



SADC RVAC IPC TWG

REGIONAL STRATEGIC SUPPORT TO NATIONAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

IPC SOUTHERN AFRICA SEED PROJECT

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CONTEXT: THE INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

In Southern Africa, food security information is provided through a myriad of sources operated by governments, donors, multi-laterals and NGOs. The national and regional Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VACs) are the main food security information systems in the region and in most countries. There is demand for the National VACs to improve the technical quality of their analysis, for example by improving the accuracy of estimates, widening the scope of the assessment to include urban areas, improved disaggregation of transient and chronic needs, providing tightly analyzed response recommendations and evaluating the impact of previous interventions in a more standardized way to allow cross country comparisons. However, the pressure to increase the complexity of the analysis needs to be balanced against the ability to sustain the analytical capacity within a government system.

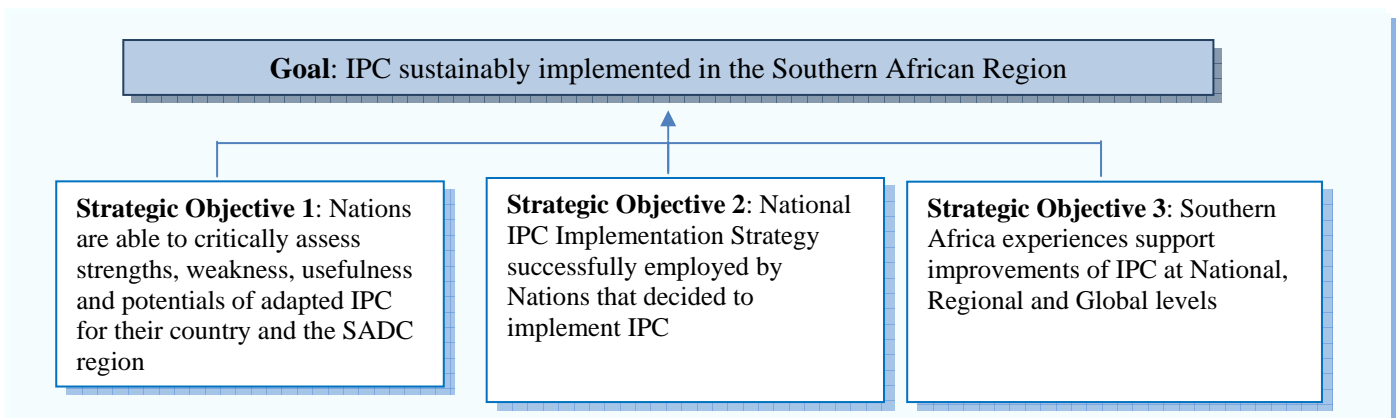
It can be argued that the fundamental challenge for VACs occurs at the political, rather than the technical level. Currently national governments are often politically disinterested and are simply secondary clients for the VAC findings, except when there is a general crop failure. Therefore the primary challenge is to build political interest to help ensure accountability and responsibility for food security information and analysis at the national level.

In this context, IPC is seen as an opportunity to provide National VACs with a common and standardised technical tool for food security analysis using available secondary data to gauge relative food insecurity within countries and time, and ideally across countries. Further, the IPC offers a process for maximising consensus between stakeholders about the situation analysis in country. It is expected that the consensus-based approach to developing a common language and consistent situation analysis, linked to appropriate response, can contribute positively to the harmonisation, result-orientation and mutual accountability principles defined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Further, improving analysis along these lines, and expanding the use of the IPC to new countries, could indeed enable interventions to be even more needs-based, strategic and timely.

The implementation of the IPC in the southern Africa region is part of a global process facilitated by a global IPC Steering Committee, IPC Global Support Unit and IPC Technical Working Group of strategic partners (eight core partner agencies). The regional implementation is motivated by the commitment to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of crisis response and strengthen mechanisms for disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. In Southern Africa, the IPC is supported by the RVAC IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) of the inter-agency RVAC which includes FAO, FEWS NET, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, DFID's Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP), WHO and Oxfam (GB). This newly launched technical working group of the RVAC is expected to support regional coordination, technical backstopping, technical training and lessons learning efforts related to the IPC implementation and use in Southern Africa.

