**THE REPORT OF THE IPPC SECRETARIAT**

Introduction

1. This report covers the IPPC work programme from 1 January to 30 September 2012, the second year of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2011-2019). As noted below in the operational results, the Secretariat was active in all of the strategic objectives of the Strategic Framework, posted below:
2. Protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security through the prevention of pest spread
3. Protect the environment, forests, and biodiversity from plant pests
4. Facilitate economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically-based phytosanitary measures
5. Develop phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish A, B and C
6. Effective collaboration with members and stakeholders
7. Efficient and effective administration
8. The Membership of the IPPC remains at 177 contracting parties with no changes since CPM-7 (2012). Various planned meetings took place in 2012. In addition, it should be noted that:
* continuous efforts to develop and implement specific strategies are ongoing;
* continuous efforts to develop standards under the revised process are ongoing;
* the newly established Capacity Development Committee (CDC) is scheduled to begin working in December, 2012, and the Phytosanitary Resource Page (www.phytosanitary.info) is now available;
* five regional workshops for the purpose of providing comments on draft standards, as well as seven Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS regional workshops) covering the implementation of ISPMs 2, 4 and 6 took place;
* The IPPC Secretariat resource availability remains critical. However, a number of countries and organizations provided funds and other types of resources in response to the IPPC Secretariat resource mobilization efforts. In addition, such efforts have focused on more sustainable resources, with a view to balancing efforts costs and real benefits.
* Table 1 is intended to provide SPG members with a quick overview of events in which the IPPC Secretariat participated and will participate during 2012.

**Table 1: Calendar of Activities in which the IPPC Secretariat participated in 2012**

|  | **CPM, SPTA, Bureau** | **Standard setting** | **Information exchange / dispute settlement** | **Capacity development** | **IRSS / PCE** | **Others****(including resource mobilization/awareness/ liaison)** | **FAO** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jan |  |  |  |  | WS on Surveillance16-18 [Egypt]17-20 [Armenia]24-26 [Barbados]30-3 [Ghana]31-3 [Thailand] |  |  |
| Feb |  | *15/2-01/06: Call, TPG experts**15/2-01/06: Call, TPDP experts**15/2-01/06: Call, TPPT experts**15/2-30/9: Call, PTs*16: TPPT [virtual]23: TPFQ [virtual] |  |  | 6-10 [Ghana]22-23 [Chile] |  | 26-1: NERC |
| Mar | 15-16: Bureau19-23: CPM7 |  | 13-14: SBDS |  | 17: Triennial Review Group | 26-29: SPS [Switzerland]29-30:STDF | 12-16: APRC [Vietnam]19-21: CCLM26-30: LARC [Argentina] |
| Apr |  | 02: TPFQ [virtual]23-27: SC28, 30: SC7 |  |  |  |  | 17-20: ERC [Azerbaijan]23-27: ARC [Congo] |
| May |  | *15/5-30/9: Substantial Concerns Commenting Period (SCCP)*28-1: EWG (sea containers) [Malaysia]30: TPPT (virtual) |  | 21-25:EWG CD [Australia] |  | 14-16: RM [Germany]21-25: QBOL EPPO (DNA Bar-coding) [Netherlands]31-1: UNECE (extended Bureau) [UK] | 7-11: FC, PC21-25: COAG |
| Jun | 15-16: FC18-22: Bureau | *1/6-31/7: Member consultation on draft specs* |  | 25-30: SPS WS [Chile] | 14-15: PCE [Armenia] | 4-6: RM (EC) [Belgium]13-17: RM [US] | 11-15: Council20-22 Rio+20 |
| Jul |  | *1/7- 20/10: Member consultation on draft ISPMs**06/07-31/08: Call, TPG experts**06/07-31/08: Call, TPPT experts*06: TPFQ [virtual] |  | 9-13:Regional WS, Eastern Europe and Central Asia9-12: IAS WS [Switzerland15-19: STDF project [Viet Nam] | 2-11: PCE facilitator training [Gabon] | 16-18: RM [Korea] | 2-7: CODEX |
| Aug | 21-23: Focus Group (RoPs of Bureau) |  |  |  |  | 27-31: TC-RPPOs [Fiji] |  |
| Sep |  | 10: TPFQ [virtual]12: TPPT [virtual]17-21: IFQRG [UK]24-26: Cool Logistics Global conference [Belgium]*12/09-01/11: Call, DP authors* | 11-14: ePhyto [Paris] | Regional WS3-7 Asia9-13 Near East10-14 Africa17-21 SW Pacific17-21 Caribbean24-28 L. America 10-14 Palestine mission [Israel]24-28: SPS WS [Ethiopia |  | ] | 10-12: CCLM |
| Oct | 8: FC9-11: SPG12: Bureau | 15-19: TPGTBD: TPPT [virtual]  |  | 1-5: TCP backstop [Burundi]1-5: TC (SPS legislation) [Lao]11-12: STDF22-24 Advanced SPS Geneva | 29-2: APPPC symposium on surveillance [Korea]15-19: TCP PCE [Equatorial Guinea] | 1-5: Cartagena P. COP MOP68-19: CBD COP11 [India]15-16: SPS WS on transparency [Switzerland]16-18: SPS [Switzerland] | 8-12: FC, PC16: WFD15-20: CFS |
| Nov |  | 12-16: SC26-30: TPDP [France] | 1-3: Information exchange workshop [Gabon]13-15: ePhyto WS [Brazil] | 5-9: TCP backstop [Armenia]19-23 SPS WS Central EuropeAustria27-30 PANSPSO-WTO-SPS workshopSenegal 12-16CBD WS on IAS Saudi Arabia |  | 12-16: Montreal Protocol, COP MOP24 [Switzerland] | 26-30: Council |
| Dec | 10-14: Bureau | 3-7: TPPT [Japan]TBD: TPFQ [virtual] |  |  |  |  |  |

