

# Main lessons learnt from 30 years management of the Red Palm Weevil in the world

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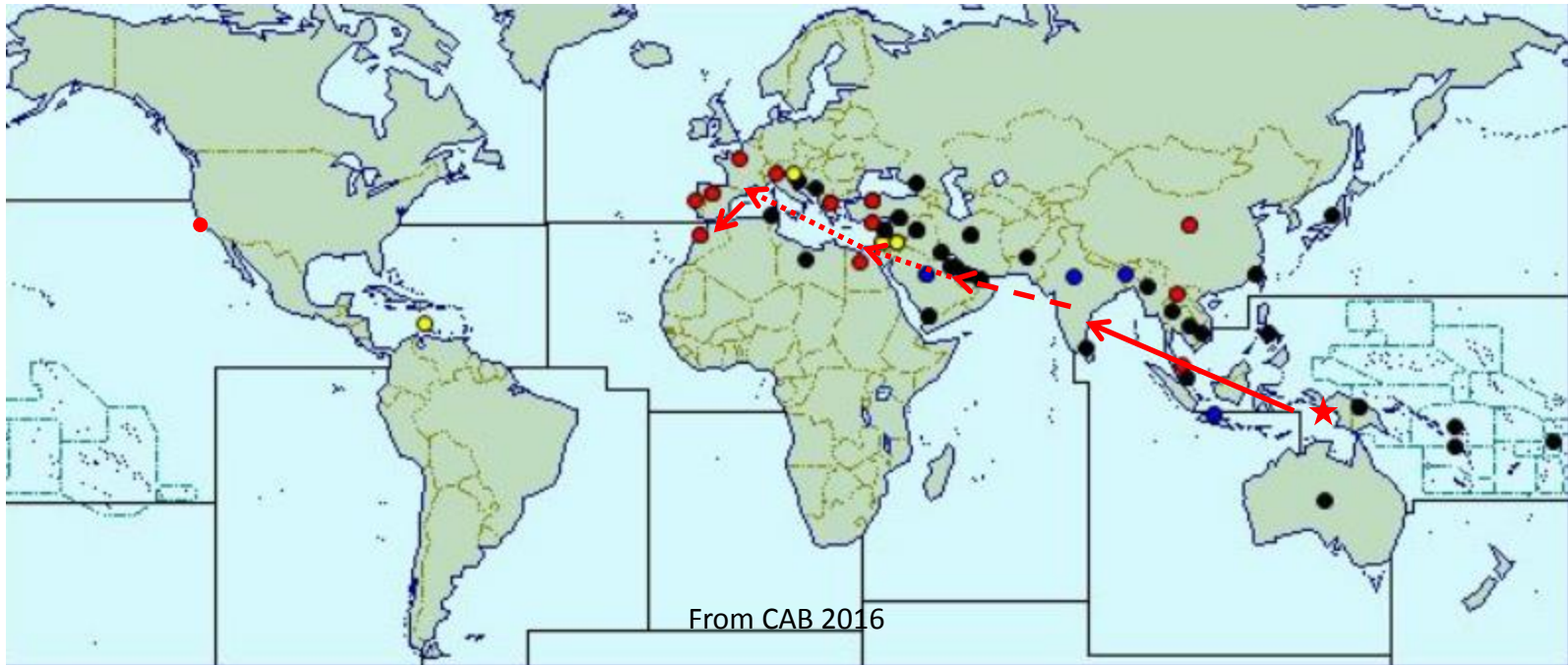
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# The origin of the world RPW spread is anthropogenic and not accidental



- Trade of infested palms has spread the RPW from its region of origin (South-East Asia), to India (beginning 1900), to Middle East (mid 1980), to Egypt (1993), to South Europe (mid 2000), to North Africa (1998-2011) and to Curaçao (2009).



# Origin of the problem: the international demand of palms

World fashion for palms in landscaping.