In order to ensure a long term sustainable implementation of IPC in Southern Africa, the TWG decided on a multi phased approach covering three main strategies as illustrated in diagram 1.

Diagram 1: Goal and Strategic Objectives of the Envisioned Long-Term IPC Project in Southern Africa



In order to ensure that the final goal is achieved, all Strategic Objectives (SO) need to be addressed in a phased manner. Although the cycle can re-start without set dates for entering Nations, each Country needs to successfully achieve each of the three SOs to arrive at the goal.

SO1, which relates to knowledge and demand, is the foundation of the sustainable implementation of IPC in the region. It relates to awareness, training, discussions and reviews, and its importance cannot be overemphasised. A demand driven process, which will result in ownership and long-term viability, is highly dependent upon endorsement of such an approach. The length of activities to achieve SO1 will depend, amongst others, upon National institutional organization, human capacities present at National level and support given by the IPC TWG and the Global IPC TWG and Support Unit. Although support will be given by various levels and groups, all support to NVACs will be coordinated and channelled by the RVAC IPC TWG.

SO2, which relates to the actual implementation of the IPC in interested countries, is a long lasting process. It includes all activities related to the National implementation of IPC. Maturation – which refers to the stage where a country is independent from external support – is envisioned. Nevertheless, experiences from East Africa show that on-going support is necessary for at least the first few years of implementation.

SO3, which relates to the inclusion of experiences from Southern Africa in the Global development of IPC, is a constant and cross-cutting theme. The large differences between Southern and Eastern Africa is a great opportunity to improve the IPC at global level. The difference in terms of causes of food insecurity (with Southern Africa being characterised by high occurrence of cyclical and slow-onset shocks impacting the imbedded structural vulnerabilities to food insecurity) make the IPC implementation in Southern Africa an exciting opportunity to ensure the applicability of IPC across different regions. Furthermore, the implementation of IPC in Southern Africa, which will mostly be applied after Institutionalised National Committees¹ have already decided on their approach for assessing and monitoring food security, may also enlighten the use of IPC across different institutional backgrounds.

THE IPC SEED PROJECT

As a first step, the RVAC IPC TWG is carrying out a 7 months project with the overall objective to fulfil SO1, which ensures that countries are able to critically assess the strengths, weakness, usefulness and potentials of IPC adapted to their country and the SADC region.

This current strategy focus on the 7 months IPC Seed project but it will be an integral component of a longer term strategy to support IPC related activities across the region, including the fulfilment of SO2 and SO3. The longer term strategy will advocate with government, donors and other partners and stakeholders for the technically sound adoption and introduction of the IPC. Therefore, the Seed project should be seen as the foundation and first step of the long-term project.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF IPC SEED PROJECT

- Entry point for IPC support in the countries to be done through NVAC who will determine the appropriate convening body for introduction of IPC;
- Adapt the support strategy to the context of each country;
- Informed, broad demand driven process;
- Leadership comes from VAC or equivalent body;
- Ensure strategic capacity building of VAC or equivalent in conducting IPC analysis;

