

MAPPING POARS FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

(Document prepared by the POARS Governance team in collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat)

- [1] Activity 1.1 of the Governance sub-group is to review the functions proposed by the POARS Focus Group for the POARS Steering Committee (POARS SC) and compare them with the functions of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). Given the current activities in place under the umbrella of the African Phytosanitary Programme (APP) and other bodies of the IPPC, the POARS SG has decided to map the potential overlap and synergies of the proposed the POARS activities with these as well. This is to ensure that there is no overlap and ensure synergy with one another. It should be noted that while a decision has not been made on whether a POARS Steering Committee should be established, the functions identified by the POARS Focus Group are still relevant for other POARS governance arrangements.

1. Comparison of POARS SC with IC

- [2] Table 1 sets out the functions of the POARS SC (as recommended by the POARS Focus Group) and IC. The differences are highlighted in red. In the notes section, additional comments are provided.

Table 1

POARS SC	IC	Sinergy	Overlap	Suitable?	Notes
1. Technical working programme					
1.1. Identify resources and keep under review the capability required by contracting parties to implement the IPPC and POARS activities	1.1. Identify and keep under review baseline capacity and capability required by contracting parties to implement the IPPC	Yes	No	Yes, to a degree	We do not feel the POARS SC should consider implementation of the IPPC, but it should simply focus on the POARS activities
1.2 Identify available mechanisms such as technical cooperation projects to support contracting parties' implementation of the POARS in the event of a		Yes	No	Yes	No overlap



POARS SC	IC	Sinergy	Overlap	Suitable?	Notes
threat or incursion of an emerging pest					
1.3. Identify and propose strategies for contracting parties to enhance implementation of IPPC and POARS, including national reporting obligations, taking into account their specific capacities and needs	1.3. Identify and propose strategies for contracting parties to enhance their implementation of the IPPC, including national reporting obligations, taking into account their specific capacities and needs	No	Yes	No	We do not feel the POARS SC should be responsible for implementation of the IPPC, nor should it be responsible for reporting obligations. We also question whether this function should be part of POARS at all
1.4. Review contracting parties' challenges associated with the POARS	1.4. Review the analyses of contracting parties' challenges associated with the implementation of the IPPC	Yes	No	Yes	Appropriate
1.5. Recommend to CPM priorities to improve the POARS, based on an analysis of outputs from the above activities	1.5. Based on an analysis of outputs from the above activities, recommend priorities to CPM	Yes	No	Yes	Appropriate
	1.6. Identify and assess new technologies, which could enhance implementation	Yes	No	N/A	No overlap
1.7. Monitor and evaluate actions under the IPPC Strategic Framework, other related strategies,	1.7. Monitor and evaluate actions under the IPPC Strategic Framework, other related strategies,	General	General	Yes	Appropriate, as a general function of all IPPC bodies



POARS SC	IC	Sinergy	Overlap	Suitable?	Notes
frameworks and work plan(s)	frameworks and work plan(s)				
2. Effective and efficient management of the POARS SC					
2.1. Develop, agree and maintain a list of priorities for Global Pest System activities in alignment with CPM priorities	2.1. Develop, agree and maintain a list of priorities for Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) activities in alignment with CPM priorities	Yes	No	Yes	The priorities should be for the POARS (rather than Global Pest System)
2.2. Provide a review function on new projects related to the POARS to ensure they are aligned with the IPPC strategic objectives, have strategic value and a competitive advantage, and recommend them to CPM for approval	2.2. Provide a review function on new implementation and capacity development projects to ensure that they are aligned with the IPPC strategic objectives, have strategic value and a competitive advantage and recommend them to CPM for approval	Yes	Yes	?	This may not be appropriate for a POARS function (For discussion)
2.3. Develop procedures and criteria for the production, oversight and approval of technical resources for alert and response	2.3. Develop procedures and criteria for the production, oversight and approval of technical resources for implementation	Yes	Yes	?	Discussion point. Should technical resources identified by the POARS go through the IC process or do we need to set up a separate mechanism. The IC process is currently too slow for POARS, with resources



