



# NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

## THIRTIETH SESSION

Missoula, Montana, USA 9 - 12 September 2019

### REPORT OF THE FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES AND INVASIVE PLANTS WORKING GROUP

**PERIOD:** September 2017 – July 2019

#### 1. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Jean-Luc St-Germain	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Members	Country	Organization
Ken Farr	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Abel Plascencia González	Mexico	CONAFOR
Alejandro De Felipe Teodoro	Mexico	CONAFOR
Elsa Alejandra Gutiérrez Guajardo	Mexico	CONAFOR
Guillermo Sánchez Martínez	Mexico	Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales y Agrícolas y Pecuarias
Rick Cooksey	US	USFS (new member)
Tom Eager	US	USFS (new member)
Beth Willhite	US	USFS (new member)

*This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*

## 2. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Meetings	Location	Date
Annual working group meeting	<i>Quebec City, Canada</i>	<i>5-7 Sept. 2017</i>
Urban forestry workshop	<i>Quebec City, Canada</i>	<i>7 Sept. 2017</i>
Harmonized Global Approach for Managing Forest Invasive Species, COFO 24 side event	<i>Rome, Italy</i>	<i>19-20 July 2018</i>

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

- **FACILITATING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION TO ADDRESS SHARED FOREST PEST ISSUES**
  - o Participation in a COFO 24 side event hosted by FAO and with representatives from regional forest invasive species networks to discuss opportunities to harmonise approaches for managing invasive species and to initiate work towards a global approach focused on partnerships and collaboration.
- **ADVANCING FOREST HEALTH MONITORING AND ANALYSIS:**
  - o Consultation with Canadian provincial and territorial governments on opportunities to develop national pest risk maps, in the context of continental risk mapping under NAFC.
  - o Technical exchange and field visit focused on research experiments about climate change effects on trees and interaction with forest insects, as well as on tree resistance to white pine blister rust.
- **URBAN FOREST HEALTH**
  - o Urban forestry workshop to share experience, lessons learned and opportunities in the area of citizen science, and to advance exchanges with the Urban Programs Working Group.

## 3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
<b><u>Forest health monitoring and analysis</u></b>			
Technical exchange on information sharing needs, including engagement with relevant NAFC working groups.	Conference calls	Throughout 2019-2020	Ongoing
Technical exchange on risk mapping techniques.	Conference calls, meetings as needed (location TBD)	Throughout 2019-2020	Ongoing

Technology transfer and training on digital mobile sketch mapping.	Conference calls, meeting as needed (location TBD)	Throughout 2019-2020	Ongoing
Technical exchange on early warning systems for native and invasive alien forest pests, and opportunities for enhancements. As required, engagement with regional forest invasive species networks.	Conference calls	Throughout 2019-2020	Ongoing
Recommendation to the NAFC about a reduction in the scope of the working group regarding invasive plants.	Conference calls	By Sept. 2020	New
<b><u>Maintenance of scientific and technical capacity:</u></b>			
Panel on challenges related to the ongoing loss of forest pathology research, monitoring and identification capacity.	Conference calls	By Sept. 2020	Ongoing
<b><u>Facilitating intergovernmental coordination:</u></b>			
Targeted conversation (e.g. workshop) on emerging risks from invasive ambrosia beetles and proactive steps that can be taken to manage risks	Conference calls	By Sept. 2020	Ongoing
Gypsy Moth Knowledge and Technology Transfer Workshop	Quebec City, Canada	3-5 Sept. 2019	New
<b><u>Urban Forest health</u></b>			
Sharing of experience, lessons learned and analyses opportunities in the area of citizen science supporting forest pest early detection.	Conference calls	By Sept. 2020	New

#### 4. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

Activity	Amount US\$ (cash)	Amount US\$ (in-kind)
Gypsy Moth Knowledge and Technology Transfer Workshop (planned)*	\$15,000	

\*The working group would like to acknowledge the financial contribution and the administrative support offered for this activity by FAO and the United States Forest Service, respectively.

**5. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT**

The working group has no new request for funding to submit at this time.

The working group kindly requests clarification from the Commission regarding future participation from the United States on the working group.

**6. CLOSING REMARKS**

With support from the three NAFC partner agencies and FAO, and building on partnerships with regional and international organizations, the Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group remains committed to advancing the objectives and priorities stated in its strategic plan for 2017-2022.