



FY2008-2009 Forest Health Protection International Activities Plan of Work



Activities in the international arena facilitate Forest Health Protection in meeting many of the goals and actions of the seven strategic areas identified in the “Forest Health Protection 2003-2007 Strategic Plan” and the FHP 2008 Plan of Work.

Many non-native (exotic) insects, diseases and plants have a direct effect on the health of U.S. forests and ecosystems, and increased international trade increases the potential for introductions of exotic pests. Solutions for the control and management of established exotic pests often reside in their native habitat and countries. The United States also shares extensive borders with Mexico and Canada which results in common forest insect and disease concerns. Technologies both in the U.S. and other countries continue to be developed that can be shared to improve forest health protection management strategies, and opportunities to cooperate with international counterparts increases the understanding and professional development of forest health specialists.

There are four FHP International Activity Goals. Activities planned for FY2008 -2009 which are critical to FHP’s mission to “protect and improve the health of America’s forests” are:

U.S Forests are Protected from Exotic Pests

- Participate and cooperate with APHIS on the Asian Gypsy Moth and Invasive Lymantriid Port Trapping and Inspection Program in Russia and Japan, and continue to expand the program to include South Korea and China
- Establish “sentinel” plantations in China and other countries to assess potential invaders
- Participate in risk assessments and analysis to continue to identify introduction and impact of potentially harmful invasive species

North American Countries have Strong Forest Pest Management Strategies:

- Continue to cooperate with Mexican forest health specialists in identifying and developing bark beetle management strategies
- Continue to cooperate and share information with Canadian forest health specialists on management of exotic species such as gypsy moth, *Sirex* woodwasp, and emerald ash borer

Biological Control Options are in Place to Protect U.S. Forests from Exotic Pests:

- Continue cooperative projects in China, Japan, the UK, and Switzerland to test potential biological control agents for invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed, mile-a-minute weed, Tree of Heaven, and garlic mustard.
- Continue to identify biological control for hemlock woolly adelgid

Forest Health Technology and Expertise are shared Worldwide:

- Provide technical expertise and share spray application technology
- Provide information, expertise and training on development of risk maps and risk-based programs
- Continue partnership with 4 FAO Regional Forestry Commissions
- Identify opportunities for participation in international activities for FHP specialist professional development