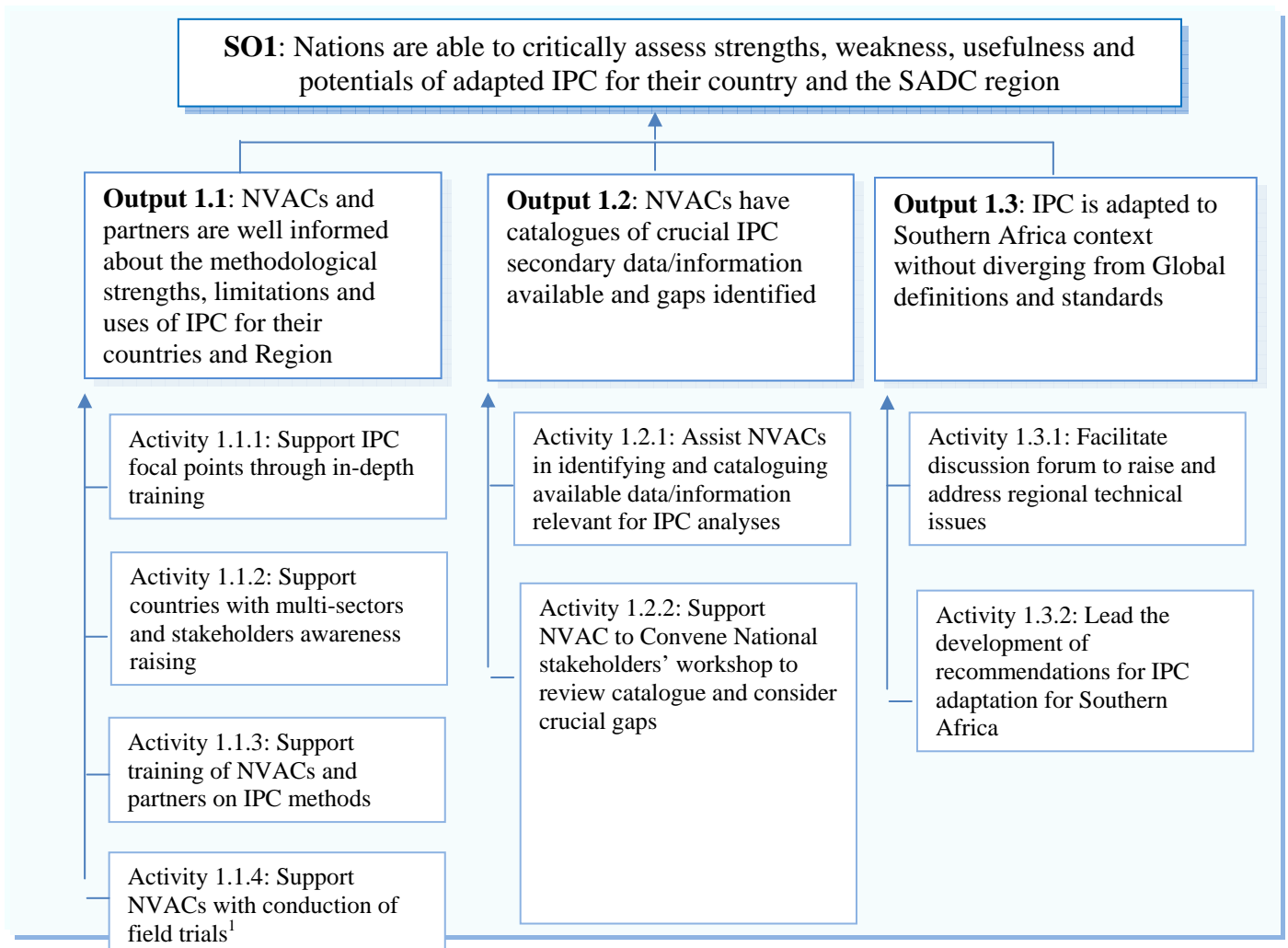
¹ Institutionalized National Committees refer to NVACs except in countries where NVACs are not present, such as South Africa.

- There is scope for country/regional adaptation of the IPC while adhering to the framework and core principals;
- Regional and National experience to contribute to the global development of the IPC;
- The Global Support Unit, Global IPC TWG, Global Steering Committee to actively support the development, application and monitoring of the Regional Project.
- The SADC RVAC Regional IPC TWG to provide overall coordination and guidance at regional level within the Strategic Approach of the Global Support Unity and in close coordination with Global Support Units;

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES OF IPC SEED PROJECT

The Strategic Objective of the Strategic IPC Seed Project is to ensure that the countries are able to critically assess the strengths, weakness, usefulness and potentials of adapted IPC for their country and the SADC region, allowing them to decide upon the implementation of IPC. Three outputs need to be achieved to ensure that the strategic objective is fulfilled. Diagram 2 illustrates the logical framework of the IPC Seed Project.

