

The work of IUFRO Unit 7.03.12 and its links to other initiatives on alien invasive species and international trade

Hugh Evans

Forest Research, UK

IUFRO Unit 7.03.12 'Alien Invasive Species and International Trade' was established in 2007 to examine global forestry issues related to the unwanted international movement of alien invasive species, including fungi, insects, nematodes, and plants. Initial emphasis on pathways was on packaging wood but focus has now moved to plants for planting (P4P) as the acknowledged highest risk pathway currently. Two meetings of the Unit have provided valuable information to assess risks from a wide range of organisms (see <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6YUGMQ> for proceedings from the meetings). Arising particularly from the meeting in Shepherdstown in 2008, a sub-group comprising Kerry Britton, Marc Kenis and Shiroma Sathyapala, produced a concept paper on P4P (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6YUJRD>) which has provided a baseline from which to consider the risks and potential management of this high risk pathway. Further developments on this subject are being presented by Kerry Britton and others at this third meeting of the Unit.

It is clear that the problems from pathway delivery of organisms to new locations and their possible establishment is a global issue and, therefore, there is a strong need to combine resources and share knowledge globally. Some of the European and global initiatives to facilitate knowledge exchange will also be described in this overview. Notably, the EU COST Actions on Pathways (FP1002 – PERMIT) and on specific organisms including *Phytophthora* spp (FP0801), *Dothistroma* (FP1102 – DIAROD) and problems on ash (FP1103 – FRAXBACK) include many COST countries but also inputs from non-COST countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and USA. EU projects such as PRATIQUE, ISEFOR and REPHRAME also address issues of phytosanitary concern and which benefit from linkage to 7.03.12. There are also strong links to the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group, particularly in assessing potential new processes for reducing phytosanitary risks. It is essential that the large shared knowledge in these different initiatives is shared, both to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and also to provide synergy between them. 7.03.12 can be pivotal in facilitating such knowledge exchange.

Corresponding Author:

Prof. Hugh EVANS

Forest Research, IBERS

Edward Llwyd Building, Penglais Campus

Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3DA, United Kingdom

e-mail: hugh.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk