

Guide

to the implementation of
**Good Forest Health
Practices** in support of
ISPMs



GUIDE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOOD FOREST HEALTH PRACTICES IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ISPMs)

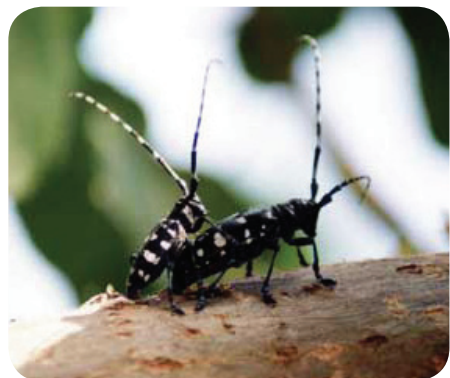
Forests regulate local and global climate and contribute considerably to biodiversity. They are a source of wood, fuelwood and non-wood forest products, and play an essential role in health, recreational aesthetic and culture activities. Protecting the world's forests from harmful pests is vital.

New threats to forest health from invasive insects and pathogens are emerging due to growing global trade and an increase in new trade patterns. These threats are largely the result of increased international pest movements associated with the trade of plants, plant products and other articles such as containers, soil, industrial equipment, and personal baggage.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a multi-national treaty to prevent the establishment of pests in new areas without unduly restricting international trade. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures,



the governing body of the IPPC, provides guidance to national authorities for managing pests through harmonized rules for the trade in goods, referred to as International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). While ISPMs are not themselves legally binding, many signatory countries use them in formulating their national legislation.



Understanding the formal ISPM texts is not always easy. Differences in the use of terminology and the perception of roles and responsibilities impede broader implementation of these phytosanitary principles internationally.

The Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has therefore commissioned a multistakeholder publication to provide the forestry sector with clear and concise guidance on forest health practices, including plain language descriptions of the international standards and suggestions for improved national implementation. The publication is being developed by an international group of scientists, phytosanitary authorities and forest sector representatives and is supported by the IPPC Secretariat at FAO.

The guide is divided into four sections:

- An overview of trade practices that can reduce pest movement;
- Production practices that reduce pests in the growing, harvesting, processing, storing, remanufacturing and finishing forest product phases;
- Explanation of phytosanitary concepts relevant to forests and the forestry sector
- Examples of the successful application of phytosanitary concepts in forestry.

This succinct guide serves as a useful tool to help bridge communications between phytosanitary and forestry sector workers. It will be of interest to policy makers and other professionals in both the private and public sectors.



For more information on this upcoming publication, please see <http://www.fao.org/forestry/56879> or contact:

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