

REPORT

Tehran, I.R. Iran
20-23 November 2006

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

Twenty-fifth Session



**Report of the
FAO Commission for Controlling the
Desert Locust in South-West Asia
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Participants of the 25th Session of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (left to right): Abdul Ghafar Ahmadi (Afghanistan), A.K. Bandyopadhyay (India), Keith Cressman (FAO), Alizadeh Aliabadi (I.R. Iran), Zafar Ali Khan (Pakistan), Munir Butrous (FAO/CRC). *[National Desert Locust Station, Karaj, I.R. Iran]*

Summary of Recommendations and Agreements

The Member Countries:

1. should improve the annual I.R. Iran/Pakistan Joint Border survey as follows:
 - (a) participants should be qualified, energetic and at least one from Baluchistan on each team
 - (b) at least one of the drivers should be a qualified mechanic
 - (c) laptop, eLocust2, walkie-talkies, satellite phone, and first aid kits should be used
 - (d) vehicles must be inspected and repaired prior to the survey to ensure that they are in excellent condition
 - (e) the survey should start in Pakistan and finish in I.R. Iran
 - (f) rest house arrangements should be improved in Pakistan
 - (g) the Pakistani team would consist of two experts and one maintenance assistant while the Iranian team should consist of three experts, one of each could be a botanist or other specialised expert or trainee
 - (h) the Locust Unit Heads of both countries should meet the team in Zahedan on the last day to review the survey results and discuss future improvements
 - (i) current DSA levels should be maintained in order to continue to attract young, energetic locust experts and to use the Commission's Trust Funds as effectively as possible
 - (j) annual Joint Surveys should continue regardless if there is a drought or not because it would be much more difficult to restart it, the survey data and results are useful and benefit all countries, and the survey represents the primary activity of the Commission, which is used as an example for other Commissions and countries.
2. should ensure that each survey and control team has an eLocust2 unit and uses it on a regular basis

The delegate from Afghanistan:

1. should take up the issue of the arrears to the DLCC Trust Fund with his Government.
2. should make the necessary arrangements to host the 26th Session in the last quarter of 2008 in Kabul.

The delegate from India:

1. should confirm receipt of two Thuraya satellite telephones. FAO HQ provided a field disbursement for these two phones to the FAO Representation in New Delhi in October 2005.
2. should improve reporting by:
 - (a) adding RAMSES and MODIS maps and improving the analysis in the fortnightly bulletin
 - (b) producing the fortnightly bulletin quicker
 - (c) sending the bulletins by email rather than through the postal system whenever possible

The delegate from I.R. Iran:

1. should ensure that complete survey data (vegetation condition and density, soil moisture and, if present, locust details) are sent to PPO in Tehran from Sistan-Baluchistan in a timely manner on a regular basis during the spring period.
2. agreed that they could train Afghan locust officers as needed.
3. should improve reporting by:
 - (a) including more details and an overview of surveys when sending RAMSES data
 - (b) considering the addition of English to the Farsi monthly bulletin for distribution to international readers

The delegate from Pakistan:

1. should confirm if the Plant Protection Department received one Flybook laptop provided by the FAO HQ through the FAO pouch in 2006.
2. should improve reporting by:
 - (a) adding RAMSES and MODIS maps and improving the analysis in the fortnightly bulletin
 - (b) producing the fortnightly bulletin quicker
 - (c) sending the bulletins by email rather than through the postal system whenever possible
 - (d) using the new PCs to be procured from the Trust Fund for RAMSES
 - (e) trying not to send duplicate RAMSES data to DLIS

The Secretariat (FAO):

1. should provide the FAO Desert Locust Bulletin email distribution list to India and Pakistan so that they can distribute their fortnightly bulletins by email.
2. should look into mechanisms for DLIS to provide the necessary technical support to countries to ensure that RAMSES and eLocust2 are used on a regular basis.
3. should insure that the eLocust2 transmission costs are paid from the Commission Trust Fund starting in March 2008.
4. should provide background documentation of DLCC and SWAC Trust Fund payments received as well as signature of the original agreements to I.R. Iran.
5. should explore the possibility to simplify the payments procedure, make it more transparent and include payments in local currency.
6. should establish a schedule of payment instalments for those countries with large arrears to the SWAC Trust Fund.
7. should maintain the issue of re-establishing the Secretary post for the Commission in the region on the agenda on future sessions.
8. should procure and provide:
 - (a) DLMTM training kits in English to Afghanistan (1), India (2), I.R. Iran (2) and Pakistan (2) with the assistance of the CRC
 - (b) a 4WD station wagon (benzene) for I.R. Iran (an outstanding recommendation from the 24th Session) that will be used for Desert Locust surveys, including the Joint Survey
 - (c) additional eLocust2 units for India (15), I.R. Iran (5) and Pakistan (12) so that all survey and control teams have an eLocust2 unit plus some additional units in reserve. One unit should be bought for Afghanistan. Trust Funds as well as other sources such as USAID should be used for this purpose
 - (d) desktop computers for Pakistan (2) and Afghanistan (1), and laptops for I.R. Iran (3)
 - (e) one 4WD double-cabin pickup (diesel) for the Locust Warning Organization in India
 - (f) spare parts, mainly those associated with the motorized rotary head, for about 30 MicoUlva+ handheld sprayers in India
8. should continue to introduce new technologies and to provide the specialized training that is required to use and maintain these technologies to Member Countries.
9. as a follow-up to the training provided this past summer, DLIS should organize a workshop for Information Officers using RAMSES either at the regional level or as individual country workshops.

Opening

1. The outgoing Chairman of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia, Mr. A. K. Bandyopadhyay (India) 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 25th Session. He expressed satisfaction in the Region's ability to bring an outbreak under control in late 2005 along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border.
2. The Director the Plant Protection Organization of I.R. Iran, Mr. Alizadeh Aliabadi, officially welcomed the distinguished delegates of Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, and the FAO staff, and wished that their visit and discussions would be purposeful and productive. He presented details of the country's agriculture production. Although the country had not faced Desert Locust infestations in recent years, he indicated that the people have bitter memories of past attacks. The potential threat posed by Desert Locust has prompted the Government to take several steps: (a) comprehensive cooperation with international bodies and neighbouring countries, (b) continuous active contact with FAO and regular exchange of information, (c) carefully following FAO Desert Locust Bulletins, and (d) carrying out the annual joint border survey with Pakistan. The most significant step was to make a sizable expenditure in establishing a National Desert Locust Station to maintain preparedness against Desert Locust invasions.
3. Dr. Mubashar Sheikh, acting FAO Representative, on behalf of the Director-General, welcomed the delegates of the Member Countries and warmly thanked the Government of I.R. Iran for hosting the 25th Session. One of FAO's mandates is to provide information on the locust situation and to give timely warnings and forecasts to affected countries. Therefore, the Organization operates a centralized Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) in the Locust Group at HQ. DLIS analyzes data received from countries in conjunction with weather and habitat data and satellite imagery to provide forecasts up to six weeks in advance and to prepare monthly bulletins, supplemented by updates when necessary. During emergencies, the Locust Group appeals for donor assistance and coordinates control campaigns.
4. FAO provides a forum for the exchange of information and planning amongst locust-affected countries and donors through the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) and three regional commissions. FAO acts as Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia (SWAC). Although SWAC is the smallest of the three commissions, it is a very important player in the global fight against Desert Locust. Activities undertaken using Commission Trust Funds focus on strengthening national capacities in survey, control, reporting and training. The annual Iran/Pakistan Joint Border Survey and the use of new technologies are good examples of early warning measures
5. He indicated that several important issues will be discussed at this session, namely: (1) a review of the Desert Locust situation and forecast to next spring, (2) improvements to the annual Iran/Pakistan Joint Border Survey, (3) the use and sustainability of new technologies in early warning such as the eLocust2 data recording and transmission system, the RAMSES geographic information system, and the MODIS satellite imagery, and (4) progress made on the recommendations from the last session will be reviewed. Two very important items will also be discussed: (1) preparing for emergencies, using lessons learned in the very serious upsurge that occurred in the Western and Central Regions in 2003-2005, and (2) preparing a work plan for 2007-2008. He wished participants success in their deliberations and he looked forward to a positive outcome.
6. Mr. Keith Cressman, FAO Locust Forecasting Officer in the Locust Group in Rome and Secretary of the Commission, added his appreciation of the Government of I.R. Iran's agreement to host the Session, once again following the decision to postpone the holding of the Session in Kabul, Afghanistan. He reminded participants that the Commission was established 43 years ago in 1963

as a statutory body of FAO. Its mandate is to ensure that member countries (a) maintain a permanent information and reporting service, (b) undertake control of locust infestations in their territories as required, (c) maintain permanent resources that can be used for locust survey and control operations, (d) support training of national locust staff, and (e) participate in the implementation of the common policy of preventive control.