\*The schedule from October onwards shows the plan and has not been implemented yet.

Standard setting (Objectives A, C and X)

1. All standard setting meetings, both face to face and virtual are displayed in Table 1.
2. Meeting reports for all standard setting activities and related documents and presentations are posted on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13352>).
3. The Secretariat has reformatted the Chinese versions of adopted ISPMs and added details of the history of the development and publication for each standard.
4. The Secretariat began to phase in the CPM-7 (2012) adopted standard setting process and submitted draft ISPMs to both member consultation and the new substantial concerns commenting period (SCCP).
5. Two specifications were submitted to member consultation.
6. Several call for experts were made in 2012 as well as a call for phytosanitary treatment submissions.
7. A cost-sharing plan and 5-year plan for the OCS are being developed with CODEX Alimentarius.
8. A number of specific standard setting activities will be explained in more detail in various papers that will be presented to CPM-8 (2013) hereunder related to:
	1. Language review groups
	2. Co-publishing agreements
	3. Adoption of existing ISPMs in the Russian language
	4. Adoption of ISPMs including diagnostic protocols and phytosanitary treatments

Information exchange (Objectives A, C, D and X)

1. More detailed statistics regarding IPPC contact points and IPPC contracting parties meeting their national reporting obligations can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110726&L=0>
2. Table 2 shows the number of changes to IPPC contact points, information points and IPP editors. The Secretariat is responsible for the initial registration of all IPP users and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) or regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) are then responsible for updating their contact information. Considerable time is spent communicating with NPPOs and RPPOs regarding changing contact points and editors who no longer have IPPC responsibilities.

**Table 2: Maintenance of IPPC contact points and editors in 2012**

|  |
| --- |
| **Contracting Parties**  |
|  | **# Sept 2012** | **% Changed** | **% Updated** |
| **Official contact points** | 169 | 23.2% | 47.6% |
| **Unofficial contact points** | 8 |
| **Editors** | 205 |  |  |
| **Non Contracting Parties** |
|  | **# Sept 2012** | **% Changed** | **% Updated** |
| **Information points** | 16 | 6.2% | 12.4% |
| **Editors** | 9 |  |  |
| **Registered Users** |
|  | **# in 2012** | **% Increase in 2012** | **# in 2012** |
| **Total Users** | 1126 | 07.9% | 89 |

1. Table 3 provides statistics on the amount of new and updated information on the IPP by both countries and the Secretariat. This shows a steady growth in information made available by some NPPOs in meeting their information exchange obligations as stipulated in the IPPC, but the total number of countries reporting has unfortunately not increased.

**Table 3: New and updated phytosanitary information maintained by NPPOs and the Secretariat in the IPP**

|  |
| --- |
| **Updates/change on IPP** |
|  | **# in 2011** | **% Increase / decrease** | **# to 1 Oct. 2012** | **Total** |
| **Countries** |  |
| **New** | 227 | 13.0% | 229 | 1761 |
| **updates** | 178 | 24.2% | 191 | 790 |
| **Secretariat** |  |
| **New** | 450 | 18.7% | 446 | 3502 |
| **updates** | 283 | 8.0% | 190 | 2380 |

1. General usage statistics continue to show growth that was supported by migration to new hardware and software platforms. There was an increase of 32 percent in the number of visits to the website, a 123 percent increase in page views, and 147 percent increase in the volume of information viewed or downloaded. There is a healthy and consistent 24 percent of users that spent more than 2 minutes on the website, i.e. they are presumed to be regular users or from the phytosanitary community.
2. The IPPC is now communicating with a broader phytosanitary community to increase awareness and profile using social media tools:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facebook** | broader IPPC news interaction forum | <http://www.facebook.com/pages/IPPC-News/113230338690380> |
| **Twitter** | IPPC news service linked to other social media accounts | [www.twitter.com/ippcnews](http://www.twitter.com/ippcnews) |
| **LinkedIn** | IPPC interface for professionals | [www.linkedin.com/groups/IPPC-International-Plant-Protection-Convention-3175642?home=&gid=3175642&trk=anet\_ug\_hm](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/IPPC-International-Plant-Protection-Convention-3175642?home=&gid=3175642&trk=anet_ug_hm) |
| **Flickr** | IPPC image database | [www.flickr.com/groups/international\_plant\_protection\_convention/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/international_plant_protection_convention/) |

1. Please join and participate (by posting information and comments on other posts) in these phytosanitary communities and encourage others to do the same.
2. Knowledge and information management support across all objectives continues to increase as reflected in Table 7.

**Activities supporting all IPPC Strategic Objectives:**

1. In regard to the operation and maintenance of the IPPC website, the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP: [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)), the following tasks have been completed for the various IPPC goals in 2012:

General

Migrating entire IPPC website/s to the Drupal Content Management System (CMS) as the current Typo 3 is not able to adequately deliver the web IPPC requirements.

Maintenance: bugs fixed and minor improvements in user interface.

Discussion forums maintained and new ones established.

All software updated and new software security checks introduced.

Ongoing translation of navigation text maintained in 6 FAO languages.

Survey tools maintained.

* Provided technical support for calls, e-decisions, polls, forums, permissions and work areas.

Routine support provided for updates: NPPO Official Contact Points, NPPO Editors, RPPO contact points, responded to user queries, managed user accounts, etc.

* User and Editor Manual maintained.
* The Online Comment System (OCS), launched in June 2011, for member consultation on draft ISPMs continues to be a great success; in fact, a greater number of countries are using it than in 2011. It continues to be used during regional workshops held to review draft ISPMs.
* Some members and international organizations have expressed an interest utilizing the OCS for their own commenting purposes. Codex Alimentarius is in the final stages of modifying the system for their own use.

Provided technical support for updating pages, surveys and calls.

* PCE (Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation) updated based on user feedback.
* The Phytosanitary Resources website ([www.phytosanitary.info](http://www.phytosanitary.info)) is of increasing importance and engagement with countries is growing. In addition to a number of key publications, this site now contains:
	+ IPPC E-learning Course on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA): <http://www.phytosanitary.info/2012/mar/13/ippc-e-learning-course-pest-risk-analysispra/>
	+ Phytosanitary Capacity Development Projects Database: <http://projects.phytosanitary.info/>
	+ Phytosanitary Capacity Development Activities Database: <http://activities.phytosanitary.info/>
	+ Phytosanitary Capacity Development Roster of Consultants: <http://consultants.phytosanitary.info/>
* The APPPC website [http://www.apppc.org](http://www.apppc.org/) is autonomously run by APPPC and the infrastructure now available for other RPPOs – The Secretariat is engaged in discussions with NEPPO about the possible use. Providing ongoing maintenance support.

Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) page established.

* The page is undergoing continual improvements, which will include the Helpdesk facility.
1. Activities related to the development of new and additional products for the Secretariat required significant amounts of time during the past year. They are difficult to represent in the text of this document as they are yet to be completed. Nevertheless, the amount of effort and time related to development activities is considerable and this is noted here in order to acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard.

