Implementation of IPPC Strategic Objectives on Environment

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

1. Protecting the environment, forests and biodiversity is one of the four Strategic Objectives in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2012-2019) adopted by the CPM-8 (2013). The IPPC is pleased to have the Bureau note that progress is being made toward fulfilling this objective.

Biodiversity-related Convention

1. By this time, the news should be well known that the IPPC became the seventh member of the Biodiversity-related Conventions Liaison Group (BLG) during the 16 August 2014 meeting of the BLG. The other members of the BLG are:

* The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
* The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
* The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
* The International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IPGRFA)
* The Convention on Wetlands (popularly known as the Ramsar Convention), and
* The World Heritage Convention (WHC).

1. Joining this group of conventions is a significant milestone for the IPPC as there are positive short and long term repercussions for the Convention. Among other things, the inclusion of the IPPC into the BLG opens to the door to funds under the Global Environmental Facility. While these funds cannot be directly provided to the IPPC Secretariat, they can and should be used by NPPOs to assist in the implementation of the Convention in their respective countries. Some immediate actions performed by the Secretariat to maximize the benefits from this new membership include:

* Assisting the CBD Secretariat to develop and issue its notification and the Press Release
* Updating the biodiversity related webpage of FAO and CBD/BLG
* Posting news articles on IPP
* Establishing initial contacts with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) regarding procedures, contact points, etc.
* Communicating directly with NPPOs and RPPOs to encourage them to have dialogues with CBD and GEF focal points
* Participating in the CBD COP12 (the CPM Chairperson and IPPC Secretary), including the High Level Segment meetings (in the Republic of Korea)
* Participating in a side event at the FAO Committee on Food Security (CFS) to announce this recent development (in Rome)
* Meeting with the CITES legal expert (in Rome) to discuss a study CITES is conducting on that conventions relationship with the UN.

1. Prior to the joining to the BLG, the IPPC Secretariat had already contributed to a number of CBD workshops, including most recently a workshop on small island countries, which was highly appreciated by the participants and the CBD Secretariat. In addition, in September 2013, a team from the Secretariat went to CBD headquarters where the groundwork was laid for the eventual BLG membership. Future collaboration with the CBD will depend on a thorough review and update of the Joint Work Programme to be take place in November.
2. The Bureau is requested to:

* *discuss* the importance of BLG membership and *provide guidance* on possible future directions and activities in the environmental area.