

September 2013



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Fifty-first Session

Rome, 11 - 15 November 2013

Budgets of the Desert Locust Commissions for 2014-2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- There are three Desert Locust Commissions currently operated by FAO:
 - The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia (Eastern Region);
 - The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region;
 - The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region.
- The Budgets submitted in document FC 151/INF/6 are those approved by the three Commissions as follows: in December 2012 for Southwest Asia (Eastern Region), in November 2012 for the Central Region and in March 2012 for the Western Region.
- According to the “Basic Texts for the Agreement of the Establishment” of each Commission [*Article IV, section 4 Administrative Matters (b)*] for the South-West Asia Commission and the Central Region Commission, and *Article VII, section 4 “Functioning (c) of the Desert Locust Control Commission for the Western Region*], the Budget of each Commission should be submitted to the Council (delegated to the Finance Committee) for information prior to implementation.
- In addition, taking note that the Legal Counsel confirmed at the 102nd Session of the Finance Committee in May 2003 that the budgets required reporting to the Finance Committee, in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.7 and the relevant provisions of the agreements concerned concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the Finance Committee is requested to take note of the three Commission budgets.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Finance Committee is invited to take note of the three Commission budgets as presented.

Draft Advice

- **The Finance Committee takes note of the budgets of the three Desert Locust Commissions.**

1. There are three Desert Locust Commissions currently operated by FAO: the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia (SWAC), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO – *Commission de lutte contre le Criquet pèlerin dans la Région occidentale*).
2. The Budgets of the Commissions draw on the funds available in the Trust Fund of each Commission. The source of these funds is the contributions made by the Member Countries of the Commission. The Budgets are decided upon at each Commission Session by participating countries and the level is generally agreed according to a standard budget, with additional amounts sometimes included that draw on unspent balances from previous years. Normally the Session approves the budget for the current year and for the subsequent year.
3. The Budgets submitted here are the budgets approved by the Commission Sessions held in December 2012 for Southwest Asia, in November 2012 for the Central Region and in March 2012 for the Western Region.
4. Where the budget is shown as “indicative”, it represents the standard budget applicable to the individual Commission, related to the level of annual contributions. The next Session of each Commission will prepare a more precise budget for these years, in which some unused balances may or may not be employed.
5. The 28th session of the SWAC, held in December 2012, approved the budget as presented in Appendix A. The primary activity of the Commission is an annual 30-day joint survey on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border in the spring breeding areas of the Desert Locust. The survey results are used for planning the summer campaign along the Indo-Pakistan border. The remaining activities concentrate on strengthening the national capacities of the countries in early warning, early reaction and contingency planning. The activities include improving the means of recording and transmitting data from the field during survey and control operations by using the eLocust2 system. The improvements to data management, analysis and reporting are achieved through an annual inter-regional SWAC/CRC workshop for national locust information officers along with expert visits and continual backstopping of the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) of the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGPM) at Headquarters. Improving the skills of field officers is emphasized through national training courses organized by National Master Trainers and translation of training materials into local languages. The procurement of small quantities of equipment to maintain a basic level of preparedness and make use of appropriate technologies is also planned.
6. For the CRC, the budget presented in Appendix B was endorsed at the 28th Session, in November 2012. The Commission endorsed the mid-term work plan (2012-2017) and agreed to its implementation. The Secretary of the Commission, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, was authorized to cover the cost of implementing the Commission’s recommendations when these are not reflected in the Commission budget work plan. The Commission will continue implementing the preventive Desert Locust control strategy advocated by the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) in the Central Region. In particular, assistance will be provided to the following key sectors of Desert Locust management:
 - Early detection: development of Desert Locust survey and forecasting capacities, improvements of data management (recording, transmitting, analyzing and reporting) through an annual inter-regional CRC/SWAC workshop for national locust information officers with the FAO Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS).
 - Early reaction: technical assistance provided to countries for increasing their early intervention capacity and ensuring effective and environmentally safer control operations.
 - Capacity building support: the Commission encourages its member countries to support their running costs of national training courses. The Commission also will continue to support national and regional training courses, publications and exchange scientific visits (based on requests submitted by the member countries).

- Environment: Implementation of the Environmental and Health Standard Requirements (EHS).
- Research: a platform for joint research programmes (national and international) on improved Desert Locust control strategies and tactics is being provided (based on research proposals submitted by the member countries).
- Contingency planning to improve preparedness for Desert Locust interventions so that necessary resources can be mobilized early enough when an emergency situation arises.
- The Commission website (CRC-EMPRES) will be redesigned to include the Arabic language, thus providing better awareness and visibility to the commission activities.

