

REPORT

Kabul, Afghanistan
15-17 December 2008

**FAO Commission for
Controlling the Desert
Locust in South-West Asia**

Twenty-sixth Session



**Report of the
FAO Commission for Controlling the
Desert Locust in South-West Asia
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Participants of the 26th Session of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (front row, left to right): Mehdi Ghaemian (I.R. Iran), Keith Cressman (FAO), Abdul Ghafar Ahmadi (Afghanistan), Zafar Ali Khan (Pakistan) and R.M. Shukla (India); (second row, left to right): Munir Butrous (FAO), Ghulam Sarwar Haiderzada (FAO), Mohamed Aqa (FAO), Mohamed Ammati (FAO) and other national observers. [*National Seed Research Station, Kabul, Afghanistan*]

Summary of Recommendations and Agreements

The Member Countries:

1. In order to improve the annual I.R. Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey in the spring breeding areas:
 - (a) the experts participating in the joint survey must be experienced and well informed of survey procedures as indicated in the *FAO Desert Locust Guidelines*;
 - (b) drivers from both countries must be familiar with driving in desert areas and off-road conditions;
 - (c) three drivers and one mechanic-driver should be nominated by Pakistan, and the latter person should carry an essential tool kit for immediate repair of vehicles to avoid interruption of the survey;
 - (d) two days of survey are added to allow an extra day of survey each in the Kharan Valley (Pakistan) and in the Jaz Murian Basin near Kanoj (I.R. Iran);
 - (e) the border meeting on the last day of the survey in Zahedan should be extended by an extra day to allow sufficient time for discussion between the two Locust Heads and the team, and for the Pakistanis to cross the border before it closes;
 - (f) custom maps showing place names and vegetation in Pakistan and I.R. Iran are prepared by Mehdi Ghaemian for use on a laptop computer during the survey;
 - (g) all of the survey equipment, including eLocust2, should be checked before the survey to ensure that they are in good working condition;
 - (h) FAO should prepare guidelines in the form of *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Desert Locust Joint Survey in the Spring Breeding Areas of the I.R. Iran and Pakistan* to be used for training prior to the survey and for reference during the survey;
 - (i) the team should not be required to use RAMSES during the survey; instead, they should record data in eLocust2 as well as in a database (to be developed by Mehdi Ghaemian) on the Flybook laptop;
 - (j) appropriate spare parts are purchased prior to the survey and carried with the team to be used for any repairs as necessary during the survey;
 - (k) maintain the current DSA rates but increase the GOE for each country to account for increases in fuel prices and the need for spare parts.
2. In order to improve the national information and reporting system:
 - (a) India and Pakistan should make sure that their Information Officers should continue to attend the monthly Border Meeting during the summer period in order to exchange detailed information including RAMSES maps;
 - (b) field training should be provided, preferably when locusts are present, to at least one Afghanistan plant protection expert in each of the 11 provinces on Desert Locust and Moroccan Locust survey, reporting and control. Suitable experts could conduct this training in I.R. Iran.
3. In order to improve financial accountability of the Commission, each country should provide evidence of annual contributions to the Trust Fund that has been made up to now.
4. In order to strengthen national capacity in training, each country should identify two individuals within their organization who are energetic, possess a good command of the English language and have the capacity to teach others. These individuals should be designated as Master Trainers and given the responsibility for training national staff in locust survey, reporting and control.

The delegate from Afghanistan:

1. Arrange for the translation of the *FAO Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual* and *Standard Operating Procedures* into Pashto/Dari and distribute a sufficient number of copies within the country.
2. Identify at least one candidate to undertake MSc studies in entomology with emphasis on locust management, preferably to be carried out at an appropriate university in India.
3. If for some reason some of the arrears of I.R. Iran are not forthcoming in 2009, the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission should make a visit to Tehran and discuss the payment of arrears with the Director of the Plant Protection Organization and other relevant officials.

The delegate from India:

1. Follow-up the procurement of a 4WD vehicle for locust operations with the FAO Representation in New Delhi.
2. Seek clarification and continue any progress made on the translation of the *FAO Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual (DLMTM)* and the *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)* into Hindi and distribute a sufficient number of copies within the country.

The delegate from I.R. Iran:

1. Follow-up the procurement of a 4WD double-cab pickup to be used for locust survey and control operations with the FAO Representation in Tehran.

The delegate from Pakistan:

1. Send the monthly India/Pakistan Border Meeting Report to FAO DLIS once each meeting has concluded.
2. Seek clarification and continue any progress made on the translation of the *FAO Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual (DLMTM)* and the *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)* into Urdu and distribute a sufficient number of copies within the country.

FAO:

1. The FAO Representation in I.R. Iran should provide the Plant Protection Organization with the full amount of the general operating expenses earmarked for the annual Joint Survey no later than 1 March of every year.
2. The annual general operating expenses for the I.R. Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey should be increased by US\$ 1,000 for each country.
3. Any future expenditure by the FAO Representation in I.R. Iran related to the support of the Commission should not be paid from the Commission's Trust Fund.
4. In collaboration with the Locust Warning Organization (India) and the FAO Representation:
 - (a) arrange for the installation of the Codan HF radios be installed, ideally by the local Codan representative or equivalent, and for training be provided;
 - (b) identify an appropriate university in India for MSc training in entomology with emphasis on locust management for one person from Afghanistan.
5. Organize the following workshops:
 - (a) an inter-regional workshop for Locust Directors and Information Officers from India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan in follow-up to a similar workshop that was held in Cairo in April 2008;
 - (b) a two-week Master Trainers' workshop, preferably in Chabahar (I.R. Iran), for two designated Master Trainers each from Afghanistan, India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan, with technical support provided by the Secretary of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC).

6. Continue to support the development of new technologies and provide updated training to national locust information officers when a new version of RAMSES is developed.
7. Procure the following:
 - (a) eLocust2 units that should have been procured in 2007-08 for Afghanistan (1), India (12) and I.R. Iran (5) and additional units for I.R. Iran (1) and Pakistan (6) to ensure that every survey and control team is properly equipped and uses eLocust2 to record and transmit data to their national locust centre. The operating and repair costs of eLocust2 will be covered by the Trust Fund;
 - (b) A desktop computer that should have been purchased in 2007-08 for the Plant Protection Department in Afghanistan;
 - (c) A laptop computer for Pakistan to be used during the annual Joint Survey and at the monthly Border Meetings with India in the summer, and an extra battery for the existing Flybook laptop in Pakistan.
8. Distribute the DLMTM kit that is being assembled with the assistance of the Secretary of the Central Region Commission in Cairo to Afghanistan (1), India (2), I.R. Iran (2) and Pakistan (2).
9. Mr. Ammati (FAO HQ) should follow-up directly with each country in order to determine the next steps to be taken regarding making control operations safer.

Opening

1. The opening of the 27th Session commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran.
2. On behalf of the outgoing Chairman of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia, Mr. Mehdi Ghaemian (I.R. Iran) welcomed the honourable delegates of the Commission's Member Countries, the FAO Representative and the FAO staff from Rome, and all the participants to the opening ceremony of the 26th Session. He mentioned the importance of conducting timely control operations against Desert Locust in order to protect local agriculture and to stop the formation and migration of swarms to other countries in the Region. This was successfully accomplished during the spring of 2008 when swarms invaded I.R. Iran from Arabia.
3. The Technical Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, officially opened the 26th Session and welcomed the distinguished delegates of India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan, and the FAO staff. He wished that their visit and discussions would be purposeful and productive. He expressed his extreme satisfaction and delight that his country was given the chance to host this important session, as it is only the second time in the history of the Commission. The 26th Session is an opportunity to assist the country in coming out from three decades of technical isolation and it is a step towards achieving peace in Afghanistan. He reminded participants that the first time in recent history that Desert Locust invaded the country was in 1953 in Helmand province. Afghanistan faces Moroccan Locust infestations every year and FAO has initiated regional cooperation amongst the countries. This effort should be accelerated. He articulated his appreciation of the technical and administrative support provided by the FAO Representation in Afghanistan and FAO Headquarters. He was confident that the excellent cooperation between Africa and Asia would reach the highest level in controlling Desert Locust. He wished the Session fruitful and useful discussions.
4. Mr. Tekeste Ghebray Tekie, FAO Representative, on behalf of the Director-General, welcomed the delegates of the Member Countries and warmly thanked the Government of Afghanistan for hosting the 26th Session. He noted that this session was being opened on the exact day 44 years ago in which the Commission was established (15 December 1964) and that the last time Afghanistan hosted a session was 40 years ago (the 4th Session in 1968). This coincidence could not have been planned better. Although Afghanistan is not a front-line country for Desert Locust, it must manage other important locust species (Moroccan and Italian locusts) and it is necessary to strengthen the national capacity to manage all of these locusts. He mentioned that FAO is developing a project for Central Asia and Caucasus countries to manage these other locust species and that Afghanistan is to be part of this initiative.
5. Mr. Keith Cressman, FAO Senior Locust Forecasting Officer at FAO Headquarters in Rome and Secretary of the Commission, added his appreciation of the Government of Afghanistan's agreement to host the Session for this first time in 40 years. SWAC is the oldest of the three FAO Desert Locust commissions and, as it is a small commission with only four member countries, discussions are practical and frank. The objective of the Commission is to strengthen national capacities in survey, reporting, control, training and planning, and to encourage regional cooperation in all aspects of Desert Locust management. The primary activity of the Commission is the annual 30-day Joint Survey of the spring breeding areas in I.R. Iran and Pakistan that was re-established in 1995 by FAO and the countries. He reviewed the six agenda items to be discussed at this session. Lastly, he mentioned five important elements for a strong Desert Locust programme: (1) recognition and pride by staff, (2) good working conditions, (3) field incentives, (4) well equipped, and (5) well trained.

Elections

6. The Member Countries elected Afghanistan as Chairman of the current Session and India as Vice-Chairman. The elections were accepted with acclaim. A list of participants and observers is presented in Annex 1.
7. The Chairman presented a draft agenda that was adopted without changes (Annex 2).

8. The Session entrusted the drafting of the report to the Secretary of the Commission.

Desert Locust Situation: December 2006 – December 2008 and forecast to spring 2009

9. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation that reviewed the Desert Locust situation since the 25th Session (Annex 3). The period was characterized by locust activity in the spring breeding areas in southeast I.R. Iran and western Pakistan in 2007 and 2008. Ground control operations were carried out in both countries (more than 40,000 ha in I.R. Iran and almost 4,000 ha in Pakistan). Good rains and two cyclones allowed locusts to remain on the southeast coast in I.R. Iran during the entire period, which is rather unusual. Several swarms invaded southern I.R. Iran from the eastern Arabian Peninsula in February 2008. By contrast, the situation remained relatively calm in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border despite pre-monsoon rainfall in both years and two generations of breeding in 2008. Some 540 ha were treated in India in 2007.
10. Although no significant developments are expected in the Region between now and the spring 2009, all efforts should be made to undertake surveys in the spring breeding areas of southeast I.R. Iran and western Pakistan shortly after rains fall regardless of the survey schedule. There is a chance that breeding could commence about one to two months earlier than normal in the spring of 2009 if good rains fall and temperatures remain warm. Therefore, it is preferable to conduct surveys based on rainfall and ecological conditions rather than according to an administrative calendar. In both countries, significant efforts have been made by the respective Locust Heads to convince their administrations of this important point.
11. With reference to the occurrence of pre-monsoon rains in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border in 2007 and 2008, the delegate from India indicated the strategic importance of undertaking preventive control operations in Rajasthan against local breeding that can develop from such rains, as was the case in April 2007. The delegate from Pakistan reiterated this strategy as it pertained to control operations carried out in the Kharan Valley at the end of the spring in order to reduce locust movement to the summer breeding areas and subsequent pre-monsoon breeding.
12. With reference to the near continual presence of locusts on the coastal plains of southeast I.R. Iran near Chabahar, the delegate from I.R. Iran informed the Session that the area will be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year, rather than only during the spring breeding period.
13. The delegates noted their satisfaction with the rainfall estimates provided by Columbia University (USA) for use by national locust information officers to understand better where it has rained which helps with planning the timing and location of surveys.

Report on Joint-Border Surveys during the spring of 2007 and 2008

14. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation on the results of the annual joint border surveys carried out during April in 2007 and 2008 by I.R. Iran and Pakistan. The survey was re-established in 1995 with FAO's help. It is a 32-day survey that starts every year on 1 April. The results are used to plan Indo-Pakistan summer surveys. The team stopped at 133 and 136 places and covered 9,384 km and 10,166 km in 2007 and 2008, respectively. A custom map indicating place names and green vegetation on a GPS was used for the first time during the survey carried out in I.R. Iran in 2008.
15. It was noted that training was carried out prior to the start of the survey in both countries in both years. It was felt that training of the joint survey teams could be improved which would produce better survey results and a higher quality final report. In I.R. Iran, the Locust Head provided training, as the Master Trainers were no longer available.
16. The delegate from I.R. Iran indicated that an extra day was needed to survey the Kanoj area in the Jaz Murian Basin, and the Pakistani delegate indicated that another day was needed to survey the vast Kharan Valley.

17. It was further noted that the delay in issuing the final report (up to two weeks) was because (a) the team waits until it reaches Zahedan before working on the report, (b) the report was done by hand which then requires typing into the computer afterwards in Tehran and (c) comments were required from both countries.
18. The delegate of I.R. Iran emphasized the importance of releasing the entire amount of the general operating expenses prior to the start of the Joint Survey so that preparations can be made in advance and that there are sufficient funds available to be used during the survey. This is the standard procedure for the Pakistani team.

Recommendation 1. The FAO Representation in I.R. Iran should provide the Plant Protection Organization with the full amount of the general operating expenses earmarked for the annual Joint Survey no later than 1 March of every year.

19. The Session reviewed the various suggestions made by the teams in both years to improve joint surveys. After a thorough discussion, it was felt that a number of these suggestions should be recommended and implemented for future joint surveys.

Recommendation 2. In order to improve the Joint Survey,

- (a) the experts participating in the joint survey must be experienced and well informed of survey procedures as indicated in the *FAO Desert Locust Guidelines*;
- (b) drivers from both countries must be familiar with driving in desert areas and off-road conditions;
- (c) three drivers and one mechanic-driver should be nominated by Pakistan, and the latter person should carry an essential tool kit for immediate repair of vehicles to avoid interruption of the survey;
- (d) two days of survey are added to allow an extra day of survey each in the Kharan Valley (Pakistan) and in the Jaz Murian Basin near Kanoj (I.R. Iran);
- (e) the border meeting on the last day of the survey in Zahedan should be extended by an extra day to allow sufficient time for discussion between the two Locust Heads and the team, and for the Pakistanis to cross the border before it closes;
- (f) custom maps showing place names and vegetation in Pakistan and I.R. Iran are prepared by Mehdi Ghaemian for use on a laptop computer during the survey;
- (g) all of the survey equipment, including eLocust2, should be checked before the survey to ensure that they are in good working condition;
- (h) FAO should prepare guidelines in the form of *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Desert Locust Joint Survey in the Spring Breeding Areas of the I.R. Iran and Pakistan* to be used for training prior to the survey and for reference during the survey;
- (i) the team should not be required to use RAMSES during the survey; instead, they should record data in eLocust2 as well as in a database (to be developed by Mehdi Ghaemian) on the Flybook laptop;
- (j) appropriate spare parts are purchased prior to the survey and carried with the team to be used for any repairs as necessary during the survey;
- (k) maintain the current DSA rates but increase the GOE for each country to account for increases in fuel prices and the need for spare parts.

Information and reporting

20. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation that summarized progress made in improving the quality, timeliness and frequency of reporting by I.R. Iran, India and Pakistan (see Annex 4). Afghanistan was not evaluated because it does not have a locust programme and

does not undertake regular surveys. Although countries continue to make every attempt to provide good quality reports on time and on a regular basis, there was a slight decline in reporting quality and timeliness in the past year.

21. Locust experts from India and Pakistan meet once a month on the border every year from June to November to exchange information on the locust activities in their respective countries. The national locust information officers from India and Pakistan started to participate in these meetings in 2008. The delegate from India stated that the reports were sent regularly to the FAO Representation in New Delhi. However, FAO DLIS received the meeting reports late or not at all.
22. The Secretariat also provided an overview of eLocust2 usage, which the Commission now pays the operating costs for each of the countries. It was seen that usage increases during the spring and summer breeding periods when surveys are conducted but this did not occur in the spring of 2008 in Pakistan.
23. The Delegates discussed the causes of the decline in reporting quality and timeliness. The delegate from India indicated that a Technical/Information Officer is doing the information and reporting, and a Technical Officer in charge at Headquarters (Faridabad) prepares the fortnightly report. Furthermore, it takes time to collect rainfall data from the national meteorological service.
24. The delegate from I.R. Iran said that there were insufficient human resources available and that data was still late and irregular from the field. To resolve these problems, two new officers were in the process of being trained to assume the reporting duties at PPO in Tehran and a meeting is to be held with the provincial agriculture officers to request that field data are sent regularly in a timely manner.

Recommendation 3. To improve the reporting system,

- (a) FAO should provide updated training to national locust information officers if new technologies exist or if a new version of RAMSES is developed;
- (b) an inter-regional workshop for Locust Directors and Information Officers should be organized as follow-up to a similar workshop that was held in Cairo in April 2008;
- (c) India and Pakistan should make sure that their Information Officers should continue to attend the monthly Border Meeting during the summer period in order to exchange detailed information including RAMSES maps;
- (d) Pakistan should send the monthly India/Pakistan Border Meeting Report to FAO DLIS once each meeting has concluded;
- (e) field training should be provided, preferably when locusts are present, to at least one Afghanistan plant protection expert in each of the 11 provinces on Desert Locust and Moroccan Locust survey, reporting and control. Suitable experts could conduct this training in I.R. Iran.

Review of recommendations of the 25th Session and progress made

25. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation indicating that good progress had been achieved by the countries and by FAO in completing most of the recommendations made at the last session.
26. The Session reviewed each recommendation and activity that was supposed to be undertaken within the framework of the 2006-08 work plan. Several points were clarified as follows:
 - (a) eLocust2. Delegates had indicated their respective needs: Afghanistan (1), India (15), I.R. Iran (5) and Pakistan (12) but the Trust Funds were only sufficient to provide one unit to Afghanistan, three to India, four to I.R. Iran and three to Pakistan. It was expected that the difference would be met by USAID funding. However these funds were not forthcoming so three units were provided each to India and Pakistan, according to the approved budget, and

nine more units were provided to Pakistan (against the allotment for Afghanistan and I.R. Iran) to address an urgent need to cover the spring breeding areas.

- (b) Desktop computers. The delegate from Afghanistan stated that a desktop PC was still required.
 - (c) Laptops computers. I.R. Iran modified its requirement for three laptops and indicated in 2008 that only one laptop was required. From the resulting savings, a laptop was purchased for the Information Officer in India to allow the servicing of eLocust2 units in the field by reinstalling software.
 - (d) Vehicles. The delegate from I.R. Iran clarified that a 4WD vehicle was still required for locust operations in the field. Procurement of a vehicle for India was delayed by a change in FAO procedures and the need for a variety of authorizations and certificates. The order should be placed by the end of 2008.
 - (e) Sprayer parts. The Locust Warning Organization in Jodhpur (India) received spare parts for the MicoUlva handheld sprayer in October 2008.
 - (f) National training. Funds were provided to India to support national training of locust officers in November 2008. Detailed requests were not received from other countries. The delegate from Afghanistan indicated the need to rebuild national capacity by training plant protection staff.
 - (g) Translations. The *FAO Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual* (DLMTM) and the *Standard Operating Procedures* (SOP) were in the process of being translated into Urdu in Pakistan. India would seek clarification regarding the Hindi translation.
 - (h) Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual. The DLMTM kit is being assembled with the assistance of the Secretary of the Central Region Commission in Cairo, and should be delivered to Member Countries in mid-2009.
 - (i) New technology support. Several custom modules were developed for use with RAMSES and to manage better eLocust2 data. These modules were distributed to the Locust Information Officers in the frontline Member Countries.
 - (j) Satellite phones. The Secretary met with the Deputy Director of the Locust Warning Organization (India) in November 2008 and was informed that there was no further requirement by the Government for Thuraya satellite telephones that were supposed to be procured in 2005.
27. The delegate of India expressed dissatisfaction that a large number of Codan HF radios were procured for India in 2006, which did not include their installation, and, therefore, the radios have sat idle for the past two years and could not be used. In January 2008, the Government requested that these radios be installed and training provided.

<p>Recommendation 4. The Codan HF radios be installed without further delay, ideally by the local Codan representative or equivalent and training be provided, funded by the Commission.</p>

Making control operations safer

28. An expert from FAO, Mr. Mohamed Ammati, prepared a working paper and gave a presentation on making locust control operations safer. He presented recent achievements after the 2003-05 upsurge in West Africa on the management of pesticides used in Desert Locust control, including inventory and appropriate storage of remaining stocks, management and recycling of empty containers, quality control of remaining pesticide formulations, development of local remediation technology of contaminated sites, and the development of a Pesticide Stock Management System

(PSMS) that uses specific forms to collect information on sites, stores and pesticide products. Each Member Country can access PSMS via the Internet¹.

29. He outlined a regional strategy for safer operations that could be adopted in Southwest Asia to increase the national and regional capacity in managing pesticides based on the West Africa experience. The strategy would include the sharing of certified pesticides with other regions, the registration of Pesticide Referee group list of pesticides shown to be effective against Desert Locust, the use of bio-pesticides and activities to make locust control safer to the environment and humans.
30. The presentation sparked a lively discussion. The delegates from Afghanistan and I.R. Iran expressed interest in PSMS and in using bio-pesticides (*Metarhizium*) against locusts. The delegate of India indicated that the disposal of obsolete pesticides is his Government's highest priority.

Recommendation 5. Mr. Ammati should follow-up directly with each country in order to determine the next steps to be taken.

Accounts for 2006-2008

31. The Secretariat presented a working paper on the final accounts for 2006 and 2007 and the indicative expenditures for 2008 as of 25 November 2008 (Annex 6). Explanations were given of the overall financial situation as well as detailed expenditures. The final expenditures for 2006, which were not available at the last Session, were US\$ 176,634, compared to the indicative level of US\$ 169,568 reported at the 25th Session. The 25th Session approved a budget of US\$ 256,483 for 2007-08, including standard support costs. The expenditures for 2007 were US\$ 74,076 and the provisional expenditures for 2008 are US\$ 56,609. Therefore, the total expenditures for 2007-08 are US\$ 130,665 as of 25 November 2008, which is well short of the approved budget. Considering the contributions that were made by Member Countries in 2006-08, the current balance of the Trust Fund is US\$ 139,894.
32. The presentation included the overall position of contributions received from Member Countries.. In 2008, Afghanistan paid all of its arrears and the 2008 contribution is awaited. No payments were received from India in 2007 but it paid an excess of its contributions in 2008. I.R. Iran paid their contribution in 2006 to 2008, and also paid US\$ 23,972 of their arrears in 2007. Pakistan paid most of their contributions in 2006 and 2007 (less US\$ 4,100) while the 2008 payment is awaited. Including 2008, there is US\$ 428,679 in arrears by Afghanistan (US\$ 2,850), India (US\$ 20,304), I.R. Iran (US\$ 320,002) and Pakistan (US\$ 68,823).
33. The Session questioned the expenditures in 2007 and 2008 pertaining to the FAO Representation in I.R. Iran for Commission support. Similar expenditures were not reported in the other countries. It was strongly felt that this support is part of the services provided by FAO Representations in each country. The Member Countries do not endorse such expenditures from the Commission's Trust Fund.

Recommendation 6. Any future expenditure by the FAO Representation in I.R. Iran related to the support of the Commission should not be paid from the Commission's Trust Fund.

34. The Session applauded the extraordinary effort made by the Government of Afghanistan in paying all of its arrears, which represented 14 years of contributions to the Commission.
35. The delegate from Afghanistan noted that the Call for Funds in 2008 was not received and requested the Secretary to follow up this matter.
36. The delegate from I.R. Iran indicated the hope that payment of a larger portion of the arrears can be expected in the future, and that evidence of previous payments to the SWAC Trust Fund is still required from FAO.

¹ <http://psms.fao.org/psms> (user=GUEST_VIEWER, pwd=2Go2psms)

Recommendation 7. If for some reason some of the arrears of I.R. Iran are not forthcoming in 2009, the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission should make a visit to Tehran and discuss the payment of arrears with the Director of the Plant Protection Organization and other relevant officials.

37. The delegates from India and Pakistan provided evidence that their 2008 contributions had been paid; however, supporting documentation was not available regarding India's contribution for 2007.
38. The delegates from India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan indicated the difficulty in ascertaining that contributions have been made.

Recommendation 8. Member Countries and FAO should provide evidence of annual contributions to the Trust Fund that has been made up to now.

Work Plan for 2009-10

39. The delegates emphasized the importance of training of locust staff in frontline countries as well as in Afghanistan in order to strengthen national capacities in locust survey, reporting, and control. This is reflected in the work plan for 2009-10.

Recommendation 9. Member Countries should identify two individuals within their organization who are energetic, possess a good command of the English language and have the capacity to teach others. These individuals should be designated as Master Trainers and given the responsibility for training national staff in locust survey, reporting and control.

40. Member Countries identified their priorities for expenditures in 2009-10 and, after considerable discussion, a list of standard, carry-over (from the 2006-08 work plan) and new items was **agreed** on for a total expenditure of about US\$ 267,750 plus support costs (Annex 7):

(a) Standard expenditures

IRN/PAK Joint Survey. The annual general operating expenses were increased by US\$ 1,000 for each country.

Visits. It was felt that it was no longer necessary to maintain visits to the CRC session by the Chairman because the Secretary can continue to represent SWAC.

Joint Survey report. It was felt that it was no longer necessary to maintain a budget for printing the annual I.R. Iran / Pakistan Joint Survey report because it is distributed electronically.

(b) Carry-over expenditures from the 2006-08 work plan

eLocust2. Units that should have been procured for Afghanistan (1), India (12) and I.R. Iran (5) should be purchased.

Computers. A desktop computer should be purchased for the Plant Protection Department in Afghanistan.

Vehicles. A 4WD double cab pickup vehicle should be purchased for I.R. Iran to be used in Desert Locust survey and control operations. A similar vehicle is being procured for India.

Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual and Standard Operating Procedures translation. Both documents are to be translated into Hindi (India) and Urdu (Pakistan) and reproduced.

Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual kit. The importance of producing overhead transparencies (acetates) in the DLMTM was reaffirmed as an appropriate means of delivering the training. DLMTM kits in English will be provided to Afghanistan (1), India (2), I.R. Iran (2) and Pakistan (2). If necessary, the kits can be reproduced in each country so that other Desert Locust Master Trainers have one.

(c) New expenditures

eLocust2. Funds should be allocated to allow the procurement of additional eLocust2 units for I.R. Iran (1) and Pakistan (6) to ensure that every survey and control team is properly equipped and uses eLocust2 to record and transmit data to their national locust centre. The operating and repair costs of eLocust2 will be covered by the Trust Fund.

Computers. A laptop should be procured for Pakistan that will be used during the annual Joint Survey and at the monthly Border Meetings with India in the summer. An extra battery should be purchased for the existing Flybook laptop in Pakistan.

HF radio installation and training. The local Codan agent (or equivalent expertise) in India should be requested to install the HF radios that were purchased with Trust Funds in 2005 and training should be provided to users.

Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual and Standard Operating Procedures translation. Both documents should be translated into Pashto/Dari (Afghanistan) and reproduced.

National training. Even though the allocation for national training was not entirely used in 2006-08, it should be maintained so that Master Trainers can conduct more courses for national staff. The funds would supplement, rather than replace, funds already provided by the national locust programmes. This should allow countries to conduct numerous training courses throughout the year.

MSc training. In order to build the technical capacity of Afghanistan in locust management, funds should be allocated to train one person at the MSc level in entomology with emphasis on locust management. It is preferred that the studies are carried out at an appropriate university in India.

RAMSES/eLocust2 workshop. Funds should be allocated to allow the designated Locust Director and Information Officer from India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan to participate in a follow-up inter-regional workshop that was held in Cairo in April 2008. As this is a specialized workshop, only the indicated individuals will be invited to participate. The follow-up workshop is expected to be held in Cairo before the end of 2010.

Master Trainers workshop. A two-week workshop should be held, preferably in Chabahar (I.R. Iran), for two designated Master Trainers each from Afghanistan, India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan, with technical support provided by the Secretary of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC).

New technology support. Funds should be allocated to allow the continued support of new technologies and geographic information systems, including training of Locust Information Officers on a new version of RAMSES.

I.R. Iran arrears. In case payments of arrears by I.R. Iran are not forthcoming in 2009, the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission should make a visit to Tehran to discuss this issue with the Director of the Plant Protection Organization and other relevant authorities.

41. The budget for the Trust Fund in 2008-2010 according to the expenditures listed above is shown in Annex 8.

Any Other Business

42. There were no points raised under this item.

Date and Place of the Next Session

43. The Secretariat explained that, according to tradition, Session venues were rotated amongst the Member Countries. The delegate from Pakistan said that his country would be pleased to host the 27th Session in October 2010, subject to approval being obtained from his Government. Alternatively, if for some reason this was not possible, the delegate from I.R. Iran agreed that the Session could be hosted in his country.

Adoption of the Report

44. The Report, with the agreed amendments, was adopted unanimously with acclaim.

Closure of the Meeting

45. The Technical Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, officially closed the 26th Session and thanked participants for coming to Kabul. He felt that this session was a good opportunity for plant protection experts in Afghanistan to understand better the Desert Locust and Afghanistan's role in its management. He emphasized the importance of building national capacity and cooperating on a regional level. He thanked FAO for organizing this session in Afghanistan and looked forward to the next time the country hosts the Commission.
46. Each of the delegates from the Member Countries thanked the Government of Afghanistan for hosting the session and the excellent arrangements made for their stay.
47. Mr. Cressman, on behalf of FAO, expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Afghanistan for agreeing to host this session and to colleagues in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock as well as to staff of the FAO Representation for their untiring efforts in making the necessary arrangements for the session that had allowed the meeting to proceed smoothly. He thanked the delegates and all the participants for their contributions towards a successful and useful meeting, which had produced meaningful and practical recommendations, many of which emphasize training as a means of strengthening national locust programmes.
48. The FAO Representative, Tekeste Ghebray Tekie, reiterated his pleasure that this session could be held in Kabul which showed that some stability exists in the country, not only bad news. He acknowledged the good support and close collaboration of the Government in all FAO-related activities. He was sure that the discussions and recommendations made at the Session would be of use in combating the Desert Locust in the Region. He hoped that this meeting would be the first of many other meetings to come to the country.
49. The Chairman, Mr. Ahmadi, indicated his pleasure that relationships with the international community were being renewed by Afghanistan and this session was one step in coming out of 30 years of technical isolation. He thanked the Member Country delegates for their contributions to the discussions and felt that the decisions that had been reached and agreed upon would help to strengthen further national capacities in his country and in the Region. He thanked the Director-General of FAO for giving Afghanistan the opportunity to host the Session, the FAO Representation for its support, and the FAO Secretary for his commitment to the Commission. He wished everyone a safe journey home and declared the Session closed.

Annexes

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

Opening

1. Welcome
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Election of the Drafting Committee

Technical issues

5. Desert Locust situation (December 2006 – December 2008) and forecast to spring 2009
Discussion: implications for planning operations
6. Report on Joint-Border Surveys during the spring of 2007 and 2008
Discussion: follow-up recommendations for further improvement
7. Information and reporting
Discussion: improving national reporting and training
8. Review of recommendations of the Twenty-fifth Session and progress made
Discussion: follow-up of outstanding recommendations
9. Making locust control operations safer
Discussion: pesticide management and use of bio-pesticides

Financial issues

10. Accounts for 2006-2008 and work plan for 2009-2010
Discussion: identify activities to be carried out in 2009-2010

Closing

11. Any other business
12. Date and place of the next session
13. Adoption of the report

Annex 3. Desert Locust Situation for December 2006 – December 2008 and forecast to spring 2009

1. Overview

Desert Locust breeding occurred during the spring of 2007 and 2008 in southeast I.R. Iran and western Pakistan that required ground control operations in both countries (nearly 40,000 ha in I.R. Iran and almost 4,000 ha in Pakistan). Good rains and two cyclones allowed locusts to remain on the southeast coast in I.R. Iran during the entire period, which is rather unusual. Several swarms invaded southern I.R. Iran from the eastern Arabian Peninsula in February 2008. By contrast, the situation remained relatively calm in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border despite pre-monsoon rainfall in both years and two generations of breeding in 2008. Some 250 ha were treated in India in 2007.

