



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### NINETEENTH SESSION

#### STRENGTHENING PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM - UPDATE ON THE DAI

#### AGENDA ITEM 12.5

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with the POARS Steering Group)*

#### 1. Introduction

- [1] Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) is one of the eight (8) development agenda items (DAIs) of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. The work on this DAI was initiated in 2020 with the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau (hereafter referred to as “the bureau”) establishing a CPM Focus Group on POARS (FG POARS)<sup>1</sup>, which produced recommendations that were presented to CPM-16 (2022)<sup>2</sup> and published on the International Phytosanitary Portal.<sup>3</sup>
- [2] The CPM-14 (2019) requested the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) to engage with the relevant FAO divisions responsible for emergency situations and emerging pests to clarify the type and level of support currently available to contracting parties. CPM-14 (2019) also confirmed that updates on emerging pest situations would be added as a standing item on the CPM agenda to ensure regular discussions and monitoring.

#### *Discussions at CPM-16 and activation of the POARS Steering Group*

- [3] At CPM-16 (2022), the CPM FG POARS recommendation to create a specific CPM subsidiary body was discussed. The proposals from the focus group generated a lengthy discussion among contracting parties. No contracting parties expressed support for a new subsidiary body, and one commented on the need to first to have stronger support and consensus on the role and focus of IPPC functions on pest response. The Friends of the Chair meeting at CPM-16 (2022) discussed POARS and the role and functions of the POARS Steering Group (POARS SG). As a result, CPM-16 (2022) established the POARS Steering Group – distinct from the CPM Focus Group on POARS – with a two-year mandate to establish POARS capabilities within the IPPC community, considering governance options, including the setting of the CPM subsidiary body. The bureau then revised and approved the terms of reference.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CPM-14 (2019), agenda item 8.8: [CPM-14\\_Report\\_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> CPM-16 (2022) agenda item 8.8.1: [CPM-16\\_FINAL\\_REPORT-2022-07-20\\_Syh4mHt.pdf](#)

<sup>3</sup> The CPM Focus Group on POARS, established by the CPM, provided initial recommendations on POARS, while the POARS Steering Group, operating under Bureau oversight, focuses on operationalizing POARS.

<sup>4</sup> POARS SG terms of reference: [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/08/2022\\_ToRs\\_POARS\\_SG\\_cleaned\\_2022\\_08\\_10.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/08/2022_ToRs_POARS_SG_cleaned_2022_08_10.pdf)

- [4] Another suggestion from the CPM was to build on the model used for fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)<sup>5</sup> and Fusarium banana wilt TR4 (caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4)<sup>6</sup> for other pests identified as global issues.
- [5] The POARS SG was established in March 2024, consisting of 11 experts from around the world. Panagiota MYLONA from the European Commission was appointed as chairperson, and Matthew EVERATT from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as vice-chairperson, both for the whole duration of the POARS SG, until March 2026.
- [6] The Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the secretariat oversees the POARS development agenda item (DAI) and has coordinated both the FG POARS and the POARS SG. Additionally, IFU manages POARS-related activities, including those on Fall Armyworm and TR4, which are aligned with the FAO One Health Programme Priority Area.

### ***Strategic Framework and POARS Timeline***

- [7] The Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items overarching implementation plan included an initial timeline for POARS.<sup>7</sup> The POARS SG presented an update and a revised implementation timeline to CPM-18 (2024), which subsequently requested further updates and adjustments. CPM-18 (2024) tasked the POARS SG with presenting an update and a revised timeline for the DAI implementation to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) later in 2024.

