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

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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
- Phyto sanitary 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)
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 & mopane 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
- FISNA
THE END

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME