**update on the ippc observatory**

(*Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat*)

**1. Background**

1. The Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) was adopted at the third session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM, 2008) as a system to support the implementation of the IPPC and to gauge uptake of ISPMs. Under the IRSS, *identified gaps in implementation* were to be addressed through an assistance-based and facilitative approach.
2. In October 2020, the IC requested[[1]](#footnote-2) that a clear message on the benefits of the IRSS should be presented and a proposal for how the IRSS might be embedded to work plan of the IPPC Secretariat to better support the CPM and its subsidiary bodies. In addition, options on how the IRSS could be funded should be presented in order to move it away from being funded by single donors through several projects. It was agreed that the IRSS should be used by the CPM and subsidiary bodies as a component in the development of standards and their implementation.
3. CPM-15 (2021)[[2]](#footnote-3) noted the intention of the IPPC Secretariat to move the IRSS from a project driven activity to a System for the IPPC Community with a long-term work plan and funding from multiple sources.
4. The process of transition from the IRSS to more a sustainable system, called the IPPC Observatory, was completed by the CPM-16 (2022) adoption[[3]](#footnote-4). The IPPC Observatory adopted by CPM-16 is a system that monitors the implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM Recommendations, identifies challenges and best practices and provides recommendations to the IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies for follow-up actions. This evaluation system gathers the best practices and challenges faced by IPPC contracting parties through surveys and studies and provides an overview at global level on the implementation of the IPPC and the ISPMs.
5. The main missions assigned to the IPPC Observatory are to:

* set an efficient mechanism to monitor the implementation of the IPPC as well as the adopted ISPMs;
* monitor the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030);
* implement innovative tools and approach to conduct studies and improve the response rates;
* report the implementation gaps and challenges identified to CPM and formulate the recommendations to be addressed by the appropriate subsidiary body;
* improve the management of data from IPPC studies;
* improve the communication of surveys and studies results to contracting parties;
* improve the surveys coordination at IPPC Secretariat level.

**2. IPPC Secretariat activities**

1. Since the CPM-16 (2022) decisions on the IPPC Observatory, the Secretariat finalized the activities implemented under the EC IRSS third cycle Project which ended in May 2022. These activities included the development of the IPPC Observatory plan for survey design, the drafting of the resource mobilization strategy[[4]](#footnote-5).
2. Considering the studies, the final report of two last IRSS studies on “*Developing Guidance on Risk-based Border Management (2019-13, Priority 1)*” and on “*The Use of IPPC Diagnostic Protocols* (2019-14, Priority 1)” have been reviewed and sent to the FAO publication process. The executive summary to provide justifications to postpone the development of the third general survey was developed and the draft survey for the new study on e-Commerce has been drafted and revised by a survey specialist.
3. To improve communication on the Observatory, the IPPC Observatory factsheet[[5]](#footnote-6), the IPPC Observatory video[[6]](#footnote-7)and the visual identity have been released as well as the IPPC Observatory webpage on the IPP has been redesigned. The IPPC Observatory list of topics studies has been converted into a searchable online database available on the IPP[[7]](#footnote-8).
4. In addition to the review of the report on ‘’Good Operating practices for conducting IPPC Surveys’’ a training for the IPPC Secretariat staff was held on 30 May 2022 to share good practices and tips to improve surveys design.
5. However, as the activities implemented within the framework of the IRSS have been mainly funded by the European Union through three three-year cycle projects, at this stage no secure resources have been identified to implement the coming activities of the IPPC Observatory work plan.
6. Thus, taking into account the need for a better integration of the IPPC Observatory within the Secretariat for a cross-cutting approach, strategic discussions with the CPM Bureau and the Finance committee should contribute to define the best possible management structure allowing on the one hand an optimal use of the IPPC Secretariat resources (financial and staff) and on the other hand the efficient operationalization of the IPPC Observatory.
7. The IPPC Secretariat is still providing support, since the end of EC IRSS Project, on IPPC Observatory related activities through the publication of studies, the finalization of the triannual report and the organization of meetings of the IC Subgroup on IRSS.
8. Furthermore, a presentation on the IPPC Observatory[[8]](#footnote-9) was discussed during the 2022 IPPC Regional Workshop to provide further information to contracting parties on the objective and missions of the IPPC Observatory.