### ***Recent discussions at the SPG, the Bureau and the IC***

- [8] The SPG 2024 noted the revised implementation timeline for POARS presented by the POARS SG chair. The SPG also discussed various POARS governance options and suggested that the POARS SG consider the integration of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) into the wider POARS governance options, either through a steering group or an Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Subgroup.
- [9] Additionally, a breakout session on POARS was organized during the SPG meeting, where participants tested the criteria developed by the POARS SG for identifying emerging pests for global actions.
- [10] During its October 2024 meeting, the bureau discussed the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues and underscored the importance of this focus group in highlighting key future themes. These themes include the impact of climate change on plant health and pest control, incorporation of climate-change into pest risk analysis, and the potential benefits of aligning this work with POARS.
- [11] During its November 2024 meeting, the IC received an update on the progress of POARS, including developing criteria for identifying emerging pests and evaluating governance options. The IC commended the efforts and contributions of the POARS SG and expressed a preference for a steering group as a suitable governance model, given POARS' focus on implementation and cooperation.<sup>8</sup>
- [12] This update reports the progress made during nine (9) months of the POARS SG's work (March to November 2024). Since its activation, the POARS SG held one (1) hybrid, eight (8) virtual, and 13 sub-team meetings. In line with its terms of reference,<sup>6</sup> the POARS SG agreed to divide its work into four (4) main areas:

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<sup>5</sup> [About Fall Armyworm - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

<sup>6</sup> [IPPC Global coordination response on Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 \(TR4\) - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

<sup>7</sup> IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan: [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/01/13\\_CPM\\_2023\\_01\\_Overarching\\_Implementation\\_Plan\\_for\\_IPPC\\_Strategic\\_Framework\\_2020-2030\\_Development\\_Agenda\\_Items\\_2023-01-25.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/01/13_CPM_2023_01_Overarching_Implementation_Plan_for_IPPC_Strategic_Framework_2020-2030_Development_Agenda_Items_2023-01-25.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> IC November 2024, agenda item 6.3: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/capacity-development-committee/>

- **technical development** – establishing criteria for identifying emerging pests and developing a procedure for POARS, including developing an alert system and elements relating to prevention, preparedness and response. This component also includes reviewing the challenges and solutions proposed by the CPM Focus Group on POARS regarding National Reporting Obligations (NROs);
- **governance** – reviewing the functions and POARS’ relationship with the IC, other IPPC bodies, and the APP, and conducting a pros-and-cons analysis of the POARS governance structure options;
- **collaboration and resource mobilization** – developing networks of experts, set communication strategies, and a review of resource mobilization mechanisms; and
- **financial activities** – conducting an assessment of the resources required for POARS operationalization and activities.

## 2. POARS technical development

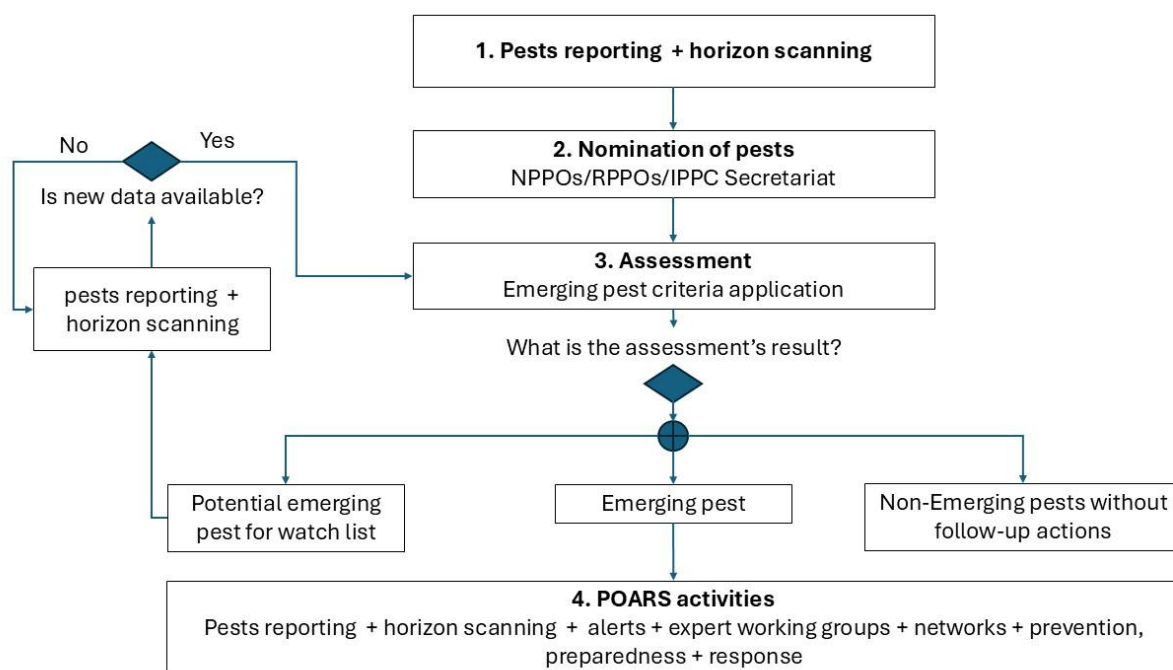
### *Scope of the POARS technical activities*

