

Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

An International Framework
for Cooperation



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Introduction

International travel and trade are greater than ever before – and as people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

Pest introductions and outbreaks cost governments, farmers, consumers and the environment billions every year. The global community has responded to these challenges through international agreements and in developing cooperative mechanisms to protect people, animals, plants and the environment from pests, diseases, toxins and other hazards spread by human activities.

Some of these mechanisms describe desired outcomes and offer guidelines or recommendations on courses of action; others establish precise rules to be met by governments contracting to the agreement.

Three major intergovernmental mechanisms set standards by which the health of people, animals and plants are protected from the consequences of international movements of people and goods:

- ◆ The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) promotes action to protect plants and plant products from the spread of pests, and sets out measures to control plant pests;
- ◆ Codex Alimentarius sets sanitary and technical standards for food safety, including codes of practice and limits for pesticide, contaminants and other residues; and
- ◆ The Office International des Épizooties (OIE) – the World Animal Health Organization – deals with animal health and animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans, and sets sanitary standards for the international movement of animals or animal products.



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The standards developed under these mechanisms are designed to operate in the context of international trade and in the protection of biodiversity; to be transparent; to harmonize trade regulations by removing artificial trade barriers and other causes of disputes; and to be revised in response to new scientific knowledge.

The International Plant Protection Convention

Once plant pest¹ species are established, their eradication is often impossible and controlling them takes up a significant percentage of the cost of producing food. Therefore, preventing their introduction is highly cost effective and by protecting plant resources from pests, the IPPC helps protect:

- ◆ Farmers from economically devastating pest outbreaks;
- ◆ Food security;
- ◆ The environment from loss of species diversity;
- ◆ Ecosystems from loss of viability and function as a result of pest invasions;

1/ Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products.

- ◆ Cultivated and wild plant resources from the spread of pests as a consequence of climate change; and
- ◆ Industries and consumers from the costs of pest control or eradication.

The 177 contracting parties to the IPPC (as of 01 March 2012) share the same goal: **To protect the world's cultivated and natural plant resources from the spread and introduction of plant pests while minimizing interference with the international movement of goods and people.**

The IPPC provides an international framework for plant protection that includes developing International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) for safeguarding plant resources.

Adopted ISPMs include:

- ◆ Phytosanitary procedures;
- ◆ Pest surveillance, survey and monitoring;
- ◆ Import regulations and pest risk analysis;
- ◆ Compliance and inspection methodologies;
- ◆ Pest management;
- ◆ Post entry quarantine,
- ◆ Emergency response, control and eradication,
- ◆ Export certification,
- ◆ Phytosanitary treatments; and
- ◆ Diagnostic protocols.



The IPPC Secretariat provides parties with information on import and export requirements, pest status and regulated pest lists. Developing countries can receive technical assistance to support their ability to implement the Convention and ISPMs.

Contracting parties also provide technical assistance to each other. In particular, the Convention encourages support to developing countries to improve the effectiveness of their National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and to participate in Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), to help member nations realize the benefits of safe trade.

While the IPPC's primary focus is on plants and plant products moving in international trade, the convention also covers research materials, biological control organisms, germplasm banks, containment facilities and anything else that can act as a vector for the spread of plant pests – for example, containers, packaging materials, soil, vehicles, vessels and machinery.

Overall, the IPPC places emphasis on three main areas of work:

- ◆ international standard setting and implementation; and
- ◆ information exchange and capacity development for the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs.

The Convention

The Convention is an international treaty relating to plant health and has been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since its initial adoption by the Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session in 1951.

The IPPC came into force in 1952, superseding previous international plant protection agreements. The Convention was revised in 1979 and the amendments came into force in 1991.

A major revision of the IPPC approved by the Conference of FAO in 1997 updated and strengthened the Convention. The Convention provides a framework and forum for international cooperation, harmonization and technical exchange between contracting parties. Its implementation involves the collaboration of NPPOs, the official services established by governments to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC, and RPPOs, which may function as coordinating bodies at a regional level for activities to achieve the objectives of the IPPC.

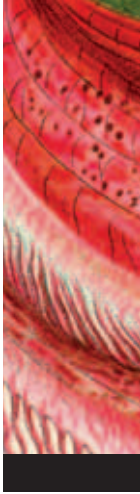
The 1997 New Revised Text

- ◆ emphasizes cooperation and information exchange;
- ◆ encourages harmonisation of phytosanitary measures by basing them on international standards;
- ◆ describes the framework of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) – the governing body of the IPPC, which develops and promotes the use of ISPMs;
- ◆ establishes the IPPC Secretariat and procedures for standard setting;
- ◆ aligns the Convention with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – the SPS Agreement – of the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- ◆ adds responsibility for contracting parties to promote technical assistance to other parties; and
- ◆ introduces modern plant protection practices such as pest risk analysis to support phytosanitary measures, the designation of pest free areas and the phytosanitary security of export consignments.