Elections

7. The Member Countries elected I.R. Iran as Chairman of the current Session and Pakistan as Vice-Chairman. The elections were accepted with acclaim. A list of participants is presented in Annex 1.
8. The Chairman presented a draft agenda that was adopted without changes (Annex 2).
9. A Drafting Committee composed of the Secretariat was elected.

Desert Locust Situation: February 2005 – November 2006 and forecast to spring 2007

10. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation that reviewed the Desert Locust situation since the 24th Session (Annex 3). The situation remained calm during the spring of 2005 and 2006 in the traditional breeding areas of Baluchistan in western Pakistan and southeastern I.R. Iran because of a prevailing drought. Rainfall that was well distributed over time and space during the summer of 2005 along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border caused an outbreak to develop in September. Ground control operations undertaken by both countries that treated nearly 20,000 ha brought an end to the outbreak by the first week of December 2005 and prevented significant populations from migrating westwards. Although unusually heavy rains fell in August 2006 in the southern part of Rajasthan, India and in adjacent areas of Tharparkar, Pakistan and breeding conditions remains favourable longer than in normal years, locust number remains low and insignificant. This may be due to a single important rainfall event in 2006 compared to three periods of heavy rainfall from June to September in 2005.
11. There is a low risk that small-scale breeding could still occur in the next four weeks near Barmer, Rajasthan. If the drought is broken in Baluchistan and rainfall occurs during the spring of 2007, then small-scale breeding is likely to take place there but it is unlikely that locust numbers will increase significantly. Therefore, the situation is expected to remain calm between November 2006 and May 2007.
12. The delegates from India and Pakistan indicated that they use MODIS imagery supplemented by information from locals and knowledge of the habitat to help target surveys and concentrate on those areas where green vegetation and locusts are most likely to be found.
13. It was noted that although surveys may have been carried out in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of I.R. Iran, the details were not reported since locusts were not found. Recently, the Plant Protection Organization requested that Sistan-Baluchistan teams send all survey data regardless if locusts are present or not. The Session stressed the importance of quickly transmitting complete data (vegetation condition and density, soil moisture and, if present, locust details) to PPO in Tehran because this forms the basis for early warning and plague prevention in the Region during the spring period.

Report on Joint-Border Surveys during the spring of 2005 and 2006

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 2005 and 2006 by I.R. Iran and Pakistan. The survey was re-established in 1995 with FAO's help. It is a 30-day survey that occurs from 1 to 30 April

every year. The results are used to plan Indo-Pakistan summer surveys. The team stopped at 157 places along 10,104 km and 124 places along 12,316 km in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Satellite phones were used for the first time in 2005 and eLocust2 and a laptop computer were tried out in 2006.

15. The Session examined the various recommendations made by the teams in both years to improve future joint surveys. It was noted that the delay incurred in starting the 2006 surveys was unusual and beyond the control of the Plant Protection Organization.
16. Delegates reaffirmed that: (a) participants should be qualified, energetic and at least one from Baluchistan on each team, (b) at least one of the drivers should be a qualified mechanic, (c) laptop, eLocust2, walkie-talkies, satellite phone, and first aid kits should be used, (d) vehicles must be inspected and repaired prior to the survey to ensure that they are in excellent condition, (e) the survey should start in Pakistan and finish in I.R. Iran, and (f) rest house arrangements should be improved in Pakistan.
17. After substantial discussion, it was further agreed that (a) the Pakistani team would consist of two experts and one maintenance assistant while the Iranian team should consist of three experts, one of each could be a botanist or other specialised expert or trainee, (b) the Locust Unit Heads of both countries should meet the team in Zahedan on the last day to review the survey results and discuss future improvements, (c) current DSA levels should be maintained in order to continue to attract young, energetic locust experts and to use the Commission's Trust Funds as effectively as possible, and (d) annual Joint Surveys should continue regardless if there is a drought or not because it would be much more difficult to restart it, the survey data and results are useful and benefit all countries, and the survey represents the primary activity of the Commission which is used as an example for other Commissions and countries.

Information and reporting

18. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation that summarized progress made in the improving the quality, timeliness and frequency of reporting by I.R. Iran, India and Pakistan. As Afghanistan does not have a locust programme and does not undertake regular surveys. The three countries reported at least every month except for I.R. Iran in which there was a lull in reporting in June and July 2006. In general, there was a slight improvement in reporting quality while there was a slight decline in timeliness by the three countries. Several specific suggestions for improvements were provided for each country (see Annex 4).
19. The Secretariat also provided an overview of eLocust2 that has been distributed to India (15 units), I.R. Iran (6) and Pakistan (8). The usage of eLocust2 has increased since DLIS conducted training courses in June (Jodhpur) and September (Karachi). In all, \$2,800 has been spent for costs associated with the activation, subscription and data transmission between March and October 2006 in India (\$1,500), I.R. Iran (\$190) and Pakistan (\$1,100). The cost of data transmission accounts for only a small portion (\$295) of the total in India (\$130), I.R. Iran (\$8) and Pakistan (\$157). At current usage rates, estimated annual costs are about \$5,000 for I.R. Iran (\$500), India (\$2,500) and Pakistan (\$5,000). FAO is covering these costs for the first year.
20. The Secretariat explained that the current version of eLocust2 does not allow users to enter place names because this would more than double transmission costs. It was agreed to explore the possibility of entering a 3-digit code to indicate place names, to select it from a given list, or to automatically determine it via the Novacom platform. Furthermore, when locusts are far away from the vehicle, it was suggested that the team use a handheld GPS to determine the coordinates of the locusts and communicate these to the National Locust Centre along with the eLocust coordinates, date and time so that RAMSES can be updated.

21. Regarding the deactivation of eLocust2 units during calm periods, the delegate from India indicated that eLocust2 usage is highest during the summer breeding period but eLocust2 units are also used during other times of the year so units will remain activated.
22. The delegate from I.R. Iran mentioned that a problem importing eLocust2 data was recently solved by changing the date format in Windows. eLocust2 training and distribution will occur shortly after this session. A Farsi version of RAMSES has been developed by the Locust Unit Head that will be distributed to the provincial level to be used for data management.
23. The delegate from Pakistan indicated that its fortnightly bulletins are placed on their website (www.plantprotection.gov.pk). It is hoped that delays in producing the fortnightly bulletin will be slightly overcome as more teams use eLocust2. It is planned that eLocust2 units will be distributed to outposts in both the summer and spring breeding areas. It was also noted that RAMSES usage was restricted by poor computing facilities at PPD in Karachi.
24. After substantial discussion on improving reporting and using RAMSES and eLocust2, the delegates also agreed: (a) to improve the fortnightly bulletin in India and Pakistan by adding RAMSES and MODIS maps and improving the analysis, (b) to try to produce the fortnightly bulletin quicker, (c) to send the bulletins by email rather than through the postal system whenever possible, (d) that FAO provides the FAO Desert Locust Bulletin mailing list to both countries, (e) that I.R. Iran would include more details and an overview of surveys when sending RAMSES data, and will consider adding English to the Farsi monthly bulletin for international distribution, (f) that new PCs be procured for Pakistan to be used for RAMSES, (g) that Pakistan will try not to send duplicate RAMSES data to DLIS, (h) to cover transmission costs from March 2008 onwards, (i) that more eLocust2 units are needed in every country to ensure that each team has one, and (j) that DLIS should look into mechanisms to provide the necessary technical support to countries to ensure that RAMSES and eLocust2 are used on a regular basis.