POARS SC	IC	Sinergy	Overlap	Suitable?	Notes
					needed within weeks/months. Could the IC process be adapted?
2.4. Recommend to the CPM to establish and dissolve POARS SC sub-groups , undertaking specific activities related to POARS and tasks, including those defined through Terms of Reference	2.4. Recommend to the CPM to establish and dissolve IC sub-groups, undertaking specific activities and tasks	Yes	No	Yes	Subgroups are more stable and long-term. An example of a sub-group for POARS is one to assess pests against the emerging pest criteria.
2.5. Provide oversight to POARS SC sub-groups	2.5. Provide oversight to IC Sub-groups	Yes	No	Yes	Appropriate
2.6. Establish ad hoc working groups to address specific issues	2.6. Establish ad hoc working groups/teams to address specific issues	Yes	No	Yes	Appropriate
2.7. Seek advice and/or input on matters relevant to its work from technical panels (through the IC) and other groups or organizations that assist the IPPC Secretariat	2.7. Seek advice and/or input on matters relevant to its work from technical panels (through the SC) and other groups or organizations that assist the IPPC Secretariat	Yes	No	Yes	It should be IC subgroups and teams instead of technical panels
2.8. Periodically review its functions, procedures and outcomes	2.8. Periodically review its functions, procedures and outcomes	General	General	Yes	Appropriate, as a general function of all IPPC bodies
2.9. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of	2.9. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of	General	General	Yes	Appropriate, as a general function of all IPPC bodies



POARS SC	IC	Sinergy	Overlap	Suitable?	Notes
its activities and products	its activities and products				
2.10. Develop projects that contribute to achieving the implementation priorities agreed by CPM	2.10. Develop projects that contribute to achieving the implementation priorities agreed by CPM	General	General	Yes, but not as written	This should be POARS priorities.
3. Working with the Secretariat					
3.1. Provide guidance on alert and response activities for inclusion in the Secretariat's work plan.	3.1. Provide guidance on implementation and capacity development activities for inclusion in the Secretariat's work plan	Yes	No	Yes	It would be better to say POARS activities rather than alert and response activities
3.2. Assess and prioritize web and technical resources, as appropriate, that are relevant to implement the POARS and IPPC	3.2. Assess and prioritize web resources, as appropriate, technical resources that are relevant for developing capacity to implement the IPPC	Yes	No	Yes	Remove the reference to the IPPC.
3.3. Promote dispute avoidance as an outcome of effective implementation	3.3. Promote dispute avoidance as an outcome of effective implementation	No	Yes	No	Not appropriate for the POARS
3.4. Oversee the national reporting obligations processes		No	Yes	No	Not appropriate for the POARS
3.5. Contribute to the development and maintenance of links with donors, partners and other public and private	3.5. Contribute to the development and maintenance of links with donors, partners and other public and private	Yes	Yes	Yes	Appropriate, but need to delineate responsibilities between the POARS and IC

POARS SC	IC	Sinergy	Overlap	Suitable?	Notes
organizations concerned with alert and response in the phytosanitary area	organizations concerned with implementation and capacity development in the phytosanitary area				(to discuss with the IC)
3.6. Contribute to the delivery of the IPPC Secretariat's Communications	3.6. Contribute to the delivery of the IPPC Secretariat's Communications	General	General	Yes	Appropriate, as a general function of all IPPC bodies
3.7. The Secretariat is responsible for coordinating the work of the POARS SC and providing administrative, editorial, operational and technical support. The Secretariat advises the POARS SC on the availability and use of financial and staff resources		N/A	N/A	No	Not appropriate. This is a function for the Secretariat not the POARS.

[3] As a general comment, the functions described under the technical working programme are not very descriptive of what POARS is. When it comes to developing the functions in future, components that should be described include:

- Identification, assessment and ranking of emerging pests
- Alert system for emerging pests
- Development of response toolboxes, including the development of guidance and contingency plans
- Resource mobilization to fund outbreak responses
- Development of expert networks to support outbreak responses

2. Review of IC sub-groups/teams

[4] Table 2 sets out the sub-groups and teams for the IC and identifies whether there is any overlap or synergy with POARS activities.

