Message from the Executive Secretary

Dear readers,

I am delighted to write to you today to take stock of the year 2022 and share with you the main achievements of our Commission. After what humanity has experienced during the covid-19 crisis and its repercussions on the world of work and the economy as well as on the habits of each other, the year 2022 has been a year of relief and recovery and although the health crisis in the world of work has opened up new ways of working, it has also had an impact on the planning, coordination and control of the various actions, requiring us to be able to adaptation to continue to conduct our activities without interruption, which was the case for the Executive Secretariat of the CLCPRO as well as for the national locust control units of the member countries.

The CLCPRO celebrated its 20th anniversary this year during its joint statutory meeting of the 10th session and the 15th meeting of the Executive Committee. This event was an opportunity for us to celebrate our achievements, take stock of our actions and strengthen our ties, in the presence of the highest authorities of the member countries, which demonstrates their commitment despite the period of calm.

I am proud to announce that our Commission will welcome three new member countries, namely Gambia, Cameroon and Cabo Verde. This will reinforce our common objective for the preventive fight against the Desert Locust and shows the growing importance of our mission in the region.

This year was also marked by a first where the contributions of member countries were all paid on time to the Commission’s trust fund, which is a clear indicator of the commitment to our common mission.

In addition, member countries have continued to deploy their national systems for monitoring Desert Locust biotopes even though the locust situation has remained calm in our region; which demonstrates the full commitment of the countries to work towards the implementation of the preventive control strategy adopted by the CLCPRO.

I would like to thank each of you for your commitment and determination to advance our humble mission. I am convinced that we can continue to work together to achieve our goals and ensure that our region is protected against the ravages caused by the Desert Locusts.

Finally, I am thrilled to continue our mission together and face future challenges with renewed determination.

Dr. Mohamed Lemine Hamoumy
Executive Secretary of the CLCPRO
The year in review: Key figures for 2022

3 New countries
Accepted to CLCPRO, namely Cameroon, Cabo Verde and Gambia.

6.23M USD 6 236 110
Commission Trust Fund Balance

669K USD 669 775
Contributions paid in 2022

541K USD 541 438
FRGRA expenditures

164K 164 378 hectares
Total area surveyed

5K 5 337 hectares
Total area treated including 392 with a biopesticide

65 Survey Teams
Deployed into the field

615 Officers
Trained under the Regional Training Plan IV

Locust situation in the western region

The locust situation remained relatively calm throughout 2022 with the exception of a small resurgence in Mauritania and a few groups treated by Morocco.

hectares was treated in Mauritania, including 392 hectares treated with a biopesticide. Morocco treated groups of adults over an area of 562 hectares.

In the other countries of the region, surveys did not reveal a significant presence of the Desert Locust.

The resurgence in Mauritania was assessed by a mission composed of experts from the region from December 21 to 31, 2022. The said mission confirmed the country’s conclusions on the likely evolution of the situation and the country’s capacity to deal with it.1

Desert Locust monitoring in the Western Region

The assessment of the systems deployed in the western region under the 2022 campaign resulted in the deployment of 65 survey/response teams in three frontline countries (Mauritania, Niger and Chad) and two North Africa (Algeria and Morocco).

The total area surveyed in the five countries mentioned is 164 378 hectares, including a treated area of 5 337 hectares, 392.3 of which with a biopesticide.

Assessment of the Regional Training Plan (PFR IV)

The year 2022 closed the fourth regional training plan (PFR IV) (2019-2022) with a review of the training carried out in the western region, during these four years, of 615 managers and agents trained mainly in the areas of survey (including the use of new technologies such as drones), spraying (including the use of biopesticides) and health and environmental monitoring as well as community awareness.

In addition, it is planned to organize in June 2023, a planning workshop for the fifth Regional Training Plan (PFR V) for the period 2023-2027.

1 Check out the report: https://bit.ly/MAU_Eval_22
Financial statement of the CLCPRO

Following the resumption of the majority of CLCPRO’s activities, due to the lifting of restrictions linked to the covid-19 crisis and the opening of borders, expenditure on the Commission’s trust fund reached an amount of USD 393,507 as of 12/31/2022, representing 62 percent of the budget approved during the virtual consultation meeting with member countries for the execution of the 2022 action plan and representing a 33.34 percent increase in expenditure carried out during the year 2021.

