

XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH FORMAL AND INFORMAL INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORKS

Invasive Species Management and Coordination of the FAO
Regional Forestry Commissions' Invasive Species Committees



WFC 2009

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BACKGROUND

Invasive forest insects, pathogens and plants have moved dramatically across boundaries and caused considerable ecological and economic damage throughout the world. Increasing global trade has resulted in an increased risk and frequency of international pest movement. In the last decade numerous forest pests have been introduced into other countries and regions through trade, and these incidences have contributed to the international recognition of the importance of phytosanitary measures. Often the same invasive pest can adversely affect many different countries. Sometimes the solution to an invasive pest problem in one country rests in the country of origin. Countries can therefore benefit a great deal from cooperating, sharing information and the technical exchanges of experts.

FAO's six Regional Forestry Commissions – African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), European Forestry Commission (EFC), Latin America and the Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) and the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) – have each organized a wide variety of conferences, seminars, workshops and study tours, as well as preparing publications, newsletters and information notes around the issue of invasive species and are coordinating work across international borders. Some of the commissions have formed invasive species networks or committees. It would be beneficial to utilize existing institutional organizations to accelerate international cooperation in combating invasive pests. By working together the problems associated with forest invasive species can be ameliorated.

The International Plant Protection Convention is the basis for international standards which provide guidance on preventing the movement of pests across borders. Implementation of the standards by national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) in national regulations is an effective means of minimizing pest spread. In many cases however, phytosanitary approaches are not well understood by forest managers and forestry professionals. While significant efforts are well recognized for the application of phytosanitary measures in agriculture, a poor understanding of the principles of phytosanitary approaches has often kept foresters from working closely with NPPOs to establish effective systems to prevent invasive species from spreading to forests. FAO is organizing a multistakeholder process to develop a guide intended to improve the communication between foresters and NPPOs through practical examples, discussions on good plant health principles and common terminology.

PROGRAMME

The United States Forest Service and FAO are sponsoring this side event on invasive species (primarily invasive forest insects and pathogens), bringing together the regional FAO invasive species working groups and committees and other interested parties for the first time to share information, coordinate activities and to build collaborative networks.

The programme consists of presentations from each of the coordinators of the regional invasive species networks which represent some of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions' invasive species committees.

The draft version of *Guide to good practices for forest health protection in support of international standards for phytosanitary measures* will also be presented during the side event. For more details please see www.fao.org/forestry/56879

Other groups interested in invasive species management will be encouraged to participate during the session.

Simultaneous translation in Spanish and English will be provided.

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