

# HealGenCAR Aims and Activities

1st meeting "Challenges in tree resistance breeding"  
6.-9.6.2016, Punkaharju, Finland

HealGenCAR Coordinator Tuija Aronen



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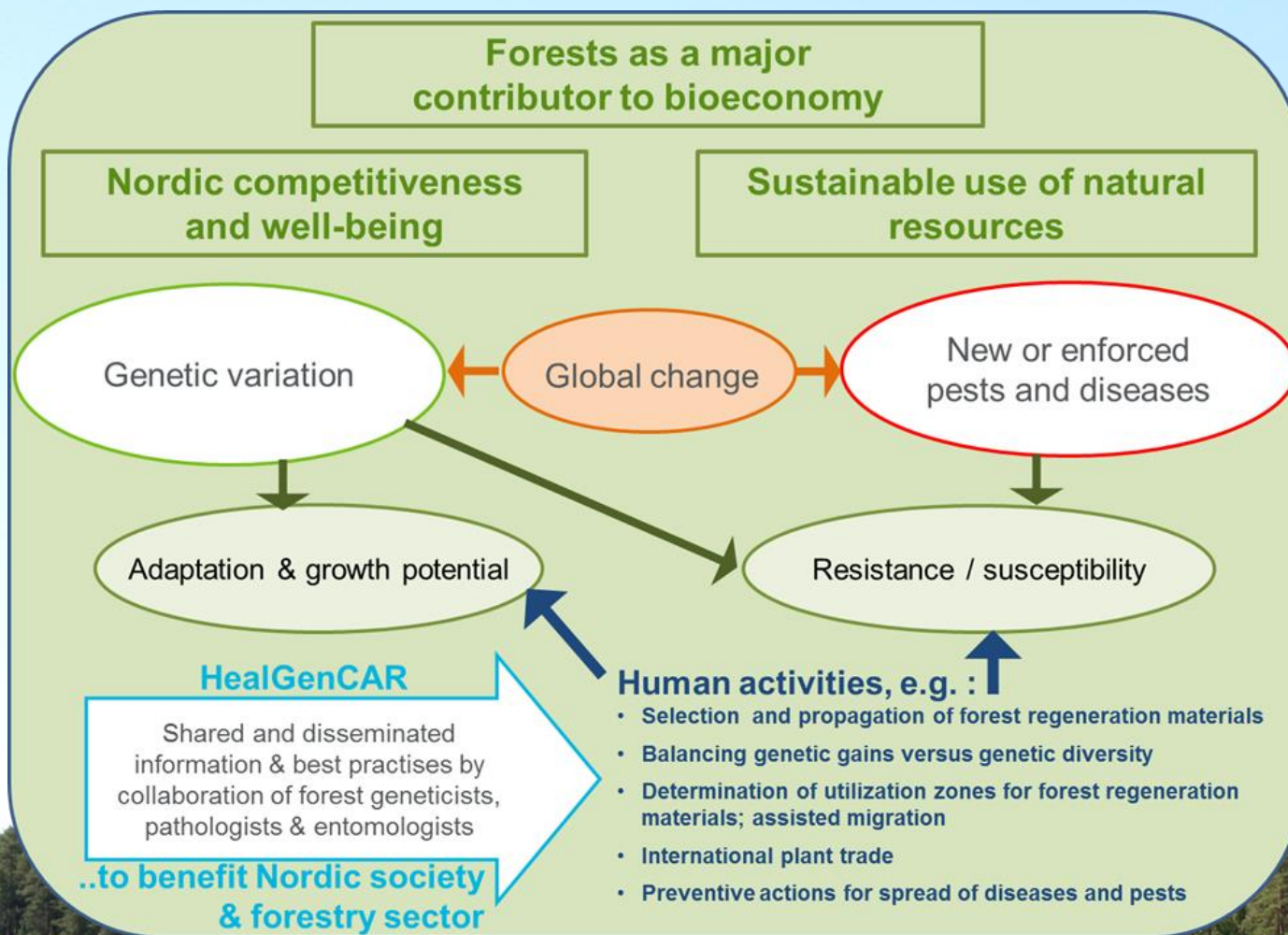
Nordic Forest Research  
(SNS)