The full text of the Convention is available from the IPPC Secretariat or as a download from the IPPC Web site: www.ippc.int.

In agreeing to the rights and obligations of the Convention, contracting parties accept certain principles for phytosanitary measures, including:

- ◆ **Necessity** – restrictive measures must be applied only when made necessary by phytosanitary considerations;
- ◆ **Technical justification** – measures must be based on sound science;



- ◆ **Transparency** – measures must be published promptly and the rationale made available to other parties;
- ◆ **Minimal impact** – measures must be consistent with the risks and results in the minimum impediment to international movement of people and commodities; and
- ◆ **Non-discrimination** – measures must be applied without discrimination between countries of the same phytosanitary status. For a particular quarantine pest, phytosanitary measures can be no more stringent when applied to imported goods than when applied to the same pest within the contracting party's own territory.

Milestones in international plant protection

- 1881 *Phylloxera vastatrix* Convention: the first international agreement for plant protection
- 1889 Berne Convention
- 1929 International Convention for the Protection of Plants (Rome)
- 1951 Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session adopts the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- 1952 IPPC comes into force, superseding all international plant protection agreements
- 1976 First amendments to the Convention are undertaken
- 1979 Revised text of the amended IPPC is approved
- 1989 GATT Uruguay Round proposes the IPPC as one of the standard-setting organizations for the future Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement)
- 1991 Amendments of 1979 came into force
- 1992 IPPC Secretariat established and begins standard-setting programme
- 1993 Conference of FAO at its Twenty-seventh Session approves the first International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)
- 1996 IPPC Expert Consultation draws up the first draft of a New Revised Text of the Convention
- 1997 Conference of FAO at its Twenty-ninth Session unanimously adopts the New Revised Text of the IPPC with interim measures
- 1998 First meeting of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
- 2001 Establishment of the Standards Committee
- 2001 Establishment of the IPPC dispute resolution procedures
- 2005 Entry into force of the New Revised Text of the IPPC
- 2006 First Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
- 2012 60 years of IPPC

International Cooperation...

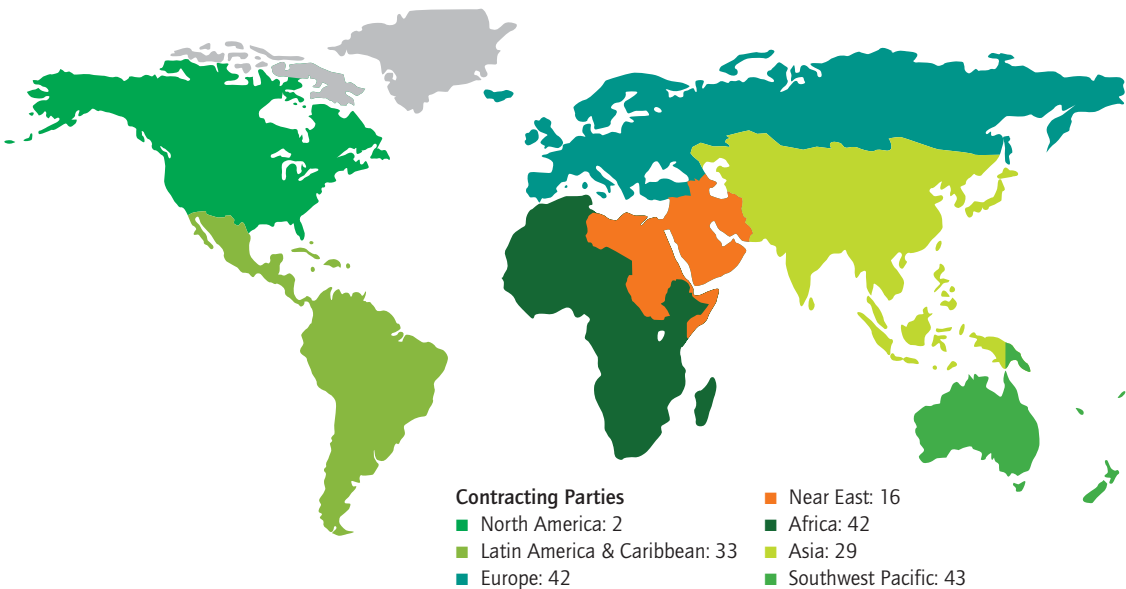
International cooperation covers the form of the Convention itself, the provision of technical assistance by contracting parties and the dissemination of information in a continuum that reduces duplication of effort and costs, promotes the principles of the IPPC and advances its application.