- [13] POARS aims to support the IPPC community in mitigating the risks posed by emerging pests. The initiative focuses on identifying emerging pests of global concern, alerting the IPPC community and stakeholders, and supporting countries across four (4) key areas of outbreak response: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- [14] **Identifying emerging pests of global concern and alerting the IPPC community and stakeholders.** POARS uses horizon scanning to identify potential emerging pests. Criteria are then applied to determine which of these pests are emerging pests of global concern. To ensure that the IPPC community and stakeholders are informed in a timely manner, POARS will include an integrated IPPC alert system that connects national, regional and global networks.
- [15] **Supporting countries in outbreak response.** POARS supports countries in addressing emerging pest risks and outbreaks by equipping them with the tools, strategies and expertise to respond. Key actions across the four (4) areas of outbreak response include, but are not limited to:
- **prevention** – guidance on phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of emerging pests;
  - **preparedness** – strengthening the overall capacity and capability of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), systems and stakeholders, to effectively manage pest outbreaks e.g. through the provision of contingency plans, diagnostic protocols, training activities and simulations;
  - **response** – coordinated technical and operational efforts to manage pest outbreaks. This could include the establishment of networks and pest-specific expert groups to provide advice on the ground; and
  - **recovery** – post-response actions aimed at protecting against the pest that caused the emergency and transitioning away from emergency measures.

### *How will emerging pests of global concern be determined?*

- [16] The POARS SG had outlined a process for identifying, nominating and assessing potential emerging pests of global concern. This process is demonstrated in Figure 1 and includes: 1) identifying emerging pests through pest reporting and horizon scanning; 2) nominating them through NPPOs, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) or the secretariat; and 3) assessing them against the established criteria.
- [17] Pests meeting the relevant criteria are designated as emerging pests of global concern, triggering alerts and targeted activities, while other pests may be added to a watch list or excluded. Alerts are generated once a pest is classified as emerging.

- [18] Table 1 outlines the criteria and conditions required for a pest to be classified as an emerging pest of global concern. The assessment of pests using the criteria is divided into three (3) steps: Initiation, Current Impact, and Risk Evidence. Each step includes specific criteria that must be met for the pest to advance to the next stage. This structured approach ensures a thorough assessment of the pest's geographical spread, current distribution, economic and environmental impacts, and the likelihood and challenges of managing its introduction into new areas.
- [19] Pests that do not fully meet the criteria are sent to a watch list. These pests may be reassessed based on updated data or evidence from pest reporting and horizon scanning activities. Pests on the watch list may be reassessed periodically or in response to new information. Pests that do not meet the criteria are removed from the POARS process and not considered for global actions, although other relevant regional or global bodies may still treat them as emerging pests and consider appropriate actions.



