



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STEERING GROUP OF THE GLOBAL PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

Approved by the CPM Bureau during its June 2022 meeting

1. Background

- [1] During CPM-14 (2019), Member States strongly supported the establishment of a Global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS), as no such systems exist within the IPPC Community.
- [2] CPM-14 (2019) requested that the Bureau draft an action plan for an IPPC pest emergency system and submit it to CPM-15 (2020) with input from the SPG. The IPPC Secretariat developed this action plan and aligned it with the IPPC Strategic Framework development agenda item on “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System”. The concepts of “emerging pests” and “emergency situations” were embedded in this action plan, and the scope was limited to quarantine or potential quarantine pests.
- [3] A Focus Group on POARS provided its recommendations in 2022, advocating for creating a new CPM Subsidiary body, the POARS Committee. The SPG expressed concerns about the long-term impact, funding implications, and challenges of establishing a new CPM Subsidiary body and the need to consider the potential costs, benefits, and return on investment. To explore these elements in depth, the FG suggested that a POARS Steering Group (SG) could be established as an interim measure, following the model of the ePhyto Steering Group.

2. Purpose

- [4] The POARS SG will provide coordination, guidance, and advice on IPPC actions to develop and implement a Global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System, avoiding duplication and building synergies with other systems.

3. Duration and Review

- [5] POARS SG will be initially established for two years and will make recommendations for its future to CPM.

4. Composition of the Steering Group

- [6] The Steering Group is skills and knowledge-based, composed of the following nine members:
- One expert from an RPPO
 - Four experts from NPPOs, including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems
 - One donor representative
 - One representative from an international organization that deals with pest outbreaks and emergency response
 - One representative from each of the IC and SC
 - One representative from the CPM Bureau.
- [7] The IPPC Secretariat supports equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and encourages all interested experts to submit their candidature to participate in the POARS SG. The SG members will be selected based on their technical and practical expertise in the subject matter. Geographical representation from both developing and developed countries will also be considered to ensure that the outputs are globally relevant, applicable, and reflect best practices from all over the world.
- [8] The following criteria should be used for selecting SG members:
- Actively engaged in existing global and/or regional pest alert and response frameworks,
 - Experience in designing and managing pest alert and response systems,

- Proven experience in promoting and articulating public-private partnerships,
- Full understanding of international phytosanitary standards and legislation.

[9] The Chair will be selected by the membership and remain Chair for the duration of the SG.

[10] The IPPC Secretariat will support, coordinate and facilitate the functions of the SG.

[11] The Steering Group could call on subject matter experts when necessary, including setting criteria for pest selections, biological parameters for specific pests, and developing recommendations related to the functions of the POARS Steering Group (as detailed below).

5. Reporting

[12] The IPPC Secretariat, on behalf of the SG, reports to the CPM Bureau.

6. Process

[13] The member selection for the Steering Group shall be carried out in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A call for nominations will be published on the IPPC website to allow contracting parties, RPPOs, and other organizations to nominate their representatives to be part of the Steering Group.
- The IPPC Secretariat will review the nominations and submit them to the CPM Bureau for selection, ensuring gender and geographical balance.
- The Steering Group will convene virtually for the first time at least to select its chairperson, discuss its functions, and plan the work described under “functions”.

7. Functions

[14] The functions of the POARS Steering Group will be to:

- Clearly define the relative roles of the POARS Steering Group in relation to IC, to ensure synergy rather than overlap,
- Analyze the pros and cons of setting a POARS Steering Committee and the return on investment among its other functions,
- Ensure coherent development and implementation of the POARS framework designed for the early detection and rapid response of pests of economic and environmental significance,
- Establish a proactive approach to the POARS framework,
- Make recommendations for the necessary POARS resources (staff and financial),
- Provide detailed recommendations on existing and new pest alert and response systems,
- Provide detailed recommendations to promote and articulate the establishment of a network of international organizations and experts actively involved in Pest Alert and Emergency Response,
- Provide detailed recommendations to promote and articulate a network for information exchange and resource mobilization in the event of an imminent threat, incursion or outbreak to facilitate advocacy initiatives with potential donors,
- Set up *ad hoc* working groups calling upon subject matter experts to address specific tasks, including establishing emerging pest criteria and a clear procedure to assess and rank emerging pests, as recommended by the Focus Group.

8. Meetings

[15] The SG will meet face-to-face and virtually, as required by the work programme to perform the functions outlined above.

9. Funding

- [16] The organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistanceattend-meetings>).