Spain

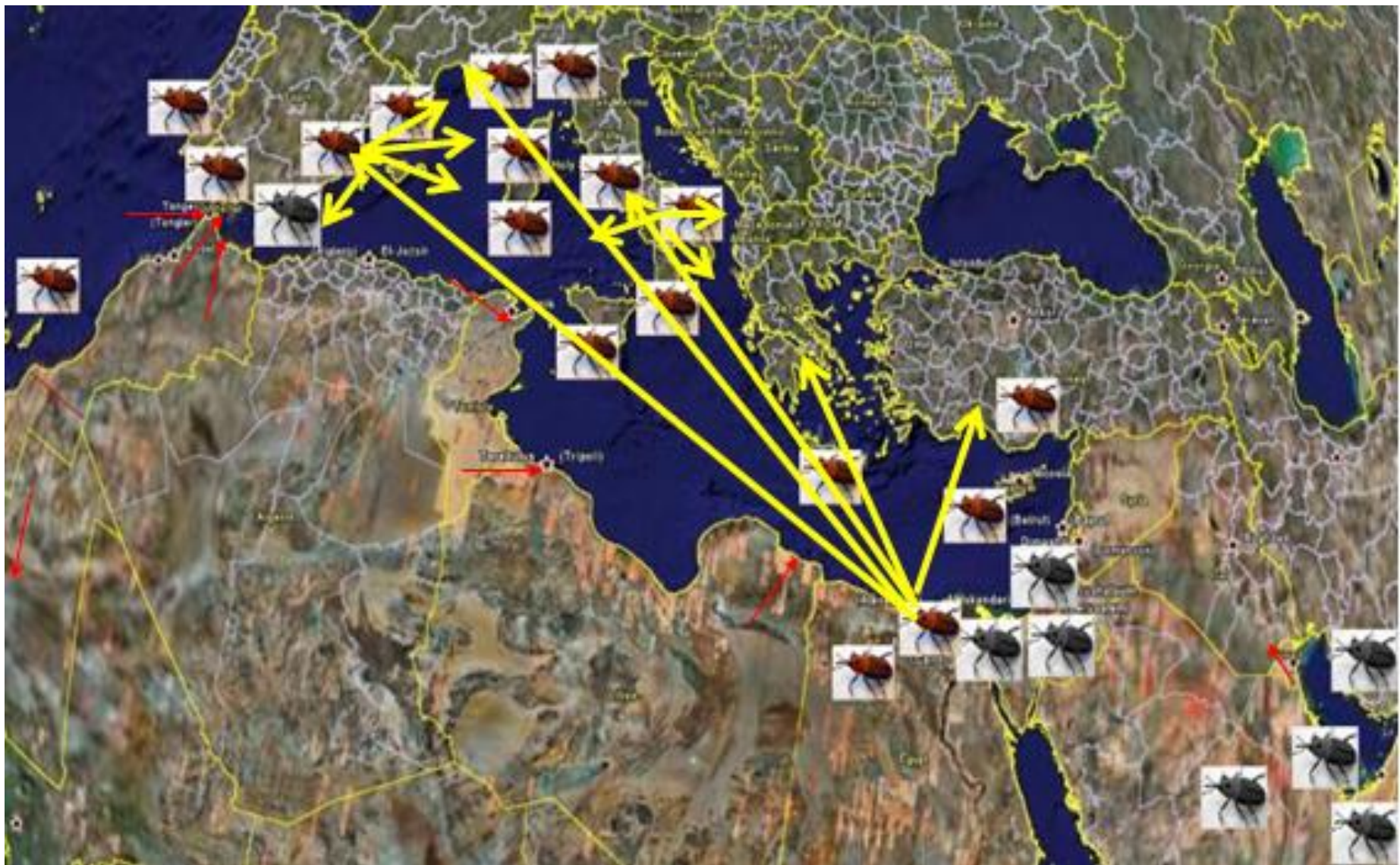


Morocco

Demand of offshoots of commercial varieties







- From 2000 to 2007, huge trade of ornamental palms from very known infested countries !!!



## Where is the mistake?

Bad or too late assessment of the phytosanitary risk (Larvae and adults are not detectable. RPW adaptation capacity).  
Weight of some lobbies?



- Establishment of Phytosanitary certificates (and passports) and implementation of phytosanitary controls for palms in which the absence of the pest is practically impossible to assure were a mistake.

