

**Declaración de Montesclaros** (<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-7/70000/publications/montesclaros-declaration/>).

La idea de la Declaración de Montesclaros salió de la reunión del grupo de trabajo 7.02.02 del IUFRO celebrada en el Monasterio de Montesclaros en Cantabria del 23-27 de Mayo de este año (<http://www.iufro2011.com>), donde los 73 patólogos forestales participantes, pertenecientes a 17 países distintos, decidieron redactar este documento **con la idea de mitigar la incesante entrada de organismos exóticos que se está produciendo a escala global por el tráfico incontrolado de material vegetal.**

El texto de la declaración viene escrito al final de este correo, y en el correo que envía IUFRO podréis visualizar el texto en 13 idiomas, y el anexo completo, así como una dirección de correo a la que escribir si estáis interesados en apoyar la declaración ([noliveplants@gmail.com](mailto:noliveplants@gmail.com)).

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## LA DECLARACIÓN DE MONTESCLAROS

Escrita por un grupo de más de 70 científicos expertos en patología forestal (representando a 17 países) que asistieron a la reunión internacional del IUFRO1)-que tuvo lugar en el Monasterio de Montesclaros, Cantabria (España) del 23 al 27 de mayo de 2011. Como científicos con una amplia experiencia en el estudio de enfermedades forestales, queremos poner de manifiesto que el transporte indiscriminado de material vegetal está incrementando en gran medida el número de patologías forestales a escala global. Esta evidencia está basada en la gran cantidad de especies patógenas exóticas y plagas recientemente introducidas en bosques y plantaciones forestales en todas las partes del planeta, hecho sin precedentes en la historia de la humanidad. Por ello, proponemos una prohibición gradual de todo comercio de plantas y productos vegetales con riesgo para el ecosistema forestal y sin importante beneficio económico2).

1) IUFRO = Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal ([www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org))

2) Se considera todo comercio internacional de planta ornamental en envase forestal, así como árboles adultos para restauración forestal con bajo beneficio en términos económicos pero alto riesgo para la salud forestal. Hay que tener en cuenta que la producción de planta a bajo precio en diversos países para su plantación en otros muy diferentes y alejados proporciona unos beneficios netos muy marginales para el área, pero es la perfecta vía de dispersión para enfermedades y plagas. Además, el comercio internacional de otros materiales vegetales (madera para embalajes, astillas, trozos de corteza...) debe de ser analizado con detalle y estrictamente regulado.

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**Asunto:** IUFRO Spotlight #3: Montesclaros Declaration

**IUFRO Spotlight** is an initiative of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. Its aim is to introduce, in a timely fashion, significant findings in forest research from IUFRO officeholders and member organizations to a worldwide network of decision makers, policy makers and researchers.

IUFRO will encapsulate, and distribute in plain language, brief, topical and policy-relevant highlights of those findings, along with information on where/how to access the full documents. The **IUFRO Spotlight** findings will be distributed in a periodic series of emails as well as blog postings.

### **End trade in detrimental ornamentals to save forests**

*By Eckehard Brockerhoff, IUFRO Deputy Coordinator of Division 7 (SCION, New Zealand)*

In a provocative attempt to save the world's forests, a group of 70-plus scientists from 17 countries are asking trade policy makers around the globe to phase out such international trade in high-risk plants that put forest health at high risk while offering limited economic benefit.

If the scientists' proposal is implemented, it would mean an end to all international trade in containerized ornamental plant seedlings and trees intended as plants for instant landscape planting.

This particular trade segment, the scientists say, is of little benefit in terms of countries' overall economies but provides easy pathways for dispersal of tree pests and diseases. The scientists also suggest that international trade in other plant materials such as wood packaging and wood chips should be more strictly regulated and scrutinized.

A driving force behind the proposal is an unprecedented rise in the number of alien diseases and pests emerging in natural and planted forests worldwide.

In a supplement to their declaration they have included many examples of pests and diseases introduced through international trade that have caused, or are causing, immense economic and environmental damage in countries where they have been newly introduced.

Among the examples are: the pinewood nematode in Europe and North America; the emerald ash borer in North America and Russia; and the Sycamore-killing *Ceratocystis plantani* fungus in Mediterranean countries.

While the proposal by the scientists may seem a Draconian solution, and one that flies in the face of prevailing ideas of global free trade, there is unanimity among the community of forest pathologists about the devastating consequences of international and long-distance trade in live plants and some other plant materials.

These concerned scientists point out that current protocols

used to regulate pest and disease dispersal have been largely ineffective and the only efficient way to reduce these risks is to reduce, and eventually end, this particular trade.

The forest scientists developed their proposal following a IUFRO meeting in Spain earlier this year. It is articulated in a document they entitled the **Montesclaros Declaration**.

The complete Montesclaros Declaration can be found at:

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-7/70000/publications/montesclaros-declaration/>.

Individuals who wish to express their endorsement can send an email to [noliveplants@gmail.com](mailto:noliveplants@gmail.com) with contact information (address, etc).

The findings reported in **IUFRO Spotlight** are submitted by IUFRO officeholders and member organizations. IUFRO is pleased to highlight and circulate these findings to a broad audience but, in doing so, acts only as a conduit. The quality and accuracy of the reports are the responsibility of the member organization and the authors.

Suggestions for reports and findings that could be promoted through IUFRO Spotlight are encouraged. Please send them to: Gerda Wolfrum, [wolfrum@iufro.org](mailto:wolfrum@iufro.org). To be considered, reports should be fresh, have policy implications and be applicable to more than one country.

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is the only worldwide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences. Its members are research institutions, universities, and individual scientists as well as decision-making authorities and other stakeholders with a focus on forests and trees.

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*IUFRO Spotlight #3, published in December 2011*

*by IUFRO Headquarters, Vienna, Austria.*

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