

Integrated Pest Management: Informing the Decision Making Process

IPM at a glance

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a core collections care activity in many museums and cultural organisations around the world. IPM as applied to cultural heritage organisations should constitute a holistic and co-ordinated approach for the safe and ethical care of collections in cultural organisations.

What constitutes an IPM Strategy?

The core individual elements of the programme can be identified as physical activities, such as monitoring and trapping, pest identification, quarantine and inspection, as well as advising on improvements to environmental conditions and developing housekeeping procedures.

Why IPM?

The aim of IPM is to reduce damage to the collections. By carrying out IPM, risk is reduced through reducing pest damage to the collection, and through eliminating the need for remedial treatments. The requirement for fewer treatments can be used as a measure of the effectiveness of the IPM strategy and can demonstrate the vital role of the IPM manager to senior management.

Decision Making

Data collected through trapping, pest identification and environmental monitoring all contributes to the decision making process, and inform the evolution of the programme. If any individual component of the programme is neglected, the programme as a whole is compromised. It is therefore

essential that the whole programme is co-ordinated by an individual who oversees the implementation and management of the programme as a whole. A model is presented in which the IPM manager is central to the IPM decision making process, having input to all aspects.

Measuring IPM

Measuring IPM is a difficult concept. If the aim of IPM is to eliminate the necessity for treatment, then the success of IPM can be measured against the parameters of housekeeping and environment. By modifying either of these parameters the risk of a pest outbreak can be reduced, thus removing the requirement for treatment.

Benefits of IPM

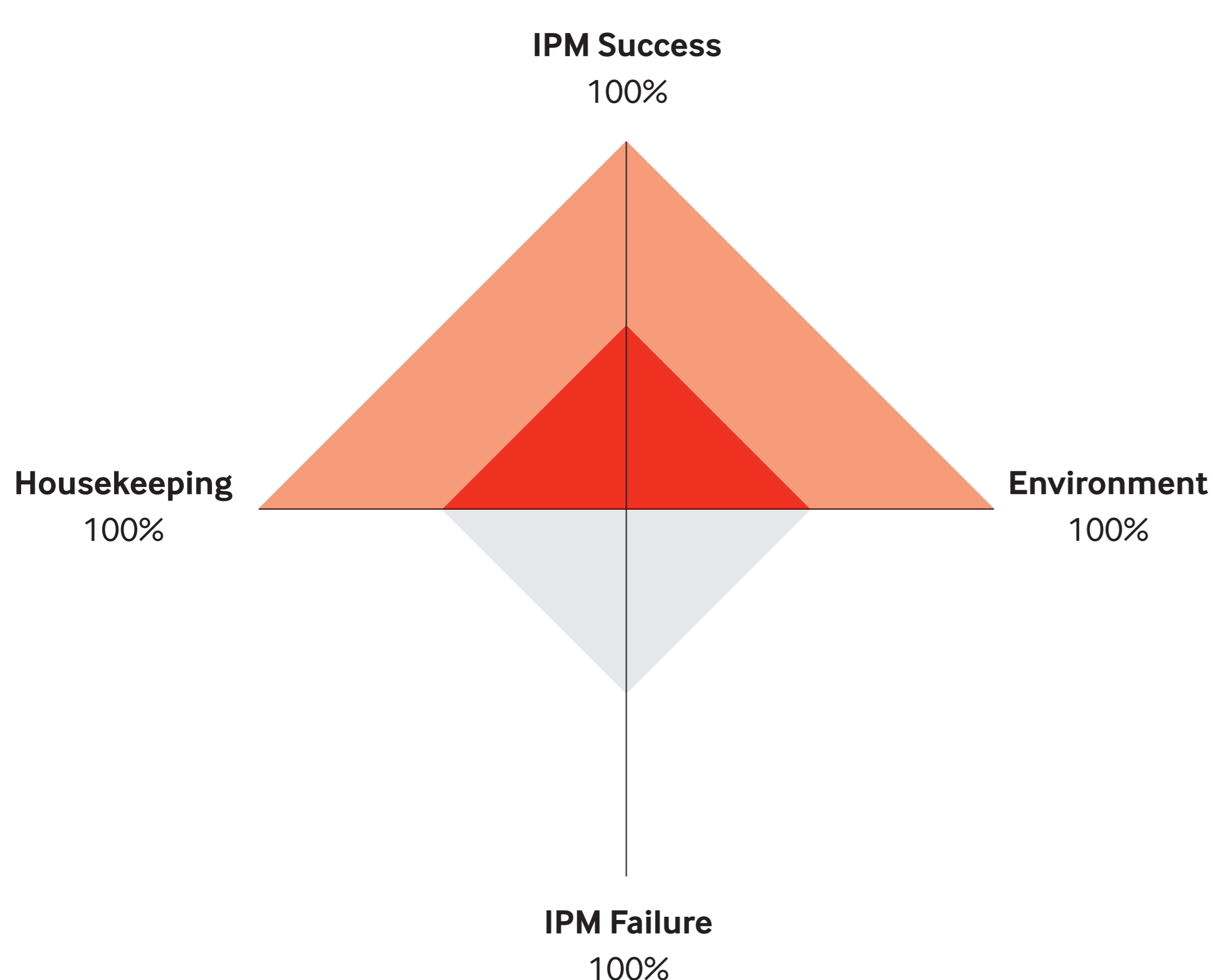
By carrying out IPM, costs of treating pest infestation in terms of resources required including staff, time and materials and equipment are greatly reduced or eliminated. Risks to the collection are lowered, both in terms of loss value of collections from pest damage and from potential damage from treatment. Other benefits that can arise out of IPM include increased support from management for collections care activities and the promotion of collections care across organisations.

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Measuring IPM



The IPM Circle

