

TASK FORCE MEETING
REVITALISATION OF THE FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT NETWORK FOR
AFRICA
Zomba, Malawi
13-15 December 2004

Organisers

Forest Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM)
Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO)

Sponsors

Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO)
US Forest Service
AFORNET
FRIM

Introduction

The Task Force Meeting held in Zomba, Malawi scheduled for 13 to 15 December 2004, was jointly organised by the Forest Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM), Forestry Department of Malawi and FAO.

It was the intention of this Task Force meeting to revitalize the existing network “The Tree Pest Management Network for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa” and to ensure that it is updated to meet the present day needs of Africa.

It was decided that while highly commending the achievements of the existing network and acknowledging all the efforts that went into establishing the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of The Tree Pest Management Network for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, that the existing MOU no longer fully reflects the needs of the new/revitalised network. The members of the Task Force, who represent all countries and most of the institutions who were the original signatories of the MOU, agreed that it was impossible to fulfil article XV which states “amendment of the memorandum shall be considered only at a meeting of the General Assembly, an assembly which has never met and whose membership is unclear. It was agreed that the MOU should be acknowledged and safely archived and that the Executive Secretary Mr Linus Mwangi and KEFRI be fully acknowledged for their contributions in hosting and organising the original network.

The Task Force members through a participatory process deliberated and identified a new name for the revitalised network and defined the meaning of the term invasive species for the purpose of the network. The Task Force also determined the geographic coverage, the mandate, objectives and activities of the network and identified potential funding sources and partners. A new Secretariat was elected, an Interim Executive Committee was formed, the workplan and activities outlined and input provided for the new network website.

In line with present day forest health issues and increasing concern about invasive species, including insects, diseases and woody species, the network has been renamed as the “Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA). For the purposes of this network, the term invasive species is defined as “biotic agents, not native to a specific forest ecosystem, whose introduction does, or is likely to cause harm to the forest ecosystem”.

It was unanimously decided that the geographic coverage should be extended to cover all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa who wish to participate in the network; that there shall be no distinction between language or forest type and that the language of communication will be English.

The existing members (44 individual members, 11 institutions from seven countries) will be informed of these changes and will be given the opportunity to indicate their acceptance of these changes.

After some debate, it was agreed that the mandate of the network should be “to coordinate the collation and dissemination of information relating to forest invasive species in Sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity”.

Objectives of the network

The following objectives for the network were identified by the Task Force members:

1. To facilitate exchange of information and provide a link for communication about forest invasive species
2. To alert, provide policy advice on trans-boundary movement, phytosanitary measures, and other relevant information
3. To raise regional awareness on forest invasive species issues
4. To encourage the publication and sharing of research results, management and monitoring strategies
5. To facilitate taxonomic support
6. To act as a linkage between and among experts, institutions, networks and other stakeholders concerned with forest invasive species
7. To facilitate the mobilization of resources for critical activities in management of invasive species
8. To provide technical guides on research and control of invasive species for sustainable forest protection and health issues for Africa

Objectives with respective activities outlined

- 1. To facilitate exchange of information and provide a link for communication about forest invasive species**
 - Disseminate information at regional level through the development and maintenance of the dedicated website
 - Link the website to existing databases (CABI, FAO/IUFRO, IUCN and ECOPORT) and to other networks on invasive species
 - Prepare an updated list of meetings and workshops in forest health issues in Africa that have relevance to the network mandate
 - Organise meetings/workshops and where appropriate arrange participation back to back on scheduled meetings

- 2. To alert, provide policy advice on trans-boundary movement, phytosanitary measures, and other relevant information**
 - Prepare and distribute pest alerts and keep them updated (website and hard copies)
 - Make available information on international phytosanitary regulations
 - Submit requests through National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) focal points for support from IPPC for an African based meeting on IPPC Regulations of pertinence to forest invasive species with particular emphasis on ISPM No 15 (No 11 and 21)
 - Prepare a database of invasive species in Africa, and those with the potential to become invasive in Africa

- 3. To raise regional awareness on forest invasive species issues**
 - Inform all potential members of the network about the Network and its objectives including the information and services available
 - Highlight the most relevant issues with regard to forest invasive species through workshops, letters, policy briefs, press releases, newsletters, newspaper articles, preparation of information notes, fact sheets, brochures, posters, in-country information flow
 - Liaison between the country coordinators
 - Table discussions on forest invasive species in International meetings, example COFO, use regional economic blocks, e.g. SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD etc.