In addition, expenses, all sources of financing combined, reached an amount of USD 888,516 during the year 2022.

- Trust Fund: USD 393,507
- FRGRA: USD 4,401
- AFD: USD 490,608

The illustration below shows the distribution of expenditure on the various sources of financing during the year 2022;

CLCPRO workshops, training and meetings

The CLCPRO Secretariat, in consultation with the member countries, organized seven workshops, three of which jointly with the CRC, out of a total of ten events planned for the year 2022. The three (03) workshops not carried out for major contracts have been postponed. to 2023.

Workshop to Update National Plans and the Regional Locust Contingency Plan (PNUA) and the Regional Locust Risk Management Plan (PRGRA)

Following the implementation of the Regional Locust Risk Management Plan (PRGRA), in 2020 to deal with the probable locust invasion from the Horn of Africa, the CLCPRO Executive Secretariat organized a regional workshop update of national plans and the regional locust emergency plan, from 14 to 18 March 2022, in Saly (Senegal).

It allowed to:

- Examine the implementation of the UNAPs of the six countries concerned, namely the four frontline countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad) and Burkina Faso as well as Senegal to face the threat of invasion in 2020 ;
- Formulate recommendations to facilitate the updating of these plans based on the positive and negative points that characterized their implementation with a view to improving them.

The various components of the regional emergency plan were also reviewed and its implementation in 2020 was assessed, in particular the organizational anchoring of its financial and operational tools, namely the Regional Locust Risk Management Fund (FRGRA) and the Western Region Task Force (FIRO).¹

Interregional training on the use of biopesticides for locust control

An interregional training on the use of biopesticides for locust control was held in Agadir (Morocco), from May 16 to 20, 2022, in collaboration between FAO, CLCPRO, the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO and the National Locust Control Center of Morocco (CNLAA).

Have benefited from this training, technicians from 14 countries. This training is part of the efforts undertaken by FAO and its Desert Locust Control Commissions to promote the use of biopesticides in locust control.²

¹ Check out the report: https://bit.ly/MAJ_Saly_2022
² Check the report: https://bit.ly/Agadir_BioPest
Regional Training of Deputy Information Officers on Locust Information Management

As part of its strategy to ensure the sustainability of the early warning system of the national locust control units of its member countries, by guaranteeing a high level of competence, the CLCPRo Secretariat organized training for new technicians occupying the positions of deputy locust information officers of the national locust control units (UNLA) of the member countries of the CLCPRo.

This training was attended by technicians from the ten CLCPRo member countries as well as two countries from the Commission for the Control of the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), namely Egypt and Sudan.¹

Joint Survey with the Use of Drones in Desert Locust Surveillance in the Western Region

The CLCPRo Executive Secretariat organized the annual joint survey using drones for the second consecutive year, in locust monitoring, from September 15 to October 4, 2022, in Mauritania.

It enabled technicians from CLCPRo member countries and CRC participants to jointly carry out surveying operations at the level of the usual Desert Locust biotopes in Mauritania, using the drone tool in the collection and exploitation of information. ground.²

Regional Training of Environmental Monitoring Officers of CLCPRo Member Countries

Based on an analysis of the implementation situation of the CCE and to compensate for the departure of several officials in charge of health and environmental monitoring of the national locust control units, a regional workshop was organized in Saly (Senegal), from 11 to October 13, 2022 for the benefit of the health and environmental monitoring officers of the ten member countries of the CLCPRo.

It made it possible to review the components of the Environmental Specifications (CCE), the tools for its implementation, in particular the implementation manual and the scord card. Also, the inventory of the implementation of the national CCEs presented by the countries made it possible to identify the aspects requiring technical or financial support from the CLCPRo.³

Interregional Workshop for the Development of a Regional Research Plan (2022-2026)

As part of the strengthening of the operational research component and in close collaboration with the CRC, the implementation of the project, an inter-regional workshop for the development of an operational research plan on the Desert Locust 2022-2026 was organized in Tunis (Tunisia), from 08 to 11 November 2022.

