

World Forestry Congress
Buenos Aires, Argentina
October 19-25, 2009
Invasive Species Side Event
First Announcement

Description of Event: The US Forest Service and FAO will sponsor a half-day workshop on invasive species (primarily invasive forest insects and pathogens), bringing together all Regional FAO Invasive Species Working Groups and other interested parties for the first time to coordinate activities and exchange information.

Why: Invasive forest insects, pathogens and plants know no boundaries. Often the same invasive pest adversely affects many different countries. Sometimes the solution to an invasive problem in one country rests in the country of origin. Countries can benefit a great deal from cooperating, sharing information and the technical exchanges of experts. The FAO Regional Commissions have each organized around the issue of invasive species and are coordinating work across international borders. Some of the Commissions have formed invasive species committees. We should make use of the institutional organizations that already exist to accelerate our international cooperation in combating invasive pests, which cause much ecological and economic damage throughout the world. By working together we can ameliorate the problems associated with invasive species of forest trees.

Who: Representatives from each of the six Regional FAO Commissions and other interested parties, including private entities and non-governmental organizations should consider attending the side event. The FAO groups include the North American Forest Commission (NAFC), Asian Pacific Forest Commission (APFC), Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC), Comision Forestal para America Latina y el Caribe (COFLAC), European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the African Forestry Wildlife Commission (AFWC).

Where: A side event during the main WFC conference on Friday, October 23, 2009, is planned at the venue for the main event.

How: A website will be established with the relevant information for interested parties. In the meantime, please plan on attending this important coordination event on invasive species of forest trees. A committee will be established in the near future to plan the agenda.

For further information please contact:

Dr. Robert D. Mangold - US Forest Service (NAFC, APFC) - rmangold@fs.fed.us

Ms. Gillian Allard - FAO Headquarters - gillian.allard@fao.org