7. The sixth Session of the CLCPRO, held in March 2012, approved the budget as presented in Appendix C. The CLCPRO intends to further develop the preventive control strategy in the framework of the Programme EMPRES. As concluded by the Evaluation Mission, Phase I of the Programme in the Western Region (2006-2010) made substantial progress, in particular in the four frontline countries, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, in terms of: institutional building (creation of autonomous National Locust Control Units); strengthening of the locust control capacities and infrastructure; enhancement of the early warning system and rapid interventions, listing of environmental requirements and better preparedness to deal with Desert Locust crises. The effective improvement of locust preventive control was demonstrated when locust outbreaks occurred in Mauritania (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011) and in Niger (2009). Strengthening of capacities, thanks to the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region, allowed also to manage properly the Desert Locust threat in the Sahel in 2012. The study entitled "To review the institutional roles and responsibilities of Desert Locust Commissions established under Article XIV of the Constitution of FAO and prepare a comprehensive framework of governance and sustainable financing of locust control", which is currently carried out by the CLCPRO, will contribute to achieve the objectives of the Programme EMPRES. The objective of Phase II (2011-2014) of the Programme EMPRES in the Western Region is to consolidate the achievements of Phase I and to ensure the sustainability of the Desert Locust preventive control in the region. To that end, the CLCPRO intends to provide further technical support to its member countries, in particular concerning training, research, monitoring of the National Locust Control Units, communication, contingency planning and implementation of the environmental requirements ("*Cahiers des charges environnementales*"). Regarding the sustainability of the preventive control strategy, the CLCPRO will encourage its member countries to fully support their running costs; the Commission will also further promote intra-regional cooperation and implement funding mechanisms involving technical and financial partners in the long term. And finally, the role of the Commission will be reinforced. As decided by the Commission during its fifth Session in June 2009, the total annual contribution from the member countries has increased from USD 227,000 to USD 639,000 per year, from 2011 onwards.

APPENDIX A

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN SOUTHWEST ASIA (EASTERN REGION)**

TRUST FUND BUDGET

(figures in USD)

Account	Description	2013 (approved)	2014 (approved)	2015 (indicative)
5013	Consultants	3 000	2 000	2 000
5014	Contracts	18 000	18 000	18 000
5021	Travel	57 000	56 000	56 000
5023	Training	6 000	6 000	6 000
5024	Expendable Procurement	0	0	0
5025	Non Expendable Procurement	13 100	11 000	11 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	5 000	4 925	4 925
5029	Support Costs(*)	12 225	11 850	11 850
	TOTAL	114 325	109 775	109 775

*SC 5 percent on accounts 5024 and 5025; SC 13 percent on all other accounts

APPENDIX B

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

TRUST FUND BUDGET

(figures in USD)

Account	Description	2013 (approved)	2014 (approved)	2015 (indicative)
5011	Salaries Professional	0	0	0
5012	Salaries General Service	67 538	67 538	67 538
5013	Consultants	20 000	20 000	20 000
5014	Contracts	73 000	73 000	73 000
5020	Overtime	2 000	2 000	2 000
5021	Travel	36 000	50 000	50 000
5023	Training	95 000	70 000	70 000
5024	Expendable Equipment	13 000	13 000	13 000
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	30 000	30 000	30 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	21 000	21 000	21 000
5029	Support Costs(*)	37 000**	37 000**	37 000
	TOTAL	394 538	383 538	383 538

*SC 5 percent on accounts 5024 and 5025; SC 13 percent on all other accounts

**SC amounts officially approved by this Desert Locust Commission were as above, but based on SC rates should be respectively USD 43,040 and USD 41,610 for 2013 and 2014. Year 2015 is indicative.

APPENDIX C

**FAO COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE WESTERN REGION**

TRUST FUND BUDGET

(figures in USD)

Account	Description	2013 (approved)	2014 (indicative)	2015 (indicative)
5013	Consultants	30 000	30 000	30 000
5014	Contracts	25 000	25 000	25 000
5021	Travel	133 000	133 000	133 000
5023	Training	170 000	170 000	170 000
5024	Expendable Procurement	25 000	25 000	25 000
5025	Non Expendable Procurement	90 000	90 000	90 000
5028	General Operating Expenses	93 460	93 460	93 460
5029	Support Costs(*)	72 540	72 540	72 540
	TOTAL	639 000	639 000	639 000

*SC 13% on all accounts