Cooperation bolsters the application of principles, such as transparency and risk analysis in many ways. The IPPC encourages contracting parties to cooperate in the following areas:

- ◆ Exchanging information on pest occurrence, spread or outbreaks;
- ◆ Special campaigns to combat serious pests where international action is needed;
- ◆ Providing information for pest risk analyses;
- ◆ National capacity development for the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs;
- ◆ Establishing Regional Plant Protection Organizations;
- ◆ Developing standards;
- ◆ Promoting the harmonization of phytosanitary measures; and
- ◆ Cooperation with other international organizations on other matters covered by the Convention.

There are 177 contracting parties to the IPPC across seven FAO regions.

Figure 1: IPPC Contracting Parties



... and International Trade

The Convention allows contracting parties to gain assurance through phytosanitary certification that imports will not introduce new pests into their territories.

The IPPC is a legally binding international agreement, though the standards developed and adopted by the Commission are not legally binding.

WTO members agree to base their phytosanitary measures on international standards developed within the framework of the IPPC, and phytosanitary measures that conform to ISPMs are presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement.

Measures that deviate from international standards or measures that exist in the absence of international standards must be justified through pest risk assessments and be based on scientific principles and evidence.

The IPPC includes dispute settlement provisions for use in instances where phytosanitary measures may be challenged as unjustified barriers to trade.

The IPPC was deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations' lead agency for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development, after its adoption in 1951. FAO provides the Secretariat to the IPPC, legal advice, technical assistance, and the meeting venue and associated resources for many of the international phytosanitary community's activities.

During the past six decades, the IPPC has become the core plant health standard setting body underlining FAO's comparative advantage and playing a critical role in developing the capacity of countries to monitor and respond to plant pest risks and safeguard their food supply.



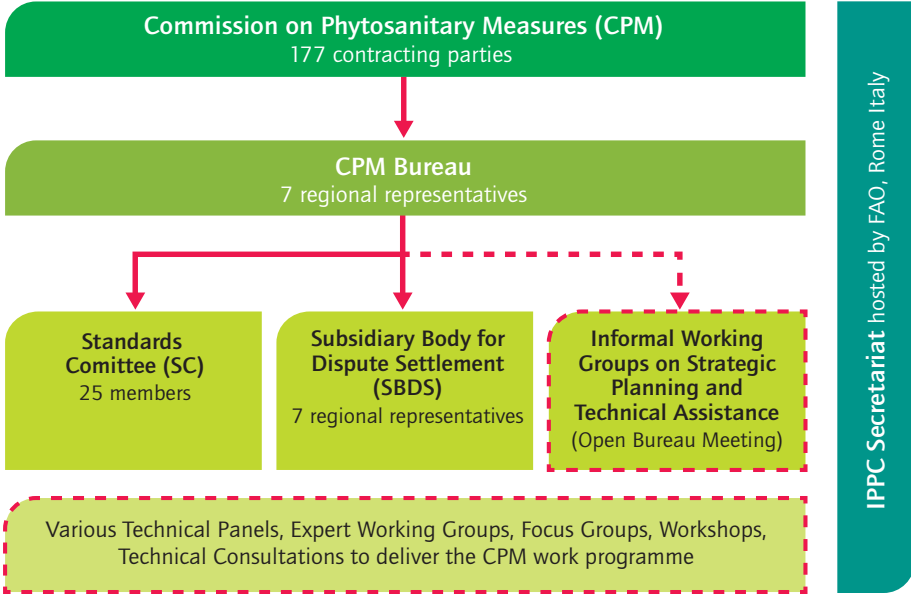
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Administration

The governance structures are established by the IPPC and the details are determined by the CPM.

Figure 2: IPPC Governance



The CPM – Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

The CPM exists to promote the full implementation of the Convention's objectives, and meets annually. The CPM:

- ◆ Reviews global plant protection needs;
- ◆ Develops and adopts ISPMs;
- ◆ Establishes procedures for dispute resolution;
- ◆ Promotes technical assistance to build phytosanitary capacity;
- ◆ Cooperates with RPPOs and other international organizations on matters relating to the Convention; and
- ◆ The CPM has a bureau with a chair, two vice-chairs and four members who represent each FAO region.

Basic funding and resources for the work programme of the CPM are provided through the FAO budget, with contracting parties and other donors providing additional support through trust funds as well as through in-kind contributions.

The IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC Secretariat was established in 1992 within the Plant Protection Division of FAO, and is responsible for coordinating the CPM work programme. The Secretariat:

- ◆ Implements the policies and activities of the CPM;
- ◆ Publishes information relating to the IPPC;
- ◆ Facilitates information exchange between contracting parties and RPPOs;
- ◆ Provides technical support to contracting parties, in particular to least developed nations; and
- ◆ Facilitates the development of ISPMs.

By coordinating information exchange between parties and publishing relevant information, the Secretariat helps ensure the Convention’s principle of transparency is put into practice. More information on the Secretariat and contact details are available on the IPPC Web site: www.ippc.int.



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IPPC Partners

The IPPC has many partners to effectively implement the IPPC, set international standards and establish and implement national phytosanitary measures.