Diagram 2: IPC Seed Project Logical Framework

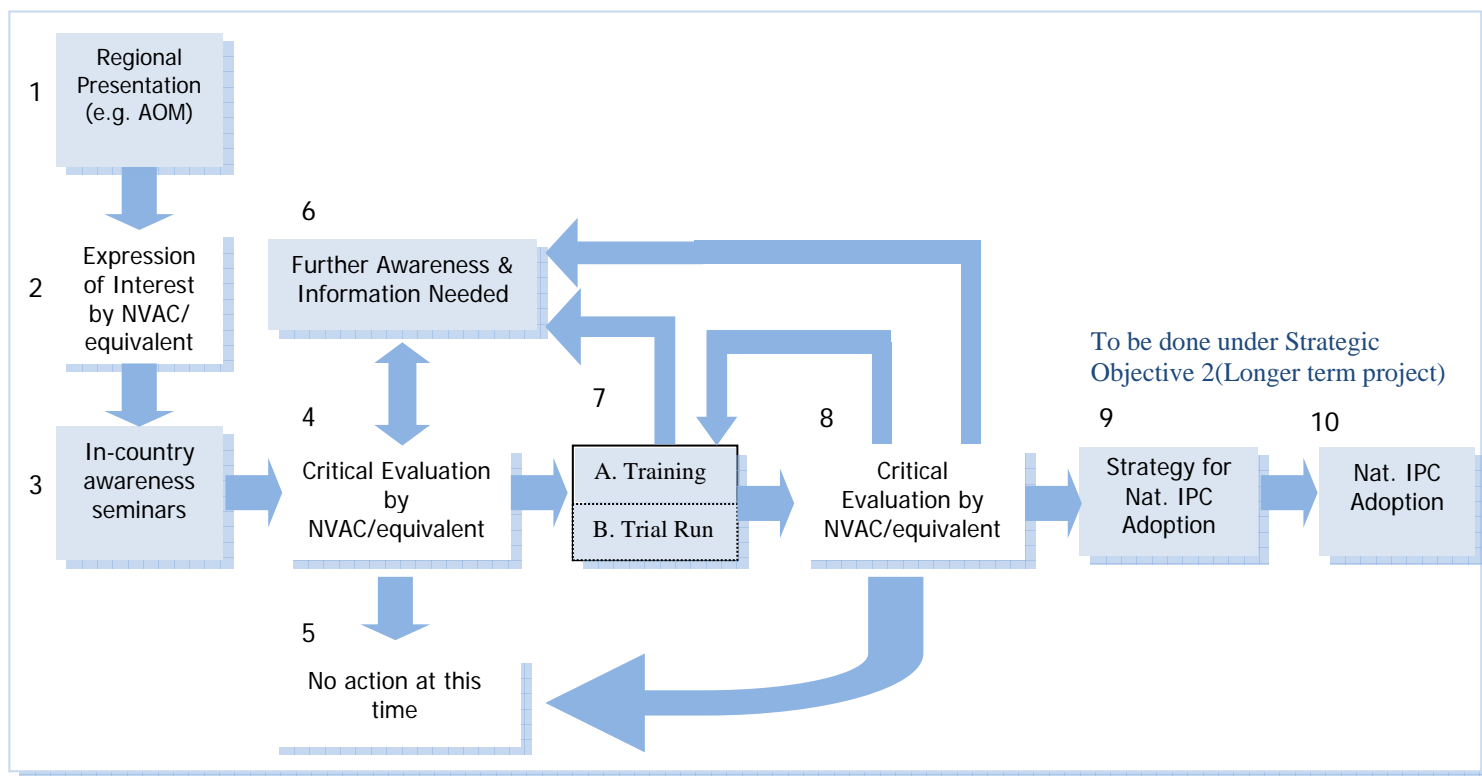


¹Field Trials refer to testing activities which will form the basis for assessment of applicability of IPC by NVACs. South Africa and Zimbabwe, which have already conducted field trials, may conduct actual IPC analyses if, based on their experience they decide to do so.

