Resource mobilization – next steps to implement the IPPC strategy

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. As agreed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in 2012, the IPPC Resource mobilization strategy had the objective of ensuring “sustainable and sufficient funding for the IPPC in order to fulfill the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) strategic objectives.” There are a number of goals embedded in the strategy adopted by CPM which is intended to be fully implemented by 2021. The first goal listed in the strategy is the creation of an adequate administrative financial network. The components needed to implement the goal are the establishment of a Financial Committee and the improvement of budget transparency and clarity. This goal has been accomplished; there is a functioning financial committee which meets on a regular basis and which provides guidance and advice on the preparation of the financial report which is subsequently delivered to the CPM. The financial report is comprehensive and provides detailed and transparent information on the financial picture of the IPPC.
2. The next goal in the strategy is the development of communication and information strategies. The IPPC has a strategy which has been adopted by the CPM and is presently engaged in the development of a workplan to implement that strategy. A professional communications consultant has been retained to work with the Secretariat and prepare the workplan for presentation and approval by CPM10. Additional work is being performed by the IPPC to refresh the appearance and improve the utility of the IPP. This work is vital in terms of presenting the IPPC’s face to world, especially in terms of the focus on resource mobilization and enhancement. The Secretariat would additionally point out that the work of broader recognition and support for the IPPC is not for the sole purpose of enhancing the Secretariat alone. Better and stronger communications should be an NPPO goal as well, and any messaging adopted in the course of the Secretariat’s efforts in this regard should be adoptable by NPPOs and RPPOs as well.
3. Obviously substantial additional work remains to be completed relative to the goals outlined in the strategy. The Secretariat would point out, however, that the strategy was developed in the context of a situation that existed before the inclusion of the IPPC in the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) which allows the IPPC, RPPOs and NPPOs to be legitimately engaged in in environmental related resource mobilization activities. This is especially critical to understand at this juncture in time as the prospects for an increase in FAO regular program funds for the IPPC in the next biennium are understandably dim. This is one of the reasons why there has been an ongoing transition in the IPPC Secretariat to increased funding from sources other than the FAO to point where there is almost equilibrium in regular program and trust funding allocations. This is a reason why the Secretariat would like to propose and encourage some additional activities in addition to the communications push.
4. The Secretariat considers that it is now time to once again objectively look at the use of a mechanism for arranging voluntary assessed contributions in order to ensure sustainability in resources while pushing resource mobilization efforts to access non-FAO funding sources. The bottom line objective to this consideration is to ensure sustained funding for the work of the IPPC in the face of diminishing resources available through FAO and in recognition of the broader role that the CPM wishes the Convention to play globally, and which the Convention *should* be playing globally.
5. This topic was first proposed during CPM6 (2011) in CPM2011/INF/20 leading to considerable discussion on the topic. Additional clarity was provided by the FAO legal department which sheds considerable light on the possibility of entering into individual assessed voluntary contributions. The CPM6 (2011) reports states:

***“13.4.4 Supplementary agreement for resource mobilisation***

148. The Secretariat introduced the paper64, but reported that subsequent legal advice indicated

that the ideas in the paper for a supplementary agreement would not fit under Article XVI of the

IPPC. The paper could therefore be used for information and ideas only.

149. *The representative of the FAO Legal Services advised that there was no need for a formal*

*CPM procedure for an individual country, or group of countries or organization, to make donations*

*to the IPPC, but that an agreement was required. There was a requirement to protect both the donor*

*and the interests of the organisation. The FAO had model donor agreements that it could provide for*

*countries. These agreements were signed with the FAO on behalf of the IPPC (under Article XIV of*

*the Basic Texts of the FAO) and could be tailored to suit national requirements. The agreements*

*and how the funds were used would normally be a mutual decision between the countries in question*

*and the FAO.* (italics added)

150. The Secretariat clarified that the intention was that funds received through these

agreements would be put into a trust fund and the CPM would decide what to do with these funds,

rather than it being targeted to a purpose specified by the donor.”

1. In view of the above, the Secretariat believes that there is a suitably defined way forward for sustained financing of the IPPC. There would be a few changes in the intent and use of the funds however. A proposed voluntary assessed contribution of USD50,000, if provided by only 50 contracting parties would be the virtual equivalent of the annual FAO regular program contribution. These resources would be specifically put to use for additional capacity development activities (such as manual development and training events), enhancing the IT infrastructure, translations and Convention implementation related activities, among other things. These funds are not intended, nor would they be used for any other purpose other than those which would advance the cause of plant health through specific designated activities. The sole exception would be to use some of the funds to ensure that there is adequate staffing available to resource the activities.
2. Naturally, as the Secretariat now has a transparent accounting system in place, how these funds are used will be clearly directed by the CPM (or in the interim, by the Bureau) in consultation with the Financial Committee and reported, both on a quarterly basis on line and in the context of the annual financial report to the CPM. The establishment of these supplementary agreements may include specific activities at the request of the donor, but the broader intent is for these agreements to run for a minimum of five years.
3. The SPG is urged to:
* *support* the use of a donor agreement with individual countries, or groups of countries or organizations and the Secretariat to ensure stable and sustained support for the work of the Convention.
* *encourage* a nominal contribution of USD50,000 per year from contracting parties or groups of contracting parties able to do so, with the option for larger or smaller amounts depending on an individual contracting party’s economic circumstances
* *acknowledge* theintention of individual contracting parties to take part in this resource mobilization initiative in CPM and in communications materials