Within the Convention, **NPPs, RPPOs and Secretariat** are explicitly identified as **key partners**, but other national ministries and agencies, international organizations, industry, academia and civil society all have crucial roles at different stages for the effective protection of plant resources from pests. Therefore, the cooperation in delivery and coordination of IPPC activities is central to an effective IPPC.

The IPPC recognises the importance of maintaining strong links with international organizations that share common interests, in particular such as the **World Trade Organization** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity**.

Additional partners include internationally recognized institutions such as the Biological Weapons Convention, Codex Alimentarius, Global Invasive Species Programme, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Seed Federation, International Seed Testing Association, Standard Trade and Development Facility and OIE, among others.

National Plant Protection Organizations

National Plant Protection Organizations are established by contracting party governments to discharge the functions specified in the IPPC. NPPOs are central to the functioning and effectiveness of the IPPC.

National governments, through their NPPOs:

- ◆ are responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates;
- ◆ manage surveillance for pests and control pest outbreaks;
- ◆ conduct inspection and disinfestation of consignments of plants and plant products;
- ◆ ensure the phytosanitary security of consignments from the issuing of certification until export;
- ◆ establish and maintain pest free areas;
- ◆ undertake pest risk analyses for the development of phytosanitary measures; and
- ◆ are responsible for exchange phytosanitary information as determined by the IPPC and associated ISPMs.

They establish and implement the phytosanitary regulations issued by their governments and issue phytosanitary certificates (when these are required) to confirm that exporters have met importing country requirements.

Regional Plant Protection Organizations

Regional plant protection organizations are intergovernmental organizations providing coordination at a regional level for the activities and objectives of the IPPC. There may be specific tensions between trading countries as importers, exporters or as competitors,

but in the wider context of the RPPOs these countries can work together to achieve the IPPC's mission of preventing the spread of pests of plants and plant products, and of promoting measures for their control.

RPPOs:

- ◆ Participate in activities to achieve IPPC objectives;
- ◆ Disseminate IPPC information; and
- ◆ Cooperate with the CPM and the Secretariat in standards development.

Technical consultations amongst RPPO representatives are convened annually to promote and facilitate the development, adoption and harmonization of phytosanitary measures and discuss shared concerns.

Not all IPPC contracting parties are members of RPPOs, nor are all members of RPPOs contracting parties to IPPC. Some contracting parties may also belong to more than one RPPO.

Details of establishment and contact details for the RPPOs are published on the IPPC Web site – <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13310>.

There are currently nine RPPOs:

- ◆ Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC), with 24 member countries;
- ◆ Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC), with 22 member countries;
- ◆ Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal Para el Cono Sur (COSAVE), with 5 member countries;
- ◆ Comunidad Andina (CA), with 5 member countries;
- ◆ European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), with 50 member countries;
- ◆ Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), with 51 member countries;
- ◆ North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), with 3 member countries;
- ◆ Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), with 8 member countries; and
- ◆ Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO), with 21 member countries.



Trade Organizations and Agreements

Of the international organizations and agreements whose objectives and activities overlap with those of the IPPC, the WTO, dealing with the rules of trade between nations, is particularly important.

The WTO:

- ◆ Administers multilateral trade agreements, acts as a forum for trade negotiations and seeks to resolve trade disputes.
- ◆ Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – the SPS Agreement – is of particular relevance to the IPPC.
- ◆ SPS Agreement requires that WTO members (153) should base their phytosanitary measures on international standards developed by the IPPC; however, the Convention and the SPS Agreement are distinct in their scope and purpose and have slightly different membership.

The central difference is that the IPPC makes provision for trade within a plant protection agreement, while the SPS Agreement makes provision for plant protection within a trade agreement.

The IPPC complements the SPS Agreement by providing international standards on which all countries base their phytosanitary measures to have a scientific basis and ensure they are not used as unjustified barriers to international trade.

Environmental Organizations and Agreements

Because the scope of the IPPC extends to protecting natural flora, CPM collaborates with environmental programmes to ensure that its activities take account of intergovernmental environmental agreements and that people working in environmental frameworks understand the role of the IPPC.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) aims to encourage care for the environment by helping nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP hosts the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, which entered into force in 1993.

The CBD calls on its contracting parties to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity – including preventing, controlling and eradicating alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

Many of the IPPC's principles and phytosanitary measures apply to the CBD. Cooperation and information exchange between environmental organizations, the CPM and the IPPC Secretariat strengthen the implementation of their respective mandates.



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International Standards

Although the IPPC has been in force since 1952, it is recognition as an international agreement changed markedly in the 1990s when it was named in the WTO-SPS agreement as the plant health standard setting body. At the same time, NPPOs began formulating International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

IPPC standards (ISPMs are available at – <https://www.ippc.int/id/ispm>) allow countries to analyze pest risks to their national plant resources and to use science-based measures to safeguard their cultivated and wild plants.