Output 1.1 NVACs and partners are well informed about the methodological strengths, limitations and uses of IPC for their countries and Region

The overall approach to achieve Output 1.1, where NVACs and partners are well informed about the methodological strengths, limitations and uses of IPC for their countries and Region is displayed in diagram 3. The key concept of the overall approach is that countries that are interested in learning and exploring the potentials of IPC can do so without being obliged to implement the IPC. This will ensure that the process is demand driven and allow for a sustainable application of the IPC. In order to ensure process ownership, the IPC TWG and Global Support Unit (GSU) will only support activities related to awareness, information sharing and capacity building of NVACs and key partners. Critical evaluation of IPC will be lead by NVACs and will only count on support from the IPC TWG if formally requested. The blue boxes in the diagram illustrate activities to be supported by the IPC TWG and GSU.

Diagram 3: Overall Approach for ensuring that NVACs and partners are well informed about the methodological strengths, limitations and uses of IPC for their countries and Region



Activity 1.1.1: Support IPC focal points through in-depth training

In order to have in-country support and on-going awareness rising and capacity building, IPC Focal points will be capacitated to have a deep understanding of IPC approach. Training to Focal Points will be given through 3 to 5 days training processes, and whenever possible will be accompanied by exchange visits to countries while they carry out IPC activities. IPC focal points will be identified by the NVACs or equivalent body. The number of people trained will depend upon the number of NVACs interested in exploring IPC.

The IPC focal points will act as “ambassadors” of IPC in the National VACs, bridging Regional support to National stakeholders while actively participating in National and Regional IPC related activities. The daily interaction between National IPC focal points and the NVACs will ensure that IPC issues are a constant topic in NVACs, allowing discussions to be more critical and enriched.

NVACs are expected to identify an IPC Focal Point ensuring that s/he is available to support in-country IPC activities and attend IPC trainings. The IPC TWG is expected to support the IPC Focal Point with the

financial and administrative needs to attend trainings and provide overall guidance on IPC issues. Under this Seed Project, it is not expected that the IPC TWG will pay honorarium for the IPC focal point.

Members of the RVAC IPC TWG that did not receive detailed training in IPC will also be trained as Focal Points.

Activity 1.1.2: Support countries with multi-sectors and stakeholders awareness raising

The IPC TWG will lead a large spectrum of awareness raising seminars, meetings and workshops. In order to ensure that key National stakeholders are aware about the IPC and can contribute to discussions on its applicability and usefulness at National level, awareness raising events will focus on various levels and types of stakeholders. Although awareness events will be tailored and managed by NVACs in accordance to national institutional characteristics, it is expected that some of the following awareness events are carried out:

- Awareness Raising in Regional and International Forums focusing on chairs of NVACs or equivalents
- Awareness Raising in Country focusing on technical NVAC staff
- Awareness Raising in Country focusing on governmental agencies, such as directors of MoA, MoH, Disaster Management Units and on partners stakeholders, such as directors of NGOs and Civil Society

NVACs are expected to develop a calendar and manage the organizational components of the awareness raising activities. NVACs are also expected to convene stakeholders from all applicable sectors. The IPC TWG with support from the Global Units, is expected to support such events with human and financial capital.