- 4. To encourage the publication and sharing of research results, management and monitoring strategies**
 - Publicise African research results through the website in collaboration with GFIS
 - Publish a Newsletter, technical notes, leaflets, policy briefs, reports etc
 - Organise a special issue in a forestry journal
 - Make unpublished research findings and recommendations for management and monitoring available online, after peer review

- 5. To facilitate taxonomic support**
 - Prepare a directory of experts and institutes with areas of speciality in taxonomy e.g. FABI (tree diseases), National Museum of Kenya (insects)
 - Establish agreements with taxonomic institutes to provide network members assistance with identifications
 - Exchange information between countries of identification of new pests
 - Make information available through electronic and paper format

- 6. To act as a linkage between and among experts, institutions, networks and other stakeholders concerned with forest invasive species**
 - Share information with other invasive species networks
 - Prepare a directory of experts and institutes with areas of expertise and capabilities
 - Prepare an updated list of meetings and workshops in forest health issues in Africa that have relevance to the network mandate
 - Facilitate communication between African experts through exchange visits to establish personal and institutional contacts

7. To facilitate the mobilization of resources for critical activities in management of invasive species

- Establish partnership with key organizations (e.g. FAO, IUFRO, NEPAD, AU)
- Develop project proposals, concept notes and approach potential development partners for funding

8. To provide technical guides on research and control of invasive species for sustainable forest protection and health issues for Africa

- Develop technical guides on control of invasive species
- Facilitate the sharing of research and management protocols

Who Takes Lead/Responsibility?

1. Secretariat

It was agreed that a new secretariat should be selected to replace Linus Mwangi of KEFRI who has been doing this job voluntarily for nearly 10 years. The new Secretariat was selected to be FRIM (Forestry Research Institute of Malawi), with Dr. Clement Chilima taking responsibility for this with the agreement of the Director of FRIM.

2. Interim Executive Committee

An Interim Executive Committee to assist the Secretariat in establishing FISNA was agreed upon. It was decided by all members present that this committee should consist of all Members of the Task Force for a maximum period of one year, as this provides valuable momentum to the revitalisation process. The main functions of the Interim Executive Committee will be to publicize the network, facilitate the selection of a Country Coordinator (and alternates), make operational decisions and to provide support to the Secretariat.

3. Country Coordinators and Alternates

Country coordinators and assistant coordinators should be selected by each country for all member countries.

4. Executive Committee

After the first year the Interim Executive Committee will be superseded by an Executive Committee to assist the Secretariat. The Executive Committee and the Secretariat can in turn request assistance from the Country Coordinators. It was decided that FISNA should be divided into four regions with a selected Country Coordinator acting as Executive Committee member for each region. Representatives and alternates will be selected to represent each of the four regions as follows:

- Western Africa
- Southern Africa
- Eastern Africa
- Central Africa

Rotation of members will occur every 3 years

Noting that this can be amended as and when necessary

Workplan for the Secretariat (with support from the Interim Executive Committee)

1. Set up Secretariat at FRIM
2. Interim Committee to confirm minutes of Task Force meeting and provide endorsement
3. Interim Committee to inform governments and other bodies about the formation of the network
4. The National Research Council of Malawi to be informed about the formation of the network and the involvement of FRIM as Secretariat
5. Interact with key partners e.g. NEPAD, AU, FAO, IUFRO, ICRAF, CIFOR on the formation of the network
6. Collate and document information on activities on invasive species in Africa
7. Inform potential member countries of the formation of the network and request nomination of a Country Coordinator
8. Inform and seek endorsement of the network (FISNA) e.g. in COFO 2005 (15-19 March 2005, Rome) and particularly at the side event on “invasive species and their impact on forest health” and at other international meetings (e.g. IUFRO World Congress 8-13 August 2005, Australia)
9. The Interim Committee should submit requests through their National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) focal points for support from IPPC for an African based meeting on IPPC Regulations of pertinence to forest invasive species with particular emphasis on IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, ISPM No 15 (also ISPM Nos 2, 11 and 21)
10. Complete structure and construction of the FAO-hosted, African-led website on invasive species to ensure it is online by Feb-March 2005
11. Ensure that the website is continuously maintained and up-dated

Potential funding sources

Members identified the following potential sources for funding:

Self- generating resources

- In-kind contributions (personnel, communication resources, information exchange)
- National forest industries
- Consultancy services
- Funds for publications/information notes/publicity information from government institutions and/or NGO
- Special projects

External resources for potential sponsorship

- GEF
- AFORNET (back to back to meetings)
- FORNESSA (back to back to meetings)
- IUFRO/ GFIS
- IPPC/FAO
- CIDA and Canadian Forest Service
- SIDA
- Rockefeller Foundation

- USAID
- DFID
- World Bank through GEF
- FINIDA
- NORAD
- DANIDA
- US Forest Service
- GTZ
- International private forest industry e.g. UNILEVER
- GATSBY
- African Development Bank
- ASARECA

Potential Partners

- FAO
- ICRAF
- US Forest Service
- Canadian Forest Service
- IUCN
- NAFC
- APFC
- CABI/GISP
- UNEP
- WWF
- NGOs etc.

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Annexe: List of participants

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