

PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMPENDING THREAT OF *SIREX NOCTILIO* TO AFRICA

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Gillian Allard, Forestry Officer (Forest Protection and Health), Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, has worked since 1997 in the FAO forest protection and health programme, which aims to safeguard the health and vitality of forests, forest ecosystems and trees outside forests. She has global responsibility for insects, diseases and woody invasive species. In this capacity she has worked in more than 30 countries, providing technical support to member countries to strengthen capacity through field projects to address specific forest health problems. Project activities range from emergency operations in Mongolia and DPR Korea to control outbreaks of the Siberian caterpillar to investigating diebacks in the Seychelles, Saudi Arabia and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Gillian provides technical support to recently developed information exchange networks and working groups on forest invasive species in Asia and the Pacific, North America and Africa. She is also participating in the development of further forest invasive species networks for the Near East and for the Southern Cone countries of South America.

Prior to joining FAO, Gillian worked in Africa for 12 years, including five years as Regional Coordinator for CABI on a cypress aphid project based in Nairobi, Kenya, where she coordinated activities in 11 countries in east and southern Africa.