# Nordic Centre of Advanced Research in Forest Health and Forest Genetics to Enhance Bioeconomy

- Acronym: HealGenCAR
- 2016-2020
- Financed by Nordic Forest Research (SNS) under the Nordic Council of Ministers; 450 000 SEK/year
- HealGenCAR website

<http://www.nordicforestresearch.org/healgencaar/>

# HealGenCAR framework



# HealGenCAR Objectives

- The overall objective is to support development and implementation of good practices for use and management of forest genetic resources, as well as pest and disease management to the benefit of Nordic societies.
- The specific objective is to enhance a Nordic research environment by continuing the long tradition in collaboration in forest genetics, pathology, entomology and breeding in the Nordic region. The network will include researchers from Baltic countries and link closely to new or on-going activities within the field in Europe.

# HealGenCAR organisation



Coordinator: **Tuija Aronen**, Luke, Finland

Deputy Jarkko Hantula, Luke

Secretary: **Egbert Beuker**, Luke, Finland

National coordinators:

- Sweden: **Torgny Persson** (Skogforsk), deputy Jan Stenlid (SLU)
- Denmark: **Hans Peter Ravn** (Univ. Of Copenhagen), deputy Lene Rostgaard Nielsen
- Norway: **Igor Yakovlev** (NIBIO), deputy Carl Gunnar Fossdal
- Iceland: **Adalsteinn Sigurgeirsson** (Icelandic Forest Research), deputy Halldor Sverrison

# Fixed HealGenCAR activities 1/2

## Scientific meetings and conferences

- 2016: Challenges in tree resistance breeding (Finland)
- 2018: Fast-growing tree species and clones vs. mixed forests – possibilities and threats (Sweden)
- 2020: Epigenetics and its significance and potentials for adaptation and resistance of trees (Norway)

## Joint training and education .. i.e. short workshops and training sessions

- 2017: Breeding against ash dieback (Denmark)
- 2017: Genetic data analyses: R & GBLUP (Sweden)
- 2018: QPCR & barcode assays (Norway)
- 2019: Early detection workshop (Iceland)
- 2020: Vegetative propagation to deploy resistant trees (Finland)

# Fixed HealGenCAR activities 1/2



## Preparation of Policy Briefs

..on aspects of importance for wise pest/pathogen management, genetic improvement, propagation, and deployment of tree species and genetic resources with specific emphasis on forest stability against biotic stress factors

.. prepared following CAR conferences, and are included in the final report.

## Collaboration with relevant bodies/ organisations on ongoing projects

## Compilation and sharing of information on relevant Nordic research activities

.. major research efforts and infrastructures on CAR webpage as www-links

## Risk assessment of emerging pests and pathogens

.. Sharing information, risk assessments by the CAR partners

# Open HealGenCAR activities 1/2 – financing applications approved by core group



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## Exchange of scientific staff including PhD students

.. between the Nordic countries, for competence building.

.. can also be granted for short scientific missions elsewhere when this benefits the forest genetic community in the Nordic region.

## Collaborative testing of research ideas

Short-term and minor scale testing of joint, novel research ideas can be supported by funding e.g. short term visits. Examples are searching for suitable field trials or material, testing of new methodologies and devices or new data analysing tools.

# Open HealGenCAR activities 2/2 – financing applications approved by core group



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## **Support for development of joint projects/proposals**

HealGenCAR will support Nordic initiatives and/or collaboration in preparation of joint proposals that may also have participants from outside the Nordic region.

## **Support for joint utilisation of existing data**

HealGenCAR will support initiatives for compilation and collaborative analyses of existing data from Nordic countries. For many decades various data related to forest health and genetic adaptation has been collected by the individual institutes in the Nordic countries. Funds will be available for organizing meetings (travel and accommodation) required for planning the joint use of existing data.

## How to apply ?

- Contact your Nordic colleagues, discuss what you could do together
- Prepare a (short) free-form **JOINT application**, clearly stating
  - aims / purpose of your joint venture
  - How it benefits Nordic forest research relevant to HealGenCAR ?
  - budget (financing available for open activities c.10 000 €/ year)
- Send the application to **HealGenCAR secretary by email**
  - **egbert.beuker@luke.fi**

# Enjoy the meeting and HealGenCAR network !

