Strategic threats to Biosecurity

Purpose

This paper outlines the process for the final phases of work being undertaken within the MPI Intelligence, Planning and Coordination directorate to identify, monitor and report on strategic threats to the biosecurity system.

What is a strategic threat?

Strategic threats exist and develop over a long time period. They are underpinned by global trends such as climate change and global trade and have a significant effect on the structure and resourcing of biosecurity systems. Strategic threats are not focused on specific pests and diseases or strategies to identify and mitigate risk. Such work is instead undertaken in other systems within MPI such as the Emerging Risk System.

Background

In late 2014 MPI undertook an environment scan involving workshops with managers and subject matter experts to identify existing and emerging threats to the biosecurity system. This was followed by a processes of consolidation and trend analysis of these specific threats to develop 12 Strategic Threats to Biosecurity as listed in the '12 Strategic Threats to Biosecurity' document. The identification of these threats is an iterative process which is intended to be repeated in late 2016 with a greater emphasis on external consultation.

The 12 Strategic Threats were then presented to the Biosecurity Governance Board who agreed that these represent the key threats to the biosecurity system and that MPI should monitor and report on them.

Developing the monitoring system

The next stage of this process is developing a monitoring and warning system. This system will track and report on how each threat develops, provide warning if the risk of a threat increases, and support the long term planning for mitigating or managing each threat. This system is intended to be completed in 2016.

Why monitor strategic threats?

Understanding and monitoring strategic threats enables stakeholders in the biosecurity system to gain foresight into the challenges the system will face in the long term. It allows MPI to prepare and plan for the challenges posed by an increasingly interconnected world. It improves the chances of us identifying new trends and threats influencing the system and supports the proactive development of strategies to manage these threats.

This system further encourages a shared understanding of strategic level threats. Future iterations of the environment scanning process will involve greater stakeholder engagement (including through workshops and consultation).

ENVIRONMENT SCAN FOR EXISTING AND EMERGING THREATS

Identification of STRATEGIC THREATS

MONITORING of strategic threats

- Provides intelligence for strategic work in MPI's core systems
- Implements warning systems for changes in strategic threats

4 Months

Comprehensive identification of ALL threats

1. Literature Review
2. SME Workshop
3. Create product
4. MPI consultation

2 Months

Condense, organise and analyse threats

5. Trend analysis
6. Collate key threats
7. MPI consultation
8. Seek agreement on key threats from Governance Boards

6 months +

Analyse, plan for and monitor threats

9. External consultation
10. Incorporate threats into MPI systems