This Strategic Plan is published within the framework of the OECD Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material Moving in International Trade. The aim of the Strategic Plan is to further strengthen the relevance of the Scheme and its value to Member countries by improving operational efficiency, develop the rules and their implementation, and identify new strategic areas of interest to be incorporated into the broader work programme. Its implementation is further elaborated in the Action Plan for the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme.
PREAMBLE

Background information

The OECD Scheme for the Control of Forest Reproductive Material was initially established in 1967, and substantially revised in 1974 and in 2007. It became the OECD Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material Moving in International Trade, abbreviated to the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. The Scheme has significantly evolved over thirty years to reflect the changing demands of stakeholders in the forest sector, as well as to enable participation of new member countries.

The main objective of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme is to encourage the production, trade and use of forest reproductive material that were collected, processed, raised, labeled and distributed in a manner that ensures their trueness to name. The Scheme reflects the wish for governments to have these materials correctly identified, with a view to minimising uncertainty in achieving successful afforestation.

Currently, 25 countries take part in the Scheme. Annually, more than 6600 tonnes of FRM (seed) are certified covering 275 different species.

The purpose of this document is to help move forward in the discussion on the development of a strategic plan for the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, with a view to enhancing the value of the Scheme to Member countries and to maintaining and increasing the relevance of the Scheme.

Introduction to the Strategic Plan

The concept of developing a strategic review was first discussed at the 2007 Meeting, based on documents prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with an external consultant [TAD/CA/F/RD(2007)2; TAD/CA/F(2007)4]. Participants agreed to develop a “Strategic Plan for the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme” in 2007. The aim of the strategic plan is to strengthen the Scheme by improving its relevance, efficiency and effectiveness, in line with the recommendations of the in-depth evaluation [C(2008)95].

The Strategic Plan will enable to improve the rules of the Scheme and their implementation and, to identify new strategic areas of work to be incorporated into the broader work programme. Defining a clear and pragmatic development path for the Scheme is a high priority for all stakeholders.

Identification of strategic issues and clarification of the vision, mission and goals of an organization is a key step in the strategic planning process. With the growing interest in the Scheme many new challenges need to be resolved, given the rapidly changing forestry, trade and environmental policies. It will be crucial to adapt the Scheme to conditions in tropical countries in the coming decade.

The Strategic Plan Framework, the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the timeframe and resources requirements are described in details in the accompanying Action Plan.
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE OECD FOREST SEED AND PLANT SCHEME

The Mission of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme was defined at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Scheme:

**Mission Statement:** The OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme facilitates trade by promoting the harmonization of procedures through the certification of forest reproductive material, thus contributing to the better use of genetic resources. The Scheme reduces technical barriers to trade and enhances trade flows through improved traceability to meet the needs of end-users.

**Mission Vision:** To develop and monitor the certification and quality of forest reproductive material, while linking these developments closely to agriculture, trade and environmental policies and practices, including advances in scientific knowledge in Member countries.

The following section outlines three goals that should be the focus of the work in the Scheme:

- Update and develop technical aspects of the forest Scheme,
- Strengthen the organization and implementation of the scheme,
- Improve, extend and develop communication with all stakeholders.
A) UPDATE AND DEVELOP TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE FOREST SCHEME

Aim:

To continue to adapt the Rules and Procedures in order to respond to new and emerging concerns in the forestry sector.

Activities:

- Perform regular reviews and updates of the Certification Rules of the OECD Scheme to adapt the Scheme to new and emerging conditions for member countries and to changes in the regulatory environment in those countries.
- Develop a relevant database on basic reproductive material for all stakeholders and maintain this database up-to-date. Improve the quality of data (collection of data, statistical treatment and analysis).
- Develop common definitions.
- Adapt the rules of the Scheme to conditions in tropical countries.
- Develop the Scheme to deal with short rotation plantations for bioenergy, agro-forestry and shrub species.
- Explore the feasibility to include advanced categories into the Scheme.
- Explore the interaction of the Forest Scheme and environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity.
B) STRENGTHEN THE ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME

Aim:

To promote effective, harmonised and sustainable implementation of the Scheme in Member countries.

Activities:

- Monitor the workings of the Annual Meetings and the meetings of the Technical Working Group.
- Monitor the interpretation and implementation of the Scheme in Member countries through regular reviews and progress reports (for new member countries).
- Compare the implementation methods by sharing experiences with all Member states at Annual Meetings.
- Perform regular monitoring and evaluation of the Forest Scheme.
- Enhance capacity and capability of existing Member countries and new member countries in order to implement the Scheme.
- Enhance participation by including new countries, especially from Africa, Asia, South-America and Oceania.
- Encourage active participation from current Member countries.
C) IMPROVE, EXTEND AND DEVELOP COMMUNICATION WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Aim:

Enhance communication to facilitate the implementation of the Scheme, as well as to promote better the Scheme.

Activities:

- Establish and use questionnaires to understand needs and expectations of the Members countries and other stakeholders in order to improve the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Scheme.

- Communicate international developments in forest seed certification.

- Enhance the exchange and sharing of experiences and information on the Scheme at the OECD Annual Meetings, Technical Working Groups and at specific seminars and regional/international events and conferences.

- Enhance collaboration, strengthen linkages and foster joint projects with international and regional organisations involved in the FRM supply chain, while avoiding duplications.

- Develop electronic communication with delegates and in particular between the members of the technical working group.

- Translate key Forest Seed and Plant Scheme documents into other languages, subject to the demand of Member countries.
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