



## Appendix 1: Draft terms of reference for the Steering Group of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (ASG)

As approved by the CPM-20

### Background

The Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP), an initiative of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat and the African Union Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, aims to empower phytosanitary officers in national plant protection organisations (NPPOs) in Africa and relevant national stakeholders, with modern science and advanced digital tools to rapidly detect, respond to and recover from outbreaks of plant pests. APP aims to enhance the resilience of Africa's plant health systems against pests of regulatory, economic, and environmental significance, facilitate the safe trade of agricultural products, and contribute to food security and economic growth.

### Purpose

- (1) The ASG is established to provide strategic guidance in planning and monitoring the implementation of the APP and to support the IPPC Secretariat and participating countries in resource mobilisation for the ~~programme's effective implementation~~ sustainable operationalisation of the programme.
- (2) The ASG will provide guidance and recommendations to refocus the scope, ensure sustainability and global scaling model of APP.

### Membership

The ASG will be composed of ~~nine-eleven~~ (911) members with relevant expertise, knowledge of the IPPC and APP goals and objectives, considering equitable representation and gender balance as follows:

- (2) representatives of regional plant protection organisations (RPPOs) in Africa: AU-IAPSC and NEPPO
- (1) representative of FAO offices in Africa (~~ideally~~ plant health officer).
- (2) representatives of CPM Bureau
- (1) representative from the POARS Steering Group
- (1) APP coordinator at the IPPC Secretariat
- (2) representatives of donor organisations as observers
- (1) communication officer
- (1) representative of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)

The steering group may invite experts for selected subjects or information sharing but these invited experts will not be steering group members.

### Functions

- Define APP priorities in line with available resources.

- Review the original objectives of the APP and evaluate if the current APP is in alignment with those objectives.
- Work with partners to identify areas for improvement and make adjustments to the programme prior to initiating work in the next phase.
- Provide guidance and monitor the implementation of the APP action plan and propose periodic updates as and when appropriate.
- Promote cooperation and recognition of the importance of phytosanitary programme activities globally, regionally, and nationally.
- Provide feedback and stimulate dialogue with partners represented/not represented by members, such as governments, international organisations, academia, civil society, and the private sector.
- Provide guidance in identifying potential donors/partners for resource mobilisation.
- Provide guidance and actively collaborate in mobilising financial support (including coordination of resource mobilisation for APP Multi-donor Trust Fund) for the implementation of the APP action plan and monitor budget expenditure.
- Provide advice on the main communication and advocacy action plan, materials and tools developed for the APP.
- Oversee the production of the APP report and implementation updates to the IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies.
- Identify potential synergies between APP and Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System Steering Group and National Reporting Obligations team to avoid duplicate outputs.
- Provide options for next steps of the APP, including, but not limited to, transitioning to a global programme.

## **Process**

The Chair of the ASG will be elected during its first meeting. Throughout the programme's implementation period, the APP team of the IPPC Secretariat will assist the Chair. It is expected that the ASG will hold virtual biannual meetings throughout 2026 to 2027. Meetings will be held in English.

Decisions shall usually be taken by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the ASG shall decide by a simple majority of the members present.

## **Duration**

The steering group will be operational for a two-year term, which may be renewed upon recommendation by the CPM Bureau.

## **Reports**

The ASG will report annually to the CPM Bureau and upon request if needed.