**Dispute Settlement (Objectives C and X)**

1. Due to resource constraints, the Secretariat has not been in a position to completely support this activity as initially agreed.
2. There is one outstanding official phytosanitary dispute that has still not been addressed. An initial discussion between parties was held in March 2011 but this was not followed up with formal consultations as agreed.
3. The SBDS met in March, 2012.
4. There were no informal consultations of phytosanitary disputes in 2012.
5. The SBDS was unable to meet in August 2012 as planned due to limited resources to service this meeting.

**Capacity Development (Objectives D and X)**

1. The terms of reference and Rules of Procedure for a Capacity Development Committee were adopted at CPM-7 (2012). A call for candidates was released in July 2012 and nominations are being reviewed by the Bureau to attend the first meeting in December 2012.
2. In response to the adoption of the Capacity Building Strategy (CPM-5 (2010) and through the guidance provided by the Expert Working Group on Capacity Development (EWG CD), significant progress continues to be made in implementing this strategy which has also increased the visibility and level of activity of the work under Objective D. Concrete efforts in terms of communication and awareness-raising are being currently performed.
3. Various collaborative activities with other teams in FAO (i.e. food safety, seed and pesticide and forestry groups) and with various other organizations or partnerships (i.e. IICA, Standard Trade Development Facility (STDF) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)) were undertaken in 2012.
4. A PRA E-learning training course was developed in cooperation with IICA, based on developments by the IAGPRA. This resource is available in English and Spanish and has been used in the framework of the previously mentioned collaborative efforts.
5. A call to all IPPC contracting parties, Regional Plant Protection Organizations and relevant organizations was made for currently available technical resources and to authorize their use by the IPPC. The call yielded around 300 phytosanitary technical resources.
6. The phytosanitary technical resources web site was established to make all these technical resources available to the world’s plant protection community. After simple registration, anyone is able to contribute phytosanitary technical resources for consideration as a global resource.
7. The global project “Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Procedures and Training Kits”, funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility, is being implemented by the IPPC Secretariat (2012-2014). The objective of this project is to develop a stable foundation of internal systems for plant health which will improve ability for productive trade relationships and ultimately food security in developing countries.
8. This project will develop 20 phytosanitary technical resources to support an effective imple­mentation of the IPPC and its standards by countries. These resources will help National Plant Protection Organizations fulfil their roles and responsibilities to improve/maintain ex­ternal market access and/or support national import and export certification programmes.
9. Two project proposals have been developed under the initiative of the EWG CD and presented by IPPC member countries to the STDF, with the support of several other developed and developing countries (Training of Trainers for Phytosanitary Capacity Development and Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators) and are in the process to be considered by this partnership. In both, the IPPC Secretariat is proposed as the implementation agency.
10. Seven workshops on the review of draft ISPMS were held in 2012.
11. One workshop on surveillance is being organized jointly with the APPPC and with financial support from Korea, in October 2012, to develop the necessary guidance to support the productions of technical resources after the gaps and needs identification on surveillance performed by the IRSS.
12. Five support actions to facilitate application of the PCE have been undertaken through October 2012. The lists of requests for support involve currently more than 25 other countries
13. The IPPC Secretariat supported the WTO-SPS technical assistance programme through direct participation of Secretariat and bureau members, as well as with the provision of technical materials for the workshops and an advanced SPS course.
14. The IPPC Secretariat has undertaken missions (Palestine mission on SPS issues) and actions (Legal study on the COMESA Green Pass and further collaborative actions) as part of an SPS team in FAO.
15. The CD area is collaborating with the development of e-learning materials on the guide to implementation of international standards in the forestry sector.

Strategic planning (Objectives C, X and Y)

1. The IPPC strategic framework, a resource mobilization strategy, and capacity building work plan were adopted in CPM7, and a communication strategy was **r**evised based on discussions in CPM7 and Bureau meetings.
2. In addition, a communications strategy and workplan have been prepared for review and discussion at the October 2012 meeting of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG)

Advocacy (Objectives C, X and Y)

1. There was a significant effort by the entire Secretariat in 2012 to generate advocacy material to increase awareness of our activities and to support resource mobilization efforts. Efforts to expand the amount of information available are ongoing and steps have been taken to ensure advocacy material is more freely available and updated regularly.