Activity 1.1.3: Support training of NVACs and partners on IPC methods

The IPC TWG will ensure that NVACs and partners are trained on IPC methods through the development of in-country training sessions. Unlike the IPC awareness raising activities, IPC technical training will target food security or sectorial analysts of the NVACs and partner stakeholders, including but not limited to food security analysts, health experts, agro economists, social welfare experts, economists and market experts, and climatologists from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Trainings will include workshops, hands-on practices and field exchanges to countries that have been implementing IPC successfully. The contents of IPC trainings will follow Global practices and, if requested by NVACs, may be repeated. Depending upon NVACs needs, the following trainings might be carried out:

- IPC I: Introduction to IPC concepts and methods (3 days workshop)
- IPC II: Understanding the data need and data organization for IPC analyses (2 days workshop)
- IPC III: In-depth understanding of IPC methods, strengths and limitations (2 days workshop)

NVACs are expected to develop a calendar and manage the organizational components of the training activities. NVACs are also expected to convene experts from all applicable sectors, including agriculture, markets & commerce, health, HIV&AIDS, social protection, climatologists and so on. The IPC TWG with support from the Global Units, is expected to support such events with human and financial capital.

Activity 1.1.4: Support NVACs in conducting field trials

Once NVACs are trained in selected training topics and feel that they are ready to carry out a field trial, the IPC TWG will closely support NVACs during their first experience. Although most of the support will occur during the field trial exercise, other support activities may be carried out before and after the field trial as requested by NVACs. It is expected that support activities requested will vary between countries and should be decided by the NVACs. Support activities that might be requested from the IPC TWG include:

- Support NVACs with collection and organization of data for IPC field trial
- Support NVACs with identification of unit of analyses, development of agenda and selection stakeholders
- Support NVACs with during the field trial
- Support NVACs on documenting field trial

NVACs are expected to develop a calendar and manage the organizational components of the field trial activities. NVACs are also expected to convene experts from all applicable sectors, including agriculture, markets & commerce, health, HIV&AIDS, social protection, climatologists and so on. The IPC TWG with support from the Global Units, is expected to support such events with human and financial capital.

Output 1.2: NVACs have catalogues of crucial IPC secondary data/information available and gaps identified

Activities related to Output 1.2 may be support among NVACs who, after trainings and field trials, are still interested in further exploring the potentials and limitations of IPC. As data availability may impact both the feasibility of the IPC and the future National Strategy for implementation, its organization and review are of crucial importance for decisions regarding the implementation of the IPC at National Level. Furthermore, by understanding what data is available and necessary for IPC, NVACs can also improve and adapt data collection, improving future data availability. The activities focus under this output will not cover methods or software for data organization, management and retrieval. Rather, activities under this output will focus on assessment of available data, their impact for IPC analyses and recommendation for addressing information gap.

Activity 1.2.1: Assist NVACs in identifying and cataloguing available data/information relevant for IPC analyses

This activity builds on concepts of the training *IPC II: Understanding the data need and data organization for IPC analyses (2 days workshop)*. It is a hands-on activity which will analyse both direct and indirect evidence necessary for IPC analyses. The support will be given through an organizational workshop, which may last 2 to 3 days.

NVACs are expected to convene experts from all applicable sectors, including agriculture, markets & commerce, health, HIV&AIDS, social protection, climatologists and so on. The NVACs are also expected to develop a calendar and manage the organizational components of the catalogue workshop. The IPC TWG with support from the Global Units, is expected to support such event with human and financial capital.

Activity 1.2.2: Support NVAC to Convene National stakeholders' workshop to review catalogue and consider crucial gaps

Depending upon the assessment of data available and gaps identified for IPC analyses, the NVAC might find necessary to convene a National stakeholder workshop to discuss findings and agree on recommendations for future applicability of the IPC. Discussions should cover methods and approaches to decrease information gap and their feasibility. Such discussions will allow NVACs or equivalent bodies conclude on information gaps that may be overcome and to assess the feasibility of IPC approach in line with the remaining information gaps. Such event should take no longer than 1 day.

If the NVACs find necessary to carry out such kind of workshop, the IPC TWG may support the NVACs in convening such event. NVACs are expected to convene National Stakeholders from applicable sectors and organizations. The NVACs are also expected to develop a calendar and manage the organizational components of the workshop. The IPC TWG, with support from the Global Units, is expected to support such event with human and financial capital.