**Figure 1:** Process for identifying, nominating and assessing emerging pests of IPPC global concern in POARS

### ***What criteria will be applied to identify emerging pests of global concern?***

- [20] As outlined in its terms of reference approved by the bureau, the POARS SG was tasked with “establishing emerging pest criteria and a clear procedure to assess and rank emerging pests, as recommended by the Focus Group.”<sup>9</sup>
- [21] Given the complexity of this topic, which has been repeatedly referred to between various bodies for further consideration, the POARS SG developed the criteria by drawing on the lengthy discussions held across multiple IPPC bodies from 2016 to 2023. These included the bureau, SPG, Standards Committee (SC), Technical Panel for the Glossary, and the Focus Group on POARS (FG POARS).
- [22] The criteria were initially tested by the POARS SG on seven (7) pests<sup>10</sup> and refined before being tested again during the 2024 SPG meeting. An interactive session allowed SPG participants to apply the

<sup>9</sup> 2022 POARS SG terms of reference:

[https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/08/2022\\_ToRs\\_POARS\\_SG\\_cleaned\\_2022\\_08\\_10.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/08/2022_ToRs_POARS_SG_cleaned_2022_08_10.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> *Agrilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer), *Bactrocera dorsalis* (oriental fruit fly), *Cactoblastis cactorum* (cactus moth), *Nilaparvata lugens* (brown planthopper), *Tilletia indica* (Karnal bunt), Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV), *Tuta absoluta* (tomato leafminer).

criteria, and feedback from this exercise led to further improvements. The revised criteria are presented in Table 1. Relevant terms used follow ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) and are recorded in a footnote.

**Table 1:** Criteria for the identification of emerging pests of IPPC global action

Criterion	Description	Condition to pass
<b>Step 1: Initiation</b>		
Recent geographical spread	Recent pest outbreaks <sup>11</sup> are reported in more than one area, showing a <i>significant</i> expansion of the pest's range.	A pest must meet both criteria to be eligible to proceed to Step 2.
Current distribution	The pest has a limited distribution in its endangered area. <sup>12</sup>	
<b>Step 2: Current impact</b>		
Economic impact	The pest is causing substantial economic impact according to what is described in ISPM 11 ( <i>Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests</i> ) and supplement 2 <sup>13</sup> of ISPM 5 ( <i>Glossary of phytosanitary terms</i> ).	A pest must meet at least one criterion to be eligible to proceed to Step 3.
Environmental impact	The pest is causing substantial environmental impact according to what is described in ISPM 11 and supplement 2 of ISPM 5.	
<b>Step 3: Risk evidence</b>		
Likelihood of introduction into new areas	The pest has a high likelihood of introduction in new areas based on assessment in line with ISPM 11.	A pest should meet all conditions to be classified as an emerging pest of IPPC concern.
Scale of impacts in new areas	The pest is likely to cause substantial impacts based on assessment in line with ISPM 11.	
Risk management	The pest risk is likely to be difficult to manage effectively in new areas.	

[23] The criteria test effectively identified emerging pests, such as Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV), while filtering out non-emerging pests, such as *Tuta absoluta*. As the procedure outlines, pests that do not fully meet the criteria are placed on a watch list. Based on the assessment process, pests are categorized as follows:

- **emerging pest** – a pest that meets the relevant criteria of all three steps;
- **non-emerging pest for the watch list** – a pest that meets the criteria of the first step but does not meet all the criteria in steps 2 and 3. For these pests, ongoing observation is proposed with reassessment if new information or data becomes available; and
- **non-emerging pest with no follow-up actions** – a pest that does not meet any of the criteria for Step 1 for initiation.

[24] Based on the feedback from the SPG, POARS SG committed to developing a guidance document to support the application of criteria to assess pests. The guidance document will provide case studies to illustrate each criterion's application and will address aspects such as handling uncertainty during

<sup>11</sup> A recently detected pest population, including an incursion, or a sudden significant increase of an established pest population in an area [FAO, 1995; revised ICPM, 2003] (ISPM 5).

<sup>12</sup> An area where ecological factors favour the establishment of a pest whose presence in the area will result in economically important loss [ISPM 2, 1995] (ISPM 5).

<sup>13</sup> Supplement 2: Guidelines on the understanding of “potential economic importance” and related terms including reference to environmental considerations.



assessments and will clarify the scope of terms such as, “significant,” “substantial,” and “limited distribution.” Additionally, guidance will be provided for re-emerging and migratory pests.