ISPMs are designed to harmonize phytosanitary measures applied in international trade and to protect biodiversity by preventing movement of invasive plant pests, and their binding status is assured because the SPS Agreement stipulates that WTO members shall base their phytosanitary measures on international standards set out in the IPPC. The development of international standards accelerated further with the formation of the CPM in 1997.

The process for developing an ISPM comprises 3 stages: drafting, consultation and approval. The time from proposal to approval varies between standards but is never less than 12 months; the process can become protracted if there are differences of opinion between technical experts at the drafting or wide-ranging responses from member countries in the consultation stage.

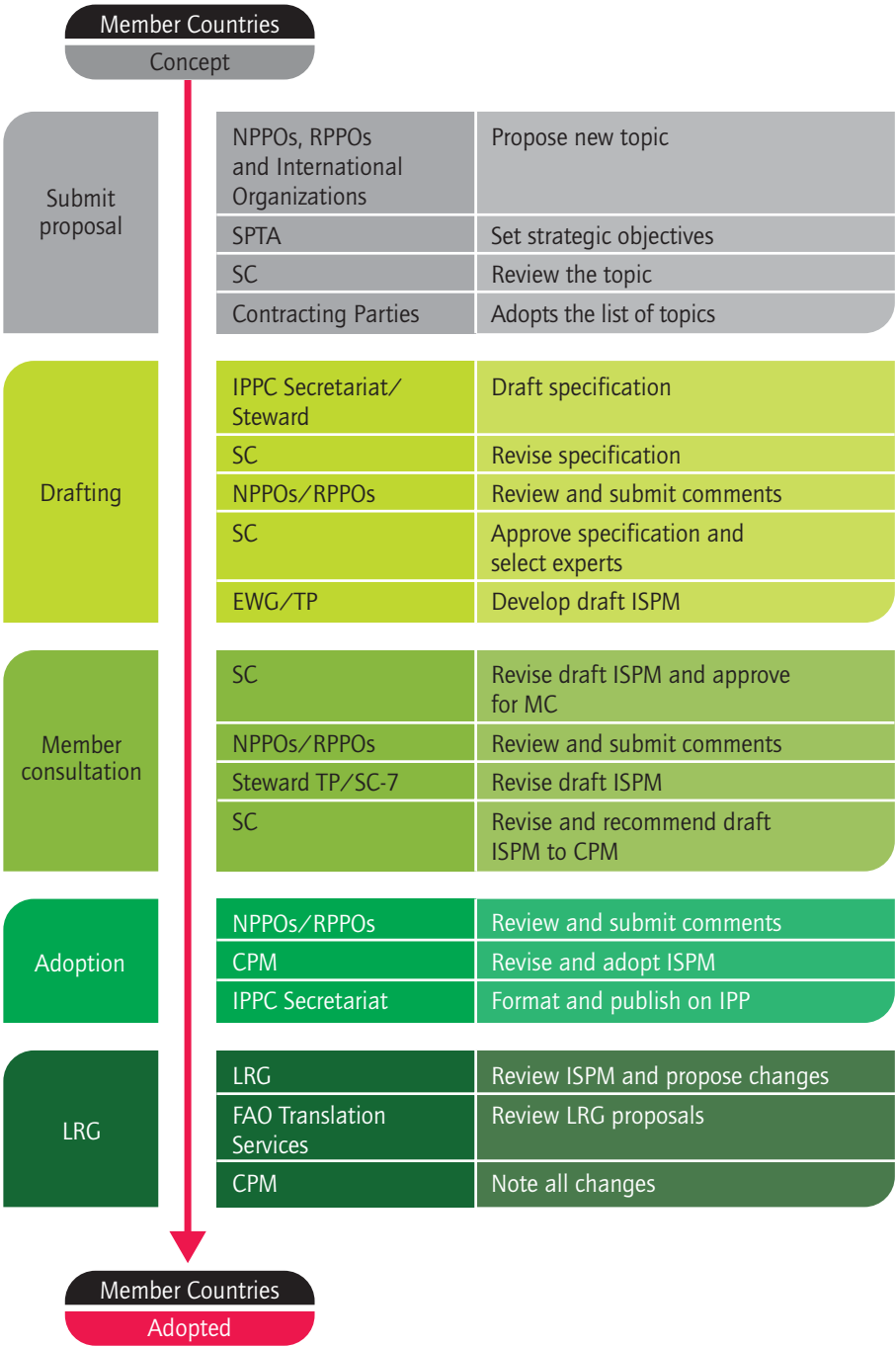
Suggestions for topics for ISPMs can be made by NPPOs or RPPOs, by the IPPC Secretariat or by the WTO-SPS Committee. Other organizations such as the CBD, industry groups or individuals may submit proposals for topics (or amendments to existing specifications) through the Secretariat. Priorities for dealing with proposals are decided by the CPM in consultation with the Secretariat.

