PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF IRSS TOPICS[1]

Background

The IRSS is an evaluation tool that focuses on identifying contracting parties' challenges and opportunities for implementation of the Convention and its ISPMs. The objective of the IRSS is to facilitate and to promote the implementation of the IPPC and its ISPMs.

The IRSS entered its third cycle in March 2018 and is scheduled to end in March 2021. At the IC May 2018, an IC IRSS sub-group was created to monitor and evaluate the work done under the IRSS project and report back to the IC. A call for topics was issued to the IC, SC, CPM Bureau, and IPPC Secretariat shortly thereafter, in June 2018, and the received topics were reviewed and compiled in a preliminary list of topics by the IC IRSS Sub-Group in September 2018. The list was presented to the IC in November 2018 and was prioritized according to the relevance to the IRSS project.

At the IC May 2019, new topics were presented for consideration by the IC. Taking the cyclical and time-limited (3 years) nature of the funding of the IRSS project into consideration, the IC requested that a procedure for topic submission under IRSS be developed by the IC IRSS Sub-Group to guide the submission of future topics.

Scope

This procedure applies to topics submitted by the IC, SC, CPM Bureau, and IPPC Secretariat in the context of the IRSS project.

Criteria

Proposed topics should focus on identifying contracting parties' challenges and opportunities for implementation of the Convention and its ISPMs.

Process[2]

- A call for IRRS topics is issued to the IC, SC, CPM Bureau, RPPOs and IPPC Secretariat, within three months from the beginning of a cycle, typically in May-June.
- IRSS topics should be submitted along with the following information:
    - Name of the IPPC Body;
    - Contact information;
    - Topic title;
    - Topic summary (scope, purpose, rationale, expected outcome);
    - Link to IPPC Strategic Objectives;
    - Proposed priority level (from 1 to 4).
- Received topics are reviewed by the IRSS IC Sub-Group usually during the annual IRSS sub-group virtual meeting held in September. A list of topics is prepared, based on merit and relevance to the IPPC Strategic Framework, for submission to the IC at the November meeting.
- The IC reviews and assigns priorities to the topics at its November meeting.

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[1] Approved by IC (2019-07) e-decision

[2] The continuation of the IRSS project beyond 2021 is unclear at the moment. Should the project not be funded after 2021, this procedure should be rescinded and future "IRSS-type" topics should be incorporated into the general "call for topics: standards and implementation" stream.

- Topics may be submitted beyond the initial call for topics and may be considered for inclusion in the IRSS work programme by the IC. Criteria for inclusion should include the feasibility to complete the topic within the current IRSS cycle without compromising the progress and completion of other priority 1 topics.