Import of palms in Spain



**Lesson 1: Import and movement of such palms should be totally forbidden (It is now the case in many countries).**

# Consequences of this mistake : large scale introduction and spread of infested plants

Disaster for the small farmers in many oasis



Egypt

Degradation of the landscape in cities of the Mediterranean region



Italy



Gaza



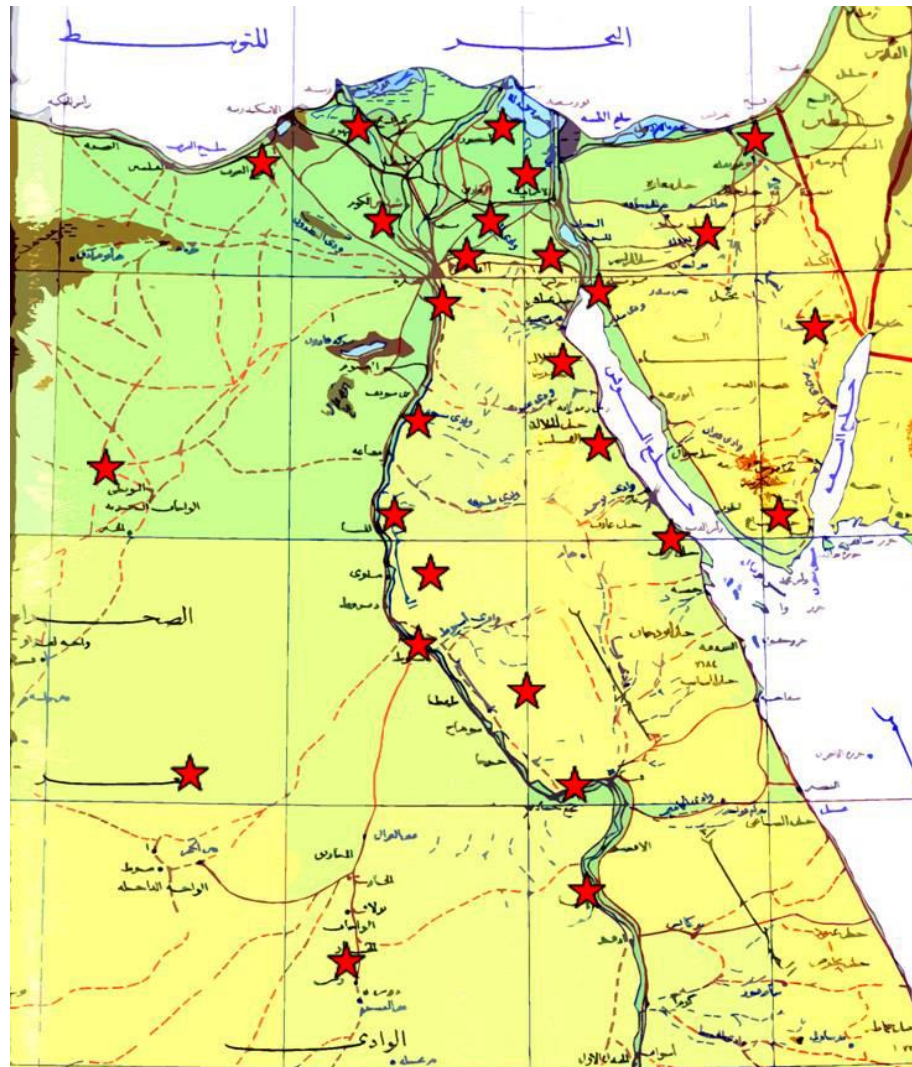
Tunisia



# World failure of the strategies of containment



RPW  
spread  
in Egypt

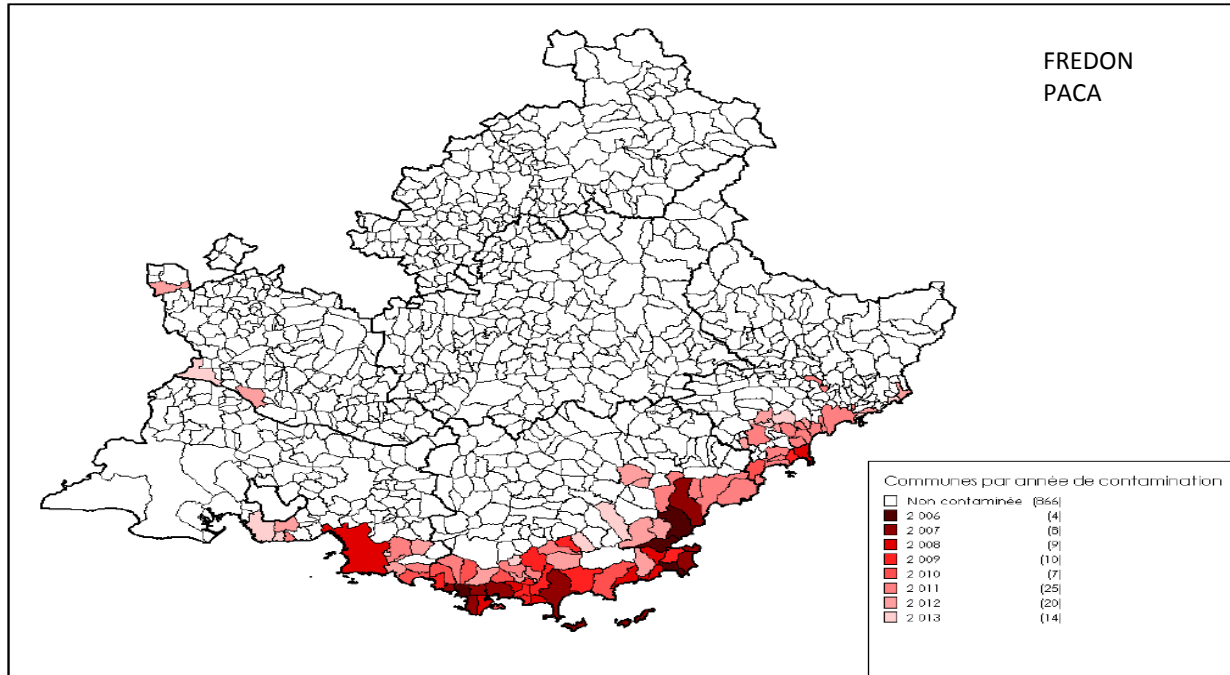


Spread of Red Palm Weevil in 2007 (El-Sebay, 2007)





Spread of the RPW in Saudi Arabia from 1987 to now



Carte des communes contaminées en PACA au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2014

Infested municipalities in the French Riviera from 1996 to 2014

**Lesson 2:** It is imperative to associate containment with efficient eradication plans

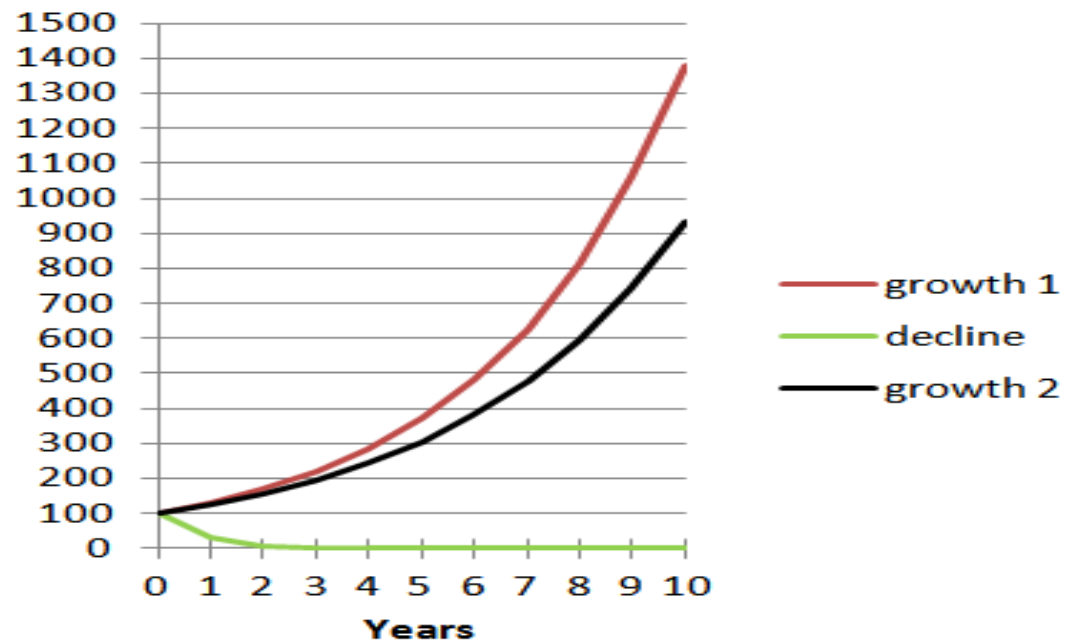


Eradication conceived in the long term represents a strategic mistake.

This strategy is costly, it has serious environmental and health consequences and it fails.

The right strategy is to dispose **very quickly** after detection of sufficient means to **obtain a strong decline of the pest.**