The most notable events during the period under report were (a) the near continuous presence of locusts on the southeast coast in I.R. Iran, (b) two cyclones, (c) a swarm invasion that required substantial control, and (e) pre-monsoon and early monsoon rains in the summer breeding areas.

Breeding during the spring of 2009 is likely to commence about one to months earlier than normal this year if good rains fell and temperatures remain warm. Nevertheless, locust numbers are expected to remain low. No invasions are anticipated from other regions.

2. Details of the locust situation

Spring breeding (December 2006 – June 2007). Good rains fell in Baluchistan in early December 2006. Once temperatures warmed up in late February and early March, egg laying commenced on the Pakistani coast between Gwadar and Ormara. Hatching took place in March and unusually heavy and widespread rains fell at mid-month that allowed breeding to continue on the Pakistani coast near Shooli and Pasni, and extend to the Iranian coast between Zaribad and Vashnam and the interior near Iranshahr in April. Pakistani ground teams treated 50 ha of early instar hoppers in late March and a 50 ha swarm on 14 April. In May, locust densities increased in both countries – up to 60 hoppers/m² and 2,000 adults/ha in I.R. Iran where *transiens* hoppers and adults formed small groups, and up to 3,500 adults/ha in Pakistan where breeding continued along the coast and adults were present on the coast and in the interior as far north as the Kharan Valley. By mid-May, medium-density hopper bands formed on the coast near Ormara, solitarious hoppers were present near Gwadar and Uthal and adults were forming low-density groups near Uthal. Ground teams treated 4,705 ha in I.R. Iran and 1,806 ha in Pakistan. In June, locusts declined in both countries due to control operations and adult movement to the summer breeding areas; only scattered groups of adults persisted on the coast and in the interior near Panjgur.

On 6-9 June, Tropical Cyclone Gonu caused heavy rains and flooding on the southern coast of I.R. Iran between Bandar Abbas and Chabahar, extending to adjacent areas in Pakistan. In late June, Cyclone Yemyin with winds up to 130 km/h brought heavy rains and floods to southern Sindh province in Pakistan and adjacent areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat, India on the 23rd as well as to coastal areas in western Pakistan between Karachi and Gwadar on the 26th.

Summer breeding (March – November 2007). Pre-monsoon rains in March and April allowed local breeding to occur near the Indo-Pakistan border in Cholistan and in Rajasthan west of Sam. Ground control operations were carried out on 290 ha against high numbers of late instar hoppers and adults northwest of Sam from mid-April to early May where ecological conditions remained favourable. An increasing number of solitarious adults appeared in the summer breeding areas and laid eggs during the first half of June in Khairpur and Cholistan deserts in Pakistan and in Rajasthan. The monsoon rains started during the last week of June and some locusts appeared in early July on the Gujarat coast that probably arrived from western Pakistan or northern Somalia on winds associated with Cyclone Yemyin. Scattered adults were present in Cholistan and Rajasthan during July and August where they laid eggs that hatched from late July. Small-scale breeding by spring-bred adults occurred on the coast

west of Karachi where Cyclone Yemyin caused good rains to fall in late June, and teams treated 880 ha of solitary hoppers in August. During September, scattered adults declined in the summer breeding areas where the monsoon rains ended at mid-month. Indian teams treated 225 ha of adults and 21 ha of first to third instar hoppers. No locusts were seen in India after mid-October and in Pakistan after mid-November.

In southeast I.R. Iran, medium to high densities of solitary and *transiens* adults were present and breeding in August on the Chabahar coast because of the good rains that fell in June from Cyclone Gonu. Ground teams treated 50 ha. Scattered adults persisted in these areas during September and October, and breeding occurred again in November.

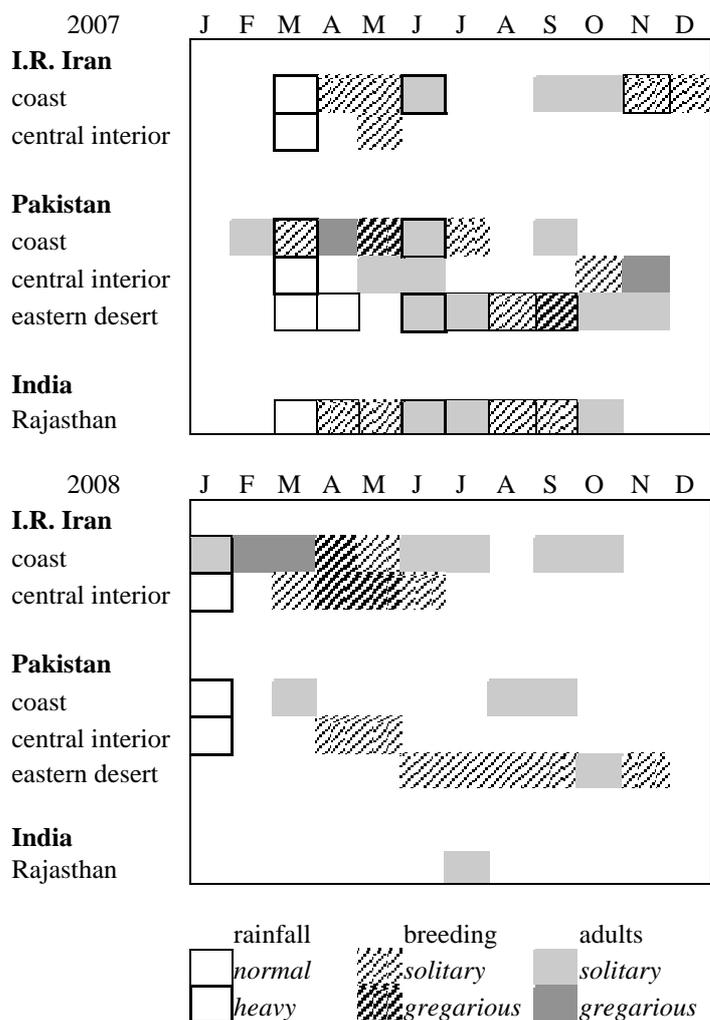
In northern Baluchistan, ground teams treated 700 ha of fifth instar hoppers near Kharan in late October, and two small immature swarms (250 ha) were controlled the first week of November.

Spring breeding (November 2007 – June 2008). Good rains fell on the southeast coast near Chabahar in November that allowed summer-bred adults to breed on the Vashnam Plains. Isolated late instar hoppers were present in December, the new adults matured and laid eggs in mid-January when unusually heavy rains fell over most of the spring breeding areas in southeast I.R. Iran and western Pakistan. In some places, more than five times the long-term average fell. By mid-February, third to fifth instar hoppers were seen near Chabahar. On 20 February, a low-density mature swarm arrived on the southern coast near Minab from the eastern Arabian Peninsula, dispersed and laid eggs. Several more swarms arrived and laid eggs on the coast between Minab and Jask until mid-March and in the interior near Jaz Murian until the last week. Hatching commenced at mid-month near Minab and continued during April, causing locust numbers to increase and hoppers formed small groups in March and bands in April on the coast and in interior (Jaz Murian basin, Suran and Zaboli valleys). Local breeding also took place near Chabahar from February onwards and by April hoppers formed groups. Locust infestations declined during May and only low numbers of scattered solitary hoppers and adults were seen near Chabahar. In June, ground teams treated a few small hopper groups near Chabahar and Bampur. During the campaign, teams treated nearly 35,000 ha from February to June. During the summer, residual populations of isolated adults persisted near Chabahar until November.

In Pakistan, isolated adults were present on the coast west of Karachi during March and in the Kharan Valley in April. Poor rainfall during the spring resulted in little breeding in Baluchistan except in the northern interior east of Nokkundi during April and in the Kharan Valley in May. Scattered adults persisted near Kharan in June.

Summer breeding (March – November 2008). Pre-monsoon rains fell along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in early April and throughout May. These were followed by light to moderate rains associated with the monsoon that reached Rajasthan in early June – about two weeks earlier than normal. Consequently, vegetation was greener earlier and remained green in Cholistan until late November. This allowed at least two generations of breeding to occur. First generation egg laying took place in mid-May in Cholistan with fledging in mid-June. This was followed by a prolonged second generation of egg laying throughout July with fledging in August and September. In India despite the early monsoon, isolated immature adults were seen only in July in central Rajasthan. The monsoon rains began to withdraw at the end of September, nearly one month later than normal, and by November no further locusts were reported in the summer breeding areas.

