THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC) AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SADC REGIONAL AWARENESS CREATION WORKSHOP ON PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES: 19 – 23 MAY 2014, EZULWINI, SWAZILAND

Presented by S.G. Mavimbela
Outline

• The Convention (IPPC)
• Organizational Framework
• Implications of the SPS Agreement
• International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)
• Responsibilities of the NPPO
The IPPC

- It is a multilateral treaty for international cooperation in plant protection
- IPPC is the phytosanitary standard-setting organization named in the WTO-SPS Agreement
- Referred to by the WTO’s Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
History

Original IPPC came into force in 1952, amended in 1979 - entered into force in 1991

1997 amendment:
- consistent with SPS principles and expectations
- formalizes Secretariat and standard-setting
Membership

181 Contracting Parties
1997 text came into force October 2, 2005
- Accepted by current parties
- Adhered to by new parties
Purpose of the IPPC

... to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control.

(Article I of IPPC)
Scope of the IPPC

International cooperation in the protection of plants and plant products from harmful pests

- plants: agricultural plants, forests and wild flora
- plant pests: invertebrates, diseases and weeds
- harm: includes indirect effects such as those from weeds
- not limited to trade
Scope of the IPPC (cont.)

Å Extends to items capable of harbouring or spreading pests, such as:
- storage places;
- conveyances; and
- containers

Å Includes biological control organisms

Å Provision for research or other purposes
Key Principles of the IPPC

Å Sovereign right to regulate
Å Measures - only when necessary
Å Measures should be:
   ï consistent with the risk, technically justified and the least restrictive
   ï non-discriminatory
   ï transparent (published)
Organizations Established under the IPPC

- Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), Article XI-IPPC
  - Contracting parties
- IPPC Secretariat, Article XII-IPPC
- Regional Plant Protection Organizations, Article IX-IPPC
- National Plant Protection Organization
Key Obligations of the NPPO

- Set up & administer a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)
- Official IPPC contact point
- Conduct treatments and certify exports
- Regulate imports
- Cooperate internationally
  - share information on pests and regulations
- Develop and take into account phytosanitary standards
CPM Administrative Organizations

- Bureau of the CPM
- Standards Committee (SC)
- Body on Dispute Settlement
- Informal Working Groups
- Expert Working Groups/Technical Panels
International Standard Setting Programme

- Priority of Standard decided by CPM
- Working Group of Experts draft standard
- Standards Committee reviews
- Country Consultation
- Standards Committee incorporates comments
- Adoption by the CPM
Implications of the SPS Agreement

Å SPS Agreement & other International Agreements
Relationship to the SPS

- members **shall** base their phytosanitary measures on international standards or justify deviations through risk analysis

- members **shall** play a full part in the relevant standard setting organization

- relevant standard setting organizations are Codex, OIE, and IPPC

*(Article 3 of the SPS, Harmonization)*
SPS Measures

Should be:

- consistent with international standards
- justified based on scientific principles and evidence
- harmonized to the extent possible
- transparent / notified / non-discriminatory
- only to meet the appropriate level of protection
International Regulatory Framework

IPPC
Plant Protection

SPS
Trade

CBD
Protecting Biological Diversity

LMOs
CP
International Regulatory Framework

- IPPC
  - Plant Protection
  - No more trade restrictive than necessary
- CP
  - Protection wild flora
  - LMOs identified as pests
- CBD
  - Protecting Biological Diversity
  - LMOs
- SPS
  - Trade
  - Trade while protecting biodiversity
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

57 ISPMs adopted since 1992
Responsibilities of a NPPO
 Å The **issuance of certificates** relating to the phytosanitary regulations of the importing country
 Å **Surveillance** of growing plants including areas under cultivation, wild flora and plants in storage or in transportation (with the object of reporting the occurrence outbreak and spread of pests and their control)
Responsibilities of the NPPO

- **Inspection** of consignments of plants and plant products moving in international traffic, particularly with the object of preventing the introduction and/or spread of pests.

- The **disinfestation or disinfection** of consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles moving in international traffic.
Responsibilities of the NPPO

- The protection of endangered areas and the designation, maintenance and surveillance of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence.
- The conduct of *pest risk analysis*.
- Ensure that the *phytosanitary security* of consignments after certification prior to export.
Responsibilities of NPPO

Each NPPO, to the best of its ability, shall make provision for:

- Training and development of staff
- Distribution of information
- Research and investigation in the field of plant protection
- Issuance of phytosanitary regulations and
Responsibilities of NPPO

Performance of such other functions as may be required for the implementation of the IPPC.
Why more vigilant now?

The world is a global village

- Goods
- People

Climate change

- New climatic conditions
- New pests
Why more vigilant now?
For further reference:

International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)

www.ippc.int

- Official contact points
- Official documents (ISPMs, reports)
- Phytosanitary information from countries
- RPPO site available