



REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNING FOR THE STEERING GROUP ON PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS (POARS SG) FOR 2024-2025

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

- [1] In line with the Terms of Reference (ToRs) agreed by the Bureau, the POARS Steering Group (SG) reviewed and outlined its activities. Following this review, the SG divided its work into four key areas: governance, technical development, collaboration and resource mobilization, and financial planning.
- **Governance:** Functions of the POARS SC were compared with those of the IC and APP. Discussions on establishing the POARS SC are ongoing.
 - **Technical Development:** Criteria for assessing emerging pests are in progress, with implementation plans expected by September.
 - **Collaboration and Resource Mobilization:** Resource mobilization strategy development is delayed, but work on funding and network-building continues.
 - **Financial Planning:** Pending progress on other activities.
- [2] The POARS SG is invited to:
- *Review* the work plan (Appendix 1) and assign members to contribute to dedicated activities.

Appendix 1
POARS SG activities plan.

Item	ToRS	References	Team	Activity	Priority	Timeline	Responsible persons	Tasks
1	1. Governance <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IC ToRs¹ IC subgroups Rules of Procedures² IC Team on TR4 ToRs³ FAO/IPPC WG FAW ToRs⁴ POARS FG recommendations (pages 27 - 31) 	P. Mylona, M. Everatt.	1.1. Review the functions proposed by the FG for the POARS Steering Committee and compare them with IC and APP functions.	2	May - July	Coordinated by sec with input from Chair and Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance team to review functions proposed by the FG for the POARS Steering Committee and compare them with IC and APP functions. (Done) POARS SG to Agree the functions of the POARS SC, including collaboration with IC, SC and FAO and what working groups are required (In progress) Hold meetings with IC and APP staff as appropriate to confirm the split of functions
				1.2. Conduct a pros and cons analysis for having a POARS Steering Committee and evaluate their significance.		June - July	Coordinated by sec with input from Chair and Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify CPM concerns on establishing a new subsidiary body (Bureau rep to consult the Bureau in June and previous CPM reports to be reviewed) (In progress) Understand the uniqueness of the POARS SC Develop pros and cons for each governance arrangement, including a POARS Steering Committee, IC sub-group and CPM focus group
				1.3. Make a recommendation regarding whether or not to proceed with establishing the POARS Steering Committee (based on outputs from 1.1 and 1.2). (In-person meeting)		August	Chair and Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an initial draft for SPG
				1.4. Outline the objectives of establishing a POARS Steering Committee, including its intended functions and anticipated outcomes. (In-person meeting)		July - September	Coordinated by sec with input from Chair and Vice Chair	Subject to the previous activities
				1.5. Develop/review the POARS long-term plan/timeline and identify areas that need improvement (linked with 2.7)		September	Coordinated by sec with input from Chair and Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare the plan for the SPG
				1.6. Define roles of RPPOs and NPPOs		September onwards	Coordinated b Sec with input from Chair and Vice Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the roles in the FG recommendations and the paper provided by Stephanie Bloem Recommend roles Discussion with RPPOs to agree generic roles across all RPPOs and specific roles depending on capacity and capability

¹ [IC Terms of reference and rules of procedure - International Plant Protection Convention \(ippc.int\)](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92322/)

² <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92322/>

³ [IC Team on Fusarium oxysprum f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 - Terms of Reference - International Plant Protection Convention \(ippc.int\)](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92322/)

⁴ [ToRs Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures - International Plant Protection Convention \(ippc.int\)](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92322/)

