

Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR FINLAND

Forests are vital to mitigate climate change. Climate change presents new and urgent challenges to achieving sustainable forest management and. Changes in temperature and moisture regimes make forest ecosystems vulnerable to insects, pathogens and invasive species. Expanded global trade through the exploitation of new market opportunities is increasing the movement of forest pests globally, and local climatic change may increase the potential for these pests to become established in new areas. Extreme weather events also threaten forests, forest health and peoples' livelihoods.

The governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), adopts International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to help prevent pest introduction and spread while facilitating trade. Most IPPC member countries have established their own National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to protect natural resources and to deal with pests of plants including forests.

NPPOs have historically dealt mostly with agricultural crops. In recent years, however, forest pests have become a more prominent concern, and while communication between the forest sector and NPPOs has increased, more is needed. Forest sector personnel have a vital role in developing and implementing phytosanitary standards and therefore need to develop a better understanding of what the IPPC is and how NPPOs work.

Since the regulatory language of ISPMs targets phytosanitary experts, foresters may benefit from plain-language descriptions of the ISPMs. FAO has coordinated a multistakeholder process to prepare a Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry, which offers clear and concise guidance on forest health practices and suggestions for improved national implementation of IPPC standards.

The guide has been prepared through a consultative approach involving an international group of scientists, phytosanitary authorities and forest sector representatives, supported by the IPPC Secretariat at FAO. It has gone through two cycles of review and comments have been received from more than 100 specialists from 44 countries. Training materials communicating the guide's key messages will be field tested in developing countries, disseminated through the regional forest invasive species networks and in-country implementation encouraged through the Regional Forestry Commissions.

The guide is divided into five chapters:

- an introduction to the problem of forest pest movement in trade;
- how ISPMs and NPPO regulations affect the import and export of forest commodities;
- how the forest sector can reduce the risk of spreading pests through effective forest management approaches;
- how relevant ISPMs can be used to prevent forest pest introduction and spread;
- how forest sector personnel can work together with NPPOs to contribute to the development and implementation of ISPMs and national phytosanitary regulations that help reduce pest movement while being as least restrictive to trade as possible.

The guide will be of interest to forestry policy-makers and other professionals in both the private and public sectors.

For more information on this publication, please see **www.fao.org/forestry/56879** or contact: Gillian Allard, FAO, Forest Protection and Health Officer at **Gillian.Allard@fao.org** or Shane Sela, IPPC Standard Setting at **Shane.Sela@fao.org**