**Table 4: Summarizes the total number of news articles and other advocacy material published by the Secretariat over the past 4 years (\* = being revised).**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Link | New number of articles / items |
| 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | Oct 2012 |
| News |  | 33 | 92 | 67 | 53 |
| Press release |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Videos |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Factsheets |  |  |  | 3 | 5 |
| Flyers |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| Brochures |  |  |  |  | 1\* |
| Publications |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| Posters |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |

* IPPC advocacy material, in FAO languages when available, is available through:
* IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=6&L=0>
* IPPC 60th anniversary website: <https://www.ippc.int/60years/media/>.

Staffing (Objective Y)

1. In 2012, significant efforts were made to fill the vacant regular programme post of the assistant standard officer. While forced to hold the process due to FAO decisions of freezing recruitment, finally the offer was made to and accepted by a candidate (to be appointed shortly).
2. Within the budget available, various short term staff members were recruited and interns/volunteers contributed to the IPPC activities in their capacity.

Reporting and in-kind contributions from contracting parties and organizations (Objectives X and Y)

1. The IPPC Secretariat would like to recognize the donations to the Trust Fund for the IPPC which are also noted in the Financial Report for 2012. The IPPC Secretariat would also like to recognize the generous in-kind support provided and which are shown in Tabel 5.

**Table 5: Financial and** **in-kind contributions to support the IPPC work programme (Jan - September 2012)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Contributing Contracting Party/ Organization** | **Contribution** | **Use of the contribution** |
| **Countries** |
| Australia | Trust fund for meeting and activities related to capacity development, information exchange and standard setting | Support to the EWG CD and 2 consultants for the Capacity Development (including information exchange) and 1 for standard setting |
| Brazil | Hosting and financing of workshop | Upcoming ePhyto Workshop |
| Canada | 2 staff members | standard setting support (part time: 25%)  |
| China | Translation  | IPP, Chinese |
| EU | Trust Fund for participation | Travel assistance for participations to various meetings |
| EU | Trust Fund for IRSS programme | Implementation of IRSS programme including consultant recruitment |
| France | 1 staff member | 1 staff to support standard setting [26 months from March 2012] |
| Japan | 2 staff members | 1 staff to support standard setting (until March) and 2 staff for CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks)  |
| Japan | Trust fund for 1 staff member | 1 staff to support capacity development (4 years from coming November) |
| Japan | Arrangement associated with CPM | Event support |
| Japan | Meeting host | TPPT meeting arrangements |
| New Zealand | 2 staff members | standard setting support (part time: 5% through August 2012 and 10%)  |
| Republic of Korea | Meeting host and funds for some participant travel | Regional workshop on draft ISPMs, coming IRSS related symposium  |
| Russian Federation | Meeting host and partial funds for some participant travel | Regional workshop on draft ISPMs, Russian speaking countries |
| Switzerland | Trust Fund to support standard setting | Support EWGs (2) and TPDP annual meetings, and contribute towards a part-time assistant (2 years) |
| United Kingdom | A staff member | CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks) |
| United States | Trust fund for 1 staff member | 1 staff to support standard setting under APO programme (until July 2012) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Regional Plant Protection Organizations** |
| APPPC, EPPO, IAPSC, PPPO, OIRSA and COSAVE  | Organization assistance | Regional workshops on draft ISPMs in each region |
| APPPC | Organization and funded some meeting participants | Regional workshop and coming IRSS related symposium |
| OIRSA and COSAVE | Funded some meeting participants | Regional workshops  |
| COSAVE | Arrangement associated with CPM | Event support |
| EPPO | Meeting host | ePhyto workshop + TPDP meeting arrangements |
| NAPPO | A staff member | CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks) |
| PPPO  |  | Organization of the 24th TC among RPPOs |
| **Organizations** |
| IICA | Meeting host and funded some meeting participants | Regional workshop on draft ISPMs for Latin America  |
| IAEA/FAO Joint division | 1 staff member | standard setting support (part time: 5%)  |
| **Collaborative programmes** |
| Several contracting parties, regional organizations and international organizations | Meeting host | EWGs, TPs and workshops |

