

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 961

04 SEPTEMBER 2020

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004
(ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)**

PROPOSED EMERGENCY INTERVENTION NOTICE IN TERMS SECTION 105A

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby publish for public comment, my intention to declare an emergency intervention in terms of section 105A of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), in respect of the shot-hole borer beetle *Euwallacea fornicatus* (Polyphagous) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Any person who wishes to submit representations or comments in connection with the proposed intervention, is invited to do so within 30 calendar days of the publication of this notice. Comments received after this time may not be considered. All representations and comments must be submitted in writing to the Deputy Director-General of the national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Branch: Environmental Programmes:

By hand: The Director
Attention: Mr. Michael Braack
National Department of Environment,
Forestry and Fisheries
Branch: Environmental Programmes
14 Loop Street, Cape Town

By post to: The Director
Attention: Mr. Michael Braack
National Department of Environment,
Forestry and Fisheries
Branch: Environmental Programmes
P.O. Box / Private Bag x4390
Cape Town, 8001

By email:
intervention105@environment.gov.za

Enquiries: Ms Shashika Maharaj at: 021 441 2707



**BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

Schedule

1. Reason for Intervention

- 1.1 The polyphagous shot-hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) – and its fungal symbiont (*Fusarium euwallaceae*), (referred to collectively in this notice as the “shot-hole borer”) is an invasive species from south-east Asia.
- 1.2 It is known to be able to cause the deaths of 21 species of trees (listed in Annexure 1) in South Africa, including indigenous species. The number of species that it can kill may grow, as it is a recent invader into the country. It is also known to bore into a further 58 species of trees, but does not appear to cause their deaths.
- 1.3 The shot-hole borer is able to fly, but its rapid spread is overwhelmingly increased by the movement of infested wood. It has the potential to invade in virtually all parts of the country.
- 1.4 Shot-hole borer weaken and can kill trees through their tunnelling activities and the associated fungal symbionts. They drill into tree trunks and branches, excavating galleries in the wood and they live in these galleries eating the fungi and reproducing. Within a few weeks mated females emerge and either remain on their natal tree or fly to new trees perpetuating the infestation. The numerous tunnels and spreading of the fungal symbionts can undermine the structural integrity of the tree or block the water-transporting vessels in the xylem and cause the progressive death of the tree. The loss of trees could have significant impacts on the economy, on biological diversity, water security, wild fires and soil erosion, as well as safety issues and a loss of quality of life.
- 1.5 The shot-hole borer is currently known to be found in the following areas in South Africa:

Eastern Cape: Kareedouw (Kaukamma),

Makhanda (Makana)

Free State: Bloemfontein (Mangaung)

Gauteng: Bedfordview (Ekurhuleni)

Craighall Park; Hurlingham; Lanseria; Roodepoort; Sandton
(City of Johannesburg)

Pretoria (Tshwane)

Kwazulu-Natal: Bellair; Berea; Gillets; Kloof (Ethekwini)

New Guelderland; Shaka's Rock (KwaDukuza)

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Pietermaritzburg (Msunduzi) |
| | Felixton (uMhlathuze) |
| | Umzumbi (Ray Nkonyeni) |
| Mpumalanga: | Nelspruit (Mbombela) |
| Northern Cape: | Jan Kempdorp (Haartswater) |
| Western Cape: | George (George) |
| | Knysna, Sedgefield (Knysna) |
| | Somerset West (City of Cape Town) |

2. Details relating to the intervention

The following measure are hereby determined in order to control the breeding and spread of the shot-hole borer:

- 2.1 Any owner or occupier of land in areas listed in paragraph 1.5 above, must report the presence of shot-hole borer on any of the species of trees listed in Annexure 1, to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, to Ms Shashika Maharaj at:
Email: intervention105@environment.gov.za **or by telephone: 021 441 2707.**
- 2.2 No person may move, transport or convey any of the species listed in Annexure 1, including as firewood, into any protected area declared in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003).
- 2.3 No person may sell any specimen or wood that is infested with the shot-hole borer.

ANNEXURE 1

The shot-hole borer is known to kill the following species of trees in South Africa:

| Indigenous Species | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Scientific name | Common name |
| 1. <i>Brachylaena discolor</i> | Coast silver oak |
| 2. <i>Combretum krausii</i> | Forest bushwillow |
| 3. <i>Combretum erythrophyllum</i> | River bushwillow |
| 4. <i>Erythrina caffra</i> | Coast coral tree |
| 5. <i>Podalyria calyptrata</i> | Water blossom pea |
| 6. <i>Psoralea pinata</i> | Fountain bush |
| 7. <i>Salix mucronata</i> | Cape willow |
| 8. <i>Virgilia oroboides subsp. ferruginea</i> | Keurboom |
| Alien Species | |
| 9. <i>Acer palmatum</i> | Japanese maple |
| 10. <i>Brachychiton discolor</i> | Pink flame tree |
| 11. <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Liquid amber (American sweetgum) |
| 12. <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> | Southern magnolia |
| 13. <i>Pearsea americana</i> | Avocado |
| 14. <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> | London plane |
| 15. <i>Quercus palustris</i> | Pin oak |
| 16. <i>Quercus robur</i> | English oak |
| 17. <i>Ricinus communis</i> | Castor-oil plant |
| 18. <i>Salix alba</i> | White willow |
| Invasive Alien Species | |
| 19. <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> | Blackwood |
| 20. <i>Acacia mearnsii</i> | Black wattle |
| 21. <i>Acer buergerianum</i> | Trident (Chinese) maple |
| 22. <i>Acer negundo</i> | Boxelder |
| 23. <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> | Honey locust |
| 24. <i>Ricinus communis</i> | Castor-oil plant |