



REPORT

Buenos Aires, Argentina
2-5 May 2017

IPPC Discussion Group – Tackling Environmental Issues



Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

Contents

1.	Opening of the meeting	3
1.1	Welcome to the meeting	3
1.2	Meeting introduction.....	3
1.3	Participant introductions	3
2.	Adoption of the agenda	3
3.	Administrative matters	3
3.1	Participants list.....	3
3.2	Local information	3
4.	Background	3
4.1	The IPPC and its activities.....	4
4.2	Global Environment Facility	4
5.	Environmental aspects of the IPPC	5
5.1	Convention, strategic framework and ISPM aspects	5
5.2	CPM recommendations.....	5
5.3	Partnership with CBD	6
5.4	IRSS surveys.....	6
5.5	IRSS studies.....	6
5.6	Protecting endangered areas (e.g. forests)	6
5.7	Other	6
6.	Discussion on tackling key environmental issues	6
6.1	Identify key environmental issues relating to plant protection	6
6.2	Identify national and regional capacity needs.....	6
6.3	Experiences of others (international programmes and other organizations).....	6
7.	Scoping a proposal	7
7.1	Key environmental issues	7
7.2	Expected activities and outputs.....	7
7.3	Further engagement with stakeholders	7
8.	Any other business	7
9.	Next steps.....	7
10.	Review and adoption of report	7
11.	Close of meeting.....	7

Appendices

Appendix 01 – Agenda	8
Appendix 02 – List of Participants	10

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome to the meeting

- [1] The meeting was opened by Mr. Diego Quiroga, Director Nacional de Protección Vegetal (NPPO), who welcomed participants to SENASA Headquarters and Buenos Aires. He expressed the willingness of SENASA to participate in the meeting to identify and discuss issues associated with plant health and the environment along with his colleagues, Ezequiel Ferro, Lead of International Affairs (NPPO) and Pablo Cortese, Director de Vigilancia y Monitoreo (NPPO).

1.2 Meeting introduction

- [2] The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international agreement with 183 contracting parties that works towards preventing the introduction and spread of plant pests around the world, which also contributes to food security, environmental protection and facilitates trade.
- [3] To work towards the IPPC vision of protecting global plant resources from pests our contracting parties implement the Convention, international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and recommendations made by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), to establish, manage and strengthen their phytosanitary systems. However, this takes a lot of work and requires both financial and human resources for effective implementation. It is for this reason that this exercise is being undertaken, to determine how we can assist our contracting parties to access funding to implement the environmental aspects of the Convention.
- [4] The priority of the group was to look at how we can work to protect the environment (including protection of endangered areas, biodiversity and forests) while also protecting plant resources and trading safely. This included the group looking at the IPPC framework and potential ways to relate to the goals and focal areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), such as biodiversity, climate change, forests and possibly others. In addition to looking to enhance link between national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and their national environmental counterparts to achieve joint goals.

1.3 Participant introductions

- [5] The discussion group participants introduced themselves and gave some background on the experience they bring to the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

- [6] The agenda was adopted as presented in Appendix 1.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Participants list

- [7] The participants list records those attending the discussion group, as presented in Appendix 2.

3.2 Local information

- [8] The IPPC Secretariat gave a short overview of meeting logistics and thanked SENASA for providing comprehensive information relating to all meeting arrangements and for participant activities in Buenos Aires.

4. Background

- [9] The IPPC Secretariat presented an overview of the IPPC to the discussion group.

4.1 The IPPC and its activities

- [10] The IPPC Secretariat is quite small with approximately 20 staff members working across four different areas. The two technical areas include the Standards Setting Unit (SSU) and Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU), as well as an Information Exchange platform based on fulfilling obligations of the Convention and a Communication and Advocacy function.
- [11] The IFU includes capacity development activities at the national, regional and global level, specific technical assistance in partnership with donors, facilitation of use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool to evaluate national systems and development of resources and tools that are available on the [Phytosanitary Resources website](#). To evaluate implementation, work is done under the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) project to understand contracting parties' implementation strengths and weaknesses, analyse specific technical issues and scan for emerging issues in plant health. Additionally, an IPPC dispute avoidance and settlement function is available for use as necessary.
- [12] To facilitate the reporting of national obligations the Information Exchange area works to promote contracting parties transparent sharing of information about their NPPO, their national pest status, import requirements and other information.
- [13] Finally, in an effort to raise awareness of what the IPPC does and how implementation of the Convention and its standards benefits contracting parties, the Communication and Advocacy area has an active programme to increase the profile of IPPC at national, regional and international levels. The information platform used to facilitate this work is the [International Phytosanitary Portal](#).
- [14] IPPC's relationship to the environment is included in all aspects of work, in addition to the different partnerships IPPC fosters within the Biodiversity-related Conventions group, the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) and the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species. To facilitate work of mutual interest to the IPPC and the CBD a joint work plan for 2017-2018 is being finalized.

