



## MINUTES OF THE FOURTH 2024 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP PEST OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS (POARS)

- [1] The fourth meeting of the Steering Group (SG) on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) took place June 14, 2024, from 14:00 to 16:00 (GTM+2). The meeting proceeded as described below.

### 1. Opening of the meeting

#### 1.1. Welcoming remarks

- [2] The Chair welcomed the SG POARS members and invited the team to initiate the meeting.

### 2. Meeting Arrangements

#### 2.1. Election of the Rapporteur.

- [3] Mr. Roger DAY was selected as Rapporteur.

#### 2.2. Adoption of minutes from the first SG POARS meeting

- [4] The IPPC Secretariat made the minutes of the third SG POARS meeting available on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, in the dedicated IPP work area. No comments have been received. The Secretariat will leave a week for absent SG members to comment on the minutes.

### 3. Administrative Matters

#### 3.1. List of participants

- [5] The list of meeting participants is presented in Appendix 2. Mr. Hector MEDINA and Mr. Ringolds ARNITIS excused themselves. An SG member commented that the membership list in the IPP needs updating to reflect the current RPPO representative. The IPPC Secretariat will update it.

#### 3.2. Adoption of the agenda

- [6] The POARS SG adopted the agenda for the meeting as presented in Appendix 1.

### 4. POARS SG activities

#### 4.1. Discussion “Establish technical criteria for emerging pests and develop a clear procedure for assessing and ranking emerging pests of global concern, considering the FG's recommendation.” (Activity 2.1)

- [7] The Chair introduced the draft paper on the emerging pest criteria, which sets criteria for classifying emerging pests (EPs) and highlights discussions within the IPPC about the complexity and necessity of a global approach. The document outlines a refined definition and criteria from the POARS Focus Group (FG) in 2021. These are compared with earlier discussions from 2016 to 2020, focusing on the pests' wide host range, potential for significant economic loss, and capacity to spread across continents. A multicriteria decision scheme is proposed for assessing EPs based on initiator criteria, current impact, risk evidence, quarantine status, and potential for epidemic proportions. The aim is to maintain focus and prevent resource dilution across multiple issues. The document concludes with a call for the POARS SG to review and agree on the criteria for categorizing emerging pests. The POARS SG discussed the paper and made amendments, as reflected in Appendix 2.
- [8] In consideration of geographical spread, a member suggested removing "environmental changes" as it seemed too predictive and speculative. Other SG members also agreed, leading to its removal.
- [9] Regarding the current Impact, a member proposed aligning criteria with ISPM 11, suggesting categories of economic, environmental, and social impacts. Several SG members discussed integrating social impacts clearly and potentially including trade impact within economic impact. Another member

stressed the importance of including biodiversity in environmental impacts. Another member noted the need to define terms like "substantial" and "significant" to avoid ambiguity. Some members suggested that once the criteria are finalized, they can be accompanied by some notes, which might give examples to clarify the use of these and other terms.

- [10] Regarding risk Evidence, a member suggested that "outbreak frequency" might overlap with geographical spread and population increase. Another emphasized the importance of outbreak frequency in risk assessment and suggested keeping it as a separate criterion. Another commented the definition of an outbreak covers both spread and frequency. It was decided to integrate outbreak frequency under geographical spread. A member proposed including "epidemic proportions" in the opening sentence of the section to capture the scale and impact. Other members supported using "epidemic" to align with broader public understanding.
- [11] Regarding quarantine status, there was general agreement to delete this criterion as it overlaps with other criteria and is assessed country-by-country.
- [12] The POARS SG noted that the decision tree needs to be revised based on the new criteria. A member suggested that the decision tree eliminate non-emerging pests early to minimize workload. Other POARS SG members emphasized sticking to yes/no decisions at each step to maintain clarity and effectiveness.
- [13] Looking ahead, the IPPC Secretariat will incorporate the feedback, update the decision tree for the next technical group meeting, and give absent members a chance to comment. The Secretariat will send the revised document for comments by the 18th of June, with a commenting period until the 24th.<sup>1</sup>
- [14] The technical group will meet on the 27th to discuss the criteria and decision tree for emerging pests in more detail.

