THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF *SIREX NOCTILIO* F. TO ZIMBABWE'S FORESTRY INDUSTRY

BY

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OVERVIEW

- Zimbabwe is 39 million ha in area (landlocked).
- 104 705 ha of commercial plantations. The area runs along the Eastern Highlands (about 250km long).
- Main species grown include Pines (65.5%), Eucalyptus (24.8%), Wattle (9.6%) and Popular (0.10%). Commercial is dependent on Pines.
- Commercial Pine species grown include: *P. patula*, *P. taeda*, & *P. elliottii*. *P. kesiya*, *P. tecunumanii* & *P. maximinoii* are upcoming.
- 60.2% of commercial estates are privately owned; state owns 39.8%.

OVERVIEW (CONT'D)

- Forestry Sector is vertically integrated and contributes about 3% of the GDP.
- Currently Zimbabwe is a net exporter of timber products.
- According to 2005/2006 Timber Producers Federation (TPF) a total of 13173 people employed by the formal forestry sector. Many more people were employed in the downstream industries.

Major Threats to Forest Resources

- Forest fires (Industry lost 9732 ha in 2005)
- Baboon damage (All pine species susceptible though *P. taeda* preferred)
- Cyclone damage
- Droughts (Become more frequent in Southern Africa)
- Insect pests and diseases

Susceptibility of Zimbabwean Forestry to *S. noctilio*

- Incidence of forest fires
- Baboon damage (see background)
- Shortage of land (forcing timber industry to plant in marginal areas which are prone to drought-related stress)
- Droughts (Become more frequent in Southern Africa)
- All pine species susceptible to *Sirex*. Issue of monoculture
- Phytosanitary requirements not strongly adhered to at ports of entry
- Timber industry very small making Zimbabwe very vulnerable

Strategies to combat the spread of *Sirex noctilio* into Zimbabwe

- *Sirex* awareness campaigns (Urgent need for these so the timber industry is aware of threat)
- *Sirex* monitoring (Methodology will be based on forest health surveillance through use of sample plots & trap trees)
- *Sirex* quarantine measures - Major stakeholders: Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Environmental Management Agency, FAO, Timber Industry, Police.

Implementation of strategies to combat the spread of *S. noctilio*

- Issuing a statement on potential threat of *Sirex* if introduced into Zimbabwe. This will woo government support and help mobilize resources.
- Establishment of a *Sirex* Task Force whose members will be drawn from the following: Timber Industry, Government, Environmental Management Agency & non-governmental environmental organizations

Major Exotic Forestry Pests in Zimbabwe

- Termites
- Pine aphids
- Longhorn beetles
- Eucalyptus snout beetle
- Cypress aphid
- Baboons
- Softwood and hardwood borers

Current forest invasive species problems in Zimbabwe

- Pine woolly aphid (*Pineus boerneri)* (UBC)
- Pine needle aphid (*Eulachnus rileyi*) (UBC)
- Cypress aphid (*Cinara cupressivora*) (UBC)
- Eucalyptus snout beetle (*Gonipterus scutellatus*) (UBC)
- *Rhizina undulata* (Not a serious problem)

Current forest invasive species problems in Zimbabwe (Cont')

- Black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) Afromontane grasslands, riverine & miombo woodlands.
- Patula pine (*Pinus patula*) Same as above.
- Lantana (*Lantana camara*) Same as above.

PRIORITY ISSUES FOR AFRICA

- INFORMATION SHARING (INVASIVES)
- NETWORKING (SADC, AFORNET, ETC)
- COLLABORATION ON REGIONAL ISSUES
- PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES
- INSECT PEST & DISEASE MONITORING
- QUARANTINE ISSUES (IN RELATION TO OUR BORDERS)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT
- FORESTRY COMMISSION
- FAO
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THE END
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME