

# Safe pathways - Systems approach (India)

Start date: May 2023

Updated as at: December 2025



## Project purpose and link to strategy

In 2019 New Zealand exported circa \$300m of logs to India and has historically valued the Indian log market opportunity at between \$300-\$400m. Methyl bromide has been the only phytosanitary treatment option available for bulk log shipments to India. Use of the fumigant on logs in ship holds to India was constrained during 2022 and prohibited by the EPA from 1 January 2023. This decision led to a significant decline in the export of bulk logs to India.

Phytos is focused on ensuring market access solutions for New Zealand's log exports. As such it initiated 3 work streams that aim to recommence the trade of logs with India. The systems approach (using phosphine) is one of the 3 work streams. Phytos is working with Industry and MPI to develop a practical phytosanitary system that has multiple risk mitigation measures supported by technical data.



## Project description, method and scope

The project identifies, sources and coordinates technical and risk mitigation information such as the current forest pest surveillance program, the production site registration process, post-harvest pest management procedures, inspection procedures, post harvest treatment options and MPI phytosanitary certification procedures.

Phytos worked with Industry and MPI to develop a technical proposal which was shared and discussed with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW) in terms of getting the system approach approved for use.

Phytos also worked with quality assurance partner (IVS) to develop a Draft Official Assurance Programme (OAP) for MPI.

Out of scope parameters include logs intended for export within containers and species other than *P.radiata*.



## Project objectives

**The objective of the project is;**

- To provide a technical proposal outlining a systems approach to mitigate the quarantine pest risk for New Zealand logs to India that is acceptable to both MPI and DAFW and that;
- Meets MPI Plant Export standards
- Includes the use of phosphine as a phytosanitary treatment
- Provides a feasible option for exporting logs to India and leverages off current industry systems



## Project stakeholders/end users

Stakeholders of this project include MPI, log exporters, forest owners, IVS, treatment providers, forest pest surveillance experts and DAFW.



## Implementation and milestones

### Scoping the proposal

Terms of reference completed 31 May 2023.

The scoping process also involved discussions with Industry, subject matter experts (such as SPS Biota, Scion, IVS, Genera etc) and MPI regarding key mitigation measures and the most effective overall approach.

### Proposal

Work to develop an initial draft proposal progressed through May and July 2023. A draft proposal was submitted to MPI in early August.

Phytos represented the NZ forest industry as part of the September NZ business delegation to India. Minister O'Connor presented his counterpart, the Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, with the systems approach proposal for review and feedback.

The positive response from India led to Phytos overseeing a technical response to a limited number of queries posed by India's Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (PPQS). The second (enhanced) proposal was delivered by Minister McClay in late October 2024.

### Positive feedback

In late 2024 PPQS requested further information relating to a potential trial of the systems approach.

In response Phytos facilitated an industry working group to develop a practical, safe and traceable system that would enable the shipment of logs from New Zealand to India.

### Request for trial and system development

During 2025 the 'Safe pathways – systems approach' was further refined with a focus on ensuring that the industry supply chain can practically deliver and provide the levels of traceability required for a trial.

The 'Safe pathways - systems approach' is now at the stage where operational discussions relating to a trial can take place.

## Progress indicator



Current status