#### **4.2. Discussion on the challenges and solutions to NRO proposed by the POARS FG (activity 2.3)**

- [15] The Chair introduced the draft paper (included in Appendix 4) and explained that the document "POARS All Recommendations" details the challenges and solutions proposed by the CPM FG on POARS to enhance National Reporting Obligations (NROs). The POARS SG was tasked with reviewing these challenges and solutions, which are summarized in a tabulated format in the draft paper. The discussion of each challenge and solution is aimed to encompass several questions, such as the articulation of the challenge and solution, existing resources, potential obstacles, feasibility, appropriate handling committees, and specific actions for implementation. For example, challenges include poor understanding of national roles, lack of political will, and instability of human resources, with solutions ranging from capacity development and simplified reporting processes to providing incentives and strengthening political will.
- [16] Regarding the challenges and solutions for improving understanding of national roles, a member noted that they are clear but suggested additional solutions like webinars. Another member questioned whether the POARS group should facilitate NROs solutions or if they should remain with IC. Another member emphasized the need to highlight positive impacts and support countries reporting pests.
- [17] The role of POARS in NROs was discussed. There is a general and preliminary understanding that pest reporting is critical for POARS but may be best handled by the IC subgroup on NROs or an IC Team as deemed appropriate. A member questioned why POARS should facilitate the implementation of NROs solutions. Another member suggested a focused approach by listing NROs to assess which NROs are critical for POARS and consider the relationship with the IC.
- [18] The POARS SG agreed:

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<sup>1</sup> The document was delayed by a week due to the secretariat staff being on sick leave.

- [19] To create a new table listing NROs, identifying which are relevant to POARS and determining the role of POARS in these.
- The IPPC Secretariat will rework the table.
  - The technical group will review and refine the list to focus on critical NROs related to pest reporting.

#### **4.3. Discuss the “Review components suggested by the FG POARS and develop the report on the relevant.” (activity 2.2)**

- [20] Due to time constraints, this agenda item could not be properly discussed. The Secretariat briefly explained the draft paper prepared and summarized the POARS components proposed by the CPM Focus Group on POARS. The SG is required to review these components and decide if they should be included in POARS and provide a rationale for their decisions.
- [21] A suggestion to split the technical group to better manage the workload was made. Once the components are approved, implementation plans will be developed. To speed up the process, a call for additional members to join the subgroups was proposed. The aim is to report progress by October.

#### **4.4. Monitor POARS SG activities plan and agreement on the POARS SG plan**

- [22] The activities plan was revised by a member and is still open for further review. No comments have been received yet. Members are encouraged to review and comment within the next week.

### **1. Any Other Business**

#### In-person meeting in September

- [23] A poll was sent to schedule an in-person meeting in September, considering the need to make all meeting arrangements and prepare documents for the SPG and bureau meetings in October. Only some responses were received initially, and members were reminded to respond to the Doodle poll. It was agreed to send a reminder email to ensure more responses.

#### International Congress on Plant Protection

- [24] One member mentioned their participation in the next International Congress on Plant Protection in Athens and their intent to mention POARS in her presentation. It was confirmed that no other member would cover the same topic in the Congress sessions.

### **2. Closure of the meeting**

- [25] The Chair closed the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## Appendix 1

### The fourth 2024 virtual meeting of the Steering Group Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS)

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (2:00 pm – 5:00 pm), Rome Time

Zoom link: <https://fao.zoom.us/j/97225902934>

Meeting ID: 972 2590 2934

Meeting Passcode: 03940094

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Updated 2024-04-29)

AGENDA ITEM		Time	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		--	
1.1	Welcoming remarks	3 min.	-	Chair/IPPC Secretariat
<b>2</b>	<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>			
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur	2 min.	-	All members
2.2	Adoption of minutes from the third SG POARS meeting	3 min	<a href="#">01_Meeting Minutes Third Meeting</a> (IPP restricted work area)	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Administrative Matters</b>			
3.1	Participants list	1 min.	-	IPPC Secretariat
3.2	Adoption of the Agenda	1 min	00_Draft agenda	All members
<b>4</b>	<b>SG POARS activities</b>			
4.1	Discussion “Establish technical criteria for emerging pests and develop a clear procedure for assessing and ranking emerging pests of global concern, considering the FG's recommendation.” (Activity 2.1)	90 min	02_Drafting document EP <a href="#">Drafting documents</a> (SharePoint)	IPPC Secretariat, and all members
4.2	Discussion on the challenges and solutions to NRO proposed by the FG (activity 2.3)	45 min	03_ Drafting document NROs <a href="#">Drafting documents</a> (SharePoint)	IPPC Secretariat, and all members
4.3	Discuss the “Review components suggested by the FG POARS and develop the report on the relevant.” (activity 2.2)	25 min	04_Draftin table POARS components <a href="#">Drafting documents</a> (SharePoint)	IPPC Secretariat, and all members

4.5	Monitor POARS SG activities plan and agreement on the POARS SG plan	10 min	<a href="#">05. work plan</a>  (SharePoint)	All members
<b>5</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>			
<b>6</b>	<b>Closure of the meeting</b>			

