

REPORT

**Muscat,
Oman,
26–30
July 2008**

**FAO Commission for
Controlling the Desert
Locust in the Central
Region**

Twenty-Sixth Session



Report of the

Twenty-Sixth Session

**COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

Muscat, Oman, 26 – 30 July 2008

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Rome 2008**

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
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Group photo of participants in the 26th Session and the 30th Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region, held in Muscat, Oman, 26-30 July 2008

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Report of the Twenty-Sixth Session

COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE CENTRAL REGION Muscat, Oman, 26 – 30 July 2008

Summary of recommendations

Recommendations related to the Secretariat:

1. An expert in meteorology, ecology and locust biology should be recruited to study the existing data, sent by countries, at DLIS, and to present a report with the obtained results in order to compare these results with the locusts behaviour during current years.
2. Although Somalia is not a member country of the Commission, the meeting recommended to fund Desert Locust operations from the Commission's fund, after obtaining the necessary request and to support this activity from FAO.
3. Ethiopia should prepare and submit a project proposal to the Commission to support Desert Locust operations in Ethiopia and northern Somalia for further submission to FAO.
4. In case of emergencies in which FAO provided pesticides to countries, the ownership of these pesticides should remain with FAO in order that the remaining pesticides are re-exported to other countries in case needed. In order to avoid legal implications, countries should investigate this issue and should send the results to the Commission.
5. In case of emergencies and that FAO provided registered pesticides to one country, other countries should not object importing these pesticides even if not registered in their countries. In order to avoid legal implications, countries should investigate this issue and should send the results to the Commission
6. Inventories of obsolete and unwanted pesticides should be prepared in details and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice.
7. Organize two consecutive workshops in Arbeel or Sulimania in Iraq, (alternatively in Egypt) to test spray equipment, protective clothing and camping equipment. Member countries should inform the Commission of local suppliers who wish to participate in the workshop, and the Commission should recruit the necessary consultant.
8. The Chairman of the Commission is delegated on behalf of the member countries to address a request to FAO to undertake vulnerability studies.

9. A small workshop should be organized after consultation with DLIS, representative of Saudi Arabia and Secretary of the Commission to study a new navigation technology.

Training:

10. The Commission should continue support to short term training courses at the national level and should invite qualified national co-trainers who have experience from other member countries.
11. Freeze the Desert Locust Diploma Course as per the recommendation of the Executive Committee in its 29th meeting, but to be resumed whenever there are sufficient funds from other sources than the Commission Trust Fund.
12. The Desert Locust Diploma Course to be continued on the condition that the University of Khartoum sponsors 50% (about US\$75,000) of the cost of the Diploma students and the Commission bears the other 50%.
13. The candidates Mr. Hussein Osman Abou Bakr from Sudan and Mr. Osama Rabie Mahmoud from Egypt are selected to benefit from the Commission's M. Sc. Sponsorship 2008-2009.
14. Since the technician from Oman was not invited to participate in the sprayers' maintenance workshop, the Commission should take into consideration training the Omani technicians on sprayers' maintenance.

Research:

15. The Directors of Locust Control Centres and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries should continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals and should provide them with all relevant reference documents (priority list, guidelines and formats). The Commission will follow up this recommendation and in case of difficulties will discuss this issue with the Secretary.
16. Send the trial report of the research conducted in full cooperation with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), FAO and the Locust Control Centre in Sudan during 2007 to all member countries.

Publications:

17. Prepare the two index cards on Desert Locust and grasshoppers and the vegetation of Desert Locust breeding areas in Arabic.
18. Member countries to submit their needs regarding publications to the Secretariat of the Commission.