A Standards Committee oversees the standard-setting process and helps develop ISPMs by agreeing on the specifications for draft standards and checking drafts before and after the consultation stage. This committee comprises 25 members drawn from the seven FAO regions.

The Standard-Setting Process

CPM revises the IPPC standard setting process at least every 5 years to improve efficiencies and transparency, while maintaining quality and maximum participation. Opportunities for participation occur at many points of the IPPC standard setting process. There are 4 stages during which input by a variety of partners into the standard setting process can occur.

Figure 3: The Standard-Setting Process





Scientific Justification of Measures

Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) provides the technical justification for the application of phytosanitary measures and the basis of collaborative work with environmental organizations such as the Convention on Biological Diversity i.e. it is the foundation on which modern phytosanitary measures are established. PRA is a critical element in serving the IPPC's purpose of protecting the world's plant resources from pests, and has an increasingly important role in modern phytosanitary practice.

ISPM 2 deals with pest risk analysis in general and ISPM 11 covers PRA for quarantine pests: because PRA is a rapidly evolving scientific discipline, these standards are of necessity subject to review and revision.

Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis: ISPM 2

Pest Risk Analysis consists of three stages (definitions of these can be found in ISPM 5, Glossary of phytosanitary terms):

- ◆ Initiation involves the identification of pests or pathways for which PRA is needed.
- ◆ Assessment looks at the likelihood of introduction, establishment and spread, and at economic impacts to determine if the pests identified are quarantine pests.
- ◆ Management means developing and evaluating options for reducing the risk. These options should be proportional to the identified risk and should be applied to the minimum area necessary for effective protection.

Any PRA must refer to a defined PRA area; usually a country, but possibly an area within a country or an area greater than a single country.

Pest Risk Analysis for quarantine pests: ISPM 11

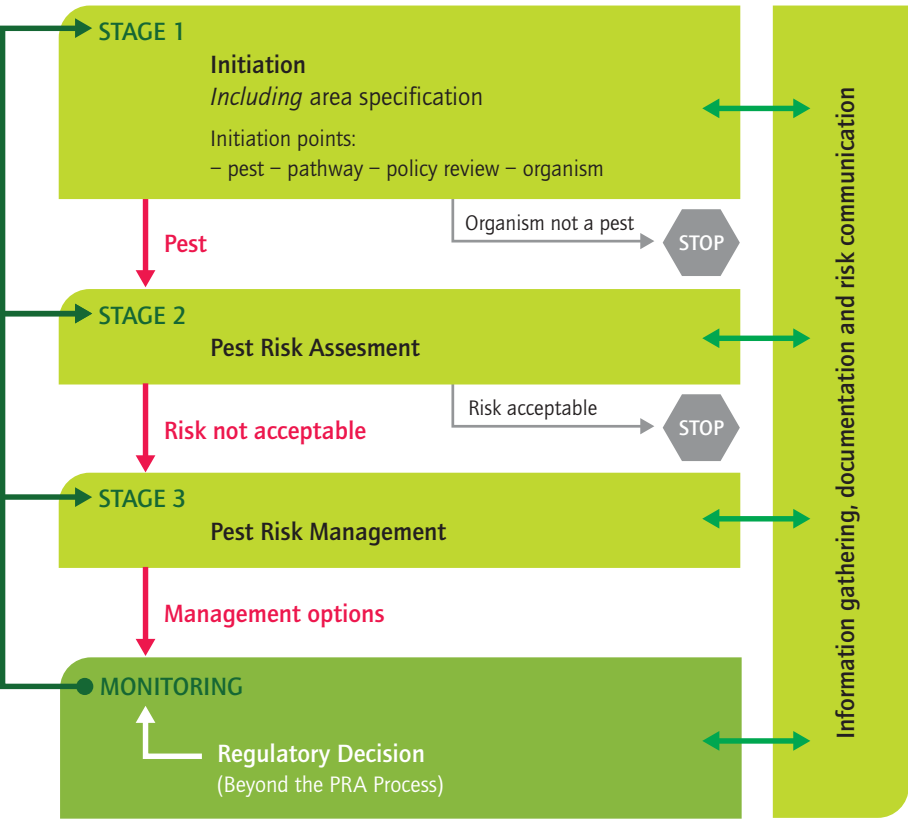
This standard provides details for conducting pest risk analysis to determine if pests are quarantine pests, and describes the integrated processes to be used for risk assessment as well as the selection of risk management options.

PRA for quarantine pests assesses pests in terms of their potential economic importance and possible control measures in the area endangered by their presence. For quarantine pests, PRA follows the same three-stage process described above.

Initiation could be the result of a discovery of an established infestation within the PRA area, an interception of a new pest on an imported commodity or a request to import an organism into the area. Pathways could include commodities not previously imported or importation from a new country of origin, as well as natural spread into the area by means such as mail or packing materials.