## Appendix 2

### List of Participants

Region/Role	Name, Organization, Address, Telephone	E-mail account
<b>NPPO (Europe)</b>	<b>Mr Matthew EVERATT</b> Plant Health International and Preparedness Specialist Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) York Biotech Campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ, United Kingdom Mobile: 07879114695	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Everatt@defra.gov.uk">Matthew.Everatt@defra.gov.uk</a>
<b>NPPO (North America)</b>	<b>Ms Amanda C. KAYE</b> Expert Group Member NAPPO Tel: 919-855-7574	<a href="mailto:Amanda.Kaye@usda.gov">Amanda.Kaye@usda.gov</a>
<b>CABI (International Organization)</b>	<b>Mr Roger DAY</b> Global Advisor, Plant Health CABI	<a href="mailto:r.day@cabi.org">r.day@cabi.org</a>
<b>European Commission</b>	<b>Ms Panagiota MYLONA</b> Policy Officer EU- European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety Belgium	<a href="mailto:Panagiota.Mylona@ec.europa.eu">Panagiota.Mylona@ec.europa.eu</a>
<b>IAEA (International Organization)</b>	<b>Mr Walther ENKERLIN</b> Entomologist International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	<a href="mailto:W.R.Enkerlin@iaea.org">W.R.Enkerlin@iaea.org</a>
<b>SC representative</b>	<b>Ms Mariangela CIAMPITTI</b> Servizio Fitosanitario DG Agricoltura Regione Lombardia Piazza Città di Lombardia 1 20124 Milano ITALY Tel: (+39) 3666603272	<a href="mailto:mariangela_ciampitti@regione.lombardia.it">mariangela_ciampitti@regione.lombardia.it</a>
<b>NPPO (Africa)</b>	<b>Ms Eunice KAGENDO LINGEERA</b> Plant Health Inspector/ Pest Risk Analyst Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Nairobi, Kenya	<a href="mailto:eringera@kephis.org">eringera@kephis.org</a>
<b>IPPC Secretariat</b>	<b>Mr. Camilo Beltran Montoya</b> Agricultural Officer	<a href="mailto:Camilo.BeltranMontoya@fao.org">Camilo.BeltranMontoya@fao.org</a>

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	International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Address: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy	
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## APPENDIX 3.

### Integration of Emerging Pests (EP) into the IPPC POARS Framework

#### 1. Background

Designating a pest as emerging has significant implications, leading to the execution of several activities under a resource-constrained environment requiring coordinated regional or global efforts for effective management and response and the need for mechanisms to provide immediate support for emergency activities related to the pest. This document establishes the criteria for integrating emerging pests under the IPPC POARS framework. A second paper will be prepared after the agreement of the criteria to outline a procedure for initiating monitoring pests' threats under the IPPC POARS framework by applying the agreed criteria and ranking for prioritization. Then, the procedure will describe the following steps that must be executed once a pest is defined as an emerging pest of high priority. This approach helps maintain focus and prevents resources from being spread across numerous emerging issues.

Various bodies within the IPPC have extensively discussed the issue of emerging pests. These discussions highlight the complexity and necessity of a coordinated global approach to effectively prevent and respond to emerging pests. The term “emerging pest” is not currently included in the IPPC Glossary of Terms and Definitions (ISPM 5). This is because the definitions in ISPM 5 are specifically for ISPM terms, and the 2023 SPG meeting emphasized that criteria would be more appropriate than a strict definition. Appendix 1 summarizes the background and the discussions.

The summary of the criteria (from 2016 to 2020), including the decision tree proposed by the TC-RPPO, considers:

- whether the pest is able to jump across continents,
- whether it has a wide host range where hosts are widely distributed,
- whether it has a large potential for causing damage and economic loss across continents,
- whether there is evidence of a shift in the risk associated with the pest,
- whether it impacts the natural environment as well as production,
- whether it can destroy crops and eliminate entire production areas, and
- whether it is a threat to more than one continent.

In 2021, the POARS Focus Group (FG):

- Considered that the decision tree proposed by the RPPOs needed further refinement. The focus on the continental ‘jump’ as a first step needs to be integrated with the characterization of a pest. Furthermore, the group believed that the scope could not only be pests that entered/spread in different continents but that the spread of a pest within the same continent should also fall within the scope. Cut-off criteria for the impact are deemed unnecessary because of the world's wide range of socio-economic conditions. The outcome of such analysis/evaluation should not only be polyphagous pests. Criteria on impact would be integrated with the characterization of the pests as well.
- After discussing the term proposed by the TPG, proposed the following definition in 2021 “*A pest qualifying as a quarantine pest for which the pest risk or impact for an area has recently increased substantially, due to changes in pest-intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways or environment-related factors with potential damage reaching epidemic proportions*”



- The POARS FG, in their recommendations report, proposed the following criteria for defining potential pests for global action:
  - Not present in an area or recently introduced but not widespread (Quarantine pest).
  - High risk for a regional or continental spread; the pest can spread via at least one pathway across regions or continents.
  - Evidence of an increase in the risk.
  - It has a wide host range, or its hosts are widely distributed.
  - It has a high rate of adaptability, reproduction, and/or spread.
  - Has large potential for devastating damage and economic loss, at least reaching epidemic proportions by affecting agricultural production, ecosystems, and trade across regions and continents.