The locust situation for 2007 and 2008 is summarized in the table below.



3. Control operations

During 2007 and 2008, ground control operations treated more than 44,000 ha undertaken in India (536 ha), I.R. Iran (39,639 ha) and Pakistan (3,975 ha). Most of the control operations were carried out in I.R. Iran during the spring of 2008 as a result of a swarm invasion from the Arabian Peninsula and subsequent breeding.

	2007							2008				Total		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Feb	Mar	Apr		May	Jun
India		110	180			246								536
Iran			4,705	60	50				730	1,145	6,107	23,327	3,515	39,639
Pakistan	50	50	1,806	94	880		700	250				145		3,975
Total ha	50	160	6,691	154	930	246	700	250	730	1,145	6,107	23,472	3,515	44,150

4. Forecast to spring 2009

Despite pre-monsoon rains, early monsoon rains and two generations of breeding, locust numbers did not increase significantly this past summer along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Therefore, only low and insignificant numbers of solitarious adults are likely to move to the spring breeding areas in western Pakistan. However, scattered adults persisted throughout the summer and autumn on the southeast coast in I.R. Iran. Any rains that fall in this area during the winter will allow the adults to lay eggs that could cause an early generation of breeding to occur.

Long-term seasonal forecasts for the spring breeding areas indicate that rainfall may be higher than normal between December 2008 and March 2009 while temperatures will be about average except in December and January when there is a strong chance that it will be much warmer than normal. This suggests that spring breeding in 2009 may occur one to two months earlier than in most years.

In conclusion, surveys should be conducted on a regular basis from now onwards in southeast I.R. Iran, and should commence by the beginning of 2009 in coastal areas in western Pakistan. The scheduling of surveys should not be according to an administrative calendar but in response to rainfall and environmental conditions.

Annex 4. Reporting and information

1. Introduction

There are several different types of standard information, data and reports that SWAC countries collect, prepare and disseminate:

- (a) Field data – collected by survey teams and recorded and transmitted by eLocust2
- (b) RAMSES data – sent by India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan to FAO DLIS with a brief summary and interpretation within five days of the last survey stop
- (c) Fortnightly bulletins – sent by India and Pakistan every month of the year
- (d) Monthly bulletins – prepared by I.R. Iran at irregular intervals during the year

In addition, there are special data and reports that are prepared and distributed:

- (a) Joint Survey results – sent by the I.R. Iran/Pakistan joint survey team at the mid-way and end points of the survey in April every year (see separate paper)
- (b) Joint Survey report – sent by the team to FAO DLIS on 1 May
- (c) India/Pakistan monthly border meeting report – sent by India during the summer period

This paper reviews reporting in 2007 and 2008 and evaluates its quality, timeliness and frequency. The results should be used to fine tune and improve national reporting. They should not be misconstrued as criticism of national efforts or of any particular individual.

2. Analysis and results

During 2007 and 2008, there has been a decrease in the quality of reporting in the three key countries with the greatest decline seen in I.R. Iran and Pakistan. There has also been a decrease in the timeliness of reporting in these two countries. On the other hand, good quality reports were received on time and regularly from India. I.R. Iran and Pakistan also suffered from gaps in reporting. It was mentioned in the *FAO Desert Locust Bulletin* that no reports were received from I.R. Iran in January, July and September 2007, and during the second half of April 2008 (joint survey), May and July 2008. Similarly, no reports were received from Pakistan during the second half of December 2007, in July 2008, the second half of August 2008 and in September 2008.

	2006			2007			2008		
	reports	quality	time	reports	quality	time	reports	quality	time
India	59	2.22	2.14	94	2.62	2.70	56	2.45	2.75
I.R. Iran	10	2.50	2.80	11	2.55	2.36	32	2.16	2.22
Pakistan	33	2.21	2.55	34	2.59	2.74	24	2.13	2.38

Number of reports received by FAO DLIS; quality and timeliness scores are on a scale of 1 (low) to 3 (high).

(a) eLocust2

Not all teams are equipped with eLocust2 in the region. This is particularly evident in the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan, Pakistan where eLocust2 was not used on a consistent and regular basis. In May 2008, the DPP Karachi complained that they were not receiving eLocust2 data but this was because eLocust2 was not being used in the field. For example, only 15 messages were sent during one week in May 2008, compared to other countries that send about 50 messages per week². As a result, data received from the field was incomplete and late. This can easily be overcome if all teams

² 6 May: four stops by team PAK01; 7 May: two stops by team PAK16; 8 May: one stop by team PAK16; 9 May: three stops by team PAK16; 11 May: three stops by team PAK16; 12 May: two stops by team PAK16

use eLocust2 and are properly trained. The national information officer should check the Novacom site on a daily basis to follow the survey teams. Nearly all of the teams in India have and use eLocust2.

(b) RAMSES data

India. Data was usually received on time after each survey; however, no data was received in February 2008.

I.R. Iran. There were periods of several weeks in which data was not received, and no data was received in July 2008. The details of control operations carried out earlier this year were late, incomplete and constantly being updated which caused some confusion. The area surveyed was sometimes less than area infested.

Pakistan. Data was not received in February, July and September 2008 and for a six-week period (15/4-31/5/08). At other times, the wrong data was sent, data arrived late or duplicate data was received. A brief summary was not included when sending RAMSES data. Sometimes the Information Officer seemed to be changing the adult density data from per ha to per m². These shortcomings occurred even though FAODLIS provided training to the information officers in September 2006 and April, May and June 2008, funded by the Commission.

(c) Fortnightly and monthly bulletins

India. The fortnightly bulletins prepared by the Locust Warning Organization improved considerably in 2008 as more details and RAMSES maps were included. FAODLIS provided numerous suggestions for improvements that were quickly adopted. Steps were taken to reduce the size of the bulletin and send it by email only. Sometimes the contents of the bulletins did not match the RAMSES data. There were gaps in survey coverage in western Rajasthan during the summer. The fortnightly bulletins were usually received by FAO DLIS after one week.

I.R. Iran. Details of control operations were incomplete, delayed and corrected several times. Monthly bulletins were produced irregularly rather than according to the western calendar. The bulletin could be written in a clearer manner.

Pakistan. The fortnightly bulletins lacked sufficient details. For example, there was no indication if Desert Locust surveys were being conducted in the field or not. Without the details of the dates, locations, vegetation, soil moisture and locusts, FAO DLIS was unable to provide precise and timely early warning. Sometimes the contents of the bulletins did not match the RAMSES data. The fortnightly bulletins were usually received by FAO DLIS after one week. The fortnightly bulletin for the second half of each month arrived after the *FAO Desert Locust Bulletin* was issued; therefore, that information was not in FAO's bulletin.

(d) India/Pakistan monthly border meeting report

The national locust information officers from both countries started to participate in the joint border meetings in 2008; however, they have yet to exchange RAMSES data or maps. FAO DLIS continued to receive the reports too late or not at all. Only four out of six reports were received in 2007 and no reports were received after August in 2008. The reports that were received arrived from two weeks to two months late.

(e) General communication

Countries were informed several times regarding the above points. The SWAC Chairman was also requested to follow this matter up with the countries although it is not clear if this was actually done. Communications need to be improved between DPP Karachi and DLIS. For example, confirmation of participation in SWAC events and clarification of the locust situation were sometimes not provided despite several requests by email. This could be partially due to erratic email service in Karachi.

Annex 5. Accounts for 2006-2008

1. Introduction

At the 25th Session of the Commission, complete accounts of the Commission's Trust Fund MTF/RAS/001/MUL for 2004 and 2005 were provided as well as indicative expenditures for 2006 up to 11 October 2006. For the current Session, final expenditures for 2006 and 2007 are reported, together with indicative expenditure for 2008. The overall financial position of the Commission's Trust Fund is shown in Table 1. The final accounts for 2006, 2007 and the indicative expenditures for 2008 are presented in Table 2. The current status of contributions from the Member Countries is given in Table 3.