Assessment begins with categorizing individual pests to see if they fit the criteria for a quarantine pest, such as the potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area and the potential for unacceptable economic or environmental impacts. Economic consequences are assessed in terms of direct and indirect effects on domestic and export markets, particularly on market access.

Figure 4: Pest Risk Analysis Flow Chart



Categorization based on existing knowledge of climatic conditions, host species or interceptions have an impact on the conclusions in a PRA.

Risk management involves identifying options for reducing the risks identified by assessment. Countries decide what level of risk is acceptable to them and choose management options on the basis of their efficacy, feasibility and impact.

Implementation of the phytosanitary measures will most likely involve the implementation of a number of the ISPMs.

Capacity Development

Though the IPPC Secretariat to CPM has its own work programme to facilitate capacity development, it also offers coordination and support to phytosanitary initiatives that involve the IPPC, SPS Agreement, FAO's technical cooperation programmes, and other multidisciplinary and multinational partners.

This includes:

- ◆ Providing input to training programmes;
- ◆ Coordinating assistance between governments or between organizations and governments; and
- ◆ Collaborating in capacity building programmes carried out by organizations such as WTO, the World Bank and bilateral aid agencies.

The Secretariat supports FAO's capacity development programmes and FAO-executed projects by working with developing countries to:

- ◆ Evaluate phytosanitary capacity;
- ◆ Assist in strategic planning and strengthening of plant protection infrastructures;
- ◆ Update legislation;
- ◆ Develop emergency programmes; and
- ◆ Avoid disputes.

The Secretariat also works with other multidisciplinary and multinational partners to foster regional harmonization, to upgrade phytosanitary systems, and to facilitate the alignment and upgrading of policy on plant, animal and human health.

Contracting parties' phytosanitary agencies can foster technical cooperation by providing research data, publications or equipment to less developed countries; by sending specialist officers to solve problems or provide training; or by providing funds to enable representatives to attend meetings.





Information Exchange

Official information on pest occurrence, outbreaks, spread, control, surveillance and phytosanitary regulations is key to putting the Convention into practice.

It can be complex to assemble and to distribute phytosanitary information as significant national phytosanitary capacity is necessary to support this process, but accurate and timely information is essential to transparency and the functioning of the Convention.

The 1997 revision of the IPPC set out channels, and identified the responsible parties, for notifying other members and organizations of changes to phytosanitary regulations, emergency measures, and pest status amongst others. Each party must provide the Secretariat with an official contact point for the exchange of phytosanitary information, as determined by the IPPC.

Such channels of communication greatly facilitate the timely, transparent and effective communication of IPPC information. It also allows a single contact person for each contracting party that can then direct communication to the most appropriate person to respond in a timely manner with appropriate information.

The CPM agreed to the establishment of the IPPC website (International Phytosanitary Portal – www.ippc.int) to facilitate such communication and ensure that countries are more easily able to meet their national phytosanitary information exchange obligations. The Web site also provides full contact details for NPPOs, RPPOs and the Secretariat, as well as a calendar of events and all documentation relevant to the CPM work programme.





Dispute Settlement

Because phytosanitary disputes can arise between contracting parties over interpretation or application of the IPPC and ISPMs, the CPM has established a subsidiary body devoted to overseeing, administering and supporting the IPPC dispute settlement procedures.

IPPC procedures are aimed at evaluating the technical aspects of phytosanitary disputes, and encourage contracting parties to enter into impartial dialogue on technical issues.

Consultation is the first option, and the Secretariat can advise on a range of dispute settlement procedures such as informal or formal consultation, mediation or arbitration, as well as the formal dispute settlement process.

Parties involved in a dispute can ask the Director-General of FAO to appoint a committee of experts, which includes representatives designated by the disputing parties themselves. Three independent experts are selected by the CPM from a roster supplied by the Secretariat: one of the independent experts is elected as chairperson of the combined expert committee, which prepares a report summarizing the technical aspects of the dispute and recommending how to resolve it.

The committee's draft report is submitted to the Secretariat for technical review and, if appropriate, to the FAO Legal Office. The final report passes from the Secretariat to the CPM, then to the Director-General of FAO and to the disputing parties. It can also be made available to organizations responsible for resolving trade disputes, such as the WTO.

If the issue remains unresolved and proceeds to the WTO, the findings of the IPPC dispute settlement committee would be an important part of the WTO deliberations.

Disputing parties would benefit from resolving their differences on a technical basis under the IPPC's non-binding dispute settlement provisions rather than entering into the legally binding processes of settlement under the WTO system.

The Future

The IPPC Secretariat and the CPM have an important role in the development of international standards and the harmonization of phytosanitary measures, and have fostered a growing involvement of the phytosanitary community in the evolution of phytosanitary systems at an international level.