**3. IC Subgroup on IRSS meeting**

1. In June 2022, the IC Subgroup on IRSS met to discuss the next steps after the CMP-16 (2022) decisions and to provide guidance on the operationalization of the IPPC Observatory, considering the end of the EC IRSS third cycle project. The report of this meeting is available on the IPP[[9]](#footnote-10).
2. The Subgroup discussed the recommendations to improve the survey design, data management, resource mobilization and the monitoring of the IPPC Strategic Framework. These recommendations are presented in Appendix 1 with the expectation that once the resources will be identified, the IPPC Observatory could be able to fulfill the assigned missions.
3. The IC Subgroup has revised the Terms of reference (ToR) of the IC Subgroup on IRSS based on the new scope and missions of the IPPC Observatory. The revised ToRs was recommended to the IC approval during its 2022 November meeting.
4. The Subgroup has also noted the need to define the minimum conditions to enable the effective launch of the IPPC Observatory with limited objectives and to evolve step by step towards a system that integrates all the assigned missions.

**4. Coordination between the three sisters observatories**

1. In order to improve collaboration and experience sharing, the IPPC Secretariat is fully engaged in the work of a working group with CODEX and WOAH (World Organization for Animal Health). This working group meets every quarter to discuss the activities of their respective Observatories for monitoring the implementation of standards, share best practices and solutions to improve the efficiency of surveys and the response rate of contracting parties.
2. The last meeting of the working group was held on September 15 and highlighted on how CODEX intends to create a link through its Observatory between the monitoring of the implementation of standards and the dispute settlement mechanism. During this meeting, the WOAH Observatory presented the activities planned within the framework of the celebration of the international day of standards on October 14th.
3. The next meeting of this working group is scheduled on December 13, 2022.
4. The Strategic Planning Group is invite to :
5. *note* the update on the IPPC Observatory;
6. *provide* ideas for the operationalization of the IPPC Observatory through a sustainable funding mechanism including the monitoring of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.

**Appendix 1: Recommendations for the operationalization of the IPPC Observatory**

1. **Surveys and Studies**

In order to enhance the effectiveness of studies and surveys within the IPPC Community and improve the response rate, the Observatory will ensure:

1. **Survey coordination**- Centralize project survey demands at IPPC Secretariat level to avoid “Survey fatigue” and schedule one or two survey sessions in the year and ensure better overall coordination of surveys.
2. **Survey criteria**- Define the criteria for conducting, sending and validating a survey (ie. topic related, timeframe, number of responses to be validated …).
3. **Languages -** Translate all the questionnaires in UN official languages.
4. **Survey Library** - Structure a 'Survey Library' that gathers all data from previous surveys.
5. **Word version** - Provide a version of the questionnaire that allows separate entries (ie. Word Document) so that Official Contact Points can send each part to the relevant experts.
6. **Survey communication** - Plan global a communication campaign about upcoming surveys (ie. CPM, Regional workshops, website, meetings, social media).
7. **Easy-to-fill** - Design an ‘easy-to-fill’ survey (ie. limited questions, close questions, data-oriented, limited length). Propose also a survey accessible by a password and a structure with a clickable table of contents. This way, the experts can easily fill in their sections.​
8. **Duration** - Allow a minimum filling time of 1 month.
9. **Pre-testing** - Organize ‘survey pre-testing sessions’ with volunteer contracting parties. ​
10. **Fixed section** - Design a fixed section in the IPPC General Survey to ensure that the same questions and results will be comparable (identify the IPPC obligations, ISPMs and CPM recommendations for which the CPs have issues with the implementation).
11. **Challenges and good practices** - Surveys would identify challenges as well as good practices.
12. **Periodical monitoring -** The periodical monitoring of the IPPC, adopted ISPMs and CPM recommendations will be launched every second three-year work plan.
13. **Take away messages** - Share an executive summary after each study to provide recommendations and take away messages to contracting parties on concrete options to address or mitigate the identified challenges.
14. **Topic for studies -** Organize a broader “call for Observatory topics for studies” that would better involve the Contracting Parties (CP) ​and ensure that the topics selected for the studies are supported by several CPs. The current process for submitting topics for studies targeted to committees, Bureau and RPPOs needs to be more inclusive to better address the challenges of contracting parties.

