



DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE: A GLOBAL COORDINATING BODY FOR LOCUST EARLY WARNING AND PREVENTIVE CONTROL

The Desert Locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskål, 1775), is the world's most dangerous migratory pest with a voracious appetite unmatched in the insect world.

Within the Desert Locust's distribution area, which is equivalent to 20 percent of the Earth's land surface and stretches from North-West Africa to the Indian subcontinent, the insects can rapidly reproduce, concentrate and then form swarms able to move up to 150 kilometres per day in search

of food. These swarms can even cross continents and oceans. A single Desert Locust swarm the size of Brussels could consume Belgium's entire food supply in a single day.

Desert Locust swarms pose a constant threat to food supplies in some of the world's poorest and driest countries.

Established in 1955 by FAO, when the world was in the midst of a 12-year-long Desert

Locust plague, the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) is the primary forum that brings together locust-affected countries, donors and other agencies to discuss Desert Locust management under the FAO umbrella. DLCC is also the primary advisory body to the Director-General of FAO on all Desert Locust issues, and has met 40 times since its establishment till 2012.

The three working languages of DLCC are Arabic, English and French.

WHAT DLCC DOES?

The DLCC defines global Desert Locust prevention strategies and common management approaches that are implemented at the regional and national levels.

The activities of DLCC are those that benefit each member country affected by the Desert Locust, specifically:

- Monthly FAO Desert Locust Bulletin with six-week forecasts, supplemented by updates and warnings;
- 11-month training of national locust information officer at FAO headquarters;
- Technical publications such as the FAO Desert Locust Guidelines; Fellowships;
- Pesticide Referee Group for the independent evaluation of effective locust control products and potential impact on human health and the environment;

KEY FACTS

FAO DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

THE PRIMARY GLOBAL FORUM GATHERING DESERT LOCUST-AFFECTED COUNTRIES, DONORS AND OTHER AGENCIES TO DISCUSS DESERT LOCUST MANAGEMENT UNDER FAO UMBRELLA

DEFINES COMMON DESERT LOCUST PREVENTION STRATEGIES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES GLOBALLY

PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO THE THREE REGIONAL FAO DESERT LOCUST COMMISSIONS: CLCPRO IN THE WESTERN REGION, CRC IN THE CENTRAL REGION AND SWAC IN SOUTH-WEST ASIA

RELIES SOLELY ON ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO A TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED IN 1966 AND MANAGED BY FAO IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT DLCC ACTIVITIES



- Support to the development of new technologies and tools for locust early warning and preventive control;
- Reproduction and distribution of locust-related technical papers;
- Management of the Locust Watch – Desert Locust website;
- Emergency contingency funds;
- Biannual forum for the discussion of all Desert Locust issues.

INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND

The functioning of the DLCC depends on the resources from the Trust Fund established in 1966. Thus, DLCC relies solely on annual contributions from member countries to carry out its activities.

These contributions are extremely modest compared to the benefits that its members receive from the DLCC.

The current total of annual contributions is USD 207 780.

Out of 64 DLCC members, 35 should contribute to the DLCC Trust Fund every year: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

HOW DOES DLCC DIFFER FROM THE REGIONAL DESERT LOCUST COMMISSIONS?

The DLCC maintains a global perspective and forum on Desert Locust early warning, control and emergencies, and provides guidance to the three FAO regional Desert Locust commissions – the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), in the Central Region (CRC) and in South-West Asia (SWAC).

These three commissions focus on developing the preventive control strategy by promoting the establishment of autonomous national Desert Locust units and strengthening national capacities of their member countries in survey, control, reporting, training, research, planning and safety.

The DLCC and the regional commissions complement each other in order to implement a complete global preventive control strategy that reduces the frequency, duration and intensity of Desert Locust plagues while ensuring food security and protecting livelihoods.

In order to fully benefit from this approach, it is important that all countries affected by the Desert Locust are members of the DLCC and the appropriate commission within their region.

IMPACT OF DLCC ON DESERT LOCUST CONTROL

Since the last DLCC in 2012, 12 Desert Locust outbreaks developed in Yemen, Mauritania, Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia.

All of these outbreaks were brought under control thanks to intensive survey and control operations carried out by the national locust units in the affected countries, supported by the FAO Commissions for Controlling the Desert Locust with technical advice from the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) at FAO Headquarters.

Consequently, the situation did not deteriorate further and swarms were prevented from migrating to other countries and regions; hence, upsurges were avoided.

These efforts are a good example of the successful implementation of early warning and preventive control strategy.

FAO DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

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