



NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

17-19 November 2021¹

FOREST INSECTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE PLANTS WORKING GROUP REPORT

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

**NAFC Secretariat
Forestry Division
NAFC31-Secretariat@fao.org**

PERIOD: September 2019 – July 2021

1. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Rick Cooksey	USA	USDA-FS
Members	Country	Organization
Ken Farr	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Jean-Luc St-Germain	Canada	NRCan-CFS
Guillermo Sánchez Martínez	Mexico	INIFAP
Abel Plascencia González	Mexico	CONAFOR

¹ Rescheduled from 13-15 September 2021

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Honoría Chávez González	Mexico	CONAFOR
Malinali Santacruz Carrillo	Mexico	CONAFOR
Beth Willhite	USA	USDA-FS

2. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Meetings	Location	Date
Session for newly appointed U.S. members	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>December 2019</i>
Working Group Meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>20 July 2021</i>

ACTIVITIES

- A working group introductory and engagement session for newly appointed U.S. members was held in December 2019.
- The multiagency event, Gypsy Moth Prevention and Early Detection Knowledge Transfer Workshop, was scheduled for March 2020, however due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop was rescheduled.
- The group agreed to transfer the chairmanship from Canada to the U.S., as well as to limit the scope of the working group to only insects and diseases.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
Forest health monitoring and analysis, including urban forest health issues	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>new</i>
Impacts and adaptation to variations in climate and forest conditions	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>new</i>
Intergovernmental coordination to address shared forest pest issues	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>new</i>
Maintenance of scientific capacity to support science-based programs and policies	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>new</i>
Analysis and monitoring of the effects of climate change on insects and diseases	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>new</i>

4. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

There were no financial investments during this period.

5. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT

- **Gypsy Moth Prevention and Early Detection Knowledge Transfer Workshop**
 - Funding provided by FAO for the cost of organization of a Gypsy Moth Prevention and Early Detection Knowledge Transfer Workshop, which had to be rescheduled, given the impossibility to carry out in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Natural forest health monitoring and analysis**
 - A meeting with an expert in this field from Mexico has been proposed. The meeting will include a presentation from Dionicio Alvarado, who will provide more details about a project to be carried out in Mexico. The purpose of the meeting is to provide members from Canada and the U.S. with information before members from Mexico (CONAFOR) lodge a formal request for funding for the project to the BoA.
- **Maintenance of scientific capacity to support science-based programmes and policies**
 - A report on forest insects and diseases of common concern to the three countries, published in 1967, will be revised and if agreed by the working group, published on NAFC's website.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

Travel restrictions have prevented the working group from meeting. Virtual options are not suitable for practical training and workshops, which require the physical presence of participants. In alignment with discussions at the last two Commission's meeting, and based on current working group membership and priorities, it is recommended to limit the scope of the working group to insects and diseases.