In order to fulfil its mission, the IPPC Observatory will need a survey specialist to work in tandem with a plant health expert to design r the general survey together.

1. **Resource mobilization**

The recommendations on survey design are based on the results provided by PwC.

The recommended approach for resource mobilization is to implement it at the level of the Secretariat and not at the level of the Observatory. The objective is to agree on priorities that include the needs of all units of the IPPC Secretariat and avoid competition with donors.

1. Design an overall table with needs for funding based on CPM priorities which will include the needs for the IPPC Observatory. This table could be managed by the CPM Bureau and the Finance Committee.
2. Prepare a common strategy and tools to approach the donors as “one IPPC Secretariat.
3. Set up a Resource Mobilization advisory board with FAO and IPPC Observatory.
4. Hire a Resource Mobilization expert.
5. Develop a charter on the main points of "why I should donate?"​.
6. Set a standardized way to present all key projects in an easy-to-access way (ie. value proposition, budget, expected outcome, benefit, and strategic intent).
7. Add testimonials from donors on the website (IPP).
8. List all the events where it would be relevant to present the projects and raise funds.
9. List the themes most appreciated and by which donors.
10. Organize REX (ie. Return on experience) with donors associated with one project.
11. **Monitoring of the Strategic Framework**

An analysis was conducted to define the indicators that would contribute to monitoring the implementation of the objectives of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030). However, defining the indicators was difficult because the "activities" defined in the strategy are quite general and do not allow for defining SMART indicators at this level. However, relying on the Implementation plan for the Development Agenda of the Strategic Framework was recommended.

Another constraint is the disparate level of implementation of the activities of the eight Development Agendas.

It is preferable to have a common indicator canvas to facilitate the monitoring of indicators and to have a similar structure. These elements apply to the three levels: strategic, program and activity. ​

The canvas will be filled in by the Lead of each development agenda in collaboration with the stakeholders involved (NPPOs, RPPOs, Research institutes, international organizations…).

In order to facilitate the follow-up by the Leads, a repository could be developed and each referent could report the evolution of his/her indicators according to the moments of retrieval. Each Development Agenda and the associated activities could be visible regarding the “viewing rights” of the software.​

This monitoring mechanism will require close collaboration between the CPM Focus Group on Strategic Framework and the IPPC Observatory.

1. **Work plan**

The IPPC Observatory would have a three-year work plan and a three-year communication plan approved by the IC and updated annually as necessary. The work plan will include the update and promotion of the phytosanitary component pages.

1. **Reporting**

The IPPC Observatory will present each year to the CPM a report of activities that highlights:

* challenges and gaps identified,
* recommendation to address or mitigate them,
* lessons learned from the surveys,
* priority topics for future studies,
* planning of the upcoming surveys,
* publications as well as aspects of communication of the results with the contracting parties.

1. **Communication**

Communication is one of the key areas in which the IPPC Observatory will experience a significant improvement. A communication strategy has been developed based on interview results to reinforce the impact of the Observatory’s activities. Targeted communication will be organized around studies, calls for Observatory topics, surveys and publications to make the activities of the Observatory better known

1. IC VM07 report: <https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2021/02/Report_IC_VM07_2020_Oct_2020-12-11_TcQsYG6.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. CPM-15 report: <http://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2021/04/CPM-15_Final_Report_with_ISPMs_Appendices-2021-04-30.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. CPM-16 report: <https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/07/CPM-16_FINAL_REPORT-2022-07-20__Syh4mHt.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. IPPC Observatory webpage : <https://www.ippc.int/en/ippc-observatory/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. IPPC Observatory Factsheet : <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc1022en> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. IPPC Observatory Video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tsuqqTpdAQ> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. IPPC Observatory webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ippc-irss/list> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. RW presentation on IPPC Observatory : <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91250/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Report Subgroup meeting : <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91424/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)