: Memorandum of Understanding of COST Action FP1202 (COST 4131/12)
(http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain_files/FPS/Action_FP1202/mou/FP1202-e.pdf)

Annex 3: Attendance List



Annex 4: Presentation of Science Officer



Annex 5: COST Code of Conduct (COST 4160/10)

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/igcpdf/en/10/st04/st04160.en10.pdf>

Annex 6: Rules and procedures for implementing COST Actions (COST 4154/11)

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/igcpdf/en/11/st04/st04154.en11.pdf>

a. Rules of Procedure for Management Committees (Annex II of the document 'Rules and procedure for implementing COST Actions' (COST 4154/11) link above)

Annex 7: COST Vademecum – Instruments for financing of COST Action activities

<http://www.cost.esf.org/participate/guidelines>

a. **COST Vademecum (Part B) – Grant System**

<http://www.cost.esf.org/module/download/8321>

b. **COST Vademecum (Part A) – Pay-as-you-go System**

<http://www.cost.esf.org/module/download/8320>

Annex 8: Guidelines for Monitoring, Evaluation and Dissemination Results of COST Actions (COST 4112/11) http://www.cost.eu/download/COST_doc_4112_11.

Annex 9: COST Strategy for Early Stage Researchers (COST 295/09)

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/igcpdf/en/09/st00/st00295.en09.pdf>

Annex 10: Standard agenda for use at all MC meetings of the Action



Template-MC-Agenda
for subsequent MC

Annex 11: Instructions for accepting invitation and downloading reimbursement form



Annex 12: Presentation of Chair of the Management Committee

