



NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Edmonton, Canada, 19 - 21 September 2017

REPORT OF THE FORESTS INSECTS AND DISEASES AND INVASIVE PLANTS WORKING GROUP

PERIOD: January 2016 – July 2017

1. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Jean-Luc St-Germain	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Member Names	Country	Organization
Ken Farr	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Dionicio Alvarado	Mexico	COLPOS
David Cibrián Tovar	Mexico	Universidad Autónoma Chapingo
Ana Isabel González Martínez	Mexico	CONABIO
Abel Plascencia González	Mexico	CONAFOR
Alejandro De Felipe Teodoro	Mexico	CONAFOR
Mayra Margarita Valdez Lizarraga	Mexico	CONAFOR
Paul Chaloux	United States	USDA APHIS
Monica Lear	United States	USDA FS

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2. (A) LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (done/ongoing)
<p><u>Forest health monitoring and analysis</u></p> <p>Maintained efforts toward continental pest risk mapping by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exploring possibilities for developing Canadian risk maps with CFS and representatives from provinces and territories: one national webinar held; one session held during a federal-provincial-territorial meeting. 2) Maintained dialogue between USFS and CONAFOR on pest risk mapping modelling techniques with focus on exotic species. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Webinar; Ottawa, Canada 2) Email exchange and conference calls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) May 2016; December 2016 2) March 2016; December 2016 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing 2) Ongoing
<p><u>Forest health monitoring and analysis</u></p> <p>Maintaining technical exchange on quarantine pests of trilateral concern:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Technical knowledge transfer session held on early detection and rapid response to ambrosia beetles. 2) Shared information about Canadian forest invasive alien species information portal and database. 3) Explored synergies with the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network – Initiated contact with network member to seek scientific advice about monitoring protocols for <i>Leptocybe invasa</i>, an exotic pest attacking eucalypt species. 4) Technical exchange on priority invasive invertebrate and plant species. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tijuana, Mexico 2) Email exchange 3) Email exchange 4) Email exchange 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) June 2016 2) January 2016 3) February 2016 4) Ongoing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completed 2) Completed 3) Ongoing 4) Ongoing
<p><u>Forest health monitoring and analysis:</u></p> <p>Continue to exchange best practices in pest monitoring and identification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintained dialogue regarding invasive species monitoring and early warning systems. 2) Maintained dialogue regarding the implementation of digital mobile sketch mapping in the U.S. and opportunities in Mexico and Canada. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conference calls; Puebla, Mexico 2) Puebla, Mexico; conference calls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) May 2016; October 2016; February 2017 2) October 2016; February 2017 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing 2) Ongoing 3) Ongoing

<u>Impacts and adaptation to variations in climate and forest conditions</u> Maintained dialogue on permanent forest health monitoring and the integration of climate change indicators.	Conference calls; Puebla, Mexico	January 2016; October 2016	
Developed a draft strategic plan to guide future WG collaboration.	Conference calls; Puebla, Mexico	Summer 2017	Submitted to NAFC

2. (B) PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
<u>Forest health monitoring and analysis:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain dialogue information sharing needs and future options for the EXFOR system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quebec city Conference calls/virtual meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 2017 Throughout 2017-18 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with representatives from Canadian provinces and territories about usability and feasibility of developing Canadian pest risk maps, in the context of potential continental maps. 	Conference calls	Throughout 2017-18	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain ongoing technical exchange on risk mapping techniques. 	Conference calls, meetings as needed (location TBD)	Throughout 2017-18	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advance opportunities for technology transfer and training related to digital mobile sketch mapping. 	2018 WG meeting (location TBD)	2018 – date TBD	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted conversations on emerging risks from invasive alien species and proactive steps that can be taken to manage risks. 	Conference calls/virtual meetings	Throughout 2017-18	New
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance discussion on early warning systems for native and invasive alien pests, and explore opportunities for enhancements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quebec city Conference calls/virtual meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 2017 Throughout 2017-18 	Ongoing
<u>Impacts and adaptation to variations in climate and forest conditions</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted conversations on climate change impact on risks from invasive alien species introduction and establishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quebec city Conference calls/virtual meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 2017 Throughout 2017-18 	New
<u>Facilitating intergovernmental coordination</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical knowledge exchange focused on control of cross-border pest issues. 	Conference calls/virtual meetings	Throughout 2017-18	Ongoing

<p><u>Maintenance of scientific and technical capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance dialogue on challenges related to the ongoing loss of forest pathology research, monitoring and identification capacity. 	<p>Conference calls/virtual meetings</p>	<p>Throughout 2017-18</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><u>Urban Forest health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share experience, lessons learned and opportunities in the area of citizen science supporting forest pest research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quebec city • Conference calls/virtual meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 2017 • Throughout 2017-18 	<p>New</p>

3. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

Period January 2016 – July 2017

Activity	Amount US\$ (cash)	Amount US\$ (in-kind)
October 2016 – Annual working group meeting – Puebla, Mexico	\$6,400	0
June 2016 - Knowledge transfer session – Ambrosia beetle early detection and rapid response – Tijuana, Mexico	\$5,500	\$1,350

4. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT

The working group has no request for funding to submit at this time. However, the working group would appreciate further clarification of NAFC's expectations with regard to the theme of invasive plants. Even with the recent addition of a new member from Mexico and identification of contact points in the U.S. and Canada to help with developing collaboration in this area, the main difficulty for the working group remains targeting meaningful work. It is also worth highlighting the important differences between invasive plant management and insect/disease management, in terms of national coordination, approaches, and players involved.

The working group also sees its ability to advise policy and programmes pertaining to forest invasive alien species and phytosanitary issues as limited by the absence of most regulatory agencies on the working group. We consider essential to build partnerships with the North American Plant Protection Organization where most of these agencies sit. Having them represented in NAFC would greatly facilitate linkages. At this time, only the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is actively represented on our working group. There has been no direct involvement from similar agencies in Mexico and Canada during at least the last 5 years. Working group members have engaged and solicited input from these agencies at the working level on an ongoing basis. We would appreciate to receive advice from the NAFC on how best to approach these agencies for a more successful North American approach to address shared priorities.

5. CLOSING REMARKS

The year 2017 has seen the achievement of a new five-year strategic plan for the working group. This plan is the result of a collaborative effort from the three NAFC member countries aimed at defining proposed roles and a strategic direction for the working group. In addition to guiding future work, this plan is meant to be a communication vehicle within NAFC partners and beyond. Implementing this plan will rely on building strong partnerships with regional and international organizations, which is especially vital to address forest invasive alien species global challenges.