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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

25 - 27 September 2023

Report of the Forest Genetic Resources Working Group

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

NAFC Secretariat
Forestry Division
NAFC32-Secretariat@fao.org

I. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
J. Jesús Vargas-Hernández	Mexico	Colegio de Postgraduados
Member Names	Country	Organization
Eduardo Vargas-Pérez	Mexico	CONAFOR
Cuauhtémoc Saenz-Romero	Mexico	UMSNH
Jessica W. Wright	USA	USDA-FS-PSWRS
Bryce A. Richardson	USA	USDA-FS-RMRS
Kurt H. Johnsen	USA	USDA-FS-SRS
Elizabeth Campbell	Canada	NRC-CFS-Pacific Forestry Centre
Sally Aitken	Canada	UBC
Nathalie Isabel	Canada	NRC-CFS- Laurentian Forestry Centre

II. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (done/ongoing)
Organize a virtual meeting of the FGRWG	<i>Canada- USA-Mexico</i>	<i>20 January 2022</i>	<i>Done</i>
Organize the 40th FGRWG meeting (in person)	<i>Chico, California, USA</i>	<i>13-21 June 2022</i>	<i>Done</i>
Participation in the Inaugural Conference of the North American Forest Genetics Society (NAFGS)	<i>Asilomar, California, USA</i>	<i>14-16 June 2022</i>	<i>Done</i>
Task 59: Expansion of the Seedlot Selection Tool to Mexico: create a Spanish version of the Seedlot Selection Tool website.	<i>Corvallis, Oregon, USA</i>	<i>Sept 2021 – March 2022</i>	<i>Done</i>
Task 60: Douglas-fir genomics: results integrated into papers in progress of being submitted to scientific journals	<i>University of British Columbia</i>	<i>January 2022 - tbc</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Task 61: Reforestation guidelines for Abies religiosa and Pinus pseudostrobus: preliminary seedling survival and growth data on a reciprocal transplant (assisted migration) test of Abies religiosa populations.	<i>Mountain “Nevado de Toluca”, Mexico</i>	<i>March 2022 - tbc</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

Task 62: Scenario model linking landscape-level adaptation strategies and genetics with other broad-scale processes: integrating results of two study cases in Canadian boreal forests	<i>British Columbia & Alberta, Canada</i>	<i>January 2022</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Task 65: CAST- Climate adapted seed tool: website created and workshop implemented to demonstrate use of the CAST tool.	<i>Chico, California, USA</i>	<i>January – June 2022</i>	<i>Done</i>
Academic exchange and training of Mexican graduate student in Forest Genetics tools and methods	<i>University of California-Santa Barbara, California, USA</i>	<i>July – September 2022</i> <i>July – August 2023</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

III. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
Organize a virtual workshop for Mexican foresters on the use of the Spanish version of the Seedlot Selection Tool	<i>USA-Mexico</i>	<i>Summer 2023</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Organize the 41st FGRWG meeting (in person)	<i>Chapingo-Oaxaca, Mexico</i>	<i>June 2024</i>	<i>New</i>
Attend the Conference of the North American Forest Genetics Society (NAFGS)	<i>Oaxaca, Mexico</i>	<i>June 2024</i>	<i>New</i>
Task 66: Tree ring data from common garden experiments: gather and analyse data from genetic field tests of model conifer species.	<i>Mexico, Canada</i>	<i>November 2022 – June 2024</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Discuss a potential new Task (Task 67) on the use of markers to identify and track the origin of forest products in national and international markets	<i>Mexico, Canada</i>	<i>November 2022 – June 2024</i>	<i>New</i>

IV. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

Period September 2021 –September 2022

Activity	Amount U.S. \$ (cash)	Amount U.S. \$ (in-kind)
Task 59: Expansion of the Seedlot Selection Tool to Mexico: Spanish translation of the Seedlot Selection Tool	<i>USD 5 000</i>	<i>USD 2 000</i>
Task 61: Reforestation guidelines for <i>Abies religiosa</i> and <i>Pinus pseudostrabus</i>: establishment, maintenance, and initial evaluation of assisted migration field test In May 2023 a new request for funding was submitted to the Bureau of Alternates (BOA), asking for USD 4 000 to continue maintenance and measurement of field tests on assisted migration established at the “Nevado de Toluca” mountain in Mexico. The funding request was approved by the BOA. Currently, the process of consolidating an official agreement to allocate the resources, that will be provided by the Canadian Forest Service, is ongoing.	<i>USD 8 000</i> <i>(Funding provided by BOA for two years)</i> <i>USD 4 000</i>	<i>USD 2 500</i>
Organization and attendance to the 40th meeting of the FGRWG	<i>USD 8 000</i>	<i>USD 1 000</i>
Academic exchange and training of a Mexican graduate student in Forest Genetics tools and methods	<i>USD 6 000</i>	<i>USD 2 0000</i>

V. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT

1. No funding is requested at this time.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

2. The FGRWG has made several important contributions to the wise use, management, and conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in the region. Some of these include:
 - a. Collaboration in the preparation and discussion of the Country Reports and FAO’s Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Forest Genetic Resources. The FGRWG members have also contributed to other Regional Networks on the conservation of forest genetic resources (e.g., ConForGen, LAFORGEN).
 - b. Increased awareness of the role of genetic diversity in the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and their resiliency. In addition to the scientific publications derived from the FGRWG Tasks, the FGRWG has developed guidelines and recommendations for specific actions for genetic conservation and seed transfer in reforestation programs.

- c. Increased awareness of climate change threats on forest genetic resources, discussing and developing guidelines for assisted migration, and generating specific tools useful for resource managers and policymakers.
- d. Promoted information exchange and dissemination, and technical training on Forest Genetic Resources issues, through workshops, symposia and training sessions.