**Table 6: Financial and in-kind contributions to support the IPPC work programme (Jan - Sep 2012)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Contributing Contracting Party/ Organization** | **Contribution** | **Use of the contribution** |
| **Countries** |
| Australia | Trust fund for meeting and activities related to capacity development, information exchange and standard setting | Support to the EWG CD and 2 consultants for the Capacity Development (including information exchange) and 1 for standard setting |
| Brazil | Hosting and financing of workshop | Upcoming ePhyto Workshop |
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| Japan | 2 staff members | 1 staff to support standard setting (until March) and 2 staff for CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks)  |
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| Japan | Arrangement associated with CPM | Event support |
| Japan | Meeting host | TPPT meeting arrangements |
| New Zealand | 2 staff members | standard setting support (part time: 5% through August 2012 and 10%)  |
| Republic of Korea | Meeting host and funds for some participant travel | Regional workshop on draft ISPMs, coming IRSS related symposium  |
| Russian Federation | Meeting host and partial funds for some participant travel | Regional workshop on draft ISPMs, Russian speaking countries |
| Switzerland | Trust Fund to support standard setting | Support EWGs (2) and TPDP annual meetings, and contribute towards a part-time assistant (2 years) |
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| United States | Trust fund for 1 staff member | 1 staff to support standard setting under APO programme (until July 2012) |

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| --- |
| **Regional Plant Protection Organizations** |
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| APPPC | Organization and funded some meeting participants | Regional workshop and coming IRSS related symposium |
| OIRSA and COSAVE | Funded some meeting participants | Regional workshops  |
| COSAVE | Arrangement associated with CPM | Event support |
| EPPO | Meeting host | ePhyto workshop + TPDP meeting arrangements |
| NAPPO | A staff member | CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks) |
| PPPO  |  | Organization of the 24th TC among RPPOs |
| **Organizations** |
| IICA | Meeting host and funded some meeting participants | Regional workshop on draft ISPMs for Latin America  |
| IAEA/FAO Joint division | 1 staff member | standard setting support (part time: 5%)  |
| **Collaborative programmes** |
| Several contracting parties, regional organizations and international organizations | Meeting host | EWGs, TPs and workshops |

Status of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution (Objective Y)

1. Various meetings were held in FAO to discuss the operational autonomy options available for Article XIV bodies. Also, a questionnaire was circulated to FAO member countries and relevant FAO meetings will discuss the results, including a meeting of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters during the week of October 8.

Procedural Manual (Objective X)

1. The Secretariat is in the process of updating the IPPC Procedural Manual to reflect decisions and procedures made up to and including the Seventh Session of the Commission (CPM-7 (2012)) and the May 2012 meeting of the Standards Committee (SC). The updated manual will be only available electronically in English and is posted on the IPP.
2. The Secretariat was represented at a range of meetings with international and regional organizations (See Table 1).

IRSS (Objective A, B, C, D and X)

1. The first year of the 3-year IRSS cycle was delivered with the establishment of the IRSS webpage. The webpage will be undergoing continual improvements, which will include the Helpdesk facility.
2. Additional activities conducted included initiating studies on the challenges for implementation of ISPM 17 and 19, and the release of the general IPPC survey to the NPPOs.

ePhyto (Objective C, X and Y)

1. Appendix 1 of ISPM 12:2011 has been made available for country consultation. Given the new standard setting process, these comments will be discussed in May 2013 with possible adoption of Appendix 1 schedule for 2014 at the earliest.
2. A page to store all information related to ePhyto has been established on the IPP – <http://ephyto.ippc.int/> All agreed ePhyto procedures, protocols, XML schema and codes will be made available through this page.
3. EPPO hosted on expert working group (EWG) on ePhyto that allowed experts to agree on the final components and code for the ePhyto XML schema and communication/security protocols. The report of the EWG will be available in the immediate future.
4. The code lists to be used for ePhyto have been agreed and these are being reviewed as part of the country consultation on Appendix 1 of ISPM 12.
5. The ePhyto expert continue to test these agree schemas and coding with the objective of introducing them into their ePhyto system in the coming months. This will allow extensive testing and confirmation of all codes and processes by the time ISPM 12:2011 Appendix 1 is adopted.
6. The Secretariat is also involved in the organization of the [ePhyto workshop](https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&tx_events_pi1%5bshowUid%5d=217037&frompage=207568&type=events&L=0#item) to be held 20-22 November 2012 in Vitoria City, Espirito Santo, Brazil.
7. The SPG is requested to:
	* + *note* the IPPC activities described in the report, and *provide comments* and feedback to update it for CPM-8.