4.2 Global Environment Facility

- [15] The experiences of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development were shared with the group in relation to Argentina's projects conducted under the different GEF focal areas of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity.
- [16] Argentina has generally experienced success in developing and implementing GEF projects, with part of the credit going towards strengthening national communication networks that actually exist, such as between agriculture (SENASA) and the environment agencies, regulated in part by aspects of national legislation. Currently there are 22 GEF projects in various stages (preparation, implementation, closure), with a value of around USD \$90 million. However, to date there has only been one project specifically involving plant health, with SENASA providing assistance relating to invasive alien species (IAS). Under the small grants programme there has been direct impact at the community level targeting specific environmental needs. This programme is operated differently and is subject to national committee approval under the GEF small grants programme framework.
- [17] A condition that must be met by most of the projects is to provide co-financing at a ratio of 5-6 (country sourced) to 1 (GEF contribution), which can be sought from international banks, multilateral organizations, environmental funds, national finance and others. With each GEF replenishment round the priorities change dependent on the global environmental situation. The focus of the GEF 7 replenishment, due to commence in 2018, will place a larger emphasis on project impact, sustainability of results, innovation, potential for scale up and more engagement of the private sector.
- [18] How Argentina and other countries meet the requirements for GEF funding can be challenging. Eligibility is dependent on their ability to match national priorities with GEF focal areas, potential impact and the ability to secure co-financing. In Argentina's experience the timeframe to develop and start a GEF project is about one year for scoping and to seek co-financing before commencing implementation and then up to one year for the approval process. During implementation, projects must

be closely monitored and reporting requirements met by the implementation agency and the national government. Projects can be either national or regional, however the eligibility criteria must be met for each participating country, making regional projects more difficult to coordinate and implement.

- [19] Under the framework of the CBD (and its associated protocols) and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) there is relevance to the work that the IPPC undertakes in relation to environmental protection.

5. Environmental aspects of the IPPC

5.1 Convention, strategic framework and ISPM aspects

The Convention

- [20] In the text of the [Convention](#) there is limited reference to environmental protection aspects of plant protection. The references made are in general or in relation to endangered areas and are included in the Preamble, Article II, 1, Article IV, 2(e) and Article XI, 2(a). However, it should be noted that endangered area as defined by the IPPC is in reference to the economic importance of an area, and the economic impact of environmental aspects, which are of relevance to CBD.
- [21] Endangered area - an area where ecological factors favour the establishment of a pest whose presence in the area will result in economically important loss.
- [22] In ISPM 5: *Glossary of terms*, there is a supplement that provides some clarification of the economic value of environmental impacts, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

IPPC Strategic Framework (2012-2019)

- [23] Under the [IPPC Strategic Framework \(2012-2019\)](#), protection of the environment is specified under Strategic Objective B - *protect the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests*. This strategic objective covers a number of sub-elements including forestry, climate change, biodiversity (and invasive alien species (IAS)), appropriate use of chemicals for phytosanitary measures and pest management.
- [24] The group discussed these environmental aspects in relation to plant health in an effort to identify synergies between IPPC framework and the CBD-related focal areas and impact programs.

International standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs)

- [25] Many of IPPC's international standards have relevance to environmental protection, either as a direct contribution or in an applied way. The group discussed ways ISPMs can be implemented under the CBD framework for forestry, climate change, prevention and management of IAS, risk management of conveyances, e-commerce and environmental protection. It was agreed that IPPC's years of experience in pest risk analysis, establishment, management and strengthening of phytosanitary systems to manage regulated pests could be transferrable to management of IAS.

5.2 CPM recommendations

- [26] Recommendations are adopted at IPPC's annual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) when contracting parties agree on matters of importance that should be formalized, but may not be suitable for development of an ISPM or other guidance. Currently seven CPM recommendations have been adopted that provide useful information for how contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) should implement them within the framework of the IPPC.
- [27] The group discussed the CPM recommendations and made links to IPPC-related environmental issues and the CBD-related focal areas and impact programs.

5.3 Partnership with CBD

- [28] The IPPC's partnership with the CBD is formalized under a Memorandum of Cooperation that was signed in 2005 in an effort to promote cooperation between the two conventions and prevent duplication of work in related areas.
- [29] The IPPC and CBD are both members of the Biodiversity-related Conventions group, the BLG and the Inter-agency Invasive Alien Species group.
- [30] In the context of this meeting, the group discussed ways to identify synergies between IPPC and CBD, for possible joint work that could be undertaken to benefit both plant health and the environment mandates of the two conventions. It was highlighted that any work activities or projects undertaken will include specific details about funding and the operational mechanism (e.g. responsibility and tasks).

