

4. Damage reporting and action planning

4.1 Principles

4. DAMAGE REPORTING AND ACTION PLANNING

4.1 Principles

Based on the results of the damage survey a report should be prepared informing the relevant authorities, assessing the impact of the damage and making proposals for remedying the damage.

Acute forest damage can create an immense workload at the operational level and those most affected may lose a sense of direction. Planning is therefore essential to ensure that the recommendations are implemented. In the following section, more details are provided of these 2 aspects.

4.2 Damage reporting

Depending on the scale of the damage the damage report should be prepared by the Regional or National office of the Forestry Authority or the "National Forest Damage Committee".

An appropriate format for a report might be as follows.

Chapter 1: Extent of the damage

giving details of the area and locations affected and volume of timber by species group, ownership, product classes etc.

Chapter 2: Impact of the damage covering:

- ◆ Environmental effects including loss of the protective functions of the forests.
- ◆ Reaction of the market to an unexpected glut.
- ◆ Pathological and entomological aspects.
- ◆ Loss of profit due to timber degrade and reduced timber prices.
- ◆ Problems concerning manpower and machines.
- ◆ Costs and returns, of remedying the damage.

Chapter 3: Additional assistance

the need for which will depend on the extent of the damage, the assessed impacts and the existing resources of owners and contractors.

If self-help and existing assistance programmes are insufficient to handle the damage, new remedies may be proposed such as the reduction or redistribution of the annual cut or subsidies for harvesting, storage, transport, measures against insects, marketing of timber and restoration.

Official assistance can also be given by tax concessions and possibly by measures to stimulate exports.

4. Damage reporting and action planning

4.3 Action planning

4.3 Action planning

Once the assessment of the damage has been carried out priorities for harvesting should be determined and areas to be left uncleared identified. The following factors should be considered.

- ◆ Costs of harvesting, the value of the timber and the forecast return.
- ◆ Expected subsidies for remedying the damage.
- ◆ Availability of manpower and machines.
- ◆ Risk of flooding from accelerated run-off or blockage of watercourses.
- ◆ Risk of attack of the remaining healthy forest by insects.
- ◆ The value of dead wood as a habitat for insects.
- ◆ Implications for natural regeneration.

Some species are less susceptible to degrade if not severed from the stump allowing the period of harvesting to be extended. This type of "green storage" is most appropriate if the trees are not severed from the rootplate and not exposed to strong sunlight.

The chart below shows some of the different elements of an action plan and may be helpful in determining the operations required. It can be used to create an action plan which fits the specific situation.

Once the different operations are determined, it is advisable to draw up a timetable which shows the sequence of operations and timing as shown below.

4. Damage reporting and action planning
4.3 Action planning

4. Damage reporting and action planning
4.3 Action planning
