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Organización
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Naciones
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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DRAFT GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS IN FORESTRY

1. Forests help 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 cultural activities. Protecting the world's forests from harmful pests is vital.
2. 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. Examples of such pests that have been introduced into North America include chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*), sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) and brown spruce longhorn beetle (*Tetropium fuscum*).
3. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of member countries have historically dealt most often with agricultural crops. In recent years, however, forest pests have become a more prominent concern, suggesting the need to develop better communication with the forest sector. All sectors in forestry – including those involved in growing, harvesting, processing, storing, remanufacturing and finishing forest products – need to understand what the IPPC is, and how NPPOs work, if they are to be of assistance to signatories implementing International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

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4. 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.
5. There is a great need to engage forest practitioners in protecting global forest health, improve forest health practices through implementation of ISPMs in the forest sector, reduce impacts to biodiversity, encourage safe trade in forest products, and ensure that the forest sector is engaged in international standard setting and implementation.
6. The FAO Forestry Department has therefore commissioned a multistakeholder publication to provide the forest 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.
7. The publication, *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry* (working title), is divided into five sections:
 - an introduction to the problem of forest pest movement in trade;
 - how the ISPMs and NPPO regulations affect the import and export of forest commodities;
 - how people in the forest sector can reduce the risks of spreading pests through effective forest management practices;
 - how each relevant ISPM can be used to prevent forest pest introduction and spread;
 - how the forest sector can work together with NPPOs to develop and implement practical and effective ISPMs and national phytosanitary regulations.
8. A draft version of the Guide is currently being reviewed by a diverse spectrum of expertise in a broad multistakeholder review process. Comments and suggested revisions from reviewers will be taken into consideration and the final draft will be translated and presented for approval at FAO's Committee on Forestry (COFO) in October 2010. It will be made available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. A training plan and materials for field application of the Guide will be developed with regional workshops being scheduled for 2011.
9. The Guide will be widely distributed to forest sector workers, universities, forestry schools, libraries and related institutions and will be made available to NPPOs. It will be used for training in developing countries to provide basic information on management practices that reduce pest spread.
10. The Guide will help bridge the gap between foresters and NPPOs by promoting a common understanding of phytosanitary concepts. It will be of vital interest to all sectors in forestry – planting, managing, harvesting, manufacturing, selling and transporting forest products – which can play a key role in preventing the spread of pests. It will also benefit forestry policy-makers, planners and managers, particularly in developing countries.

For more information on the subject, please consult <http://www.fao.org/forestry/56879/en/>