Recommendations related to the budget:

19. Since it was difficult for FAO to issue the call letters for contribution and arrears to the member countries at the beginning of the year, it was recommended that a reminder should be issued by the Secretary of the Commission by early January to all member countries, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, after coordination with the Accounting Division at FAO.
20. Member countries should provide the Secretariat of the Commission with copies of the bank transfer regarding payments of their contribution and arrear settlement to follow this up with the Accounting Division at FAO.
21. The budget line regarding emergency pesticide fund in the workplan should be cancelled. In case of emergencies and based on the previous recommendation, the Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities when these activities are not reflected in the Commission workplan.
22. The workplan for 2008 – 2009 was endorsed by the member countries after the cancellation of the emergency pesticide fund.
23. A ceiling of US\$100,000 is being allocated to be used in case of emergencies in full consultation with Chairman of the Commission, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Secretary of the Commission.

Report of the Twenty-Sixth Session Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

Muscat, Oman, 26 – 30 July 2008

Introduction

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O) invited the member countries of the Commission, Bahrain, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, to attend the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region in Muscat, Oman, 26 – 30 July 2008.

Invitations were also addressed to the Arab League Organization, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC). The Secretary of CLCPRO declined the invitation for unexpected circumstances and the representative of SWAC, Mr. Keith Cressman, Information Officer, Rome, also could not participate for unforeseen reasons (see appendix 1 for the list of participants)

1) Opening Session

Mr. Mamoon Khamis Al-Alawi addressed the opening session by welcoming the guests and thanked them for choosing the Sultanate of Oman to host the 26th Session and the 30th Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission. He indicated that Oman is considered as a transit for Desert Locust but recently climatic and ecological changes have caused the invasion of Desert Locust to Oman.

He also mentioned that Oman was under locust invasion during 1990, 1993 and 1996, with June 2007 being the last, when locust operations continued until February 2008. He informed that all departments in Oman supported the Locust Control Centre including the Royal Omani Air Force, where about 10,000 hectares were treated.

He commended the cooperation and coordination between international organizations and the Commissions during the locust operations. He added that CRC is one of the corner stone that member countries rely on in the Central Region.

He finally extended his appreciation to H.E. Mr. Khalfan Bin Saleh Al Na'abi, patron of the 26th Session.

On behalf of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr. Christian Pantenius, Senior EMPRES Officer, Locust and Migratory Pests Group, Rome, expressed his thanks to H.E. Mr. Khalfan Bin Saleh Al Na'abi, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sultanate of Oman, for his support to the Commission and FAO particularly during the Desert Locust emergencies during the last two years. He welcomed the Chairman and member countries of the Commission in the Central Region and the Chairman and its members of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Pantenius mentioned that this session was originally planned to take place in Beirut, Lebanon, but for the unfortunate situation in Lebanon and according to the 25th Session recommendation in Qatar, the venue has been changed to Muscat, Oman, and thanked H.E. Mr. Al Na'abi for accepting to hosting it.

Mr. Pantenius informed the participants that in addition to the Commission's immense activities, the Secretariat of the Commission is also responsible for the implementation of the EMPRES programme activities in the Central Region. He emphasized that the ultimate aim of EMPRES programme is to minimize the Desert Locust outbreaks emanating from this region and hence protecting the livelihood of the rural communities by strengthening the preventive Desert Locust management capacities of the national locust control agencies through intensive and permanent staff training and support to the early warning system through the introduction of new technologies and environmental safer control means.

Since the use of chemicals in locust control becomes more and more an issue due to the raising concerns of the affected countries and rural communities, because of their adverse affect on the environment and human health. He indicated that the recent experience has shown that affected countries have started to oppose the use of chemical pesticides and strongly supporting alternative technology in locust control to minimize hazards to the environment. For this reason, he mentioned that FAO and the Commissions are currently actively involved in improving the handling and efficacy of these new products in locust control.

He pointed out that the Secretariat of the Commission is facing special challenges in various subjects in which large investments are required to apply the preventive control strategy and safeguard the environment. For this reason, he recommended the importance of regular and timely contribution payments of member countries to the commission so as to guarantee that the Secretariat can undertake its activities in a satisfactory manner in the future.