Issues arising from the 38th Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee

25. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation indicating that several of the 19 recommendations made at the last session of the DLCC pertain to the Commission: (a) the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) approach should continue, (b) only use ULV formulated pesticide approved by the Pesticide Referee Group should be used by skilled operators and not farmers, (c), plastic containers should not be used, (d) Green Muscle could be used in appropriate areas under certain circumstances but it will not replace conventional pesticides entirely, (d) specialized QUEST teams could be established to monitor the efficacy of control operations and its effects on the environment, humans and animals, (e) spray aircraft should be equipped with GPS track guidance systems for precision spraying, and (f) Afghanistan and I.R. Iran should pay their arrears to the DLCC Trust Funds which amount to \$52,000 and \$361,495 respectively.
26. The delegates reiterated the need for conventional pesticides to continue to be relied upon in Desert Locust control but there was interest to conduct field trials using *Metarhizium* against Moroccan Locust in I.R. Iran. During the recent outbreak along the Indo-Pakistan border, efforts were not made nor required to monitor control efficacy and impact on the environment and human health as infestations were well away from populated areas.
27. The delegate from Afghanistan promised to take up the issue of the arrears to the DLCC Trust Fund with his government. In the case of I.R. Iran, FAO should provide background documentation of payments received as well as signature of the original agreement. It was further requested that FAO should simplify the payments procedure perhaps by allowing countries to deposit their payments with the FAO Representation who should give them a receipt.

Review of recommendations of the 24th Session and progress made

28. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation indicating that at least half of the recommendations made at the last session had been completed.
29. The delegates clarified several of the outstanding recommendations. India provided the three missing Joint Border reports for 2006 to the Secretary. The translation of the Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual (DLMTM) and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is in progress in India (in Hindi), in I.R. Iran (in Farsi) and in Pakistan (in Urdu). The Plant Protection Organization in I.R. Iran is awaiting authorization to use HF radios. RAMSES is difficult to use in Pakistan because it does not work well on the outdated computers that are present in the Locust Section.
30. After reviewing the remaining recommendations, the Session recommended: (a) the issue of re-establishing the Secretary post for the Commission in the region remain on the agenda on future sessions, (b) sufficient funds are provided in the next work plan to cover the printing of the DLMTM and SOPs, and (c) the DLMTM training kits should be provided to member countries.
31. The Central Region Commission Secretary indicated that there was no need to organize a Master Trainers workshop because Master Trainers already exist and because these workshops are very expensive. Master Trainers do not need a workshop to be refreshed. Master Trainers could be involved in national courses in other countries, taking into consideration language differences. For example, if a national training course is being held in India, a Master Trainer from Pakistan could attend and assist the Master Trainer from India, or vice-versa.
32. There was considerable evidence provided by the delegates that they have conducted a number of national training courses in their country. Therefore, it was felt that there was no need to organize a separate Master Trainers workshop in the Region. On the other hand, I.R. Iran agreed that they could train Afghan locust officers as needed.
33. All delegates indicated that they continue to depend on FAO to introduce new technologies and to provide the specialized training that is required to use and maintain these technologies.

Emergency preparedness

34. The Secretariat prepared a working paper and gave a presentation to stimulate thinking and discussion on planning for locust emergencies. The concept of planning based on available resources and estimating how much control these can achieve was introduced. This is different than the traditional method of planning based on guess-estimates of total area infested often presented as several scenarios that have no scientific basis. The 2003-05 upsurge showed that affected countries had to rely on their own resources for outbreak and early upsurge control for nine months. By then, their resources had been depleted and control could not be carried out against swarms that invaded the Sahel during the summer of 2004. Control operations resumed at the end of the summer once international donor assistance arrived.
35. Given that early warning provided by DLIS for outbreaks will be at best only one month, that there is insufficient time to procure equipment and pesticides and to train staff, and that donors cannot react in time, countries must realize that they will have to use their own resources to control outbreaks. Therefore, it is imperative that countries have updated inventories of available resources as well as those that can be mobilized within a week or so.
36. Based on such inventories provided by India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan, the Secretariat guided the Session through a short spreadsheet exercise to estimate how much control can be achieved with these resources and how long it would take (Annex 5).

37. The delegates found the exercise interesting and thought it could be useful in understanding better how much their resources can treat and how long it might take before pesticide stocks are depleted. It can also illustrate shortcomings and resource gaps.

Accounts for 2004-2006

38. The Secretariat presented a working paper on the final accounts for 2004 and 2005 and the indicative expenditures for 2006 as of 10 October 2006 (Annex 6). Explanations were given of the overall financial situation as well as detailed expenditures. A total expenditure of US\$ 54,090 was incurred in 2004 and US\$ 32,846 in 2005. So far in 2006, US\$ 155,554 had been spent, including support costs. To date, the total of the expenditures during 2005-06, excluding support costs, were US\$ 355,390 against the budget of US\$ 372,800, giving a delivery rate of about 95%, compared to 69% in 2002-03. Nearly half of this amount, that is US\$ 169,888, was financed out of the Locust Group's Regular Programme Budget because of leftover funds from the 2003-05 upsurge.
39. The presentation included the overall position of contributions received from Member Countries. There is no record of Afghanistan having paid its contribution in 2004, 2005 and 2006. India paid all of its contributions in 2004-2006. I.R. Iran paid their contribution in 2004 and 2005, and also paid US\$ 25,000 of their arrears in 2004. Pakistan paid in 2004 and 2005, and paid partially in 2006.
40. The delegate of I.R. Iran announced that his Government had approved the 2006 contribution payment to the Trust Fund as well as US\$ 25,000 of arrears. The delegates congratulated I.R. Iran for these positive developments and encouraged the country to continue to reduce its large arrears.
41. Taking into consideration contributions, interest and expenditures in 2004-06, the current balance of unallocated funds in US\$ 102,724 as of 12 October 2006.
42. The Session reviewed each activity that was supposed to be undertaken within the framework of the 2005-06 work plan. Several points were clarified as follows:
- (a) HF radios. The delegate from I.R. Iran indicated that it was extremely unlikely that PPO would receive authorization to use HF radio equipment, therefore, this activity could be dropped.
 - (b) Vehicles: The delegate from I.R. Iran clarified that the vehicle to be ordered should be a 4WD station wagon (benzene). In accordance with the discussion at the 24th session, this vehicle should be used in Desert Locust surveys, including the Joint Survey.
 - (c) Satellite phones. The delegate of India was requested to confirm receipt of two Thuraya satellite telephones. FAO HQ provided a field disbursement for these two phones to the FAO Representation in New Delhi in October 2005. It was reiterated that the countries must pay for use of their phones.
 - (d) Training-of-Trainer courses. As previously mentioned, it would be more effective to support current Master Trainers rather than conduct a regional ToT workshop that is extremely expensive and would consume the entire annual budget of the Commission.
43. The delegate of Afghanistan expressed the country's satisfaction that it has rejoined the Commission and promised to follow-up the Trust Fund contributions and arrears.
44. All delegates indicated that the mechanism for the payment of contributions was extremely cumbersome and overly complicated. The Secretary was requested to investigate other mechanisms that would be easier and more streamlined and transparent.

45. Furthermore, the delegates indicated their desire that payment of contributions and arrears be made in local currency (or a combination of local and hard currency) whenever possible. For those countries with large arrears, a schedule of payment instalments could be established. The Secretary should follow up these matters with each country.

Work Plan for 2007-2008

46. Member Countries identified their priorities for expenditures in 2007-2008 as follows:

- (a) Visits. Although visits were not made to FAO HQ or to the CRC session in 2005-06, both activities should be maintained just in case they are needed. If outbreaks or an upsurge develop in the Central Region, then the Chairman should participate in the Central Region Commission meeting; otherwise, the Secretary can continue to represent SWAC at the session.
- (b) eLocust2. Additional units are required in India (15), I.R. Iran (5) and Pakistan (12) so that all survey and control teams have an eLocust2 unit plus some additional units in reserve. One unit should be given to Afghanistan. Trust Funds as well as other sources such as USAID should be used for this purpose. The cost of data transmission will be covered under the Commission's Trust Fund from March 2008 onwards.
- (c) Computers. The delegate from Pakistan was requested to confirm if his country received one Flybook laptop provided by the FAO HQ through the FAO pouch. In addition, name brand desktop computers were requested by the delegate Pakistan to be used for RAMSES. The delegate from I.R. Iran asked for three laptops to be used in the field during surveys including the Joint Survey. A desktop computer should also be provided to Afghanistan.
- (d) Vehicles: In addition to the vehicle for I.R. Iran, the delegate from India also requested one 4WD double-cabin pickup (diesel) for the Locust Warning Organization.
- (e) Sprayer spare parts. The delegate from India requested that spare parts, mainly those associated with the motorized rotary head, be supplied for about 30 MicoUlva+ handheld sprayers.
- (f) National training. Even though the allocation for national training was not used in 2005-06, it should be maintained so that Master Trainers can conduct more courses for national staff. The funds would supplement those already provided by the national locust programmes.
- (g) Desert Locust Master Trainer Manual and Kit. The importance of producing overhead transparencies (acetates) in the DLMTM was reaffirmed as an appropriate means of delivering the training. It was recommended that training kits in English should be provided to Afghanistan (1), India (2), I.R. Iran (2) and Pakistan (2). These can be reproduced in each country so that each Desert Locust Master Trainer has one.
- (h) RAMSES/eLocust2 workshop and support. Funds should be allocated to provide sufficient support to RAMSES users that would allow support software to be procured, software to be updated, and problems to be resolved either locally or by visits of DLIS staff. As a follow-up to the training provided this past summer, DLIS should organize a workshop for Information Officers using RAMSES either at the regional level or as individual country workshops.

