**NPPO AND WOOD EXPORT IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO:**

**Phytosanitary certification process**

*Discussion paper by the NPPO of the Republic of Congo*

**INTRODUCTION**

The Republic of Congo is a country with forest dominance. It has a forest potential of 22 million ha. Wood is the main plant product of international trade, it is not immune to the export phytosanitary measures requiring the implementation of phytosanitary standards relating there to, including ISPM 15 and the requirements of importing countries.

The Direction of Agricultural Production and Plant Protection which acts as the National Organization for Plant Protection(NPPO) coordinates, through phytosanitary control posts, the process of certification for the export of wood which we describe below:

* **Documentary control and wood treatment**

The exporter provides a file comprising: an application for phytosanitary inspection and phytosanitary certificate, customs declaration, application processing and other documents concerning the company.

The NPPO examines the identity and completeness of the dossier. If the folder does not comply, it undergoes a rejection that the applicant must correct. If he complies, the NPPO inspects and supervision of treatment. Treatment is performed either by the forest exploitation companies themselves, or by the phytosanitary service delivery companies approved by the NPPO and under the supervision of the later.

* **Issuance of phytosanitary certificates and monitoring the integrity**

The phytosanitary certificate is issued after the treatment and must be renewed after another treatment, in case the shipment is shipping instance for a shorter or longer period. The NPPO monitors the phytosanitary quality of wood until his embarkation.

* **Constraints**

Despite what we have described above, the certification process for the export of wood is subject to many irregularities due to several constraints, putting the NPPO under the influence of notifications of non-compliance from the NPPO importing countries.

* **Organizational constraints**

The weakness in the coordination of the certification process for the export of timber, lack of traceability in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates inconsistent phytosanitary certificates by a phytosanitary control station to another, lack of rigor in monitoring documentary prelude to issuing the phytosanitary certificate.

* **Technical Constraints**

Insufficient staff in quantity and quality, the limited use of standard 15 for wood packaging, lack of diagnostic laboratory for the identification of pests intercepted, inadequate treatments applied to the wood.

* **Perspectives**

Given the constraints that we have just quoted, to avoid disputes with other Contracting Parties, the NPPO needs to meet the challenges here:

• Strengthen the capacity of the NPPO staff, the a priori positions phytosanitary control of IPPC and its standards. [[1]](#footnote-1)

• Disseminate ISPM 15 with logging companies, delivery companies phytosanitary and other exporters.

• Develop a single phytosanitary certificate for all plant quarantine stations, a model of the IPPC.

• Develop a guide for inspectors, building standards and the IPPC inspection manuals.

**CONCLUSION**

The realization of these perspectives is a major concern for the NPPO, but to get there, the development of partnership[[2]](#footnote-2) with stakeholders working in the field of plant health is essential to obtain necessary assistance to build its capacity, to help exporters of wood and wood-based packaging to comply with the requirements of importing countries.

1. ISPMs: Priority ISPMs for phytosanitary control, such as ISPMs 7, 12, 13, 20, 23, 25, 31, 32 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Partnerships on an international level, especially with the IPPC [↑](#footnote-ref-2)