2. Overall situation

The final expenditures for 2006, which were not available at the last Session, were US\$ 176,634, compared to the indicative level of US\$ 169,568 reported at the 25th Session (Table 2). The 25th Session approved a budget of US\$ 256,483 for 2007-08, including standard support costs. The expenditures for 2007 were US\$ 74,076 and the expenditures for 2008 (as of 25 November 2008) are US\$ 56,609. Therefore, the total expenditures for 2007-08 are US\$ 130,665 as of 25 November 2008, which is well short of the approved budget. Considering the contributions that were made by Member Countries in 2006-08, the current balance of the Trust Fund is US\$ 139,894 (Table 1).

The expected level of contributions, including the settling of any arrears, over the next two-year period should be taken into account when preparing the work plan for 2009-10.

3. Detailed 2007-08 expenditures

The following expenditures were incurred from the Trust Fund in 2007-08 (see Table 2):

- eLocust2 equipment (12 units) were ordered for Pakistan
- Transmission costs for eLocust2 were paid for India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan
- One Toshiba notebook and an upgrade to a desktop PC were provided to the Locust Section at the Plant Protection Organization, I.R. Iran; two desktop PCs, scanners and printers were provided to the Locust Unit in Karachi, Pakistan to support RAMSES activities
- The FAO Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual kit is under preparation for dispatch to the Member Countries
- Funds were provided to partially cover a national training course on RAMSES in Pakistan to be conducted by Pramod Gour (Locust Information Officer, India) in March 2008 but this course has yet to materialize
- Participants from India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan attended an Inter-regional workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2 in Cairo (April 2008)
- Translation of the *FAO Desert Locust Master Training Manual* and *Standard Operating Procedures* into Farsi in I.R. Iran
- The annual joint border surveys in I.R. Iran and Pakistan in April 2007 and 2008

4. Member Country contributions

Details of the contributions to the Commission's Trust Fund by Member Countries are presented in Table 3. At the beginning of 2006, there was US\$ 441,623 of arrears to the Commission's Trust Fund. In addition, the annual contributions for 2006-08 amounted to US\$ 214,350. Thus, US\$ 655,973 was due to the Trust Fund. From 1 January 2006 to 25 November 2008, US\$ 227,294 was received from Member Countries. This is only slightly more than the annual assessment during the period. Finally, the current outstanding balance is US\$ 428,679.

Pakistan is kindly requested to settle its contribution for 2008. It is noted with satisfaction that I.R. Iran paid regularly its contribution since 2006 and Afghanistan has settled its arrears. Although the

amount of all arrears has been reduced slightly, due attention should be given to the unpaid balance of which a large portion is the remaining arrears of I.R. Iran and Pakistan.

During the Session, decisions should be taken on the arrears of Pakistan and I.R. Iran, to maintain them as they are or to reduce them by 50% (with certain conditions) due to the fact that they paid regularly their contribution since 2006.

5. Work plan for 2009-10

When preparing the biannual work plan, it is necessary to keep in mind that the total annual contribution of the Member Countries US\$ 71,450. If countries pay their contributions, then US\$ 142,900 should be available for the biannual work plan of 2009-10.

It is proposed that the work plan for the next biennium carry forward any activities or issues that were not completed previously but are still thought to be relevant and important, specifically:

- additional eLocust2 equipment
- computers
- support to national training
- translation of FAO DLMTM and SOP into Hindi and Urdu
- RAMSES/eLocust2 training

New activities could also be considered for funding, such as:

- Master Trainer workshop
- preparation of contingency plans
- making control operations safer

Table 1. Trust Fund (MTF/RAS/001/MUL) financial position as of 25/11/08

Receipts		Prior Years	2006	2007	2008	Total	
	Contributions	2,543,303	56,163	74,101	97,030	2,770,597	
	Interest earned	178,535	4,984	4,260	750	188,529	
	Total	2,721,838	61,147	78,361	97,780	2,959,126	
Expenditures		Prior Years	2006	2007	2008	Total	Total
					(prov)	(excl. 2008)	(incl.2008)
Account							
5011	Salaries Professional	63	0	0	0	63	63
5012	General Service	20,816	0	0	0	20,816	20,816
5013	Consultants	45,414	0	0	0	45,414	45,414
5014	Contracts	23,110	22,162	14,672	608	59,944	60,552
5021	Travel	424,387	38,911	12,080	24,622	475,378	500,000
5023	Training	60,658	0	0	2,000	60,658	62,658
5024	Expendable equipment	109,182	1,825	0	5,697	111,007	116,704
5025	Non-expendable equipment	583,285	86,991	20,256	4,657	690,532	695,189
5026	Hospitality	761	0	0	0	761	761
5028	General operating expenses	1,096,888	12,351	18,056	13,738	1,127,295	1,141,033
5040	General overhead expenses	344	0	455	71	799	870
5050	Chargeback	13,013	361	35	0	13,409	13,409
	Sub-total	2,377,921	162,601	65,554	51,393	2,606,076	2,657,469
5029	5% on accounts 5024 and 5025; 13% on all other accounts	133,992	14,033	8,522	5,216	156,547	161,763
	Total	2,511,913	176,634	74,076	56,609	2,762,623	2,819,232
Cash balance							139,894

N.B. prior years expenses (up to 31/12/1981) are included in account 5028 (\$917,052)

Table 2. Statement of Accounts 2006-08 (MTF/RAS/001/MUL): 2006 final

Account	Description	US\$
5014	Contracts	
	Novacom: eLocust2 activation + traffic up to 2/08 (PO 182066)	22,162
	subtotal	22,162
5021	Travel	
	<i>FAO/WMO Regional workshop on Meteorological Information for Locust Control, Muscat (8-12/4/06) (co-financed with CRC/CLCPRO)</i>	
	K.P. Singh (India) - AHQ113515	1,913
	Zafar Ali Khan (Pakistan) - AHQ113386	1,326
	C. Rosi - secretarial support (50% of air ticket) - AHQ112933	2,497
	<i>Regional workshop for National Locust Information Officers on eLocust2, RAMSESV3 and remote sensing imagery, Jodhpur (12-16/6/06)</i>	
	Satvir Singh (India)	862
	Jai Bhagwan (India)	862
	Madhi Ghaemian (Iran) - AHQ117739	2,227
	Other participants (India)	3,747
	<i>25th Session SWA Commission, Tehran (20-23/11/06)</i>	
	Bandyopadhyay (India) - AHQ125455	1,476
	Zafar Ali Khan (Pakistan) - AHQ125793	1,697
	Ahmadi Abdul Ghafar (Afghanistan) - AHQ126060	1,022
	<i>Other</i>	
	K. Cressman: Regional RAMSES workshop, Jodhpur (12-16/6/06) - AHQ115772	4,420
	N. Al-Harthy: RAMSES/eLocust2 training, Karachi (1-9/9/06) - AHQ120086	4,962
	Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/06)	5,900
	Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/06)	6,000
	subtotal	38,911
5024	Expendable Equipment	
	India: Micron sprayers - atomiser disc, mounting plate, motor pulley 3-speed plus screw -	314
	Pakistan: two Thuraya satellite phones	1,511
	subtotal	1,825
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	
	Pakistan: PC Flybook Win XP Home for Z. Ali Khan to perform DL surveys (PO 181537)	2,576
	Pakistan: 15 Motorola talkabout T5522 two way radios (PO 185976)	2,325
	India: 15 Codan NGT SRx base station packages, desk console (voice), and 15 NGT SRx transceiver mobile packages (PO 183463)	80,850
	Iran: 8 Motorola Talkabout T5522 two way radios (PO 185985)	1,240
	subtotal	86,991
5028	General Operating Expenses	
	Insurance POs	246
	India: clearing charge for equipment	1,565
	India: staff claims/organization of Regional workshop for National Locust Information Officers on eLocust2, RAMSESV3 and remote sensing imagery, Jodhpur (12-16/6/06) additional DSA for Z. Ali Khan, Bandyopadhyay and Ghafar Ahmadi at 25th Session (11/06)	1,428
	Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/06)	871
	Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/06)	3,240
		5,000
	subtotal	12,351
5050	Chargeback	
	Translation and printing invitation letters 25th Session	361
	subtotal	361
5029	Support Costs	
	5% on accounts 5024 and 5025; 13% on all other accounts	14,033
	subtotal	14,033
Total expenditures in 2006		176,634