The above means that the assessment criteria for emerging pests have evolved. Table 1 compiles the criteria from the discussion documented in the background from 2016 to 2020, the refined definition and criteria proposed by the POARS FG, and compares them.

Criteria from RPPOs and the discussion between 2016 and 2020 emphasized the importance of pests with a wide host range and widespread hosts, their ability to jump across continents, and their potential to cause significant economic loss and damage across regions. Additionally, these pests were noted for their ability to impact both natural environments and agricultural production, potentially destroying crops and entire production areas.

By 2021, the POARS FG definition refined these criteria, specifying that emerging pests correspond to quarantine pests that do not present in an area or have been recently introduced but are not widespread and recognize the pests' impact on agricultural production, ecosystems, and trade, and acknowledged evidence of increased risk due to changes in intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways, or environmental conditions. The POARS FG criteria highlighted a high risk for regional or continental spread through various pathways, a high adaptability, reproduction, and spread rate, and a potential for devastating damage reaching epidemic proportions.

Table 1. Comparison of criteria and definitions for emerging pests from discussions held.

Item	POARS FG Criteria (2021)	RPPOs and other discussions (2016 to 2020)	POARS FG definition (2021)
Host range	It has a wide host range, or its hosts are widely distributed.	It has a wide host range where hosts are widely distributed	-
Distribution	Not present in an area or recently introduced but not widespread (Quarantine pest)	-	A pest qualifying as a quarantine pest
Spread capacity of the pest	High risk for a regional or continental spread; the pest can spread via at least one pathway across regions or continents.	the pest is able to jump across continents	-

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Item	POARS FG Criteria (2021)	RPPOs and other discussions (2016 to 2020)	POARS FG definition (2021)
Adaptability, biology	It has a high rate of adaptability, reproduction and/or spread.	-	-
Economic impact	Has large potential for devastating damage and economic loss, <b>at least reaching epidemic proportions.</b>	it has a large potential for causing damage and economic loss across continents	-
Impact	affecting agricultural production, ecosystems, and trade across regions and continents.	impacts the natural environment as well as production, whether it can destroy crops and eliminate entire production areas,	-
Increase in the risk	Evidence of an increase in the risk.	evidence of a shift in the risk associated with the pest	the pest risk or impact for an area has recently increased substantially, due to changes in pest-intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways or environment-related factors

Assessing an emerging pest (EP) can be challenging due to the varying conditions and pest situations. Because of this variability, using specific thresholds or formulas is not practical. Instead, a more suitable approach involves a multicriteria decision scheme. The discussion at the POARS SG technical team advised considering the impact where the pest is present rather than predicting the emerging pests and avoiding overlap with regional activities. To assess Emerging Pests (EP), a comprehensive set of criteria has been proposed in this paper, divided into five categories:

1. Initiator criteria,
2. Current impact,
3. Risk evidence,
4. Quarantine status, and
5. Epidemic proportions.

The initiator criteria focus on geographical spread, population increase, and environmental changes that trigger a pest's assessment as an EP. The current impact category examines the pest's effects on agriculture, the environment, and trade. Risk evidence considers factors like increased risk due to pest dynamics and outbreak frequency changes. Quarantine status assesses whether the pest could be regulated as a quarantine pest in regions where it is currently absent. The epidemic proportions criteria evaluate the pest's ability to spread effectively and its potential to cause widespread damage on a large scale.

Proposed criteria for assessing Emerging Pests (EP) (flowchart in appendix 2 summarizes the criteria flow).

### 1. Initiator criteria:

Pest must meet one or more of the following criteria to that to progress to step 2:

Item	Description	Yes/no
Geographical spread	Pest outbreaks are reported in new geographical areas, suggesting an expansion of the pest's range	
Population increase:	A documented and significant increase in the pest population in an existing area suggests an increased risk of spread and damage.	
Outbreak frequency	The pest has shown an increased frequency of outbreaks in recent times.	
Environmental changes	<del>Scientifically documented climate change or other environmental changes create conditions favorable for the introduction or spread of pests.</del>	

### 2. Current impact

The pest must meet one or more of the following conditions to progress to the next step:

Item	Description	Yes/no
Economic impact	The pest is causing [substantial] losses in agriculture [forest?] production or related areas where it is present The presence of the pest affects trade due to quarantine regulations and export restrictions or affects food security.	
Environmental impact	The pest [substantial] impacts natural environments or the biodiversity where it is present	
Social impact		

### 3. Risk evidence.

There is the risk the pest reaches epidemic proportions by meeting the all following conditions to be considered an emerging pest:

Item	Description	Yes/no
Potential for entry to new territories	The pest has the ability to enter through at least one significant pathway or multiple	

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	pathways to new countries, regions, and continents.	
Potential for establishment		
Potential for spread	-	
Potential impact		

Pest classification:

- **Emerging pest (EP):** A pest that meets one or more criteria for each category; this includes the initiator criteria, current impact, risk evidence, quarantine status, and epidemic proportions.
- **Non-Emerging Pest:** A pest that, though the decision flow, does not fulfill at least one criterion in any category.
- **Pre-Emerging Pest:** This category is used when there is uncertainty in the assessment process.

