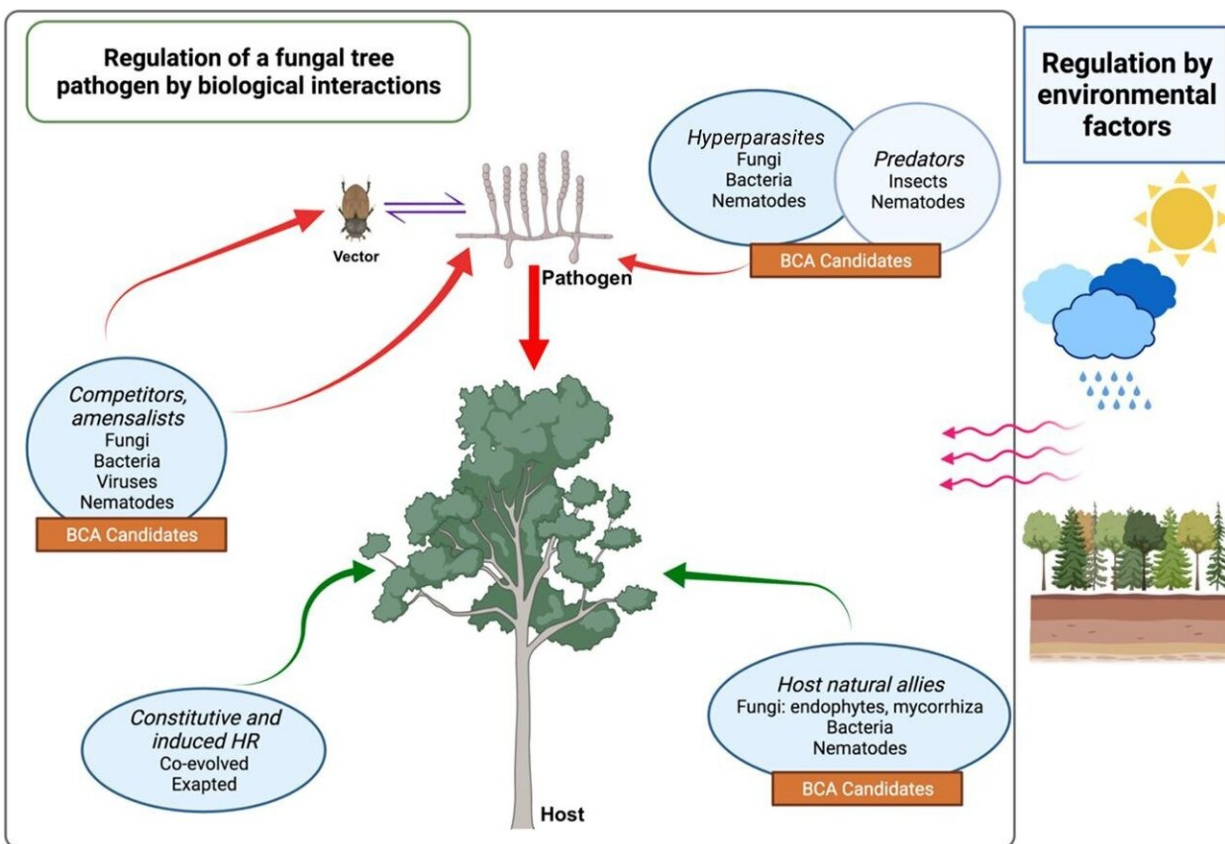


Science-based policy-making: New recommendations for forest pests and diseases management

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Graphical abstract. Credit: *Forest Ecology and Management* (2021). DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2021.119377

Over the last century, emerging diseases have progressively been recognized by the scientific community as the main threat to forest ecosystems. With increasing international trade and globalization, the introduction of non-native species into new environments has exacerbated the problems of emerging pests and diseases worldwide. Additionally, other factors, such as climate change, further complicate matters by altering host-pathogen interactions, thus promoting the spread of diseases caused by native or non-native pathogens.

In this complex context, the EU-funded research project HOMED (HOlistic Management of Emerging forest pests and Diseases, grant agreement No. 771271) is dedicated to developing evidence-based [policy recommendations](#) that ensure the effective prevention, detection, identification, eradication, containment or control of emerging pests and diseases. As part of this effort, the project has a collection of policy briefs, specifically addressing policy-makers, and presenting them with well-defined insights, guidelines and possible solutions for different risks related to invasive forest pests and pathogens in Europe. HOMED's collection of policy briefs has recently doubled in size, thanks to the publication of briefs number four, five and six.

The fourth policy brief, titled "Biological control: a novel approach to managing emerging forest diseases" is based on the article "Biological control of emerging forest diseases: How can we move from dreams to reality?" which was prepared in the framework of the project by Simone Prospero, Leticia Botella, Alberto Santini and Cécile Robin and was published in the scholarly journal *Forest Ecology and Management*. It provides suggestions on how to improve protocols and strategies related to the use of biological control in order to achieve an effective control of a pest.

The fifth brief, called "Classical biological control against [insect pests](#): What influences its success?" provides recommendations aiming to

increase the success of future classical biological control programs against insect pests. It was developed on the basis of a scientific article ("Classical [biological control](#) against insect pests in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East: What influences its success?") by HOMED project partners Lukas Seehausen, Catarina Afonso, Hervé Jactel, and Marc Kenis that was published in the open access scholarly journal *Neobiota*.

The sixth policy brief is titled "Preventing invasions of Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle in Europe." It is based on a research article, published in the *Journal of Pest Science*, titled "Preventing invasions of Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle: are we on the right track?" which was prepared in the framework of the HOMED project by Sofia Branco, Massimo Faccoli, Eckehard G. Brockerhoff, Géraldine Roux, Hervé Jactel, Nicolas Desneux, Emmanuel Gachet, Raphaëlle Mouttet, Jean-Claude Streito, and Manuela Branco. This brief focuses on the prevention of invasions of Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle, both of which have unintentionally arrived in North America and Europe.

With these three new policy briefs, HOMED now has six briefs available on its [website](#), providing policy- and decision-makers with practical and comprehensive insights on how to employ innovative solutions in order to manage potential risks of emerging or invasive forest pests and pathogens in Europe.

More information: Simone Prospero et al, Biological control of emerging forest diseases: How can we move from dreams to reality?, *Forest Ecology and Management* (2021). [DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2021.119377](#)

Sofia Branco et al, Preventing invasions of Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle: are we on the right track?, *Journal of Pest Science*

(2021). [DOI: 10.1007/s10340-021-01431-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10340-021-01431-x)

M. Lukas Seehausen et al, Classical biological control against insect pests in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East: What influences its success?, *NeoBiota* (2021). [DOI: 10.3897/neobiota.65.66276](https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.65.66276)

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