

**FOREST GENE RESERVES**

**Forest Gene Reserves / Forstliche Genreservate.** Editors R. Finkeldey, P. Bonfils & R. Landolt. *Forest Snow and Landscape Research*, volume 75, issue 1–2, 284 pp. ISSN 1424-5108. [In German with English abstracts].

There are not so many regular meetings in the field of forest genetics, that are functioning so efficiently and regularly as the “Forum Genetik – Wald – Forstwirtschaft” (Genetics – Forest – Forestry) in the German-speaking countries. The last meeting was organized by the Swiss Federal Research Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape in Birmensdorf in October 1998.

The proceedings of this meeting, which appeared as a special volume of *Forest Snow and Landscape Research*, contain nineteen papers organized in four sections. The first one, entitled Concepts for the Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources, deals with general topics of gene conservation of forest tree species. Three papers discuss and illustrate on case studies the problems of the choice, establishment, maintenance and regeneration of gene reserves, effects of management of forests on gene pools of forest tree species, and the prerequisites for a successful *in situ* gene conservation. Four contributions in the second section cover the strategies in the conservation of forest genetic resources on national, regional, and international levels. Comprehensive overviews activities in the

Central and Eastern Europe as well as worldwide and European conventions and programs of gene conservation are provided. The largest section deals with the traits, which can aid in the selection of genetic resources. Six papers analyze the advantages and disadvantages of individual types of biochemical and molecular markers and provide examples of their use. Finally, the fourth section contains six contributions dealing with the management of forest genetic resources. The problems of the effects of silvicultural measures and air pollution on gene pools and preservation of genetic resources of common as well as rare tree species are addressed.

Like the previous proceedings of the Forum Genetics – Forest – Forestry, also these ones give a good overview of the progress in the gene conservation activities and the underlying research in the German-speaking space and also adjacent regions. For those, who understand the language, they provide much useful information.

*Dušan Gömöry (Zvolen, Slovakia)*