As the standard-setting process has developed, so has the number of proposed standards, together with a growing awareness of the importance of collaborative information exchange and an awareness of the need for increased capacity to implement the standards and the relevance of the Convention to environmental and plant biosecurity issues.

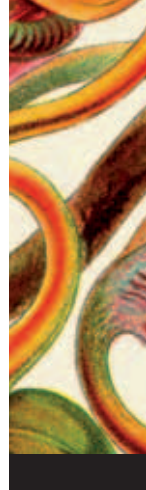
Contracting parties agree on the need for developing countries to participate in standard setting and working meetings, and for capacity development programmes targeted to enhance phytosanitary capacity.

Contracting parties also identified a need to increase awareness of the IPPC and ISPMs outside the phytosanitary community so that there is appreciation of the vital role the IPPC plays in contributing to food security, protection of biodiversity and economic development.

Central to increasing awareness and responsibility, is the need to source adequate resources to service activities of the IPPC. Although FAO provides core funding to the IPPC, the survival and sustainability of the IPPC depends on additional funding provided by countries and donors. There is a large gap between the role that IPPC could and should play in protecting global plant resources and the one it is currently playing. The main challenge is that, since 1997, the number of demands on and expectations for the IPPC and its Secretariat have increased at a rate outstripping the resources and funding available to advance the collective action agreed upon by the CPM. To this end the Secretariat has an active resource mobilization strategy. The Secretariat can be contacted should countries or donors wish to provide additional resources (financial or human) to ensure the sustainability of this work.

As the IPPC community looks increasingly to the future, it will have to deal with new challenges and revise existing strategies. Some of the areas will include:

- ◆ Increased trade, travel and tourism increases the risk of pest introduction;
- ◆ Due to climate change more pests can establish in an area and perceived phytosanitary risks will change;
- ◆ Increased requests for environment and biodiversity protection and improved understanding of the scope of aquatic pests under the IPPC;
- ◆ Ensuring national capacity development of new and existing ISPMs is possible and pragmatic;
- ◆ Increasing communication and transparency to meet the phytosanitary needs of countries, including that for electronic certification such as ePhyto;
- ◆ Understanding the phytosanitary risks associated with Internet-based trade in plants and plant products; and
- ◆ Identifying gaps in topics for ISPMs as well as understanding and addressing challenges in implementing existing ISPMs.





Where can I find more information?

1. The IPPC Web site – www.ippc.int – is maintained by the IPPC Secretariat and provides extensive information relating to the Convention. All IPPC documents can be downloaded from the site as PDF, Excel or Word files.
About: <http://www.ippc.int/>
Site map: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110692&L=0>
The Web site also has links to organizations and information, including relevant links to support the implementation of the IPPC (www.phytopsanitary.info), RPPOs, Inter-Governmental Organizations, FAO and WTO.
2. Standard setting: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110625&L=0>
ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=ispms>
3. Capacity Development:
https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=capacity&no_cache=1&L=0
PCE: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13406>
4. Information exchange:
https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=information_exchange&no_cache=1&L=0
Change to contact Points:
http://test.ippc.int/file_uploaded/1258809393_Contact_Point_n.pdf
5. IRSS: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059#irssactivities>
6. Dispute Settlement:
https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=dispute_settlement&no_cache=1&L=0
7. IPPC 60 Years anniversary: www.ippc.int/60years

Acronyms

APPPC – Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
CA – Comunidad Andina
CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPM – Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures
COSAVE – Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal Para el Cono Sur
CPM – Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CPPC – Caribbean Plant Protection Commission
EPPO – European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
EWG – Expert Working Group
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
IAPSC – InterAfrican Phytosanitary Council
IPPC – International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM – International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
LRG – Language Review Group
NAPPO – North American Plant Protection Organization
NPPO – National plant protection organization
OBM – Open Bureau Meeting
OIE – Office International des Épizooties – the World Animal Health Organization
OIRSA – Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PFA – Pest free area – an area in which a specific pest does not occur and in which this condition is being officially maintained
PPPO – Pacific Plant Protection Organization
PRA – Pest Risk Analysis – the process of evaluating scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it.
RPPO – Regional plant protection organization
SC – Standards Committee
SPS – Sanitary and Phytosanitary (as in WTO-SPS Committee)
SPS Agreement – Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and the Phytosanitary Measures
TCP – Technical cooperation programme
UN – United Nations
UNEP – United Nations Environmental Programme
WTO – World Trade Organization





IPPC

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. International travel and trade are greater than ever before. As people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

Organization

- ◆ There are 177 contracting party signatories to the Convention.
- ◆ Each contracting party has a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and an Official IPPC contact point.
- ◆ 9 Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) established to coordinate NPPOs on a regional level.
- ◆ IPPC liaises with relevant international organizations to help build regional and national capacities.
- ◆ Secretariat is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN).



International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

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