It also allowed the integration of research activities already planned within the framework of the AFD project: GCP/GLO/096/FRA "Consolidate the bases of the preventive control strategy and develop operational research on the Desert Locust in the western region", to plan other related activities, in particular the alternative control methods and societal impact component.

The officials of the UNLAs of the two regions and the research institutions participated in this workshop which resulted in the development of a planning scheme for the period from 2022 to 2026.

This workshop resulted in the development of a planning scheme for the period from 2022 to 2026.

¹ Check out the report: https://bit.ly/DLIO_2022
² Check out the report: https://bit.ly/PC_Drones_2022
³ Check out the report: https://bit.ly/SalyCCE
This scheme aims to coordinate research activities and guarantee their effectiveness in achieving the objectives set.¹

The outline includes a detailed list of components and expected outputs of Desert Locust operational research.

The components and products expected from this workshop are as follows:

**Component 1: Technological innovations**

- **Output 1.1:** New technological tools for monitoring Desert Locust populations are developed.

**Component 2: Adaptation of prevention tools to climate change.**

- **Output 2.1:** Predictive models for preventive Desert Locust control are developed.
- **Output 2.2:** Early warning and rapid response criteria applied.

**Component 3: Development of environmentally friendly locust control methods/techniques.**

- **Output 3.1:** Operational use of Metarhizium biopesticide acridum is optimized.
- **Output 3.2:** New environmentally friendly molecules for Desert Locust control are developed.

**Component 4: Socio-economic aspects of Desert Locust damage/threats.**

- **Output 4.1:** Social and economic impacts of the Desert Locust are assessed.

**Joint meeting of the 10th Session of the CLCPRO and the 15th Meeting of its Executive Committee**

Following the kind invitation of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) convened the Tenth Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Western Region (CLCPRO), in conjunction with the fifteenth meeting of its Executive Committee.

The meeting was held from 27 November to 1 December, 2022 in Oran (Algeria) and discussed the results of activities since the 9th session held in June 2018 in N’Djamena (Chad) and prepare the action plan and budget for the 2022-2024 biennium.

The ten member countries of the CLCPRO took part in it through the high authorities (General Secretariats of the Ministries in charge of locust control and Directors of National Locust Control Units), where Algeria and Burkina Faso were elected president and vice-president of the Commission respectively for the biennium 2022-2024.

For the first time in the history of the Commission, a statutory meeting brought together three countries (Gambia, Cabo Verde and Cameroon) which apply to join the Commission and their requests were unanimously approved by the member countries of the CLCPRO.

The meeting took place in the presence of the main technical and financial partners of CLCPRO, namely the French Development Agency (AFD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Arab Organization for the Development of Agriculture (OADA), the AGRHYMET Regional Center, the Agronomic Research Center for International Development (CIRAD), and the Algerian Space Agency (ASAL).

Senior Algerian authorities also participated in the meeting with considerable interest since the Algerian government was represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Wali of the Wilaya of Oran who hosted the meeting, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and representatives of the General Directorate of Multilateral Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad.

FAO, for its part, was represented by the Coordinator of the FAO Subregional Office for North Africa in addition to the participation of the Executive Secretary of the CRC.²

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Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CLCPRO

On the sidelines of the joint meeting of the 10th session and the 15th meeting of the CLCPRO Executive Committee, the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the CLCPRO was held.

The celebration of 20 years of CLCPRO was marked by a personalized trophy representing 20 years of effort. The award ceremony was enhanced by the honorable presence of Mr. Mohamed Abdelhafidh HENNI, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria, who not only attended the entire ceremony and delivered a speech in which he congratulated CLCPRO and its member countries for holding the session and underlined the importance of South-South cooperation but also took the time to meet with multiple representatives of CLCPRO member countries.

Communication to the CLCPRO

As part of CLCPRO’s communication strategy, the Secretariat has maintained actions aimed at promoting the visibility of CLCPRO’s activities by improving the quality of the various communication tools.

In terms of strengthening its communication capacities, a national communication consultant was recruited to ensure the communication of the secretariat and coordinate activities with the focal points of the member countries who were then designated and a collection of audiovisual and computer equipment allowing better visualize and design the Commission’s communication products has been acquired.