In this respect he indicated that some countries have experienced some difficulties in locust operations but FAO and donor communities substantially supported the locust control operations in the last two years by providing funds through TCP and donor projects and he referred in this respect to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and to the Japanese support.

He also commended the bilateral support offered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Eritrea and Yemen.

Finally he thanked all and wished them a happy stay in Muscat, and a successful meeting.

2) Report of the Chairman of the Commission

Mr. Abdalla Safar, the Chairman of the Commission in its 25th Session presented a brief report on the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission. In this respect, he commended the valuable efforts of the Commission member countries during the locust

control operations in the Central Region during the last two years, in particular Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. He also commended the cooperation between the countries with regard to information and report exchanges and mutual experts' visits. Efforts provided by the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa for locust control and survey operations in the bordering areas between Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia and Kenya, emphasizing the importance of bilateral support between countries and the role the Commission played during the previous period, with limited staff availability. He then reviewed various activities and visits covered by the Secretariat during the mentioned period (see appendix2).

3) Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

The delegate of the Sultanate of Oman, Mr. Mamoon Al-Alawi, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the 26th Session of the Commission. Iraq's delegate, Mr. Hameed Al-Sheikh, was elected as Vice-Chairman.

4) Adoption of the Agenda

After reviewing and discussing the provisional agenda by the Session, the agenda was unanimously agreed upon as per the following:

1. Opening Session
2. Report of the Chairman of the Commission
3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Election of the drafting Committee
6. Report of the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission and follow up of the recommendations
7. Desert Locust situation from June 2006 to June 2008
 - a) Complimentary reports from the countries
8. Training
9. Research
10. Publications
11. Election of members and Chairman of the Executive Committee
12. Accounts for 2006 and 2007
13. Contributions and arrears of member countries to the Commission's Trust Fund
14. Work plan and budget for 2008-2009
15. Other business
16. Date and place of the next Executive Committee and the Session of the Commission
17. Adoption of the report of the 26th Session of the Commission
18. Closure of the Session

5) Election of the Drafting Committee

The representatives from Kuwait, Yemen and Sudan were elected as members of the Drafting Committee. The Commission took the responsibility of the secretariat.

6) Report of the Secretariat of the Commission on activities and follow up of the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Commission

The Secretary of the Central Region Commission presented a comprehensive report, which was adopted by the Session, indicating the activities implemented and achieved during the period May 2006 to July 2008 (see appendix 3). The participants discussed the following subjects:

- In view of the importance of the Differential Global System and the Track Guidance System to be installed in spraying aircraft, the representative of Saudi Arabia, reported that it is important to obtain a permission to install these equipment from the International Aviation Organization and local authorities. He further added that spray companies would increase their air spraying charges if they are obliged to install this equipment on their aircraft. Therefore, necessary justification is rather needed. The Secretariat of the Commission explained that this equipment would reduce the control operation cost by more than 30% since the control operation would be undertaken efficiently, with less flying hours and lesser amount of pesticides. Hence protecting the environment from contamination. The representative of Sudan informed the meeting that there was a recommendation to the aerial spraying division in Sudan regarding the necessity to install this equipment, in at least 25% of companies' aircraft, for which their offers were accepted. Whereas the representative of Oman indicated that at the moment it is compulsory to install this equipment on all spray aircraft contracted by the ministry. He further informed that one set of this equipment was procured and installed on an aircraft belonging to the Omani Royal Air Force, which works with high efficiency.
- With regard to BGAN equipment (for sending reports from the field through satellite), the recommendation in this subject was cancelled by the meeting based on the request of the representative of Saudi Arabia.
- Regarding the autonomous Desert Locust Control Centres in Yemen and Sudan, the representative of Sudan mentioned that this is an internal issue, informing the meeting that the Plant Protection Department supports the necessary Desert Locust activities, giving it financial priority. The representative from Yemen mentioned that an autonomous Desert Locust Control Centre in Yemen would facilitate and reduce the bureaucratic and administrative procedures which would reflect positively in the locust operations. He informed the meeting that this action was halted during the restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Mr. Pantenius supported the representative from Yemen on the issue of autonomous Locust Control Centres and referred to the Western Region's experiences during the outbreak during 2003-2005 in which Chad, Mali and Niger granted autonomous Desert Locust Centres.