47. After considerable discussion, a list of standard and new items was **agreed** on for a total expenditure of about US\$ 234,000, plus support costs (Annex 7). The budget for the Trust Fund in 2007-2008 according to these expenditures is shown in Annex 8.

Any Other Business

48. The delegates made a visit to the newly established National Desert Locust Station in Karaj, 30 km west of Tehran, where an inauguration ceremony took place in which the SWAC Secretary cut the official ribbon. The Station contains a number of vehicles, sprayers, and other equipment reserved for Desert Locust survey and control operations in the country. It represents the country's commitment to the prevention of Desert Locust upsurges and plagues.

Date and Place of the Next Session

49. The Secretariat explained that according to tradition, Session venues were rotated amongst the Member Countries. The delegate from Afghanistan said that his country would be pleased to host the 26th Session in the last quarter of 2008, subject to approval being obtained from his Government. Alternatively, if for some reason this was not possible, the delegate from Pakistan agreed that the Session could be hosted in his country.

Adoption of the Report

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

Closure of the Meeting

51. The delegate from Pakistan, on behalf of the Member Country delegates, thanked FAO for the opportunity to come together and discuss locust issues within the framework of the Commission. He thanked I.R. Iran for hosting the session and the excellent arrangements made for their stay.

52. Mr. Cressman, on behalf of FAO, thanked the delegates and all the participants for their contributions towards a successful and useful meeting, which had produced meaningful and practical recommendations that would help to improve national locust programmes. The Government of I.R. Iran, the Chairman and his staff were warmly thanked for having made excellent arrangements that had allowed the meeting to proceed smoothly.

53. The Chairman, Mr. Alizadeh, 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 the Region.

54. The Chairman thanked the Director-General of FAO for giving I.R. Iran the opportunity to host the Session, the Member Countries for their good contributions, the FAO Representation for its support, and the FAO staff for all they had done in their capacity as the Secretariat of the Commission. He wished everyone a safe journey home and declared the Session closed.

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Election of the Drafting Committee
5. Desert Locust situation (February 2005 – November 2006) and forecast to spring 2007
6. Report on Joint-Border Surveys during the spring of 2005 and 2006
7. Information and reporting
8. Issues arising from the 38th Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee
9. Review of recommendations of the Twenty-fourth Session and progress made
10. Emergency preparedness
11. Accounts for 2004-2006 and work plan for 2007-2008
12. Any other business
13. Date and place of the next session
14. Adoption of the report

Annex 3. Desert Locust Situation for February 2005 – November 2006 and forecast to spring 2007

1. Introduction

South-West Asia was not affected by the 2003-05 Desert Locust upsurge and the situation remained calm until the summer of 2005 when a small outbreak developed along the Indo-Pakistan border. Less than 20,000 ha were treated by ground teams in India and Pakistan and the situation returned to normal by the end of the year. The situation has remained calm in all regions so far in 2006 despite unusually heavy rains along the Indo-Pakistan border this summer. No significant developments are expected during the coming six months.

2. The situation in detail

Spring breeding. Dry conditions prevailed in the spring breeding areas of Baluchistan, I.R. Iran and Pakistan and no significant activity occurred in 2005 and 2006 due to poor rainfall. This was confirmed in both years by the joint surveys conducted in April and by the low number of locusts that appeared at the beginning of the summer along the Indo-Pakistan border.

Summer breeding (2005). Good monsoon rains fell along the Indo-Pakistan border during the summer of 2005. In July, solitary adults were scattered along both sides of the border between Jodhpur and the Indus Valley. Most of the locusts were concentrated in Cholistan along a 300 km stretch of the Indian border southeast of Rahimyar Khan and Bahawalpur. Laying occurred in July, hatching and gregarization took place in August and swarms started to form in September at two places on the border about 150-210 km west of Bikaner. A second generation of breeding took place within a much more limited area of about 115 km by 70 km, equivalent to about 800,000 ha, that extended from the Rajasthan Canal to just over the border in Pakistan. Hatching and band formation occurred in October and new groups and swarms (with one up to 8 km² in size) formed in mid-November within this area. Based on survey and control data, about 1.5 percent of this area may have been infested. After mid-November, ecological conditions had dried out and a few groups and swarms that were not controlled moved back and forth across the border. Some groups and small swarms also moved east towards New Delhi (reaching about 180 km west of Jaipur) while others moved south, nearly reaching Jaisalmer and west of Phalodi. Although there were no reports of swarms reaching the Indus Valley in Pakistan, some adults appeared in the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan, western Pakistan in mid-December at Shooli on the 14th and on the Lasbela coast on the 15th. Control operations continued against small hopper bands and immature adult groups and loose swarms in Pakistan and India until 3 and 5 December, respectively. By the end of the year, the situation was once again calm along the Indo-Pakistan border.

Control operations. During the campaign, India treated 13,922 ha and Pakistan treated 5,269 ha from September to December 2005. In all, less than 20,000 ha were treated in both countries. Individual treatment areas were generally less than 50 ha in size. India used ULV formulations of malathion and fenitrothion applied with handheld MicoUlva sprayers and vehicle-mounted Micron Ulvamast and Micronair AU8115 sprayers. Pakistan treated 22 swarmlets and swarms (for a total area of 1,863 ha), 455 hopper bands (2,678 ha) and 27 immature adult groups (728 ha) using malathion and diazinon ULV.

Table 1. Control operations carried out in India and Pakistan against Desert Locust (September – December 2005) as reported to FAO DLIS.

	India	Pakistan
<i>Period:</i>	<i>9/9-5/12/05</i>	<i>26/9-3/12/05</i>
September	1,886	570
October	5,300	3,006
November	6,201	1,163
December	535	108
Total	13,922	5,269

Summer breeding (2006). On 18 to 22 August, unusually heavy monsoon rains fell in southwest Rajasthan from Barmer and Jaisalmer to the Tharparkar Desert in southeastern Pakistan, causing severe flooding and widespread damage. Barmer received nearly 600 mm in three days, which is more than double the annual average. Although the monsoon rains came to an end by mid-September, ecological conditions were expected to remain favourable in the flooded areas for several more months. Isolated adults were first reported along the Indo-Pakistan border in Pakistan during the second half of June and in India from mid July onwards. Since then, locust numbers have remained low in both countries.

3. Forecast until Spring 2007

As there are indications that the monsoon rains have come to an end in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan, ecological conditions should dry out in the coming months except for southwest Rajasthan and Tharparkar where vegetation could remain green until the end of the year as a result of the August floods. Consequently, a generation of relatively late breeding could occur there and cause locust numbers to increase slightly. In order for them to increase to a significant level, an additional generation of breeding would be required but this is highly unlikely to occur.

Given that at most one more generation of breeding could occur in the summer breeding areas, the scale of locust movement to the spring breeding areas in Baluchistan of western Pakistan and southeastern I.R. Iran is expected to be small and insignificant.

The seasonal forecasts from November until the end of February in the spring breeding areas consistently predict above-average rainfall (varying from 40% to 250% above normal) for the four months. During the same period, temperatures may be slightly warmer than usual in southeastern I.R. Iran. Even though the seasonal forecasts are experimental products that must be used cautiously, one generation of breeding on a small scale is likely to occur during the spring of 2007 in the Baluchistan region in both countries unless the rains fail.

Surveys should be conducted on a regular basis during the spring in both countries, especially after rainfall. They should be planned according to actual rainfall rather than based on administrative calendars. In other words, a few surveys should be done during the winter, prior to 1 February.

Annex 4. Reporting and information

1. Introduction

The convening of a Commission session is an opportunity for the FAO Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) to provide feedback to Member Countries on the quality, timeliness and frequency of reporting survey and control results to FAO. DLIS normally provides feedback on individual reports to countries throughout the year as required.