Change of the CLCPRO logo

In compliance with recommendation R.20 of the 14th meeting of the executive committee relating to the change of the logo of the CLCPRO, the Secretariat presented four proposals for logos discussed and decided in close collaboration with the secretariat of the CRC. After discussions on the shape, colors, font, language and variants of the logo, a version was updated and retained. This logo was subsequently validated by the communication service at FAO headquarters without any reservations.

Audiovisual production

The year 2022 saw the production of three major videos, including one in three languages.

An example of success

In order to better document the activities of the Commission, a documentary film entitled “Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) - A success story” was produced in three languages (English, Arabic and French). The objective of this film was to retrace the history of CLCPRO, its achievements and its achievements during its 20 years of existence.1 2 3

Importance of Anticipation

A video entitled “Importance of Anticipation Actions to Avoid Locust Invasions” has been produced to serve as an introduction to advocacy meetings with donors, as well as meetings with countries.

The aim of the video was to give an idea of the importance of setting up an action plan to anticipate Desert Locust invasions through effective regional coordination, strengthening surveillance and control resources as well as the capacity building of human resources (practical training on drones and locust control).

1 Watch the video in French: https://bit.ly/CLCPRO_SS_FR
2 Watch the video in English: https://bit.ly/CLCPRO_SS_EN
This video targeted decision-makers, donors and other partners, locust experts and locust control operators.\(^1\)

**20 years of control**

Another film entitled “CLCPRO: 20 years of control”, was produced on the occasion of the 20\(^{th}\) anniversary of CLCPRO, and was screened during the opening ceremony of the 10\(^{th}\) session.\(^2\)

CLCPRO’s activities were covered by several information channels, including the region’s press in several languages. French represents 59 percent of the articles published, Arabic follows with 27 percent and English with 14 percent.

The countries contributing the most to the dissemination of information are: Algeria with 19 percent of the articles, followed by Senegal with 16 percent and Mauritania and Egypt with 11 percent.

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\(^1\) Watch the video: [https://bit.ly/CLCPRO_Anticipation](https://bit.ly/CLCPRO_Anticipation)


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**Schedule of Events 2023**

The year 2023 promises to be very rich in events with the organization of thirteen regional and interregional workshops and meetings, four of which jointly with the CRC according to a diversified schedule and with strategic and operational objectives.\(^3\)

The events are divided into nine categories, namely:

- Communication
- Environment
- Locust information management
- Technological innovation
- Institutional management
- Operational research
- Survey techniques
- Spray techniques

Below is the plan of events planned by the CLCPRO in 2023.

Contact information:
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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Algeria, Algeria

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Drones
Drone trial for surveillance
Muscat (Oman)
05 to 09 February 2023

Spray
Aerial spray training
Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)
19 to 23 February 2023

Research
Discussion workshop on the thresholds of intervention metamodel
Nouakchott (Mauritania)
13 to 15 March 2023

Locust Information Management
Interregional training on locust information management coupled with the use of “Google Earth Engine”
Cairo (Egypt)
21 to 26 May 2023

Training
Planning of the PFR V Regional Training Plan (2023-2027)
Oran (Algeria)
05 to 09 June 2023

Research
Validation of the regional risk map model prototype
Oran (Algeria)
10 June 2023

Spraying
Training workshop on maintenance of ultra-low volume spraying equipment
Agadir (Morocco)
19 to 23 June 2023

Communication
Remission and locust emergency management
Dakar (Senegal)
17 to 22 July 2023

Survey techniques
Initiation of survey officers to survey techniques and the use of Pl@ntNet
Chad
05 to 19 September 2023

Survey techniques
Exchange of expertise in locust monitoring with the use of drones and introduction to the use of Pl@ntNet
Mauritania
25 September to 07 October 2023

Spraying and Environment
Training on aerial spraying and environmental monitoring
Morocco
23 to 28 October 2023

Management
Training on the use of version 3 of SVDN and Monitoring and evaluation
Niamey (Niger)
27 November to 01 December 2023

Institutional & Research
16th meeting of the CLCPRO Executive Committee & Rapid intervention thresholds
Bamako (Mali)
04 to 08 December 2023