- In view of establishing an emergency locust fund, a small committee formed from the representatives of Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia to investigate the mechanism to be used for the US\$ 500,000 emergency fund.

7) Desert Locust Situation from June 2006 to June 2008

Mr. Keith Cressman, Forecasting Officer (DLIS) prepared a detailed Desert Locust situation report in the three regions since May 2006 to July 2008, with the emphasis on the Central Region, but for unforeseen reasons he was unable to participate in the Session. The Secretary of the Commission presented the paper, supported with maps, on behalf of Mr. Cressman.

The locust situation was calm up to the end of 2006, with the exception of Eritrea, where breeding took place and swarms migrated to Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen by early 2007. The breeding that took place during the summer of 2007, after the heavy rain, resulted in a locust outbreak in Yemen and swarms were reported in Oman and Somalia in 2008. The swarms reported in Oman during February 2008 migrated to Saudi Arabia, where some swarms remained south of Ethiopia till May 2008. In Egypt the locust situation remained calm. The report also included areas treated in the Central Region, locust infestation, meteorological conditions and forecast till the end of 2008.

In the report, it is indicated that there was an improvement in the quality, timing and frequency of locust reports received at DLIS. There was an increase in the use of eLocust2 in the Central Region and DLIS continued its technical support and training for RAMSES and eLocust2 users and in this respect a workshop was conducted in Cairo, Egypt, in April 2008, which will be addressed by the Secretariat in his report. (See appendix 4).

The EMPRES Senior Officer, Mr. Pantenius, commented on the above report, summarizing the locust situation and control operations in the Central Region during the past two years. He mentioned that there were challenges faced in providing rapid assistance in critical situations. He referred to the extraordinary rapid response from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Japanese assistance to Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen, pointing out that both assistances made a significant difference in the control operations as compared to previous emergency locust operation in the campaign 2003- 2005 in Western Africa. These financial assistances were used to strengthen the national locust control capacities to face the threat effectively.

Mr. Pantenius also referred to the increasing environmental concerns at various levels which need to be taken into account by the countries in their control strategies. He further referred to the open corridor for locust movement in northern Somalia which made it possible for unchecked locust swarms to arrive from northern Somalia to Ethiopia, eventually affecting Kenya, for the first time in 40 years. He made an appeal to the meeting to address this gap in the defence line, which is discussed in other business.

a. Complementary reports on DL situation from member countries and observers

Egypt:

The representative of Egypt provided a brief report on the Desert Locust situation indicating that it was calm due to the dry season, with the exception of individual locust reported in the irrigated areas around Lake Naser and Shark El Ouinat. This recession period was used for maintenance and preparing of Desert Locust bases.

He also informed the meeting that the African Development Bank supported the Locust Control Centre by providing 15 vehicles, 8 vehicle mounted sprayers and 7 tons of pesticides. He assured the meeting that there is a strategic stock of fuel, made available by government funds. He commended on the training support provided by FAO and the Commission in Egypt.

Ethiopia:

The representative of Ethiopia reported on other locust infestation and control operations during August 2007 along the Sudanese border. With regard to Desert Locust, he informed the meeting that there was an outbreak in the eastern and northern eastern areas but the control operations were not complete, particularly in Ogadine area, because of security reasons. This was negatively reflected in the locust invasion of western areas, where it was never under locust threat before. He mentioned that the damage was very limited to crops because of the intervention by FAO and the donor community which played a big role in containing the Desert Locust risk, in particular, the Japanese support. He added that this area is now dry and unsuitable for locust breeding and there is a survey plan to monitor the area by air. The situation in areas north eastern of Ethiopia is not quiet clear as there was undetected breeding taking place due to the rough terrain and lack of vehicles. Finally he commended on the training course organised and conducted during the stated period.