Locust affected countries are reminded that they should report at least once a month during recessions. This should consist of sending RAMSES output files with a brief interpretation (or assessment) to DLIS by email. Countries may also choose to prepare and distribute decadal, fortnightly and monthly bulletins that summarize the locust situation. These bulletins should not be seen as a substitute for RAMSES output files. During locust outbreaks, upsurges and plagues, RAMSES output files with a brief interpretation should be sent twice per week to DLIS. Information received by the end of the month will be included in the FAO Desert Locust Bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

DLIS evaluates every piece of information that it receives from countries using a simple scoring system for quality (3 = details + interpretation, 2 = either, 1 = summary only) and timeliness (3 = less than 6 days from survey end, 2 = 6-14 days, 1 = more than 14 days). Frequency is measured based on the requirement of receiving at least one report per month.

The purpose of this evaluation is to measure progress and to identify any weaknesses that need further strengthening.

2. Reporting in 2005 and 2006

2.1 Overview

There was a slight improvement in the quality of reports received from India and Pakistan during 2005 and 2006 while there was no significant change in those from I.R. Iran. On the other hand, the timeliness in reporting, that is sending reports on time to DLIS, improved in Pakistan but declined slightly in India and I.R. Iran. At least one report was received every month in 2005 and 2006 from each country except for I.R. Iran in 2006. All frontline countries should use RAMSES and eLocust2 regularly.

2.2 Afghanistan

No reports were received, as the country does not have an active locust programme since it is not a frontline country where Desert Locust breed every year.

2.3 India

Quality. Although there has been steady increase in reporting quality, the Locust Warning Organization still produces a fortnightly bulletin that has not changed significantly for decades despite the availability of new technologies in locust information and reporting. For example, maps produced by RAMSES could be incorporated into each bulletin showing where surveys have been conducted and where locusts were found; MODIS images could show where breeding conditions are favourable. Often the situation is over summarized, for example, few details are written about the monitoring activities – where teams are checking for locusts. RAMSES data has been sent to DLIS. It is suggested that all teams be equipped with eLocust2 and use it to record their observations at each survey location and, in turn, send the data to a central point for incorporation into RAMSES either at the Circle or Field HQ level. In this way, the LWO will be in a better position to send detailed data to DLIS on a regular basis. The data should be analyzed by LWO and a summary of the analysis should be presented in the fortnightly bulletins.

Timeliness. There was a slight decline in the timeliness of reporting mainly because it often takes a week or more for the fortnightly bulletins to reach DLIS. The production process of these bulletins should be reviewed and improved so that they can be issued within about two days of the end of the fortnight.

Frequency. Reports are received regularly but their quality and timeliness could be improved as indicated above.

2.4 I.R. Iran

Quality. The quality of reporting has remained nearly stable in the past three years. The Plant Protection Organization does not produce fortnightly or monthly bulletins; instead, reports are sent after each survey. These reports should contain more details on where the surveys were conducted, environmental conditions and, if locusts are present, an overview of the infestations. In addition to the current reports sent after each survey, it is suggested that PPO consider producing a monthly bulletin perhaps in English and Farsi that would help to increase government and public awareness of the ongoing Desert Locust programme and monitoring activities in the country. It should be distributed to national and provincial agencies, the local donor community and international organizations, and neighbouring countries.

Timeliness. There was a slight decline in the timeliness of reporting in the past year. This should be addressed so that this trend does not continue in the coming years.

Frequency. At least one report is usually received every month; however, no reports were received in June or July 2006 (between 27 May and 20 August). A greater effort is required to ensure regular reporting at least once a month, even when surveys are not carried out, to DLIS.

2.5 Pakistan

Quality. The observations and proposed improvements made above for India also apply to Pakistan.

Timeliness and Frequency. Although there was an improvement in timeliness, the comments above for the fortnightly bulletin in India apply to Pakistan.

3. Training

DLIS organized two training courses for locust information officers in India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan on using eLocust2, the latest version of RAMSES and the interpretation of remote sensing imagery for detecting rainfall and green vegetation. The first course was held in Jodhpur, India in June 2006 and was attended by seven Indian participants and one Iranian. A second course was held in Karachi, Pakistan that was attended by four Pakistani participants. It was expected that participants in both courses would be using RAMSES on a daily basis to manage and analyze locust survey and control results as well as remote sensing imagery. Furthermore, these persons were expected to be Master Trainers in their country for eLocust2 in order to train all survey and control teams in its use.

DLIS has implemented a programme to bring the designated Locust Information Officer of one of the National Locust Units in an affected country to FAO Headquarters for a period of 11 months to be trained in locust and locust-related data management and to assist the FAO Locust Forecasting Officer, in the daily operation of DLIS.

So far, DLIS has trained national Locust Information Officers from Sudan, Niger, Pakistan, Oman, Morocco and Algeria under this programme. It is expected that when the Locust Information Assistant returns to his home country, he will be able to contribute to improved reporting both within the country and for reports sent to FAO DLIS, and be able better to analyse locust situations. Results of this training have been extremely positive in all cases except for Pakistan where the trainee was assigned to a different section within the Plant Protection Department.

The next trainee will be from India, Mr. Pramod Gour, starting in December 2006 for 11 months.

4. Discussion and decisions

The quality and timeliness of reporting survey and control results from the field has improved in those countries who have equipped their field teams with eLocust2 and who are using it on a regular basis. Yet, it is not enough to simply use eLocust2 alone – it must be used in conjunction with the national geographic information system, RAMSES for managing all field data. Therefore, improvements to reporting rely on the strengthening of the use of both eLocust2 and RAMSES systems. FAO has distributed a basic number of eLocust2 units to India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan, and installed RAMSES in India and Pakistan. DLIS staff have also provided training on both systems to users in India and I.R. Iran (Jodhpur, June 2006) and in Pakistan (Karachi, September 2006). It is now up to the national locust units in each country to use these tools effectively and on a regular basis.

This session should discuss and decide upon:

- (a) identify additional steps or action that are required for the effective and regular use of eLocust2 and RAMSES in their country (i.e. training, staff, computers)
- (b) the number of additional eLocust2 units that are required to ensure that every survey and control team is equipped with one in each country;
- (c) covering the costs of satellite data transmission from the Commission's Trust Fund similar to what the Central and Western Region Commissions have done;
- (d) improving the fortnightly bulletin produced by India and Pakistan so that it includes RAMSES maps and is more informative and useful; consider issuing a monthly bulletin in I.R. Iran;
- (e) a mechanism to devote more resources to the Information Section during emergencies to ensure that all survey and control results are reported on time;
- (f) incorporating field data, RAMSES products and analysis undertaken by the Information Section into decision-making as a means of improving Desert Locust management in each country.

Table 1. Reporting by Member Countries in 2005-2006

	India		I.R. Iran		Pakistan	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Quality	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.4
Timeliness	2.5	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.3	2.7
Frequency	12	9	12	7	12	9
No. of reports	81	39	14	8	39	22
RAMSES data	38	12	12	7	19	12

Notes:

1. *Quality and timeliness scores are out of a maximum of 3*
2. *Frequency score is a maximum of 12 in 2005 and 9 in 2006*
3. *2006 scores are up to 1 October 2006*
4. *RAMSES data indicates the number of export data files received by DLIS*

Annex 5. Estimating control levels based on available resources

AVAILABLE RESOURCES				
	IRN	IND	PAK	
ULV pesticide (litres)				<i>(l/ha)</i>
fenitrothion 96%	20,000	5,940	16,883	0.50
malathion 96%	0	11,163	31,531	1.00
decis	0	0	21,885	1.00
diazinon	0	0	15,580	1.00
total (litres)	20,000	17,103	85,879	
ULV sprayers				<i>ha/day</i>
portable	102	108	1,100	15
vehicle	45	45	59	100
aircraft	2	0	25	5,000
Vehicles				
survey & control (PU)	20	53	48	
survey only (SW)	15	0	14	
Trained officers	50	55	43	
WHAT AVAILABLE RESOURCES CAN ACHIEVE				
	IRN	IND	PAK	Warning
1. Based on ULV pesticides available				
hectares treated	40,000	23,043	102,762	
2. Based on ULV sprayers available (ha/day)				
portable	1,530	1,620	16,500	
vehicle	4,500	4,500	5,900	
aircraft	10,000	0	125,000	
3. Based on available pesticides & sprayers (days)				
portable	26	14	6	
vehicle	9	5	17	
aircraft	4	0	1	
4. Based on available pesticides and vehicles with sprayers				
vehicles with sprayers	20	45	48	<i>(more sprayers than vehicles)</i>
ha per day treated	2,000	4,500	4,800	
ha treated	40,000	23,043	102,762	
days of treatment	20	5	21	
5. Based on available pesticides and staff with portable sprayers				
portable sprayers	102	108	1,100	
staff	50	55	43	<i>(more sprayers than staff)</i>
ha treated	40,000	23,043	102,762	
days of treatment	53	28	159	

