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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

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**Report of the Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants Working
Group**

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

NAFC Secretariat
Forestry Division
NAFC32-Secretariat@fao.org

I. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Abel Plascencia González	Mexico	CONAFOR
Members' names	Country	Organization
Veronique Martel	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Mark Budd	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Jean-Luc St-Germain	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Beth Lebow	United States of America	USDA-FS
Beth Willhite	United States of America	USDA-FS
Rick Cooksey	United States of America	USDA-FS
Guillermo Sánchez Martínez	Mexico	INIFAP
Honorina Chávez González	Mexico	CONAFOR

II. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (done/ongoing)
Initial meeting to introduce the new working group's Chair, confirm members, follow up on the work plan and review pending activities.	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>10 July 2023</i>	<i>Done</i>

III. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (done/ongoing)
In-person working group meeting to update the Group's Strategic Plan and identify supporting actions for the next two years.	<i>In-person - Mexico</i>	<i>December 2023</i>	<i>New</i>
In-person working group meetings.	<i>In-person - Mexico</i>	<i>October 2024 July 2025</i>	<i>New</i>
Realization of the "Knowledge Transfer Workshop on Early Detection and Prevention of <i>Lymantria dispar</i> (spongy moth)".	<i>In-person - Mexico</i>	<i>June 2024 - June 2025</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Host a presentation and working session on the "Natural Forest Health Analysis Project" proposal, preceded by the submission of a summary and work plan.	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>November 2023</i>	<i>New</i>
Review the report on "Important Forest Insects and Diseases of Mutual Concern to Canada, the United States, and Mexico, published in 1967, and evaluate whether a revision should be undertaken by the working group.	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>December 2024</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
The working group will support experts leading the review of the "Silvics of North America", particularly regarding the forest insects and diseases section.	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>December 2024</i>	<i>New</i>

IV. REQUEST FOR FUNDING

1. The Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group would appreciate NAFC's financial support for interpretation services for the upcoming in-person meeting, with the purpose of ensuring effective communication among all participants.
2. The approximate cost to cover simultaneous interpretation services is USD \$2,090, considering a two-day meeting of 7 hours per day and with the participation of 10 members of the Working Group.
3. The meeting is scheduled for the first week of December 2023 in Mexico, with the aim of updating the Group's Strategic Plan and identifying specific actions to be carried out in the next two years.

V. CLOSING REMARKS

4. The COVID pandemic continued to impact the activities of the working group since 2021, discouraging implementation of the technology transfer workshop on spongy moth and annual in-person meetings.
5. The group had a long period of inactivity and recently welcomed many new members. It will take some time and effort to establish relationships and new work dynamics. However, all members remain committed to delivering impactful results for the three countries.
6. The following agreements were reached as a result of the meeting held on 10 July 2023:
 - a. The working group's recent reports were shared to inform new members about previous activities and accomplishments.
 - b. The past Working Group Strategic Plan was shared with all members for review, update, identification, and proposal of specific actions to be implemented in the next two years.
 - c. The group will aim to hold in-person meetings at least once a year, in order to enhance integration of members and facilitate the follow-up on actions.
 - d. The name and scope of the group will continue to be explored with the intention of changing it to "Forest Insects and Diseases". The Working Group previously debated whether the technical expertise, networks, and necessary activities to achieve positive outcomes regarding invasive plants align well enough with those associated with forest insects and diseases. There is an ongoing discussion about whether the inclusion of invasive plants in the purview of this working group presents an overly broad task and whether the subject area of invasive plants may be better addressed by forming a new Invasive Plants Working Group to promote collaboration and activities related to the subject.