The POARS SG is invited to:

- *Review* and *discuss* the criteria to categorize pests as Emerging Pest
- *Agree* on the criteria to categorize emerging pests.

**APPENDIX 1.**  
**Summary of discussion on emerging pests at different IPPC bodies.**

**1. June 2016 The Bureau Meeting:**

During the June 2016 Bureau meeting, the need for a mechanism to handle emerging pest issues was emphasized. The discussion highlighted:

- Article XI 2(a) of the IPPC Convention: This article provides a mandate for reviewing the state of plant protection and suggesting actions, serving as a basis for addressing emergent pest activities.
- Pilot Project on Surveillance: This project was proposed as a short-term measure to develop a mechanism for sharing information about emerging pests.
- Role of RPPOs: The importance of utilizing material and information generated by RPPOs was underscored.

[https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/08/Bureau\\_June\\_2016-2016-08-02.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/08/Bureau_June_2016-2016-08-02.pdf)  
(June 2016)

**2. April 2017 CPM-12 Meeting:**

In April 2017, the CPM-12 meeting further discussed the importance of responding promptly to pest outbreak requests:

- Immediate Support Mechanisms: Emphasized the need for mechanisms to provide immediate support for emergency activities.
- Information Collection and Sharing: The IPPC Secretariat was tasked with expanding efforts in information collection and sharing to assist CPs.
- Funding Models: Extra-budgetary funding models were proposed to support these initiatives.

[https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/02/35\\_CPM\\_April\\_2017\\_Emerging\\_Issues-2017-02-20\\_h0RXmPH.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/02/35_CPM_April_2017_Emerging_Issues-2017-02-20_h0RXmPH.pdf) (April 2017)

([https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/04/Final\\_Bureau\\_Report\\_2017\\_April-2017-04-27.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/04/Final_Bureau_Report_2017_April-2017-04-27.pdf)) (April)

**3. June 2017 Bureau Meeting:**

The June 2017 Bureau meeting focused on setting priorities and criteria for identifying emerging issues:

- Criteria for Emerging Pests: Pests should meet criteria such as making a continental jump, having a wide host range, causing significant economic loss, and impacting natural environments.
- RPPOs' Role: RPPOs were given a major role in identifying emerging issues and coordinating regional efforts.

[https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/08/Bureau\\_Report\\_2017\\_June-2017-08-01\\_NEW.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/08/Bureau_Report_2017_June-2017-08-01_NEW.pdf) (June)

**4. October 2017 Bureau Meeting (Further Clarification and Involvement of World Bank)**

The October 2017 meeting discussed:

- Defining Emerging Issues: Clarified that emerging issues could include pests, eCommerce, diagnostics, and pest reporting.
- Regional Coordination: Emphasized the need for IPPC work to be visible at the regional level and coordinated with regional initiatives.
- Involvement of World Bank: Considered seeking involvement from the World Bank for additional support.

[https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/11/Bureau\\_Report\\_2017\\_October-2017-11-30\\_E1v6nla.pdf-1\(october\)](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2017/11/Bureau_Report_2017_October-2017-11-30_E1v6nla.pdf-1(october))

## **5. 2018 SPG Meeting (Criteria for Emerging Pests and IPPC's Role)**

During the 2018 SPG meeting, discussions continued on the criteria for emerging pests:

- Emerging Pest Criteria: Proposed including criteria such as a pest threatening more than one continent and using PRA for response.
- IPPC's Role in Emergencies: Debated the potential for a stronger IPPC role in plant health emergencies and the need for a broader mandate for its activities.
- Definition Discussions (2018-2023)
- Defining "Emerging Pests"

[\(https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2018/11/Report\\_SPG\\_October\\_2018-2018-11-15\\_rev26Nov.pdf\)](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2018/11/Report_SPG_October_2018-2018-11-15_rev26Nov.pdf)

## **6. 2019 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)-14**

During The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)-14 (2019), the concept of emerging pests and emergency issues was discussed. Several countries expressed their concern regarding the situation with *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Fall armyworm) and strongly supported exploring how the IPPC community could develop and/or strengthen global Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.