Annex 6. Accounts for 2004-2006

1. Introduction

At the last 24th Commission Session, held in New Delhi in January 2005, complete accounts the Commission's Trust Fund MTF/RAS/001/MUL for 2002 and 2003 were given as well as indicative expenditures for 2004 up to 15 December 2004. For this 25th Session, final expenditures for 2004 and 2005 are reported, together with indicative expenditure for 2006. The overall financial position of the Commission Trust Fund is shown in Table 1. Expenditure on specific items/activities approved by the 24th Session against the allocated budget is tabulated in Table 2. The final accounts for 2004, 2005 and the indicative expenditures for 2006 are presented in Tables 3a, b, and c. The current status of contributions made by Member Countries is given in Tables 4a, b, and c. A proposed budget for 2007 and 2008 is given in Table 5.

2. Overall situation

Concerning the budget approved at the last Session, it was decided that the expenditures should be limited to a total of US\$ 372,800 plus support cost overheads for the years 2005-2006. The final expenditures for the year 2004 which were not available at the last Session were US\$ 54,090 compared to the indicative level reported of US\$ 47,824 (Table 3a). The expenditure for the year 2005 was US\$ 32,846, and the provisional expenditure for the year 2006 as of October 11th is US\$ 169,888 including the support cost (Tables 3b, c). To date, the total of the expenditures during 2005-2006, excluding support cost were US\$ 185,502 coming from the Trust Fund Commission and US\$ 169,888 financed out of the Locust Group Regular Programme Budget (46%) for a total of US\$ 355,390 (Table 2). In comparison, the total expenditures for the period 2002-2003 were US\$ 168,486 against an approved budget of US\$ 243,300. Consequently, the delivery rate against the approved budget increased in 2005-2006 compared to 2002-2003; that is, 95% compared to 69%.

Table 1 shows that the current balance of unallocated funds is US\$ 102,724 including the India and Iran contributions for the Year 2006, a partial payment from Pakistan, and excluding the contribution from Afghanistan for the same period which has not yet been received. In deciding on the budget for 2007-2008, the expectation of the level of contributions, including the settling of any arrears over this two year period should be taken into account. Due attention should be paid on the payment of the arrears which are amounting to US\$ 450,000.

3. Detailed 2004-2006 expenditures

3.1 Standard expenditures

Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey. The joint survey was carried out in 2005 and 2006 as per the work plan, slightly exceeding the estimated budget by 3%.

Chair/Vice visit to FAO HQ. No visit occurred due to a lack of locust activity. The Session should determine if it is necessary to maintain this activity considering that the Commission Secretary is based in Rome.

Participation in CRC session. No participation occurred.

24th Session travel/running costs. As the Session was held in January 2005, the expenditures have been reflected in the same year.

25th Session travel/running costs. These expenditures will be incurred once the session has finished.

New expenditures

eLocust2 equipment. 29 units were ordered with regular programme funds, using emergency funds we had at disposal from the last locust upsurge. It is suggested that in the next work plan, this item be carried forward and supplemented to insure an adequate level of equipment plus a small stock for use during emergencies.

eLocust2 transmission. A contract for transmission cost was established with Novacom, providing the service up to February 2008. Therefore, a budget should be estimated to cover the additional 10 months of 2008. The estimated annual cost of data transmission of \$25,000.

Computers – laptops. Two laptops were purchased for both India and I.R. Iran, and one for Pakistan. Additional desktop PCs may need to be purchased for using RAMSES in India and Pakistan.

HF radios. Codan equipment was purchased for India (15 fixed, 15 mobile) and Pakistan (10 fixed, 10 mobile) to upgrade existing communication systems in both countries. These ordering were co-financed at 50% by Regular Programme funds. In both cases, procurement costs were higher than estimated, exceeding the budget by 8%. Furthermore, equipment was not provided for I.R. Iran as the establishment of an HF radio communication system in the country awaits Government authorization. This recommendation should be reviewed during the current Session. These systems should be for voice only as data transmission has been superseded by eLocust2.

VHF radios. According to the work plan, 8 walkie-talkies were purchased for I.R. Iran and 15 for Pakistan.

Satellite phones. Two Thuraya phones were purchased locally in India and one each in I.R. Iran and Pakistan. It is the responsibility of both countries to pay operational costs.

Vehicle. A Toyota 4WD double-cab pickup (benzene option) is to be ordered for Iran by the FAOR.

TOT workshop and participation. As this activity was contingent on a TOT workshop being organized in the Central Region (which it was not), costs of the regional workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2 (Jodhpur, June 2006) were deducted from this budget line item, accounting for some 54% of the total line item. It is uncertain if a TOT will be organized in the Central Region in 2007-08.

National training. No expenditures were recorded. The session should indicate if this activity should be maintained under the Commission or if it can be addressed using national funds.

DLMTM translation. This was translated into Farsi in I.R. Iran. It is not clear if it was also translated into local languages in Pakistan and India.

SOP translation. This was translated into Farsi in I.R. Iran. It is not clear if it was also translated into local languages in Pakistan and India.

Ulvamast and spare parts. Three Ulvamast V3E vehicle-mounted sprayers and associated spare parts were purchased for India using Regular programme funds, exceeding the budget by 150% on this Budget line.

4. Member Country contributions

Data on the contributions paid from Member countries into the Commission's Trust Fund are presented in Tables 4a, b and c. There is no record of Afghanistan having paid its contribution in 2004, 2005 and 2006. India paid all of its contributions in 2004-2006. I.R. Iran paid two years contribution in 2004, nothing in 2005, and paid in 2006. Pakistan paid in 2004 and 2005, and paid partially in 2006.

5. Work plan for 2007-2008

The standard budget according to the annual Member country contributions is US\$ 71,450. If countries pay their contributions in both 2007 and 2008 and if a portion of the currently unallocated funds (US\$ 102,724) is used, then an amount of up to US\$ 245,624 could be available for activities envisaged under the 2007-2008 work plan (see Table 5).

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

- eLocust2 equipment and transmission costs for India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan
- a vehicle for I.R. Iran
- funds to partially cover national training
- translation of DLMTM and SOP into Hindi

New expenditures that could be considered for 2007-2008 are:

- desktop computers to support RAMSES
- follow-up to RAMSES/eLocust2 training
- development of contingency plans

6. Decisions required

The Session should:

- (a) determine the expected level of member country contributions in 2007 and 2008, and indicate what proportion of the currently unallocated funds could supplement the 2007-08 budget;
- (b) with the above item in mind, consider the proposals of the Secretary and develop an effective work plan of activities to be implemented in 2007 and 2008 that would strengthen the national capacities in survey, reporting and control;
- (c) reiterate the need for contributions to be made to the Trust Fund on a regular basis in order to support the activities envisaged under the work plan;
- (d) review the large amount of arrears, in particular those of I.R. Iran, and if necessary propose a new schedule for settlement.

