



# NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization  
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

## NAPPO Executive Committee Position Paper

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**Issue: The role of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in addressing Invasive Alien Species**

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The International Plant Protection Convention defines an alien species as “an individual or population, at any life stage, or a viable part of an organism that is non-indigenous to an area and that has entered by human agency into the area” and invasive alien species “an alien species that by its establishment or spread has become injurious to plants, or that by risk analysis is shown to be potentially injurious to plants” (ISPM 5, Appendix 1).

The Convention on Biological Diversity defines alien species as “a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce”, and invasive alien species as “an alien species whose introduction and /or spread threaten biological diversity”.

Despite the difference in terminology, both of these international conventions recognize that invasive alien species (IAS) are an issue of global concern. As the volume of international trade and travel continues to rise, the opportunities for spread of new IAS are rapidly increasing.

In North America (Canada, the US and Mexico), NAPPO is the coordinating body for the protection of plant resources. In order to address IAS within its mission, NAPPO will conduct the following activities:

1. Provide guidance on preventing the introduction of IAS to North America, mainly through the development of regional phytosanitary standards.
2. Coordinate its efforts with other national, regional and international organizations in North America, particularly those related to the environment, through the work of its Invasive Species Panel.

NAPPO regional standards for phytosanitary measures will provide guidelines to the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) of Canada, Mexico and the United States to achieve a harmonized approach to mitigating the risks associated with harmful invasive alien plants and plant pests in natural environments, as they have traditionally been doing in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Both direct and indirect effects of invertebrate pests and pathogens of plants will be assessed. Plants themselves should also be assessed for invasiveness.

Invasive vertebrates that can damage plant resources are for the most part, covered under other jurisdictions. Since invasive alien vertebrate species are not covered in the scope of the International Plant Protection Convention it may be necessary for the NPPOs of Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to cooperate with other international organizations and conventions outside their regular network of co-operators to help address this gap.

NAPPO recognizes that although its scope may include all plants including aquatic (marine and freshwater plants) decisions for taking action will be determined within the national frameworks of the three countries, and subject to the availability of resources.

In some cases specific responsibilities for protection of some plants will best be provided by other non-agricultural organizations or conventions. Decisions for taking action will be determined within the national frameworks of the three countries, and subject to the availability of resources.

NAPPO also recognizes that not all IAS will be regulated pests.