### *Assessing the necessity of National Reporting Obligations in POARS operations*

[25] The FG POARS had explored ways to enhance contracting parties’ capacities to fulfill their NROs to support pest outbreak alert and response systems. Key recommendations included:

- *transferring* pest reporting oversight to POARS, while keeping other NROs under the IC; and
- *addressing* broader challenges affecting NROs, such as limited national understanding, resource allocation issues, and political reluctance by proposing solutions such as capacity development, simplifying reporting processes and mobilizing resources.

[26] The POARS SG reviewed these recommendations and concluded:

- the recommendation to transfer pest-reporting oversight was based on the assumption of creating a new POARS subsidiary body. Since this body does not exist and is unlikely to be established, the recommendation is no longer relevant;
- transferring pest reporting from the IC to the IPPC body managing POARS is not a prerequisite for POARS to operate effectively. Pest reporting is important to inform the IPPC community, keeping it under the IC does not impact POARS' operational efficiency. Additionally, POARS uses horizon scanning to proactively identify potential threats, allowing for early action against emerging pests; and
- retaining pest reporting with all the other NROs under the IC is more practical and efficient for streamlined management and oversight.

### *Next steps for piloting IPPC POARS global actions for emerging pests*

[27] The POARS SG updated the timeline for POARS initially outlined in the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items overarching implementation plan, presented to CPM-18 (2024). Accordingly, and in alignment with the IPPC Strategic Framework, the POARS SG proposed the timeline for 2024–2030 presented in table 2. This timeline was noted by the 2024 SPG meeting and acknowledged by the IC in its November 2024 meeting.

**Table 2:** Revised POARS activities timeline for 2024–2030 (noted by the SPG and IC)

Year	Activities
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop the concept for emerging pests of global concern to be applied under the IPPC POARS.</li> <li>- Draft criteria for identifying emerging pests of global concern.</li> <li>- Define procedures, including actions to be taken following the identification of an emerging pest of global concern.</li> </ul>
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inform the CPM of the concept and the criteria to identify globally emerging pests.</li> <li>- Propose to the CPM a POARS governance option and seek endorsement.</li> <li>- Develop the core elements of the POARS, including assessment and working group terms of reference, website and network structure.</li> <li>- Launch a call for pest nominations and initiate the POARS pilot phase.</li> </ul>
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a POARS implementation plan and seek CPM endorsement.</li> <li>- POARS SG mandate ends (February).</li> </ul>
2027–2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiate and implement the IPPC POARS system.</li> </ul>

[28] The secretariat has started collaborating with the European Food Safety Authority<sup>14</sup> on horizon scanning activities, as suggested during CPM-18 (2024) by the European Commission. This collaboration aims

<sup>14</sup> The CPM-18 (2024) took note that the European Union confirmed that it was devoted to support the activities of POARS financially and scientifically.

to set up a long-term system to identify potential emerging pests by leveraging the system European Food Safety Authority already uses to collect and analyze information from publicly available sources. This system helps identify potential threats early by using publicly available data and monitoring news, scientific reports, and other online data.

- [29] The call for nomination of emerging pests considered in the timeline for 2025 is in line with the decision by CPM-16 (2022) to invite contracting parties and RPPOs to submit suggestions to the POARS SG on other pests to be considered for inclusion in secretariat activities on emerging pests.

### 3. POARS Governance

#### 3.1 Mapping POARS functions and activities with other IPPC bodies and activities

- [30] The POARS SG reviewed the functions proposed by the FG POARS for creating a POARS Steering Committee (SC). As part of its terms of reference, the SG had to “clearly define the relative roles of the POARS Steering Group in relation to IC, to ensure synergy rather than overlap and analyze the pros and cons of setting a POARS Steering Committee and the return on investment among its other functions”. The POARS SG compared the functions of various IPPC bodies and came to the following conclusions:

- [31] **POARS and IC functions.** Most POARS functions align and synergize well with those of the IC. NROs were identified as an overlap, but as mentioned in section 2 of this paper, the POARS SG recommends that the NROs remain under the oversight of the IC and should not be transferred to POARS.