5.4 IRSS surveys

- [31] The group discussed the IRSS surveys in relation to IPPC-related environmental issues, with specific attention to implementation of ISPM 6: *Guidelines in surveillance*. It was additionally highlighted that surveillance has been a topic discussed at the 2015 and 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops and is the current implementation focus of CPM, under the Implementation pilot project on surveillance.

5.5 IRSS studies

- [32] The group discussed the IRSS studies in relation to IPPC-related environmental issues and in relation to CPM recommendations that have been adopted as outcomes of studies.

5.6 Protecting endangered areas (e.g. forests)

- [33] The group discussed the protection of endangered areas of both cultivated and wild flora. Areas for protection extend to all biomes where plant resources are present, including all terrestrial and aquatic environments.
- [34] Discussed under agenda item 5.1.

5.7 Other

- [35] The group discussed other IPPC-related environmental issues during the meeting and captured details that were considered relevant to the CBD-related focal areas and impact programs.

6. Discussion on tackling key environmental issues

6.1 Identify key environmental issues relating to plant protection

- [36] The group discussed the key IPPC-related environmental issues and determined them to be:

- Forests/Forestry
- Climate change
- Invasive alien species
- Conveyances and risk associated with pathways in trade
- E-commerce
- Environmental protection

6.2 Identify national and regional capacity needs

- [37] The capacity needs of contracting parties were discussed at the global level to be most applicable to all eligible contracting parties who may be involved in a future IPPC-CBD joint project.

6.3 Experiences of others (international programmes and other organizations)

- [38] The group discussed IPPC-related environmental issues in relation to their knowledge and experiences international programmes and organizations.

7. Scoping a proposal

7.1 Key environmental issues

[39] Discussed under agenda item 6.1.

7.2 Expected activities and outputs

[40] The group discussed the expected activities and outputs of each key environmental issue, relevant ISPMs, CPM recommendations and other IPPC-related reference materials, activities, outcomes/outputs and CBD-related focal areas and impact programs.

7.3 Further engagement with stakeholders

[41] The IPPC Secretariat will work with an expert consultant to expand the outline of a proposal to access funding from environmental-related resource mobilization partners, based on discussions by the group of IPPC-related environmental issues. This will be followed by engagement of key stakeholder groups, including contracting party representatives at the Strategic Planning Group and CPM Bureau meetings, the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO), the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the other relevant groups.

8. Any other business

[42] No other business was discussed.

9. Next steps

[43] The discussion group report will be finalized and published on the IPP.

[44] An expert consultant will expand the outline of a proposal to access funding from environmental-related resource mobilization partners, based on discussions by the group of IPPC-related environmental issues, followed by engagement of key stakeholder groups as discussed in agenda item 7.3.

10. Review and adoption of report

[45] The discussion group reviewed the draft report of the meeting and adopted it as an accurate account of proceedings.

11. Close of meeting

[46] The group thanked SENASA for hosting the meeting, especially Pablo Cortese, Diego Quiroga and Ezequiel Ferro for their contributions and facilitation of meeting proceedings.

[47] The discussion group meeting was closed by the IPPC Secretariat and SENASA.

Appendix 01 – Agenda

2-5 May 2017 IPPC Meeting		
Agenda item	Document No	Presenter
1. Opening of the meeting		
1.1 Welcome to the meeting		
1.2 Meeting introduction		
1.3 Participant introductions		
2. Adoption of the agenda		
3. Administrative matters		
3.1 Participants list		
3.2 Local information		
4. Background		
4.1 The IPPC and its activities		
4.2 Global Environmental Facility (GEF)		
5. Environmental aspects of IPPC		
5.1 Convention, strategic framework and ISPMs aspects		
5.2 CPM recommendations (Use of methyl bromide; Aquatic plants)		
5.3 Partnership with CBD (invasive alien species)		
5.4 IRSS surveys (ISPM 6: <i>Guidelines for surveillance</i> ; 2012 and 2016 IPPC General Surveys) and questionnaires (Global emerging issues 2016)		
5.5 IRSS studies (Aquatic plants)		
5.6 Protecting endangered areas (e.g. forests)		
5.7 Other (e.g. climate change and response to changing pest distribution, status and phytosanitary measures; shift towards green pest management)		
6. Discussion on tackling key environmental issues		
6.1 Identify key environmental issues relating to plant protection		
6.2 Identify national and regional capacity needs		
6.3 Experiences of others (international programmes and other organizations)		
7. Scoping a proposal		

7.1 Key environmental issues		
7.2 Expected activities and outputs		
7.3 Further engagement with stakeholders		
8. Any other business		
9. Next steps		
10. Review and adoption of report		
11. Close of the meeting		

Appendix 02 – List of Participants

Country/Role	Name	Email address
Director Nacional de Protección Vegetal, SENASA (Argentina)	Mr. Diego QUIROGA	dquiroga@senasa.gob.ar
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