**Winning race/lost race**

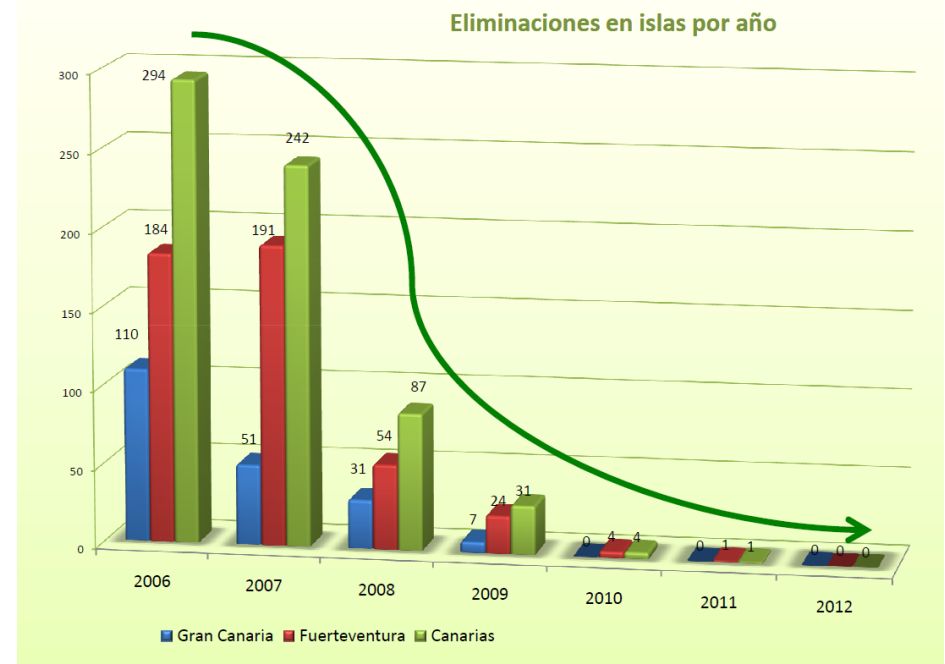
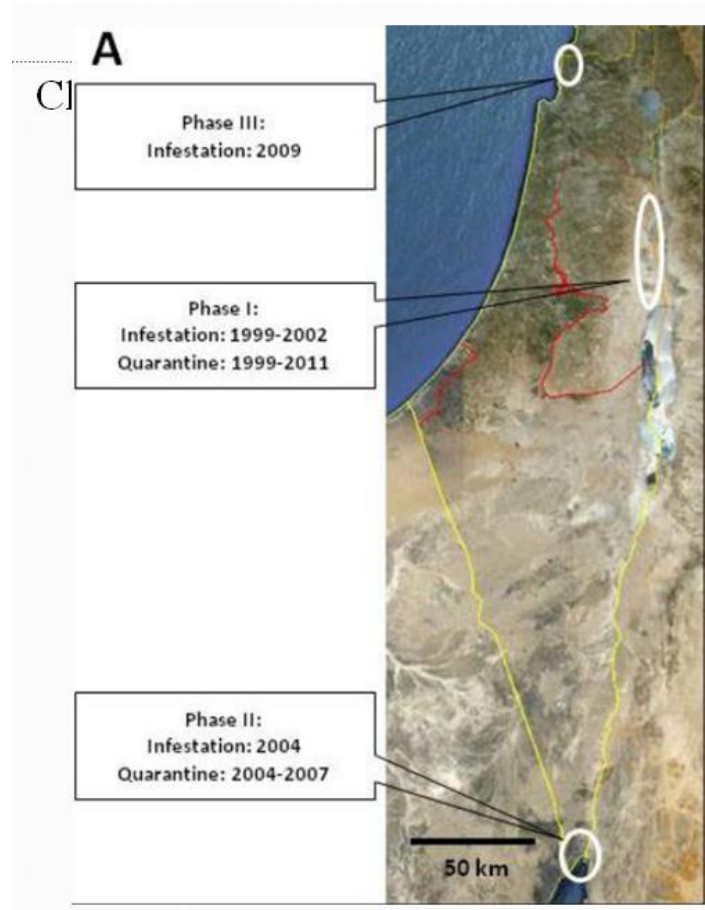


**Lesson 3: Don't waste efforts if they are not enough to lead to the RPW decline**

# The success of this strategy has been perfectly demonstrated

Eradication in 4 years in Israel

Eradication in 6 years in the Canary islands





The involvement of the farmers and palms owners is indispensable to eradicate this pest

- Mainly plant protection staff and entomologists have been involved.
- The socio-economic component of the problem has not been or poorly taken into consideration although it is essential.



**Lesson 4: The management has to be multidisciplinary, including socio-economist expertise**

# The wrong paradigm that pest eradication means automatically infested palms eradication.

Huge and vain efforts have been dedicated to eradicate infested palms.

- Safer, simpler and must cheaper solutions exist to eradicate the RPW without eradicating the palm.
- They present the great advantage to preserve the palms of the farmers/owners and to enhance their involvement in the fight.
- They don't contribute to increase the spread of the RPW.



**Lesson 5: Don't eradicate the infested palms if you can eradicate the RPW and maintain the palms. Don't dedicate a lot of efforts to eliminate the entire palm when most of the time, it is not necessary**





Shredded Pines trees to control the Pine nematode (Ph. Fotini) in Portugal



Photo : Rémi Rossignol

Asian longhorn beetles

The RPW is a very instructive case in the fight against other invasive pests



Feeling of olives trees infested by Xylella fastidiosa in Italia

**Thank You**