CPM-14 (2019) requested that the CPM Bureau draft an action plan for an IPPC pest emergency system to be submitted to CPM-15 (2020) with input from the Strategic Planning Group (SPG). The IPPC Secretariat developed the document and the SPG suggested that this be aligned with the one of the development agenda items listed in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) entitled “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System”. It is within this agenda item that the concepts of “emerging pests” and “emergency situations” are embedded. It was agreed that the scope would be limited to quarantine or potential quarantine pests.

[CPM-14\\_Report\\_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf \(ippc.int\)](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/07/CPM-14_Report_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf)

## **7. 2021 Definition of emerging pest from CPM FG on POARS recommendations (5.2.1)**

The FG members concluded that the definition of an ‘emerging pest’ would be beneficial as it will give a common understanding on which are the pests to be included within the scope of the activities. Such a term could be added in ISPM5. The term proposed by the Technical Panel on the Glossary is the following: ‘A pest for which the pest risk or impact for an area has recently increased substantially, due to changes in pest-intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways or environment related factors.’ However, this definition is

considered to be too broad for the purpose of the POARS. The experts believe that the following aspects need to be taken into account: · Only pests that are quarantined or are qualifying to be regulated as quarantine pests should be considered under the POARS activities and this needs to be clear in the definition as well · The actions need to focus on pests that have, or can have if they enter in new areas, high impact in large areas Therefore, the following term is proposed for emerging pest for which actions are to be taken by the POARS: – ‘A pest qualifying as a quarantine pest for which the pest risk or impact for an area has recently increased substantially, due to changes in pest-intrinsic factors, hosts, pathways or environment related factors with potential damage reaching epidemic proportions’ The Standards Committee could support this group in harmonizing terminology related to the planning of prevention, preparedness and rapid response activities, in particular the terms contingency plan, emergency plan, prevention plan, preparedness plan, action plan and response plan.

### **8. 2021 Criteria for defining pests of global action from CPM FG on POARS recommendations (5.2.3)**

The criteria considered important for deciding whether an emerging pest is of global or regional concern are the following: · Not present in an area or recently introduced but not widespread (Quarantine pest). · High risk for a regional or continental spread; the pest can spread via at least one pathway across regions or continents. · Evidence of an increase in the risk. · Has a wide host range or its hosts are widely distributed. · Has a high rate of adaptability, reproduction and/or spread. · Has large potential for devastating damage and economic loss, at least reaching epidemic proportions by affecting agricultural production, ecosystems and trade, across regions and continents. The experts concluded that the decision tree proposed by the RPPOs needs further refinement. The focus on the continental ‘jump’ as a first step needs to be integrated with the characterization of a pest. Furthermore, the group believes that the scope cannot be only pests that entered/spread in different POARS Recommendations Page 40 of 72 International Plant Protection Convention continents but that the spread of a pest within the same continent should also fall within the scope. Cutoff criteria for the impact are deemed not necessary because of the wide-range of socio-economic conditions in the world. The outcome of such analysis/evaluation should not only be polyphagous pests. Criteria on impact would be integrated with the characterisation of the pest as well. Currently, there are several tools for prioritisation of pests developed that serve various purposes. Such tools include decision trees, matrixes, dedicated IT tools that do multi-factor analysis and subsequent prioritisation. Qualitative and quantitative data are both used to make the analysis and further assessment. The development of such tools requires adequate resources and time. The latter includes the necessary pilot phase and further adaptation phase after development. In the choice of the suitable approach, the resource intensity of the assessment is a key consideration.

[POARS All Recommendations.pdf \(ippc.int\)](#)

### **9. From 2018 to 2023, efforts to define "emerging pests" involved:**

As advised by the FG POARS, the Standards Committee (SC) requested the Technical Panel for the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms (TPG) to add the term "emerging pest" to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*). During the 2022 TPG meeting<sup>2</sup>, the TPG discussed the proposal and presented a draft definition of "emerging pest" (2018-003) to the SC for approval.

In its May 2023 meeting,<sup>3</sup> the SC discussed the proposed definition but concluded that it was not yet suitable for consultation. The SC recommended that the SG POARS continue developing the criteria

<sup>2</sup> 2022 December TPG meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92027/>

<sup>3</sup> SC May 2023 meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92494/>

for what constitutes an "emerging pest," with input from the TPG as necessary. The SC invited the Bureau to provide guidance on the next steps. At its June 2023 meeting, the Bureau noted the concerns and difficulties with the development of a definition for "emerging pest", invited the POARS Steering Group to develop a working definition for what constitutes an emerging pest for POARS purposes, and recommended that the SC remove the subject "emerging pest" (2018-003) from the work program of the TPG.