Table 2. Statement of Accounts 2006-08 (MTF/RAS/001/MUL): 2007 final

Account	Description	US\$
5014	Contracts	
	Novacom: eLocust2 activation + traffic (PO 182066/202788)	14,672
	subtotal	14,672
5021	Travel	
	Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/07)	6,080
	Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/07)	6,000
	subtotal	12,080
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	
	Pakistan: 12 elocust2 units from Novacom (PO 201442)	20,256
	subtotal	20,256
5028	General Operating Expenses	
	Insurance Pos	123
	Iran: hosting of 25th Session of SWAC session (11/06)	2,837
	Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/07)	5,000
	Iran: translation/printing of DLMTM and SOPs	4,233
	Iran: SWAC support provided by FAOR (E Ali and S. Behrad)	619
	Iran: color toner for Konica Bizhub C252 (FAOR)	196
	Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/07)	5,049
	subtotal	18,056
5040	General Overhead Expenses	
	FAO pouch services	455
	subtotal	455
5050	Chargeback	
	FAO publication pool 2006-2007	35
	subtotal	35
5029	Support Costs	
	5% on accounts 5024 and 5025; 13% on all other accounts	8,522
	subtotal	8,522
Total expenditures in 2007		74,076

Table 2. Statement of Accounts 2006-08 (MTF/RAS/001/MUL): 2008 (as of 25/11/08)

Account	Description	US\$
5014	Contracts	
	Novacom: eLocust2 activation + traffic (PO 202788)	608
	subtotal	608
5021	Travel	
	<i>Inter-regional Workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2, Cairo (22-24/4/08)</i>	
	Zafar Ali Khan (Pakistan)	1,532
	Ghulam Qadir Lund (Pakistan)	1,532
	Hirbod Abbasali (Iran)	1,592
	Mehdi Ghaemian (Iran)	1,592
	Pramod Gour (India)	1,644
	Sethi Khushwant Singh (India)	1,702
	<i>Other</i>	
	N. Al-Harthy: training for locust information officers, Karachi (4-10/5/08)	1,862
	Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/08)	5,880
	Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/08)	5,880
	P. Gour: RAMSES training, Karachi (2-8/3/08) - postponed	1,405
	subtotal	24,622
5023	Training	
	Pakistan: RAMSES training by P. Gour, Karachi (2-8/3/08) - postponed	2,000
	subtotal	2,000
5024	Expendable Equipment	
	DLMTM kit (from CRC, PR 40192): 36 Dwyer hand-held wind meter; 36 sling psychrometer; 36 Vibratak tachometers; 36 droplet counting templates; 9 water sensitive paper cards; 9 oil sensitive paper cards; 36 magic pens; 36 folding pocket magnified-double lens 5x-10x; 9 tape measure 100m; 9 whiteboard pens/erasers; 36 Siva compass; 9 red laser pointers; 36 1:500 00 scale TPC map J6C; 9 sticks for sample mounting	5,697
	subtotal	5,697
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	
	Iran: one Toshiba Portage M700-s7004V laptop for M. Ghaemian	1,858
	Pakistan: 2 desktop PCs, printers and scanners for Locust Unit, Karachi	2,799
	subtotal	4,657
5028	General Operating Expenses	
	United for Foreign Trade (Cairo): DLMTM reproduction (PO 223840)	3,600
	Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/08)	4,655
	Iran: SWAC support provided by FAOR (S. Behrad)	484
	Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan (4/08)	5,000
	subtotal	13,738
5040	General Overhead Expenses	
	FAO Pouch services	71
	subtotal	71
5029	Support Costs	
	5% on accounts 5024 and 5025; 13% on all other accounts	5,216
	subtotal	5,216
Total expenditures in 2008 (as of 25/11/08)		56,609

Table 3. Status of contributions (MTF/RAS/001/MUL) for 2006-08*figures in US\$*

	Afghanistan	India *	I.R. Iran	Pakistan *	Total
2006					
outstanding 31/12/05	33,000.00	-79.68	343,974.26	64,729.04	441,623.62
contribution for 2006	2,750.00	27,000.00	25,000.00	16,700.00	71,450.00
<i>received up to 31/12/06</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>26,963.56</i>	<i>25,000.00</i>	<i>4,199.50</i>	<i>56,163.06</i>
2007					
outstanding 31/12/06	35,750.00	-43.24	343,974.26	77,229.54	456,910.56
contribution for 2007	2,750.00	27,000.00	25,000.00	16,700.00	71,450.00
<i>received up to 31/12/07</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>48,994.70</i>	<i>25,106.22</i>	<i>74,100.92</i>
2008					
outstanding 31/12/07	38,500.00	26,956.76	319,979.56	68,823.32	454,259.64
contribution for 2008	2,750.00	27,000.00	25,000.00	16,700.00	71,450.00
<i>received up to 25/11/08</i>	<i>38,400.00</i>	<i>33,653.05</i>	<i>24,977.12</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>97,030.17</i>
2006-08 summary					
Outstanding as of 31/12/05	33,000.00	-79.68	343,974.26	64,729.04	441,623.62
2006-08 annual assessment	8,250.00	81,000.00	75,000.00	50,100.00	214,350.00
<i>2006-08 received</i>	<i>38,400.00</i>	<i>60,616.61</i>	<i>98,971.82</i>	<i>29,305.72</i>	<i>227,294.15</i>
Balance due (as of 25/11/08)	2,850.00	20,303.71	320,002.44	85,523.32	428,679.47

* 25% paid in local currency through Imprest Account

Annex 6. Approved Expenditures for 2009-2010

TF912300 – MTF/RAS/001/MUL

Available funds		AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total
Member annual contributions		2	2	2	2	5,500	54,000	50,000	33,400	142,900
current unallocated funds										125,000
<i>subtotal</i>										267,900
	Unit cost	AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total
Standard expenditures										
IRN/PAK Joint survey	11,000			2	2	0	0	22,000	22,000	44,000
27th Session travel/op costs	3,500	1	1	1	1	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	14,000
<i>subtotal</i>						3,500	3,500	25,500	25,500	58,000
Carry-over expenditures from 2006-08 work plan										
eLocust2 equipment	1,750	1	12	5	0	1,750	21,000	8,750	0	31,500
Computers - desktop	2,000	1	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000
Vehicles	25,000	0	1	1	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	50,000
DLMTM translation	2,500	0	1	0	1	0	2,500	0	2,500	5,000
SOP translation	1,000	0	1	0	1	0	1,000	0	1,000	2,000
DLMTM kit	1,250	1	1	1	1	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	5,000
<i>subtotal</i>	33,500					5,000	50,750	35,000	4,750	95,500
New expenditures										
eLocust2 equipment	1,750	0	0	1	6	0	0	1,750	10,500	12,250
eLocust2 transmission	3,500	0	2	2	2	0	7,000	7,000	7,000	21,000
Computers - laptop (1)	2,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
HF radio install/training (2)	3,500	0	1	0	0	0	3,500	0	0	3,500
National training (3)	2,500	1	1	1	1	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	10,000
MSc training (4)	25,000	1	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
DLMTM/SOP translation	2,500	1	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500
RAMSES/eLocust2 wkshp (5)	2,000	0	2	2	2	0	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Master Trainers workshop (6)	2,000	2	2	2	2	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	16,000
New technology support (7)	3,000	0	1	1	1	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
Chairman visit to Tehran (8)	1,000	1	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
<i>subtotal</i>						35,000	24,000	22,250	33,000	114,250
total						43,500	78,250	82,750	63,250	267,750
balance										150

(1) for use during Joint Survey and Border Meetings, includes extra battery for Flybook

(2) local Codan agent or equivalent is preferred

(3) up to a maximum of \$5000 subject to availability of funds

(4) two year programme at Rajasthan University is preferred

(5) for designated Locust Director & Information Officer only

(6) tentative venue is Chabahar, I.R. Iran

(7) includes training on new RAMSES version and support to GIS

(8) only required if no arrears are received from I.R. Iran in 2009

Annex 7. Trust Fund Budget for 2009-2010

TF912300 – MTF/RAS/001/MUL

Code	Item	2009 (US\$)	2010 (US\$)
5013	Consultants	7,000	2,500
5014	Contracts	-	21,000
5021	Travel	-	31,000
5023	Training	10,000	25,000
5024	Expendable Equipment	-	-
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	83,500	17,750
5028	General Operating Expenses	27,000	43,000
5050	Chargeback	-	-
	Sub-Total	127,500	140,250
5029	Support cost		
	- 5% (on 5024 and 5025)	4,175	888
	- 13% (on remainder)	5,720	15,925
	Sub-Total	9,895	16,813
	GRAN TOTAL	137,395	157,063