2	2. POARS technical development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POARS FG recommendations POARS FG Study 	W. Erkenlin. R. Day. P. Mylona, A. Kaye. M. Everatt, H. Medina (The team can be split if necessary)	2.1. Establish technical criteria for emerging pests and develop a clear procedure for assessing and ranking emerging pests of global concern, considering the FG's recommendation.	1	From May to June	Coordinated by Sec with input from the whole team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat to share an initial draft (Done) Sub-team to discuss proposal on 22nd May (Done) Further refinement of proposal by early June (Done) Agreement of proposal by Steering Group on 14th June (Done) (July 12) Guidance to assess the pests (August meeting) (Done) Ranking of the emerging pests Work on the procedure
				2.2. Review components suggested by the FG POARS and develop implementation plans/timelines for each component 2.2.1. Policy 2.2.2. Legal framework 2.2.3. Financial 2.2.4. Data management and communication 2.2.5. Oversight 2.2.6. Alert system 2.2.7. Detection 2.2.8. Response 2.2.9. Notification 2.2.10. Research		From May to September	Coordinated by Sec with input from the whole team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm which aspects of the POARS to take forward from the recommendations paper and clarify the scope of these aspects (Done) Develop implementation plans/timelines for these and develop case studies Ensure there is not duplication with other DAIs, including the DAIs on diagnostic networking and research coordination
				2.3. Review the challenges and solutions to NRO proposed by the FG		From May to June	Coordinated by Sec with input from the whole team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver PPT on NROs and share the background (Done) Review challenges and solutions (Done) Define what NROs are critical for POARS (Done) Define what needs to be agreed with IC (Done)
				2.4. Coordinate with the IC matters related to NROs		From July to November	Juli and Matthew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to outputs from activity 2.3
				2.5. Develop a Communications/information-sharing strategy (including architecture for the POARS webpage)		September to January		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the structure and outline the content This will include generic and species-specific tools on the website Consider the development of a database/matrix of tools for emerging pests
				2.6. Decide on the best way to publish/use the POARS Study		May	Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion during the POARS SG meeting (Done) Agreement on the way to move forward (Done) IPPC Secretariat to implement what is required (In progress)
				2.7. Formulate an overarching strategy for the operationalization of the POARS framework		December	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the structure and outline the content

				2.8. Pilot the operationalization with at least one emerging pest		January 2025 - March 2026	All	Subject to the previous activity
3	3. Collaboration and resource mobilization strategies <div></div>	• POARS FG recommendations (pages 22 - 40)	W. Erkenlin. J. Goldsmith. R. Day, A. Kaye.	3.1. Develop a strategy for advocacy and resource mobilization for the operationalization of POARS and in the event of imminent threat or outbreak	1	(August - December)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define the strategy's components (Delayed)• Map where funding is available (including OER, Emergency and Resilience, EMC, Partnerships, regional offices, AIEA, and other possible)• Map institutions working in emergencies and understand how they can support (i.e., in Latin America and Caribbean CARICOM, SELA, CELAC).• Develop a pathway for how the networks/groups will be activated in an outbreak scenario
				3.2. Develop a strategy to build a collaborative network involving international organizations and experts actively engaged in Pest Alert and Emergency Response		TBD		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm which networks to set up• Develop terms of reference for the networks• Identify which organizations to enquire about joining the networks• Explore the development of a database of experts<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pest experts○ Thematic experts (e.g., surveillance, risk management etc.)○ Geographic experts• Disseminate recorded ppts with POARS SG on<ul style="list-style-type: none">- IMPRES, INFOSAN, OIE- European systems- EIOS- OIRSA, PRISE, Cropwatch- Australia, PPPO- HiHI, DART- USA- OIE, pest lens in Argentina- EMC FAO- PPEP

				3.3. Develop an operational plan/guide to establish a comprehensive framework for managing pest-related risks at both regional and international levels		TBD		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guidelines and ToRs for the establishment of dedicated working groups with subject matter experts for specific tasksGuidelines and ToRs for the establishment of regional Pest incident technical advisory committees/panels, SOPs, and generic contingency plans for groups of pests (see on EU systems)Guidelines and ToRs to task the Ad hoc working groups
4	4. Financial <div></div>	• POARS FG recommendations (pages 62 - 63)	Jan Venter	4.1. Undertake a study to assess the staffing and financial needs of POARS to ensure its efficient functioning	2	2025		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Define the structure and outline the content 1st June Outline content structure (Delayed)
				4.2. Estimate the necessary POARS resources, including technical, human resources and financial allocations		TBD		