Table 1. Summary budget and expenditures by account as of 11/10/06 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

Receipts		Prior years	2004	2005	2006	Total	
Contributions		2,405,856	93,724	43,723	56,163	2,599,466	
Interest earned		172,069	1,860	4,605	3,372	181,906	
	subtotal	2,577,925	95,584	48,328	59,535	2,781,372	
Expenditures		Prior years	2004	2005	2006	Total	Total
Account		(1)			(provisional)	(excl. 2006)	(incl. 2006)
5011 Salaries Professional		63	0	0	0	63	63
5012 General Service		0	20,326	491	0	20,817	20,817
5013 Consultants		45,414	0	0	0	45,414	45,414
5014 Contracts		22,717	0	393	22,094	23,110	45,204
5021 Travel		388,408	19,846	16,133	33,958	424,387	458,345
5023 Training		60,658	0	0	0	60,658	60,658
5024 Expendable equipment		106,666	1,286	1,230	1,825	109,182	111,007
5025 Non-expendable equipment		583,285	0	0	86,991	583,285	670,276
5026 Hospitality		761	0	0	0	761	761
5028 General operating expenses		1,079,708	6,500	10,680	11,480	1,096,888	1,108,368
5040 General overhead expenses		344	0	0	0	344	344
5050 Chargeback		12,786	0	227	0	13,013	13,013
	subtotal	2,300,810	47,958	29,154	156,348	2,377,922	2,534,270
5029 Support costs (2)		124,168	6,132	3,692	13,540	133,992	147,532
	total	2,424,978	54,090	32,846	169,888	2,511,914	2,681,802
Cash balance		152,947	194,441	209,925	102,724		

Notes: (1) prior years expenses (up to 31/12/1981) are included in account 5028 (US\$ 917,052)

(2) 5% on codes 5024 and 5025; 13% on all other codes

(3) 2006 provisional as of 11/10/2006

Table 2. Expenditures incurred by activity for the period 2005-2006 as agreed at the 24th Session (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

	Programmed				Provided								Expenditures (1)			
	Unit cost	AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total	11/10/06	RP funds
Standard expenditures																
IRN/PAK Joint survey	10,000			2	2			2	2	0	0	20,000	20,000	40,000	41,041	
Joint survey report	250			2	2			1	1	0	0	500	500	1,000	393	
Chair/Vice visit to FAO HQ	2,500	1	1							2,500	2,500	0	0	5,000	0	
Participation in CRC session	2,500		1							0	2,500	0	0	2,500	0	
24th Session travel/running costs						1		1	1						5,886	
25th Session travel/running costs	3,500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	14,000	0	
<i>subtotal</i>										6,000	8,500	24,000	24,000	62,500	47,320	0
New expenditures																
eLocust2 equipment	1,800		2	2	2		15	6	8	0	3,600	3,600	3,600	10,800		53,249
eLocust2 transmission	1,000		1	1	1		15	6	8	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	22,094	
Computers - laptop	3,000		2	2	0		2	2	1	0	6,000	6,000	0	12,000	4,163	11,240
HF radios (2)	2,500		30	9	20		30	0	20	0	75,000	22,500	50,000	147,500	80,850	78,749
VHF radios (walkie-talkie)	500		0	8	15		0	8	15	0	0	4,000	7,500	11,500	3,565	
Satellite phones + prepaid card	2,000		1	1	1		0	1	2	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000	2,891	
Digital handycam Sony	1,100							1							1,096	
Vehicles	25,000			1				0		0	0	25,000	0	25,000	0	
TOT workshop (3)	4,000		3	2	3		2			0	12,000	8,000	12,000	32,000	17,223	
TOT workshop participation	2,500	1	2	2	2		1		1	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	17,500	5,986	
National training	5,000	1	1	1	1					5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000		
DLMTM translation	2,500		1	1	1					0	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500		
SOP translation	1,000		1	1	1					0	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000		
Ulvamast	3,500		3				3			0	10,500	0	0	10,500		26,650
Ulvamast spare part kit	200		20				1			0	4,000	0	0	4,000	314	
<i>subtotal</i>										7,500	127,600	85,600	89,600	310,300	138,182	169,888
totals										13,500	136,100	109,600	113,600	372,800	185,502	169,888
Total expend 2005-2006														355,390		

Notes: (1) from FAO Regular Programme funds associated with the 2003-2005 upsurge
(2) upon receipt of I.R. Iran authorization/clearance
(3) assumed that EMPRES/CR would also contribute an equal portion for 8 participants

Table 3a. Statement of account for the year 2004 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

Account	Description	Cost US\$
5012	<u>General Services</u>	
	G-2 F.Farina, in support DLIS information to SW Asian countries	20,326
	<i>subtotal</i>	20,326
5021	<u>Travel</u>	
	Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan:	
	- I.R. Iran DSA	5,370
	- Pakistan DSA	5,960
	DLCC Technical Group, Nouakchott (2-7 May 2004):	
	- M.Ghaemian (I.R. Iran) - AHQ0079271	3,049
	- Buksk Muhammad (Pakistan) - AHQ0079581	3,827
	24th SWAC Commission, New Delhi (10-14 January 2005):	
	- Hosini Mohammed Arif (Afghanistan) - AHQ91481	1,640
	<i>subtotal</i>	19,846
5024	<u>Expendable Procurement</u>	
	FB Computers - Data/dual power lead for Psion 3c/3mx/5mx	
	Ericsson and Garmin GPS - PO 147845	650
	I.R. Iran and Pakistan: 24 maps each for joint border survey	636
	(1:500,000 scale TPC maps sheets No H7A-B-C-D and	
	H8A, H8D - four copies each) RMIB Geoscience - PO147964	
	<i>subtotal</i>	1,286
5028	<u>General Operating Expenses</u>	
	Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan:	
	- I.R. Iran GOE	1,500
	- Pakistan GOE	5,000
	<i>subtotal</i>	6,500
5029	<u>Support Costs</u>	
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	65
	(13% on all other accounts)	6,067
	<i>subtotal</i>	6,132
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2004		54,090

Table 3b. Statement of account for the year 2005 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

Account	Description	Cost US\$	
5012	<u>Salaries General Services</u> G-2 Farina, in support DLIS information to SW Asian countries - difference of cost	491	
		<i>subtotal</i>	491
5014	<u>Contracts</u> Printing <i>Report Desert Locust Joint Survey in the Spring Breeding Areas of Iran/Pakistan</i> - PO 171174	393	
		<i>subtotal</i>	393
5021	<u>Travel</u> 24th SWAC Session, New Delhi, India (January 2005): - Hosini Mohammed Arif (Afghanistan) - AHQ92008 - Allabadi Alizabeh (I.R. Iran) - AHQ91311 - Mazari Raashid Bashir (Pakistan) - AHQ91470 Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan: - I.R. Iran DSA - Pakistan DSA	1076 1537 1840 5,720 5,960	
		<i>subtotal</i>	16,133
5024	<u>Expendable Procurement</u> I.R. Iran: set of satellite phone - SIM card	1,230	
		<i>subtotal</i>	1,230
5025	<u>Non Expendable Procurement</u> eLocust2 : 29 units - Pakistan (8), India (15), I.R. Iran (6) - paid out RP funds - \$53,250 India: 2 PC Flybook Win XP home ed., English keyboard, bluetooth, WAN, 80GB - PO 175551 - \$5,523 paid out of RP funds I.R. Iran: 2 PC Flybook Win XP home edition, English keyboard, bluetooth, WAN, 80GB - PO 175564 - \$5,717 paid out of RP funds Pakistan: Codan - 10 NGT SRx Station Package, Desk console (Voice), and 10 NGT SRx Transceiver Mobile Package - PO 176850 - \$78,749 paid out of RP funds India: Micron - 3 Ulvamast V3E vehicle-mounted sprayers plus spare parts - PO 176487 - \$26,650 paid out of RP funds	0 0 0 0 0 0	
		<i>subtotal</i>	0
5028	<u>General Operating Expenses</u> 24th SWAC Meeting, India (January 2005) - Organization I.R. Iran: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan I.R. Iran: satellite phone bill I.R. Iran: Digital Handicam Sony V3 Pakistan: Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan	715 3,719 150 1,096 5,000	
		<i>subtotal</i>	10,680
5050	<u>Chargeback</u> Printing 24th SWAC Report	227	
		<i>subtotal</i>	227
5029	<u>Support Costs</u> (5% on accounts 5024 and 5025) (13% on all other accounts)	61.50 3630.12	
		<i>subtotal</i>	3,692
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 2005			32,846

**Table 3c. Statement of account for the year 2006 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)
(provisional - 11/10/06)**