Table 2

IC sub-group/team	Does this overlap or provide synergy?
National Reporting Obligations	Does not overlap, but several national reporting obligations will be important to the POARS
Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation	Does not overlap, but will be complementary to the POARS by increasing country's baseline capacity and capability
Guides and training materials	Discussion point on how guides and training materials relevant to the POARS should be handled
Contributed resources	Discussion point on how contributed resources relevant to the POARS should be handled
Projects	Discussion point on how new projects relevant to the POARS should be handled
E-commerce*	Does not overlap
Fusarium TR4	Does overlap, and could come under the POARS in time
Guidance on the use of third-party entities*	Does not overlap
IPPC Observatory*	Does not overlap

*Not directly relevant to POARS

3. Review of APP activities

- [5] Table 3 sets out the activities of the APP and identifies whether there is any overlap or synergy with POARS activities.

Table 3

APP activity	Does this overlap or provide synergy?
Nomination of countries to be part of the programme (starting in Africa)	Does not overlap
Pest selection process (countries identify top 5 pests of concern)	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (with pests possibly feeding into the POARS)
Survey protocols developed for all pests selected	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (survey protocols could be used if they are for emerging pests)
Digital application and GIS Hub (platform to store surveillance data)	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (surveillance data could inform the alert system)
Train the trainer workshops (surveillance methods, data management, and exercises)	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (by improving country's baseline capability)

APP activity	Does this overlap or provide synergy?
Response plans developed for pests selected	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (response plans could be used if they are for emerging pests)
In country training (using similar approach to train the trainer workshops)	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (by improving country's baseline capability)
Monitoring	Does not overlap, but is complementary to POARS activities (by tracking country's baseline capability)

[6] On first impression, the POARS looks to perform similar functions to the APP, but it differs from the APP in the following key ways:

- The POARS is an emergency response mechanism, quickly mobilizing tools and support to aid a countries or region's response to emerging pests. The APP provides baseline capability to countries to survey and respond to pests.
- The POARS focuses on new emerging pests, while the APP covers pests of concern to different countries, which are often well known and widespread.
- The POARS establishes expert networks for emerging pest responses, while the APP provides a generic network.
- The POARS provides an alert system to the IPPC community, whereas the APP restricts surveillance data to certain countries.

[7] The POARS supplements the work of the IC and APP.

4. Review of other IPPC bodies

[8] As well as the IC and the APP, there are other bodies of relevance to the POARS. These are:

- **CPM Bureau:** Provides oversight of POARS activities
- **Standards Committee (SC):** The SC provides oversight of the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols and the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments, which are of relevance to the POARS
- **Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols:** Discussion point on whether diagnostic protocols identified by the POARS should go through the diagnostic panel process or whether a separate process needs to be set up. The current diagnostic standard process is too slow for the POARS purposes.
- **Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments:** Discussion point on whether phytosanitary treatments identified by the POARS should go through the phytosanitary treatments process or whether a separate process needs to be set up. The current process is too slow for the POARS purposes.
- **Technical Panel for Commodity Standards:** Phytosanitary measures identified for certain pests could feed into the POARS.
- **Technical Panel for the Glossary:** Complementary to the work of POARS.
- **Diagnostic networking Development Agenda Item:** Could feed into the POARS.



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- **Global Research and Coordination Development Agenda Item:** Research identified through the POARS would go through the research and coordination mechanism that is set up.
 - **IPPC Financial Committee:** It provides advice on financial matters and resource mobilization issues to the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat.

[9] The POARS SG is invited to:

- *review and agree* with the review of overlap and synergy between the POARS, IC, APP and other IPPC bodies
- *consider* the process for overseeing projects and contributed resources and developing guides and training materials for POARS purposes and discuss whether the IC process should be adapted or should the POARS set up its own process
- *consider* the process for developing phytosanitary treatments and diagnostic protocols for POARS purposes and whether the SC process should be adapted or should the POARS set up its own process