Output 1.3: IPC is adapted to Southern Africa context without diverging from Global definitions and standards

In order to ensure that the IPC is relevant to Southern Africa and that National and Regional Bodies see its value, it is necessary to proportionate a forum for discussions and adaptations. Although adaptations might be necessary, they will need to be aligned to Global definitions and Standards. In order to ensure that recommendations are agreed by the Global Level, the participation of the Global IPC Coordination Unit will be crucial.

Activity 1.3.1: Facilitate discussion forum to raise and address regional technical issues

A discussion forum, to be held at the Regional level during the beginning of 2010 will convene NVACs' IPC focal points, NVAC representatives, National interested stakeholders, RVAC members, Regional interested stakeholders and Global IPC Coordination Unit representatives. This discussion will be the first step to identify key applicability issues of the IPC in Southern Africa. Recommendations on adaptations of IPC for Southern Africa will be formulated during this workshop. The workshop may take around 2 days and should include previous a one-day review of IPC methods for those who desire to attend.

Activity 1.3.2: Lead the development of recommendations for IPC adaptation for Southern Africa

In close collaboration with attendants of the discussion forum, and under overall guidance from the Global Unit, the IPC TWG will formulate applied recommendations for the applicability of IPC in Southern Africa. Depending upon recommendations raised during the workshop, specific guiding documents might need to be developed. This activity is likely to take up to a month.

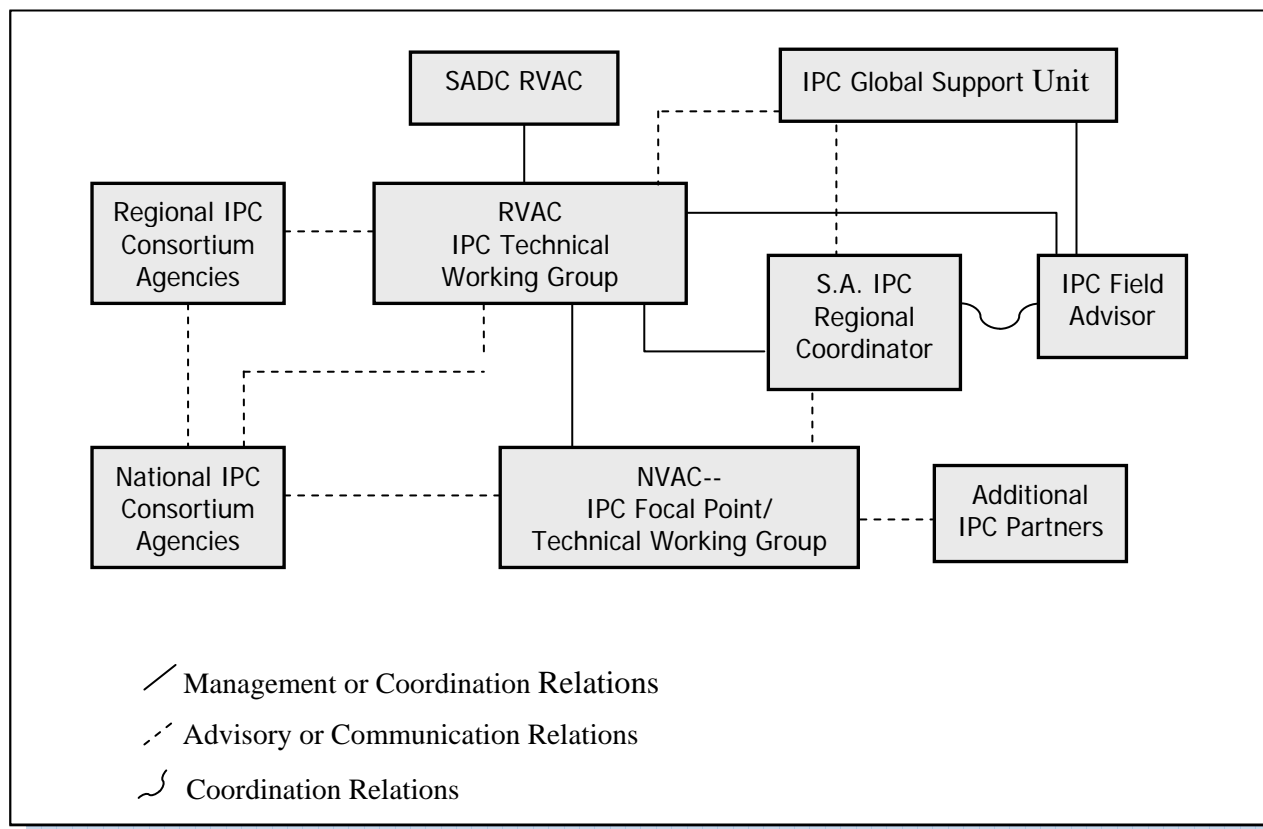
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR IPC SUPPORT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The RVAC IPC TWG is a component of the SADC RVAC sharing common stakeholders. The Southern Africa IPC Regional Coordinator is managed by the RVAC IPC TWG. All communications and activities related to IPC will be channelled through the RVAC IPC TWG, including the support given by IPC Global Support Unit and Regional IPC Consortium Agencies.

