



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
UPDATE ON THE IPPC OBSERVATORY
AGENDA ITEM 14.3

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

What is the IPPC Observatory?

- [1] The IPPC Observatory¹, formerly known as the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS), 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 identifies common challenges faced by IPPC contracting parties through surveys and studies and provides an overview to the IPPC community on the state of implementation of the IPPC and the ISPMs at a global level.
- [2] The transition from the IRSS to a more sustainable system - the IPPC Observatory - was approved by CPM-16 (2022)². Monitoring, evaluation and learning is a part of the IPPC Observatory. The respective roles of the IPPC Observatory and of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) were also clarified. The IPPC Observatory focuses on providing data and information on implementation challenges. The IC uses information from the IPPC Observatory to support contracting parties in the IPPC implementation and capacity building.
- [3] The main objectives assigned to the IPPC Observatory are the following:
- set an efficient mechanism to monitor the implementation of the IPPC as well as the adopted ISPMs and CPM recommendations (through IPPC general surveys);
 - monitor the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030);
 - implement innovative tools and approaches to conduct studies and surveys and improve survey response rates;
 - report to CPM the implementation gaps and challenges identified and formulate the recommendations to be addressed by the appropriate subsidiary body;
 - improve data management from IPPC studies and surveys;
 - improve communication of surveys and studies results to contracting parties;
 - improve survey coordination at IPPC Secretariat level.

IPPC Secretariat activities related to the IPPC Observatory in 2022

Governance of the IPPC Observatory

- [4] The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) oversees the IPPC Observatory and the IC Subgroup provides strategic guidance and recommendations. The IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory is composed of representatives from the CPM Bureau, the Standards Committee (SC), the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and the IC.

¹ IPPC Observatory webpage : <https://www.ippc.int/en/ippc-observatory/>

² CPM-16 report: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/07/CPM-16_FINAL_REPORT-2022-07-20__Syh4mHt.pdf

- [5] To allow better coordination of the IPPC Observatory related issues at the Secretariat level, the management structure includes an IFU (Implementation and Facilitation Unit) lead supported by a representative from SSU (Standard Setting Unit) and another from IST (Integration and Support Team).
- [6] Since the approval of the IPPC Observatory by CPM-16 (2022), the Secretariat finalized the activities implemented under the EC IRSS third cycle Project, which ended in May 2022. These activities included developing the IPPC Observatory plan with recommendations to improve survey design as well as setting a resource mobilization strategy.
- [7] In order to improve collaboration and best practices sharing, the IPPC Secretariat is also involved in the work of a working group with *Codex Alimentarius* and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) representatives. The 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 and quality of surveys and the response rates of contracting parties.

Studies and publications

- [8] An important part of the IPPC Observatory's activities has been to conduct studies on priority topics and to work on publication of the results of these studies. Since the establishment of the IRSS until transition to the IPPC Observatory, fifteen studies have been published.
- [9] In 2022, eight new desk studies were conducted on topics that affect the IPPC implementation, for example: studies on the use of IPPC Diagnostic Protocols, on Risk-based Border Management, on successes and challenges of implementation of pest free areas, etc. The list of IPPC Observatory studies published or in the process of being published is provided in Appendix 1.
- [10] The IRSS triennial report of the EC third cycle project presenting a detailed review of the activities implemented under this project will be posted on the IPP in early 2023.

Communication

- [11] In order to better promote the objectives and achievements of the IPPC Observatory, efforts have been made to develop communication materials.
- [12] In the framework of the EC IRSS third cycle project, the IPPC Observatory factsheet,³ the IPPC Observatory video,⁴ and the IPPC Observatory visual identity have been released to better promote the IPPC Observatory. Additionally, the IPPC Observatory webpage on the IPP⁵ has been redesigned and the IPPC Observatory list of topics converted into a searchable database.⁶
- [13] Furthermore, a presentation on the IPPC Observatory⁷ was made during the 2022 IPPC Regional Workshops to provide further information to contracting parties on the IPPC Observatory objective and missions.

