

## ITALIAN FOREST PATHOLOGIST VISITS FABI

Renowned forest pathologist and invasion biologist, Professor Alberto Santini from the Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection in the National Research Council of Italy, visited FABI in November. He is also the former PhD advisor of FABI Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Duccio Migliorini.



Dr Santini was on a visit to the country to attend an International Plant Sentinel Workshop and to establish a reciprocal programme between South Africa and Italy. This international initiative uses sentinel plants or plantations to detect in advance new pests and pathogens entering countries.

He also presented a special seminar at FABI entitled “Dutch elm disease in Italy, studies on its possible management”. This devastating disease of elm trees is caused by four *Ophiostoma* species. Dr Santini’s work has focused on ways of saving these iconic trees through breeding for resistance and biological control of the pathogen.