



LIFE FOR EUROPEAN FOREST GENETIC MONITORING SYSTEM

# LIFE GEN MON Newsletter

## Communication and Dissemination Activities 2020

### THE FINAL LIFE GEN MON CONFERENCE IS POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



The LIFE GEN MON final conference “Forest Science for Future Forests: Forest genetic monitoring and biodiversity in changing environments” has been postponed due to the situation concerning coronavirus outbreak, causing nations to temporarily employ different prevention measures. It will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 21st of September till 25th of September 2020 if circumstances allow and it will be live streamed. The conference will (also) be organized on-line, with on-line participation and presentations.

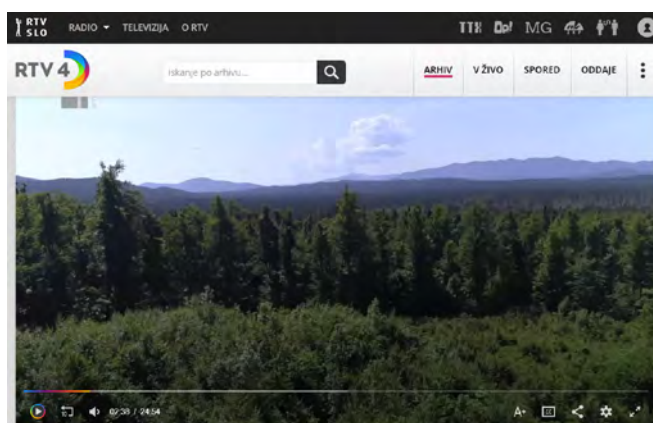
The conference Registration is now opened: <https://conference.lifegenmon.si/>.

### DOCUMENTARY FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON TV SLO 1

LIFE GEN MON Documentary Forest and Climate change was screened on TV SLO 1 on 15.4.2020 and it will be soon available with English subtitles.

The Documentary presents the LIFE GEN MON project and its role in times of climate change. Among others, it features experts from the Slovenian Forestry Institute, monitoring the genetic diversity of fir and beech trees, discussing conservation and use of diversity for the benefit of forests.

The documentary is available at RTV Slovenia (link: <https://4d.rtvlo.si/arhiv/dokumentarni-filmi-in-oddaje-izobrazevalni-program/174685900>).



### A WRITTEN HANDBOOK »MANUAL FOR FOREST GENETIC MONITORING« IS IN FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATIONS, CONTAINING PRACTICAL ADVICE ON FOREST GENETIC MONITORING

In response to the urgent need of a pan-European genetic monitoring system, LIFE GEN MON worked with a wide variety of partners on international, regional, national and local level, to develop a Manual for forest genetic monitoring. LIFE GEN MON partners are working on final parts of the Manual that contains practical advice on forest genetic monitoring and sustainable forest management.

The Manual contains practical advice on implementing and conducting forest genetic monitoring, together

with implications for sustainable forest management. It includes a detailed list, describing step-by-step procedures necessary for selecting and installing genetic monitoring sites. It describes three different levels of intensity of genetic monitoring referring to basic, standard and state-of-the-art measurements.

Basic measurements represent the lower limit comprising the absolutely necessary values for reasonable conclusions connected to low costs. The standard measurements cover medium level intensive field and laboratory measurements connected to medium costs. The state-of-the-art version contains a high-level of measurements including field, standard molecular (e.g. nuclear microsatellite markers) and NGS-methods (e.g. SNP analysis) related to higher costs.

Here is a sneak peak into the illustrations of the 7 tree species presented in the Manual:



The draft of the Manual was already used for training of the forestry sector and experts in conservation of forest genetic resources to improve understanding of the established procedures and ease their implementation. Trainings were performed for national focal points of the involved transect countries in order to encourage them to use the established concept for genetic monitoring in their countries.

## THE LATEST LIFE GENMON WORKSHOP:



»Measures for conservation of forests and forest genetic resources” for forestry professionals, policy makers and practitioners was on 10 March 2020 in North Macedonia, in Skopje. Development of the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe, the European programme EUFORGEN and the Slovenian programme SIFORGEN, Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in North Macedonia and in Bulgaria, Silvicultural practices for conservation of forest genetic resources in North Macedonia were presented. LIFE GENMON discussed Implementation of measures for genetic protection of forests and forest genetic monitoring, presented the forest genetic monitoring sites, phenology and databases within the project LIFE GENMON and The Manual for forest genetic monitoring, guidelines for monitoring of selected species, molecular analyses for conservation and monitoring of forest genetic diversity.

## A SPECIAL COLLABORATION WAS FORMED BETWEEN THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI AND THE LOCAL AND CENTRAL FOREST SERVICE

As part of the LIFE GENMON program, a special collaboration was formed between the School of Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the local and central Forest Service with a specific goal: the common approach of forest genetic monitoring as a tool for monitoring climate change. A common approach was not initially shared due to the different perspectives of the two institutions. Over time and through an effort to understand each other, a common way of navigating was identified and charted. It was realized that together we can achieve important goals in forest protection and conservation. Climate change endangers and measures must be taken to prevent its extinction. The excellent cooperation of the two bodies is more necessary and imperative than ever. So, through the LIFE GENMON program, the common approach and cooperation became possible, as seen by the joint publication of its results and the intention of further cooperation.





## SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS "FOREST IN CLIMATE CHANGE" POSTPONED DUE TO CORONA OUTBREAK



The Fridays for Future movement shows that a growing number of young people are getting more concerned with the effects of climate change. However, many students are not entirely aware of which role forests play in this context. On the one hand, many tree species are threatened by climate change, while on the other hand, intact forests in particular can help to favor the consequences of climate change.

As part of the Lifegenmon project, the Bavarian Office for Forest Genetics (AWG) in Germany planned to visit 1.000 students in 40 school classes until the end of April 2020, to discuss in workshops all the different aspects of forests facing climate change. Over 250 schools from all over Bavaria applied for this free Lifegenmon event. Unfortunately, most of the visits had to be canceled due to the Corona outbreak. As long as schools are closed, some workshops will be held as webinars. The rest of the events will take place in autumn 2020 if possible.

IMG\_3141: International students at the Lifegenmon workshop "Forests in climate change" in Laufen. (picture/text: Mark Walter)

### VISIT US

If you are interested in our project and would like to know more, please visit our website: [www.lifegenmon.si](http://www.lifegenmon.si) and social networks:

[facebook.com/lifegenmon](https://facebook.com/lifegenmon)

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