Financial issues related to the IPPC Observatory

- [14] Over the past ten years, the European Commission has funded the activities implemented within the scope of the IPPC Observatory through three three-year cycle projects until May 2022.
- [15] CPM-16 (2002) requested the Finance Committee to consider allocating budget from the secretariat's regular programme as a baseline funding to cover the fixed costs of the IPPC Observatory, with

³ IPPC Observatory Factsheet : <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc1022en>

⁴ IPPC Observatory Video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tsuqqTpdAQ>

⁵ IPPC Observatory webpage : <https://www.ippc.int/en/ippc-observatory/>

⁶ IPPC Observatory list of topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ipcc-irss/list>

⁷ RW presentation on IPPC Observatory : <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91250/>

additional funding to cover studies and surveys to be mobilized from other sources such as the Multi-donor Trust Fund, projects and in-kind contributions.

- [16] In October 2022, the CPM Bureau agreed that the fixed costs of the IPPC Observatory - not just the costs of studies and surveys - should be mobilized from extra-budgetary sources.
- [17] In October 2022, the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) was invited to provide ideas for the operationalization of the IPPC Observatory, including the monitoring of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, through a sustainable funding mechanism. The SPG suggested that it would not be possible to provide ideas about the operationalization of the Observatory through a sustainable funding mechanism before knowing the willingness of the European Commission to fund another IPPC Observatory project.
- [18] The Republic of Korea confirmed a contribution of 80,000 \$ through the Multi-donor Trust Fund, which could be used for the operationalization of IPPC Observatory. Canada also confirmed an allocation of 40,000 \$ CAD through the Multi-donor Trust Fund to support two IPPC Observatory priority 1 studies. At this stage, these two contributions from the Republic of Korea and Canada are the only identified resources to implement the forthcoming activities of the IPPC Observatory work plan for which a large part remains unfunded.
- [19] The IPPC Secretariat will continue providing basic support on IPPC Observatory related issues through the finalization of publication of studies, reports and organization of meetings of the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory.

IPPC Observatory priorities for 2023

- [20] The IC recommended the following four priority activities that the IPPC Observatory should focus on when funding is available:
- monitoring implementation of the objectives of the development agenda items of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020–2030),
 - conducting the Third General Survey (monitoring the implementation of the IPPC as well as the adopted ISPMs to provide an overview),
 - launching the studies for the priority 1 topics in the work plan (e-commerce) and
 - launching a call of topics for surveys and studies, in order to raise awareness.
- [21] The new study on e-Commerce will be launched in 2023 and the IPPC contracting parties will be invited to fully participate in this survey so that the response rate will allow formulating relevant recommendations for the entire IPPC community.
- [22] In addition, the IC supported the recommendations of the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory for its operationalization and agreed to advocate for its implementation through a presentation of the Observatory at the TC-RPPOs.
- [23] Further information on IPPC Observatory is available in the section dedicated to the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory (presenting the activities of the Subgroup in 2022 and the updated Subgroup TOR) of the CPM paper CPM 2023/10 on IC update to CPM.
- [24] CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the update on the IPPC Observatory and the achievements delivered through the EC IRSS third cycle project;
 - (2) *thank* the European Union for its financial support of IRSS activities during the last decade;
 - (3) *thank* the Republic of Korea for its financial contribution for the operationalization of the IPPC Observatory;
 - (4) *thank* Canada for its financial allocation to conduct IPPC Observatory studies.

- (5) *encourage* other contracting parties and institutions to fund the operationalization of the IPPC Observatory.

Appendix 1: List of IPPC Observatory publications 2022-2023

- The baseline study on the successes and challenges of implementation of pest free areas (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0531en>)
- Comparative analysis of the 2012 and 2016 IPPC general surveys results (https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/03/ComparativeAnalysis_2021-10-15.pdf)
- The Good Practices for Monitoring and Evaluation of National Phytosanitary Systems (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/fr/c/cb9037en/>)
- The Report on analysis of recommendations to support the transition of IRSS to a sustainable system (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0799en>)
- IPP Observatory factsheet (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc1022en>)
- Good Operating practices for conducting IPPC Surveys (being finalized for publication in December 2022)
- Desk study on risk-based border management (being finalized for publication in early 2023)
- Desk study on the use of diagnostic protocols (being finalized for publication in early 2023)
- Triennial Report Review IRSS third cycle (being finalized for publication in early 2023)