- [32] **POARS and IC Subgroups and Teams.** Many IC subgroups and teams have activities that complement POARS, such as the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation and the development of guides and training materials. The IC Team on Fusarium TR4, and the FAO/IPPC Fall armyworm Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures, serve as a model for how working groups can be established.

- [33] **POARS and APP activities.** The APP plays an important role in strengthening countries’ baseline survey capacities, and POARS operates on a broader, global scale, providing a coordinated emergency response framework for emerging pests of global concern as described in section 2 of this paper. APP activities that complement POARS include survey protocols. The following key differences highlight scope, urgency and impact of POARS and APP:

- **scope and purpose** – POARS is a global emergency response mechanism, quickly mobilizing tools and support to aid a country’s or region’s response to emerging pests. The APP provides baseline capability to countries to survey pests;
- **focus on pest types** – POARS focuses on new emerging pests that pose a global threat, while the APP covers pests of concern to different countries, which are often well-known, such as *Bactrocera* spp. *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, etc.;
- **network structures** – POARS establishes global experts’ networks for emerging pest responses, while the APP provides coordinated regional plant-protection strategies<sup>15</sup>; and
- **alert systems** – POARS provides a global alert system to the IPPC community based on thorough and agreed-upon criteria. In contrast, the APP restricts survey data to certain countries for pests determined by countries.

- [34] **Review of other IPPC bodies.** These include the bureau, the SC and various technical panels. Considerations include whether existing processes for developing phytosanitary treatments and diagnostic protocols should be adapted for POARS or whether new processes should be established.

- [35] Through the mapping exercise, the POARS SG identified that the following activities would need to be delivered quicker for emerging pests:

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<sup>15</sup> [Overview - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

- setting up new projects;
- developing training and guidance material;
- collating and sharing contributed resources;
- developing phytosanitary treatment protocols; and
- developing diagnostic protocols.

### 3.2 POARS governance recommendation

[36] The POARS SG reviewed governance models to establish an efficient framework for managing POARS<sup>16</sup>. This included a pros-and-cons analysis of the following options:

- **Option 1** – establishing a **new subsidiary body** incorporating the APP as well as some topics currently under the IC;
- **Option 2** – establishing a new subsidiary body focused solely on POARS;
- **Option 3** – creating a **POARS Steering Group**, similar to the ePhyto Steering Group, which would report directly to the bureau; or
- **Option 4** – forming a **POARS Subgroup within the IC**.

[37] The analysis focused on the following key factors:

- **governance and efficiency** – examining decision-making processes, overall effectiveness, and reporting mechanisms;
- **scope and functionality** – assessing how POARS activities align with existing bodies;
- **required resources** – considering the financial, time, and personnel resources necessary; and
- **support and engagement** – considering the level of contracting parties' support and engagement by reviewing insights from previous discussions.

### Outcome

[38] Table 3 presents the results of this analysis, provides a basis for decision-making, and facilitates informed discussions about the most suitable governance structure for POARS.

**Table 3:** Outline of governance options and an assessment of their pros and cons

Category	Pros/Cons	Option			
		1	2	3	4
<b>Pros</b>					
Governance & efficiency	Reports directly to CPM or CPM Bureau, speeding up procedures for emergencies.	X	X	X	
	Relieves IC workload.	X			
	Addresses all POARS issues in one body.	X			
	Fits under IC as an implementation activity.				X
Scope & functionality	POARS activities are broader in scope than IC, requiring SC and IC outcomes.	X	X	X	
Resources & investment	Requires fewer resources and funding than a subsidiary body.			X	X
Support & contracting parties' engagement	A dedicated body would signal to the community and stakeholders that the issues under POARS are being taken seriously, potentially enhancing support.	X	X	X	
	May give more visibility, increasing funding opportunities.	X	X		
	Can serve as a transitional body to a subsidiary body or other bodies.			X	
<b>Cons</b>					
Governance & efficiency	Identified overlaps need continued coordination with other bodies demanding more resources.	X	X	X	

<sup>16</sup> The CPM Bureau approved the POARS SG terms of reference, tasking the SG to “analyze the pros and cons of setting a POARS Steering Committee and the return on investment among its other functions.”