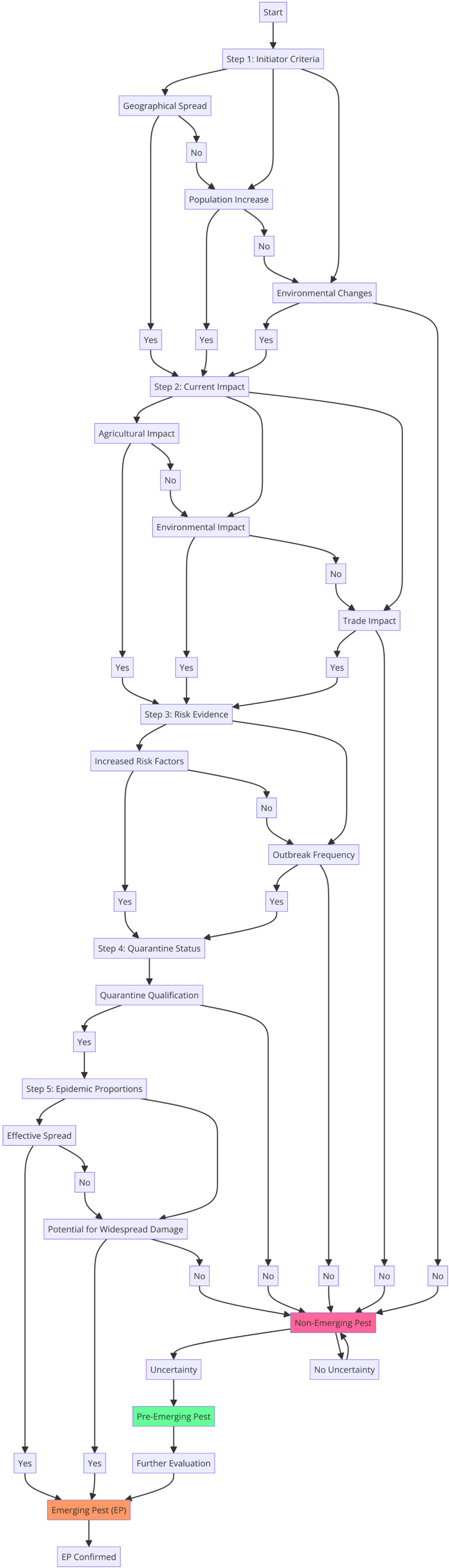
During the 2023 SPG meeting,<sup>4</sup> the SPG recognized the significance of determining what constitutes an "emerging pest" and called for a prompt resolution. The SPG emphasized that criteria would suffice rather than a strict definition. The SPG noted that the criteria would depend on the needs for POARS. Additionally, it was highlighted that the term "emerging pest" did not currently appear in any ISPMs, and the definitions in ISPM 5 were intended for terms used in ISPMs.

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<sup>4</sup> 2023 SPG meeting: [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/11/Report\\_SPG-2023-Oct\\_2023-11-28.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/11/Report_SPG-2023-Oct_2023-11-28.pdf)



APPENDIX 2. Flowchart criteria to categorize a pest as an emerging pest.





APPENDIX 4. Evaluation of challenges and solutions proposed by the CPM FG on POARS to enhance the National Reporting Obligations (NROs)

## APPENDIX 4

### Evaluation of challenges and solutions proposed by the CPM FG on POARS to enhance the National Reporting Obligations (NROs)

The challenges and proposed solutions aimed at enhancing NROs are delineated in section 3.3 (page 22) of the following document: [POARS All Recommendations](#).

1. The POARS SG is requested to review the challenges and solutions, which are also summarized in tabulated form.
2. Each challenge and its corresponding solution will be presented during the meeting to ensure common understanding among all participants.
3. The floor will be open for participants to deliberate on each question listed in columns c) to h).
4. Notes on consensus reached for each question will be meticulously documented.

a. NRO Challenge	b. CPM FG Proposed solution summarized	c. Is the challenge and solution well-articulated? - Yes → Go Qd - No → Need refinement and discussion with IC Team on NRO (Stop discussion)	d. What existing resources are available to support the implementation of the solution	e. What are the possible challenges or obstacles that could prevent the successful implementation of the solution?	f. Can the proposed solution be realistically implemented?  - Feasible → Go Qg - Not Feasible → Stop discussion. Transfer to the IC Team on NRO	g. Based on their mandate, which committee is more suited to handle this recommendation?  (See Annex summarizing the function of each committee)	h. What specific actions can the POARS SG or CMP-designated body take to facilitate the implementation of this solution? i. <u>What are the needs of POARS?</u>	Comments
1. Poor understanding of national roles and responsibilities	Improve capacity development and deliver presentations on the IPPC and NROs of contracting parties. Include NROs as a standing agenda item in IPPC Regional Workshops or relevant meetings. Develop visual documents like infographics and case studies outlining the benefits of reporting. Educate individuals and groups responsible for reporting.	Yes	IPP resources E-learning Guide					

