IPGRI's Forest Genetic Resources activities

Forest genetic resources (FGR) provide ecosystem stability and resilience allowing species to adapt to changing environments and to minimize the risks of pests and diseases.

Dipterocarp tree, B. Vinceti/IPGRI

Araucaria angustifolia, J. Bittencourt/URPR

However, major threats exert pressure on FGR, causing unprecedented rates of loss of genetic diversity. These threats include deforestation, habitat degradation, over-harvesting of timber and non-timber products, introduction of invasive species, atmospheric pollution, climate change and forest fragmentation, as a result of the conversion of forest habitats to land for agriculture, cattle ranching and urbanization.

The conservation of forest diversity – both *in situ* and *ex situ* – ensures the maintenance of evolutionary processes that enable adaptation and the availability of adequate genetic material for use in breeding, now and in the future.

Vitellaria paradoxa, D. Agundez INIA/IPGRI-SAFORGEN

IPGRI's FGR research programme focuses its work on the following areas:

- Assess dynamic processes that shape forest genetic diversity, from population to landscape level
- Develop strategies, methods, and tools for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity
- Contribute to the international dialogue on forest biodiversity and to the integration of conservation and use of forest genetic diversity issues into national forest programmes

IPGRI supports the work of research partners in the field and collaborate closely with regional, thematic and species-specific networks (e.g., SAFORGEN, APFORGEN, EUFORGEN, etc.)

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