

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING MAKES COUNTRIES MORE RESILIENT TO LOCUST THREATS AND CRISES



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### CONTINGENCY PLANS

#### features

**CONTINGENCY PLANS IMPROVE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO LOCUST EMERGENCIES**

**SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE IMPLEMENTED DURING LOCUST OUTBREAKS, UPSURGES AND PLAGUES**

**ALL CONTINGENCY PLANS HAVE SIMILAR COMPONENTS SUCH AS RESOURCES, ADVANCED WARNING, SCENARIOS, TRIGGERS, RESPONSIBILITIES, PROCEDURES, TESTING AND UPDATING**

**LOCUSTS** are a serious threat to agro-pastoral resources, food security and livelihoods in Africa and Asia where they can have major economic, social and environmental impacts. For example, the cost of control operations during the last major Desert Locust upsurge in 2003-2005 was nearly USD 600 million, and almost 13 million litres of chemical pesticides were sprayed. Damage to crops and pastures in some Sahelian countries ranged from 30 to 100 percent.

Effective early response to locust infestations and their management relies on having well established and tested contingency plans before a locust emergency develops.

Following the multilateral evaluation of response to the Desert Locust upsurge in 2003-2005, FAO has supported the establishment of contingency plans in locust-affected countries within the framework of its regional Desert Locust commissions in the Western Region (CLCPRO), the Central Region (CRC) and South-West Asia (SWAC), the Locust Programme in Caucasus and Central Asia, and the Three-year Programme in response to the locust plague in Madagascar.

### METHODOLOGY AND PRINCIPLES

A contingency plan is a plan that deals with rare events that occur irregularly and often unpredictably and whose nature is roughly known.

National locust contingency plans are an integrated tool to help countries respond effectively and on time to locust emergencies in order to mitigate the impact of outbreaks, upsurges and plagues on food security and livelihoods. The plans are based on the structure of the country's locust programme and available resources.

The core principle of a locust contingency plan is that different locust situations require certain actions known in advance. It takes into account the nature of the locust threat and its potential to develop from a recession (calm situation) into an outbreak, to the critical situation of an upsurge and finally into a plague.

Better threats forecasting facilitates the



implementation of a specific plan. Regular monitoring undertaken by national teams enhances forecasting (prediction of timing and likelihood of a threat). Threat forecasts are regularly issued by national authorities at country level, and by FAO's Desert Locust Information Service at global level.

The potential scale of the threat can be estimated from experience and historical data. The likely response capacity can be determined from available resources and those that can be quickly mobilized.



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**CLCPRO REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN COORDINATES CONTROL OPERATIONS AND PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT WHEN NEEDED**

**CLCPRO AND CRC ESTABLISHED A REGIONAL EMERGENCY FUND FOR DESERT LOCUST EMERGENCIES**

**MADAGASCAR APPROVED ITS EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN IN SEPTEMBER 2013**

**CONTINGENCY PLANNING INTRODUCED TO 10 CAUCASIAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES**

### FAO/Locusts

✉ [Food-Chain-Crisis@fao.org](mailto:Food-Chain-Crisis@fao.org)

Websites

[www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis](http://www.fao.org/food-chain-crisis)

[www.fao.org/ag/locusts](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts)

[www.clcpro-empres.org](http://www.clcpro-empres.org)

[www.desertlocust-crc.org](http://www.desertlocust-crc.org)

[www.fao.org/ag/locusts/swac](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/swac)

[www.fao.org/ag/locusts-CCA/en](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts-CCA/en)

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Although contingency plans may vary from country to country, every plan has similar components such as resources, advanced warning, scenarios, triggers, responsibilities, procedures, testing and updating.

Contingency plans help to ensure a better coordinated response to locust threats. Lessons learnt from locust contingency planning can be applied to other transboundary plant pests and diseases.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**West and North-West Africa** (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia)

Since 2008, eight out of ten member countries of the CLCPRO have developed their national contingency plan based on lessons learnt from actual locust situations and simulation exercises organized in Mali and Senegal.

Locust emergency response involves all ministries, and a National Coordination Body defines responsibilities for evaluation, anticipation, operations, logistics, transmissions, communication, human health and environment.

Furthermore, National Locust Control Units in frontline countries (countries hosting Desert Locust permanent habitat and breeding areas) have normative work plans to implement the preventive strategy, and CLCPRO has a regional contingency plan for coordinating control operations and providing technical and financial support when needed.

South-south assistance is a long tradition in the Western Region, enhanced through CLCPRO. A “Regional Desert Locust Contingency Fund” was established in 2016 to cope with the beginning of an upsurge, which is a critical period that could evolve into a crisis situation if not properly managed.



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### Northeast Africa and Near East

(Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)

Since 2009, regional workshops have been conducted to develop a common sense among stakeholders on the need of contingency arrangements. As a result, member countries of the CRC are better prepared to respond more effectively to locust emergencies. CRC has updated the Desert Locust Contingency Planning Assistant, a tool used by countries to identify gaps in organizational structure and operations to help strengthen their national locust programme. In case preventive control measures are not fully successful, CRC provides support to affected countries during locust emergencies as well as encourages countries to help each other within the region. In the near future, CRC will be focusing on developing contingency plans in the non-frontline countries.

### South-West Asia (Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan)

Contingency planning was introduced to the region in 2013 and each country has developed a preliminary plan for invasion and outbreak scenarios. In the coming years, the plans will be updated and expanded to address upsurges and plagues as well as human health and environment issues and use cloud technology.

### Madagascar

The contingency plan was officially approved in September 2013. Now that the 2013-2016 plague has ended, a normative work plan to implement the preventive strategy is being finalized by the Government.