Iraq:

The representative of Iraq mentioned that Desert Locust is not an important pest in Iraq and the last observation of locust was in 1998. He commended the role of Saudi Arabia on locust operations for defending Iraq. He also commended the role of the Commission to train Desert Locust officers in neighbouring countries. He mentioned that Iraq is following the Desert Locust situation through the CRC-EMPRES website, assuring the meeting that Iraq is well equipped with pesticides and aircraft for Desert Locust invasion. Two Desert Locust bases were established in Karbalaa and Muthana.

Kuwait:

The delegate from Kuwait mentioned that his country has no threat of DL, mentioning that there is an allocated emergency fund for Desert Locust, and if not used it is reallocated for the following year. The Locust situation is being followed up through bulletins and periodic publications.

Lebanon:

The delegate from Lebanon informed that the Desert Locust situation had been calm during the reporting period and the Plant Protection Department has been following the Desert Locust situation through the bulletins and periodic publications. He indicated that

four engineers from the Ministry of Agriculture were trained on locust biology and survey and control operations in the sub-regional training course, organized in Syria during 2007.

Oman:

The representative from Oman gave a presentation on the Desert Locust situation during the reported period mentioning that the first sign of infestation was reported in June 2007 and immediate control operations by ground means were undertaken. Also, the Omani Royal Air Force was used in August 2007 for aerial surveys. The area infested by locust was controlled by the end of December 2007, hopper bands were controlled by January by ground methods. Immature locust swarms reported in February 2008 in the bordering area with Yemen and Saudi Arabia, which later scattered inside Oman and crossed the border to the United Arab Emirates. The total control areas were 10,000 hectares.

Qatar:

The delegate from Qatar stated that the Desert Locust situation had been calm for several years, commending on locust control operations in the front line countries, which prevents locust arriving in Qatar. The Qatar delegate informed that the activities of Desert Locust in the front line countries were being followed up through the bulletins and periodical reports sent by the Commission. He further added that Qatar had maintained all spray equipment. He added that limited breeding of other locust were reported in the irrigated areas and controlled by ground methods. He further mentioned that four agriculture engineers were trained on locust biology and survey and control operations and pesticides safety and handling in the sub-regional training course, organized in United Arab Emirates during 2008.

Saudi Arabia:

The representative of Saudi Arabia presented a comprehensive report on the Desert Locust situation in the Kingdom during the reporting period, indicating that since Desert Locust breeding was reported in December 2006, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took all the necessary arrangements to contain the breeding by applying the preventive control strategy using fipronil as barrier treatment. But by early 2007, groups of swarms started to invade Saudi Arabia in the spring and winter breeding areas, this continued to April 2008. The Saudi delegate informed the meeting that Saudi Arabia supported the campaign with all possible means of control to contain the threat of locusts, where more than 100 survey and control teams were utilized in 12 camps, and by using 5 aircrafts out of which there were 3 Helicopter. He further informed the meeting that the cost of 2007 campaign was estimated to be around 10 million Saudi Riyals. He explained that the climatic changes affected the locust behaviour where the campaign was extended more than expected to undertake the necessary control operations, and that there was an overlapping between the spring and winter seasons, which resulted in high cost of control operations. Following intensive discussion with the member countries in the meeting recommended the following:

Recommendation: An expert in meteorology, ecology and locust biology should be recruited to study the existing data, sent by countries, at DLIS, and to present a report

with the obtained results in order to compare these results with the locust's behaviour during current years.