The IPC Global Support Unit will communicate and support the IPC TWG and IPC Regional Coordinator directly. Request has been made to the Global Unit to place an IPC field advisor in this region. This person would support the IPC activities in countries. If this request is accepted, the IPC Field Advisor will be managed by the Global Unit. However, the IPC Field advisor, together with the IPC Regional Coordinator, will be directly supervised by the RVAC IPC TWG. These lines will ensure that, while aligned to Global Initiatives, the IPC regional activities will be conducted in a coordinated way through the RVAC IPC TWG.

The NVAC/IPC Working Group/IPC Focal Points will communicate directly with National level partners. Diagram 4 illustrates relationships.

Diagram 4: Organigram for the Regional Strategy for IPC Support in Southern Africa



BUDGET, TIME FRAMES AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The total budget for the IPC Seed project is US\$ 300,000 and should last from October 2009 through end of June 2010. The IPC Seed project should be seen as the first component of a longer term project. The limited funding and time frame of this Seed Project should not be seen as a limiting factor for the IPC activities in the region. It is envisioned that, if NVACs demand, a longer term project will be proposed and accepted before the end of the Seed project.

An inception proposal for the IPC Seed Project will be developed in January and February 2010 based on the number of NVACs that have showed interest in exploring the potentials of IPC. The IPC Seed budget will be allocated based on this inception report and in accordance with the number of NVACs that will be included in the project.

Although the calendar of activities will be developed by the NVACs, the time frame for the activities is illustrated in table 1.

Table 1: Time Frame for Activities of Seed Project

Activity	Description	Time Frame
1.1.1	Support IPC Focal points through in-depth training	Regional Training for IPC Focal Points 3 days
1.1.2	Support countries with multi-sectors and stakeholders awareness raising	Awareness Raising in Regional and International Forums 3 times
		Awareness Raising in Country focusing in technical NVAC staff 1 day
1.1.3	Support training of NVACs and	Awareness Raising in Country focusing on governmental and NGO agencies 1/2 days
		Introduction to IPC concepts and methods 3 days

IPC Seed Project Proposal

January, 11th 2009

	partners on IPC methods	Understanding the data need and data organization for IPC analyses	2 days
1.1.4	Support NVACs in conducting field trials	Support with organizational visit	3 days
		Support Field Trial	5 days
1.2.1	Assist NVACs in identifying and cataloguing available data/information relevant for IPC analyses	Support with organizational visit	3 days
1.2.2	Support NVAC to Convene National stakeholders' workshop to review catalogue and consider crucial gaps	Support with workshop	1 day
1.3.1	Facilitate discussion forum to raise and address regional technical issues	Support Forum	4 days