Category	Pros/Cons	Option			
		1	2	3	4
	POARS would not be as flexible or as quick to respond when encumbered by other areas of work.	X			X
	The IC is overloaded with several key topics to manage.				X
	To function, a sub-group would need at least 10 members or more, almost as many as the full IC itself. This would be an unwieldy structure.				X
	Processes will be slower than if there was direct reporting to the CPM or CPM Bureau.				X
Resources & investment	A new body would require additional resources for the secretariat, including funding, time and personnel.	X	X		
	The return on investment (ROI) for creating a new subsidiary body is unclear.	X	X		
	There is currently a lack of resources and staff time available for an IC sub-group.				X
Support & contracting parties' engagement	Convincing contracting parties to support creating a new subsidiary body could be challenging, especially if the concept lacks immediate perceived benefits.	X	X		
	Less visibility				X

### *Viable options discussed at the SPG, CPM Bureau and IC*

[39] During the October 2024 SPG meeting, two governance options were identified as the most viable for managing POARS:

- (1) a POARS Steering Group reporting directly to the CPM Bureau; or
- (2) a POARS Subgroup within the IC.

[40] The SPG also recommended exploring synergies between these options and the activities under APP and how to integrate APP into POARS.

[41] During its 2024 October meeting, the bureau recalled that strong opinions had been voiced at CPM-16 (2022) against establishing a subsidiary body. However, the secretariat noted that there was no definitive decision in the CPM-16 (2022) report to rule out a subsidiary body for POARS, and the terms of reference for the POARS SG clearly included the pros-and-cons analysis of the possibility of setting up a POARS Steering Committee. Likewise, the bureau discussed the position of APP within FAO and its integration with other IPPC workstreams. The CPM chairperson suggested that the bureau further discuss the integration or linkages of the APP with other IPPC activities, such as POARS.

[42] In November 2024, the IC expressed a preference for the POARS SG as the most suitable governance structure, emphasizing that the scope of POARS extends beyond implementation activities typically handled by the IC.

### *Considerations regarding the integration of APP into POARS*

[43] In November 2024, the POARS SG discussed the potential integration of the APP into POARS. It concluded that, from a conceptual standpoint, the APP aligns well with and enhances the baseline preparedness phase of POARS, particularly in areas such as data management and surveillance. The APP is a valuable resource that can be leveraged by POARS, given POARS' broader scope, the fact it is a core activity reflected as an IPPC development agenda item (DAI), and its aim to address emerging pests of global concern.

[44] In its November 2024 meeting, the IC<sup>17</sup> received an update on the APP activities. An IC member noted that the APP mainly focused on survey and detection and suggested integrating the generated data into

<sup>17</sup> [FINAL REPORT IC Nov 2024 Meeting 2024-12-16.pdf](#)

POARS and NROs. The IC member also mentioned that the APP was a typical capacity development programme to be embedded within IFU and sought clarity regarding the future of the programme.

[45] In response, the secretariat staff in charge of the APP mentioned that, over time, as work under each topic evolves, concrete links between the APP and POARS would become more visible. The secretariat added that it was up to IPPC Secretariat Management, specifically the incoming IPPC Secretary, to decide where the programme would be placed within the secretariat – under IFU or directly under the IPPC Secretary’s office.

[46] As a result of these discussions, the IC encouraged further synergies in the delivery of POARS with NROs and the APP, given the connections and commonalities between the three, to ensure a clear message to contracting parties. Additionally, the IC emphasized the need to consider the TR4 global coordination and its linkages with POARS and APP.<sup>18</sup>

[47] The expanding technical and operational activities in POARS and APP will help identify linkages between the two programmes and assess the potential benefits of their alignment or integration. The SG recommends conducting a detailed analysis to determine the most effective approach for linking the two programmes. Any decision on integration should follow the piloting of POARS, expected in 2025.