In addition the representative from Saudi Arabia mentioned that the Kingdom prepared and rehabilitated the Locust Control Centre, where a technology of information network was provided in all the Locust Centre Divisions. A modern conference room was established, provided with all audio visual aids, for training purposes. He assured the meeting that the Locust Control Centre is ready with all the necessary resources for Desert Locust survey and control operations, indicating that two joint border surveys between the Kingdom and Yemen were implemented, in addition to several training courses supported by the Commission during the period of the report.

Sudan:

The representative of Sudan explained the Desert Locust situation during June 2007 to July 2008, indicating that locust infestation was reported in the summer breeding areas during June and July 2007 and the situation developed further to spread in the winter zone. He mentioned that survey operations continued in the summer zones, and that 14 survey teams were utilized and the control operations started in October. He further added that locust infestation continued until January 2008 and in Tokar Delta until February. He stated that the situation is currently calm but the survey and monitoring operations are in progress with only one report of few infestations, immediately controlled, in North of Sudan in April 2008. Since the situation has become calm, he reported that the locust operations were ceased in May 2008.

The representative from Sudan added that several activities were undertaken during the period such as training, and that regular Desert Locust Steering Committee meetings were held with the participation of the concerned Ambassadors of the countries. Eight million US\$ allocated for the Plant Protection Directorate, out of which 70% are reserved for Desert Locust operations. He assured the meeting that Desert Locust operations are a priority at the Plant Protection Directorate, and that 66 vehicles and aviation fuel were secured for locust operations and that 12 air spraying aircraft were hired. He reassured the meeting by saying that sufficient budgets and resources were available and will be utilized for Desert Locust operations.

Syria:

In his report the representative of Syria informed the meeting that his country was not threatened by Desert Locust during the last two years, only other locusts species were reported and treated. He mentioned that the Plant Protection Department has been following the Desert Locust situation through the bulletins and periodic publications and through the Commission Website and FAO Locust Watch on the internet. He further mentioned that his department has good communication with the Commission and in this respect they have received a number of the Commission publications concerning the Desert Locust. He reported that Syria hosted the 3rd Sub-regional Training Course in 2007, and that their staff participated in the training courses provided and supported by the Commission. He indicated that there are 12 aircraft available in Syria and enough pesticides for any Desert Locust emergencies.

United Arab Emirates:

The representative of the United Arab Emirates reported that his country was invaded by groups of Desert Locust from Sultanate of Oman, locust infestations were reported in Abu Dhabi in February 2008. Other groups were reported in the eastern Region of the Emirates, crossed the Gulf to Iran. He mentioned that during the period under review, Al-Fujairah, Emirates, hosted the 4th Sub-regional Training Course.

Yemen:

The representative of Yemen gave a comprehensive report on the Desert Locust situation in his country, indicating that the locust situation was calm in Yemen till the end of 2006, however some individual infestation reported in the winter breeding zone on the coast. The first swarm crossed from Eritrea was reported on the Bahr Al-Arab coast in Mahra Governorate during March 2007. More swarms invaded Hadramout Governorate, Thomud area in the Empty Quarter. The Desert Locust situation deteriorated further up to August 2007 where new generations developed from these swarms in the interior of the country. Aerial and ground control operations covered about 39,000 ha. The representative of Yemen informed the meeting that control operations was interrupted in a number of locations due to the bee breeders and cattle keepers. As a result, a number of swarms developed and invaded Hadramout Valley, moved to the coastal areas of Aden Gulf, and then disappeared by end of September 2007. He informed the meeting that the cost of the campaign was estimated to be more than 100 million Yemeni Riyal. He commended on the support provided by the donor communities through FAO in the summer of 2007 which played a vital role in strengthening the Locust Control Centre capabilities to contain the locust outbreak. He also commended on the bilateral support provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Locust Control Centre in March 2008 which amounted to 6,006,000 Saudi Riyal. At the end of his statement, he indicated that two joint border surveys between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen were implemented with the participation of Locust officers from Oman in the last one, in addition to several training courses supported by the Commission during the period of the report.

Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA):

As an observer, the Director of DLCO-EA reported on the Desert Locust situation in East Africa, providing the meeting with detailed information on the areas threatened by Desert Locust during the period June 2006 - July 2008. He mentioned that the organization had carried out survey and control operations in Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. He also informed the meeting that the Commission and DLCO-EA organized a Regional Training Course on Aerial Locust Control Operations in Ethiopia during 2007. In view of the benefit of this regional training course, several member countries requested a second training course of this kind. He referred to the excellent cooperation between DLCO-EA and the Commission, through the memorandum of understanding, in making use of the expertise of the organization.

8) **Training:**

The Secretary of the Commission presented a comprehensive report on training activities including short, medium and long term trainings, indicating the number of local, national and sub-regional training courses conducted in the period of this report (see appendix 5). He mentioned that training is considered to be continual and a priority activity of the Commission. Training should follow the technological development in all fields of survey and control, which in turns, raises the capability of the locust staff, not to mention the difficulty to keep the trained staff for a long time, as they transfer to other departments, retire or leave for other reasons. The meeting praised the sprayer's maintenance workshop that was conducted in Agadir, Kingdom of Morocco. The Secretary of the Commission indicated that it was an oversight not to inform the Chairman of this workshop, informing that the cost of participation of candidates from member countries of CLCPRO and SWAC, in any event in the Central Region, are covered from their own funding sources and not on the Central Region Trust Fund. Therefore, the meeting much-admired short training courses, stressing the importance of its continuity, and the benefit for national Master Trainers to participate in training courses in other member countries in the Central Region. Hence, the following recommendation was made;

Recommendation: The Commission should continue support to short term training courses at the national level and should invite qualified national co-trainers who have experience from other member countries.

With regard to the mid-term training programme in Desert Locust Diploma course organized by the University of Khartoum, Sudan, the Secretary of the Commission mentioned that, in view of the high cost and no other support provided, the last Executive Committee meeting recommended to cancel the programme. Following the intensive discussion, the Secretary explained that the difficulty of the Diploma course was not the quality or finding an alternative to the University of Khartoum but the very high cost, bearing in mind that the cost of six students (minimum number required by the University) was estimated to be more than two thirds of the full annual contribution of the member countries, hence it was recommended to:

Recommendation: Freeze the Desert Locust Diploma Course as per the recommendation of the Executive Committee in its 29th meeting, but to be resumed whenever there are sufficient funds from other sources than the Commission Trust Fund.

However, the representative from Sudan informed the meeting that he will be able to convince the University of Khartoum to sponsor three scholarships for this Diploma; therefore, the following recommendation was made:

Recommendation: The Desert Locust Diploma Course to be continued on the condition that the University of Khartoum sponsors 50% (about US\$75,000) of the cost of the Diploma students and the Commission bears the other 50%.

With regard to the announced Master Degree study, the meeting endorsed the Secretary of the Commission report and recommended the following:

Recommendation: The candidates Mr. Hussein Osman Abou Bakr from Sudan and Mr. Osama Rabie Mahmoud from Egypt are selected to benefit from the Commission's M. Sc. Sponsorship 2008-2009.

Recommendation: Since the technician from Oman was not invited to participate in the sprayers' maintenance workshop, the Commission should take into consideration training the Omani technicians on sprayers' maintenance.

9) **Research:**

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a detailed report on the research activities in the previous period, and provided a back ground on the research mechanism and procedure (see appendix 6). Following the discussion by the meeting, the member countries evaluated the conducted applied research as compared with the screening trials of pesticides for registration purposes. The Secretary of the Commission and Mr. Pantenius explained to the meeting that these are not basic or academic research but applied research carried out in the member countries, to benefit from their recommendations. They further added that basic and academic research cost millions of Dollars and requires tens of years to be undertaken.

