

THE THREAT OF *SIREX NOCTILIO* AND OTHER ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES IN AFRICA

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Forestry resources are very important for the socio-economic welfare of African Countries and there is recognition that the resource and international market need to be protected from the impact of alien invasive species for the good of the continent.

The paper describes the threat of alien invasive species to forest resources in Africa and the weak capacity of most African countries to deal with these threats through the application of sanitary and phytosanitary system (SPS) measures. resource limitations, inadequate trained personnel, poor awareness and lack of regional harmonisation are cited as the main reasons for the poor situation.

The paper proposes that that African countries should be better linked through regional networking on IAS, build their capacity, harmonisation their SPS activities and improve awareness of IAS issues at all levels. The paper introduces and describes the existing networking initiatives through the Forestry Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA) and seeks support from all African countries.