#### ***Recommendations for POARS governance***

[48] To ensure effective management and long-term sustainability of POARS, the POARS SG recommends:

- establishing a long-term POARS SG as the governance body for POARS activities, reporting to the bureau with a clearly defined membership with expertise in pest management, alert systems, policy coordination, data systems and emergency response;
- initiation and implementation of POARS to be led by the long-term POARS SG, after the piloting phase has been conducted by the current SG; and
- drafting and finalization of the terms of reference for long-term POARS SG to be conducted by the current POARS SG, drawing on its experience during the piloting phase. These terms of reference would be submitted to the bureau for approval, with a clearly established timeline for transitioning responsibilities to the renewed group to avoid disruptions.

#### **4. POARS resource mobilization considerations and financial model**

[49] Securing sufficient financial resources to support POARS activities for IPPC emerging pests’ actions and deliver the foreseen POARS technical activities remains a critical issue.

#### ***Context from past decisions***

[50] CPM-14 (2019)<sup>19</sup> had discussed the concept of emerging pests and emergency issues and:

- *noted* that contracting parties may donate targeted extra-budgetary funds through the multi-donor trust fund to support secretariat activities identified through this standing agenda item; and
- *called* on the secretariat to establish an emergency trust fund to support addressing issues related to emerging pests and emergency issues.

<sup>18</sup> [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/12/FINAL\\_REPORT\\_IC\\_Nov\\_2024\\_Meeting\\_2024-12-16.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/12/FINAL_REPORT_IC_Nov_2024_Meeting_2024-12-16.pdf) (item 4.5)

<sup>19</sup> [CPM-14\\_Report\\_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf](#)

### *Current funding efforts*

- [51] The new European Union-funded project “Support to the IPPC Strategic Framework and Work Plan” (GCP/GLO/1304/MUL) has allocated up to USD 140 000 per year over the three-year period of the project to support POARS activities.
- [52] During its November 2024 meeting, the IC agreed to request the IPPC Financial Committee to allocate USD 50 000 from the IPPC regular programme budget and the multi-donor trust fund to address the operational needs of POARS, focusing on emerging pests identified by the system. The IC also recommended to embed TR4. The IC requested the Financial Committee to earmark USD 50 000 for activities to be undertaken under the TR4 global coordination, taking into consideration the linkages with POARS and APP (see CPM paper for **agenda item 14.4**).

### *Future financial planning*

- [53] The IC emphasized that piloting POARS will help refine the understanding of actual financial requirements and guide future resource mobilization efforts. Notably, the recommended governance model is expected to have financial implications such as those of the current arrangement for a Steering Group, which currently relies on a project proposal to manage core activities. Additional resources are needed to support high-impact actions for the IPPC emerging pests.
- [54] The POARS SG will revisit this issue to evaluate financial needs based on insights gained from piloting the system, assess the associated cost and develop specific recommendations. This approach aims to ensure that future financial planning is closely aligned with the operational requirements of POARS activities.

### **Recommendations**

- [55] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the progress made on the development of criteria for identifying emerging pests, the POARS procedure, and mapping of POARS functions and activities with the IC, other IPPC bodies and the APP;
  - (2) *approve* the option of the POARS Steering Group as the long-term governance body for POARS activities, with the mandate to report directly to the bureau and be managed by the secretariat IFU;
  - (3) *request* the current POARS Steering Group to propose an updated terms of reference for the long-term POARS Steering Group and *request* the bureau to review and approve the terms of reference on behalf of the CPM;
  - (4) *note* the revised timeline for POARS implementation, including key milestones for 2024–2030, as detailed earlier in this paper;
  - (5) *include* updates on emerging pest situations and POARS-related activities as a standing CPM agenda item and *note* the upcoming call for emerging pests to be launch in response to CPM-16 (2022) request;
  - (6) *note* the analysis on NROs and the benefits of keep the pest reporting under the IC for streamlined management and oversight;
  - (7) *approve* the funding allocation of USD 50 000 from the IPPC regular programme budget and the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund to address POARS operational needs and ensure effective piloting and implementation of its system, as requested by the IC; and
  - (8) *request* the secretariat to establish a trust fund to address issues related to global emerging pests and emergencies, in line with the decision made at CPM-14 (2019).