<b>2. Decision-makers do not prioritize staff and financial resources</b>	Simplify reporting information related to pest outbreaks. Each NPPO contact point nominates an IPP editor and trains them on NROs.							
<b>3. Lack of political will</b>	Provide incentives such as access to an emergency fund when dealing with a new pest outbreak. Develop Public-Private Partnerships to share responsibility. Promote the value of plant protection programs and early detection. Ensure contingency plans are in place. Ultimately, if NPPOs are not honouring their reporting obligations, their status as contracting parties on the IPP status can be jeopardized and eventually lost. Such cases could also be presented to the POARS Recommendations Page 24 of 72 International Plant Protection Convention sanitary and phytosanitary measures as set out in the World Trade Organization as a non-compliance of the NROs with corresponding consequences.							
<b>4. Information provided to trading partners but not globally due to trade concerns</b>	Reinforce NROs in bilateral agreements, ensuring new pest outbreaks are reported to the IPPC Secretariat. Legislate mandatory reporting of research-related detections to NPPOs, with verification							

	before international sharing.							
<b>5. Instability of human resources and organization</b>	Donors should support the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) to strengthen the national phytosanitary system. UN Peace missions could help in conflict areas.							
<b>6. Poor national organizational arrangements and limited cooperation</b>	Utilize PCE to improve coordination and communication. Implement processes for timely pest reporting. Address surveillance data consolidation challenges in NPPOs with many monitoring points.							
<b>7. Capacity development not undertaken or technical assistance not provided when needed</b>	Countries need to have minimum infrastructure (laboratories and equipment) and resources (expertise, materials, financial resources) available.  POARS could provide support in these situations. RPPOs should also play a more active role in capacity building and in assisting with identification and diagnostics.							
<b>8. Poor or aggressive response from trading partners</b>	Importing country to respond differently when they are informed of a new pest report. Importing countries should not immediately prohibit trade on all related commodities.							

	<p>This links to the general dispute avoidance activity of the IPPC Secretariat. Countries also need to be careful when using data collated in databases.</p> <p>Trading partners should not assume that the entire country is considered infested without verification.</p>							
<b>9. Poor timeliness of response</b>	Provide guidelines on when and what to report. Implement national legislation for mandatory pest reporting. NPPOs should follow up for accurate information and minimize delays.							
<b>10. Poor accuracy and verification of information</b>	Link accuracy to diagnostic capacity. Develop a network of accredited diagnostic laboratories. Submit immediate reports with subsequent revisions if needed. Offer capacity development and technical assistance.							
<b>11. Incomplete or outdated regulated pest lists</b>	Invest in national pest collections and gene banks. Ensure constant funding and curatorship. Modernize databases and legislation for pest lists. International donors can support these efforts.							
<b>12. Reluctance to report new detections</b>	Emphasize the importance of official pest reporting in negotiations. To further encourage reporting, provide financial and technical support for							

	prevention and control research. Ensure NPPOs understand the risk-based reasons for reporting.							
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Summary Table Comparing Functions of IC and POARS Committees

Aspect	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) <a href="#">IPPC Procedure manual for implementation and capacity development (fao.org)</a>	POARS Committee (as recommended by the CPM FG on POARS)
Purpose	Develops, monitors, and oversees an integrated program to support the implementation of the IPPC and strengthen the phytosanitary capacity of contracting parties .	Enhance global plant health by improving pest outbreak alert and response mechanisms
Scope	Provides technical oversight of activities to enhance capacities of contracting parties to implement the IPPC and meet strategic objectives .	Focuses on improving systems for pest outbreak alert, detection, notification, and response
Technical Work Programme	Identifies and reviews baseline capacity and capability, proposes strategies, reviews challenges, recommends priorities, assesses new technologies, and monitors actions under IPPC Strategic Framework .	Develops standardized protocols, implements pest surveillance technologies, and coordinates international pest tracking and response efforts.
Management	Develops, agrees, and maintains priorities for implementation and capacity development activities, reviews new projects, oversees sub-groups, and establishes ad hoc working groups .	Establishes a governing mechanism, coordinates pest surveillance, and ensures the availability of resources for rapid response.
Collaboration	Works with the secretariat, donors, partners, SC, and RPPOs, promotes dispute avoidance, and contributes to IPPC communications .	Enhances coordination between NPPOs and RPPOs, promotes stakeholder engagement, and fosters collaboration with international organizations.
Reporting	Reports to CPM, submits recommendations, and monitors the effectiveness of its activities and products .	Develops comprehensive reports on pest tracking, detection, and response activities.
Capacity Building	Facilitates delivery of implementation activities, supports capacity development, and secures sustainable funding .	Provides training programs, develops pest response toolkits, and supports NPPOs with resources and capacity-building initiatives.

<b>Dispute Avoidance and Settlement</b>	Provides guidance on dispute avoidance, supports development of advocacy materials, and oversees dispute settlement procedures .	Not directly involved in dispute avoidance and settlement.
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