Account	Description	Cost US\$	
5014	Contracts		
	Novacom contract to activate eLocust2 + Traffic (plan2) - PO 182066 - up to February 2008	22,094	
		<i>subtotal</i>	22,094
5021	Travel		
	Regional RAMSES/eLocust2 Workshop, India (12-16 June 2006):		
	- K. Cressman (FAO) - AHQ115772	4,440	
	- S. Singh (India)	862	
	- J. Bhagwan (India)	862	
	- M. Ghaemian (I.R. Iran) - AHQ117739	697	
	- S. Santanu (FAOR, India) administrative support	212	
	- other participants India	3,534	
	- Al-Harthy (FAO) for training RAMSES and eLocust2, Pakistan (1-9 September 2006) - AHQ120086	4,962	
	FAO/WMO Locust meteorology workshop, Muscat, Oman (8-12 April 2006) (1):		
	- K.P. Singh (India) - AHQ113515	1,913	
	- Z. Ali Khan (Pakistan) - AHQ113386	1,576	
	- C. Rosi (FAO) secretarial support and organization (50% of air ticket) - AHQ112933	2,497	
	Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan:		
	- I.R. Iran DSA	6,402	
	- Pakistan DSA	6,000	
		<i>subtotal</i>	21,556
5024	Expendable Procurement		
	India: Micron sprayers - atomiser disc/disc mounting plate/motor pulley 3-speed plus screw - FPO 5-21443 / PO 187761	314	
	Pakistan: purchase of 2 satellite phones	1,511	
		<i>subtotal</i>	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: Codan - 15 NGT SRx Station package, Desk Console (voice), and 15 NGT SRx Transceiver Mobile package - PO 183463	80,850	
	I.R. Iran: 8 Motorola Talkabout T5522 two way radios - PO 185985	1,240	
		<i>subtotal</i>	86,991
5028	General Operating Expenses		
	Insurance POs	247	
	India: clearing charge for equipment	1,340	
	India: courier charges	225	
	Regional RAMSES/eLocust2 workshop, India (12-16 June 2006): India staff claims/organization	1,429	
	Joint border survey Iran/Pakistan:		
	- I.R. Iran GOE	3,240	
	- Pakistan GOE	5,000	
		<i>subtotal</i>	11,480
5029	Support Costs		
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	4,441	
	(13% on all other accounts)	7,167	
		<i>subtotal</i>	11,608
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 2006 (as of 11/10/06)			155,554

Notes: (1) cofinanced with CRC and CLCPRO

Table 4a. Status of contribution as of 31 December 2004 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

expressed in US\$

Member Governments	Outstanding 31/12/03	Contribution due for 2004	Received up to 31/12/2004	Outstanding 31/12/2004
AFGHANISTAN	27,500.00	2,750.00	0.00	30,250.00
INDIA *	(116.46)	27,000.00	27,009.49	(125.95) *
IRAN	343,965.74	25,000.00	49,991.48	318,974.26
PAKISTAN *	64,821.39	16,700.00	16,722.87	64,798.52
TOTALS	436,170.67	71,450.00	93,723.84	413,896.83

25% paid in local ccy through Imprest/Acc.

Table 4b. Status of contribution as of 31 December 2005 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

expressed in US\$

Member Governments	Outstanding 31/12/04	Contribution due for 2005	Received up to 31/12/2005	Outstanding 31/12/2005
AFGHANISTAN	30,250.00	2,750.00	0.00	33,000.00
INDIA *	(125.95)	27,000.00	26,953.73	(79.68) *
IRAN	318,974.26	25,000.00	0.00	343,974.26
PAKISTAN *	64,798.52	16,700.00	16,769.48	64,729.04
TOTALS	413,896.83	71,450.00	43,723.21	441,623.62

25% paid in local ccy through Imprest/Acc.

Table 4c. Status of contribution as of 12 October 2006 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

expressed in US\$

Member Governments	Outstanding 31/12/05	Contribution due for 2006	Received up to 12/10/06	Outstanding 12/10/06
AFGHANISTAN	33,000.00	2,750.00		35,750.00
INDIA *	(79.68)	27,000.00	26,963.56	(43.24) *
IRAN	343,974.26	25,000.00	25,000.00	343,974.26
PAKISTAN *	64,729.04	16,700.00	4,199.50	77,229.54
TOTALS	441,623.62	71,450.00	56,163.06	456,910.56

25% paid in local ccy through Imprest/Acc.

Table 5. Proposed budget for 2007-2008 (TF912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL)

Available funds		AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total	Available	Comments
Member annual contributions		2	2	2	2	5,500	54,000	50,000	33,400	142,900	142,900	
current unallocated funds										102,724	102,724	
	<i>subtotal</i>									245,624	245,624	
	Unit cost	AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total		
Standard expenditures												
IRN/PAK Joint survey	10,000			2	2	0	0	20,000	20,000	40,000	205,624	
Joint survey report	250			2	2	0	0	500	500	1,000	204,624	
Participation in CRC session	2,500		1			0	2,500	0	0	2,500	202,124	
26th Session travel/running costs	3,500	1	1	1	1	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	14,000	188,124	
	<i>subtotal</i>					3,500	6,000	24,000	24,000	57,500		
New expenditures												
eLocust2 equipment	1,750		3	4	3	0	5,250	7,000	5,250	17,500	170,624	USAID: 7-IND, 9-PAK
eLocust2 transmission	8,300		1	1	1	0	8,300	8,300	8,300	24,900	145,724	
Computers - desktop	3,000		2	2	2	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	18,000	127,724	for RAMSES
HF radios (1)	2,500		0	9	0	0	0	22,500	0	22,500	105,224	if GOI authorizes
Vehicles	25,000			1		0	0	25,000	0	25,000	80,224	
National training	5,000	1	1	1	1	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000	60,224	
DLMTM translation	2,500		1	1	1	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500	52,724	
SOP translation	1,000		1	1	1	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	49,724	
RAMSES/eLocust2 workshop	5,000		1	1	1	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	34,724	
Contingency planning advice	2,500		1	1	1	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500	27,224	
	<i>subtotal</i>					5,000	35,550	84,800	35,550	160,900		
	totals					8,500	41,550	108,800	59,550	218,400		

Annex 7. Approved Expenditures for 2007-2008

		AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total	Available
Available funds											
Member contributions		2	2	2	2	5,500	54,000	50,000	33,400	142,900	142,900
current unallocated funds										102,724	102,724
<i>subtotal</i>										245,624	245,624
	\$Unit	AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total	Available
Standard expenditures											
IRN/PAK Joint survey	10,000	0	0	2	2	0	0	20,000	20,000	40,000	205,624
Joint survey report	250	0	0	2	2	0	0	500	500	1,000	204,624
Chair/Vice visit FAO HQ	2,500	0	0	1	1	0	0	2,500	2,500	5,000	199,624
Chair visit to CRC (1)	2,500	0	0	1	0	0	0	2,500	0	2,500	197,124
26th Session	3,500	1	1	1	1	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	14,000	183,124
<i>subtotal</i>						3,500	3,500	29,000	26,500	62,500	
		AFG	IND	IRN	PAK	\$AFG	\$IND	\$IRN	\$PAK	Total	Available
New expenditures											
eLocust2 equipment (2)	1,750	1	3	4	3	1,750	5,250	7,000	5,250	19,250	163,874
eLocust2 transmission (3)	2,500	1	1	1	1	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	10,000	153,874
Computers - desktop (4)	3,000	1	0	0	2	3,000	0	0	6,000	9,000	144,874
Computeres - laptop (5)	2,500	0	0	3	0	0	0	7,500	0	7,500	137,374
Vehicles (6)	25,000	0	1	1	0	0	25,000	25,000	0	50,000	87,374
MicroUlva spare parts	100	0	30	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	3,000	84,374
National training	5,000	1	1	1	1	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000	64,374
DLMTM translation (7)	3,500	0	1	1	1	0	3,500	3,500	3,500	10,500	53,874
SOP translation (7)	2,000	0	1	1	1	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000	47,874
DLMTM kits	2,000	1	2	2	2	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	14,000	33,874
RAMSES/eLocust2 wkshp (8)	5,000	0	1	1	1	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	18,874
New technology support (9)	2,500	0	1	1	1	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500	11,374
<i>subtotal</i>						14,250	57,750	64,000	35,750	171,750	
totals						17,750	61,250	93,000	62,250	234,250	11,374

Notes:

- (1) only in case of outbreaks or upsurge in the CR
(2) IND needs 15; supplemented by USAID funds: IND (7), PAK (9)
(3) estimated
(4) for RAMSES; brand name required in PAK
(5) to be used during field surveys
(6) stationwagon (IRN), pickup (IND)
(7) carry over from 2005-06 and budget increased to cover printing

Annex 8. Trust Fund Budget for 2007-2008

Code	Item	2007(US\$)	2008(US\$)
5013	Consultants	16,500	7,500
5014	Contracts	10,000	0
5021	Travel	2,500	14,000
5023	Training	25,000	10,000
5024	Expendable Equipment	14,000	0
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	88,750	0
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	25,000
5050	Chargeback	500	500
	Sub-Total	177,250	57,000
5029	Support cost (5% on 5024+5025)	5,138	0
	13% on remainder	9,685	7,410
	Sub-Total	14,823	7,410
	GRAN TOTAL	192,073	64,410