With regard to the registration of Green Muscle (GM) as a bio-pesticide, the representative of Egypt mentioned that three years of testing is required to register a product in Egypt, but only two years testing is required in case of GM against locusts. He also added that last year's report presented by the Research Centre in Egypt was considered as one year testing, meaning that only additional testing for one year is now required. He also mentioned that the company agent needs to prepare and submit a complete file on the product

Along the same line, the representative of Ethiopia informed the meeting that there is no procedure for registering the bio-pesticides in his country, but there are studies to create legislation in that respect and as soon as this registration law is issued, GM will be registered in Ethiopia.

Although GM was registered in Sudan, the representative of Sudan thinks that there are difficulties in its formulation and shelf life, but the use of Insect Growth Regulator is suggested instead.

The representative of Saudi Arabia stated that his country is very much interested in the use bio-pesticides for control operations.

The Secretary of the Commission explained to the meeting that GM formulation was not made according to the specifications, where its shelf life was about one year. For that reason, the company has manufactured a new powder formulation, in which it prevailed over these difficulties and prolonged its shelf life.

Since there were no research proposals received by the Commission, the meeting recommended that:

Recommendation: The Directors of Locust Control Centres and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries should continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals and should provide them with all relevant reference documents (priority list, guidelines and formats). The Commission will follow up this recommendation and in case of difficulties will discuss this issue with the Secretary.

Recommendation: Send the trial report of the research conducted in full cooperation with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), FAO and the Locust Control Centre in Sudan during 2007 to all member countries.

10) **Publications:**

The participants adopted the Secretariat's report on publications (see appendix 7) which included achievements during the past period. The Secretary of the Commission informed the meeting that the Commission in the Central Region provided the other two Commissions in the Western Region and South West Asia with all publications produced in the Central Region and on behalf of the South West Asia Commission, the Central Region is currently supporting the production of the Training Manual Kit. The meeting highly praised the efforts of the Commission in publications and recommended to:

Recommendation: Prepare the two index cards on Desert Locust and grasshoppers and the vegetation of Desert Locust breeding areas in Arabic.

Recommendation: Member countries to submit their needs regarding publications to the Secretariat of the Commission.

11) **Election of members and Chairman of the Executive Committee:**

The Commission agreed to maintain the four front line countries (Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) in the Executive Committee as members. The Secretary of the Commission informed the meeting that the representative of Eritrea could not participate because of funding difficulties of his government to cover the cost of his participation, but he has sent an electronic message requesting the meeting to consider Eritrea as a member in the elected Executive Committee. Representatives of Ethiopia, Syria and Qatar (Qatar was elected after the second round with Oman, Eritrea was unable to compete) were elected through a secret ballot to complete the number in the Executive Committee to 7 members. The Sudanese representative was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

12) **Accounts for 2006 and 2007:**

The Secretary of the Commission presented a summary report on the financial position and the expenditure for the years 2006 and 2007 and up to June 2008 (see appendix 8) for the Commission's Trust Fund.

In the following discussion the representatives from Qatar, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq requested clarifications on the over spending in some of the budget lines. The Secretary

of the Commission explained that over spending on travel budget line occurred sometimes due to the charging of tickets cost on travel budget rather than on training budget, he also mentioned that expenditure executed towards the end of a certain year appears on the following year's expenditure.

13) Contributions and arrears of member countries to the Commission Trust Fund:

The Secretary presented a comprehensive report on the annual contributions to the Trust Fund for the year 2006/2007 and 2008 up to June, and the accumulated arrears of certain member countries (see appendix 9). After the discussion by the member countries the following clarification was provided:

- The representative of Iraq mentioned that after the cancellation of 50% of Iraq's arrears, and the freezing of the remaining 50% until situation improves in Iraq, his country settled the annual contribution up to 2007 and the contribution for 2008 was allocated in the next budget. He also informed the meeting that an amount of US\$7,800 was deposited by mistake in the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) Trust Fund.
- The representative of Sudan informed the meeting that after the cancellation 50% of Sudan's arrears, the annual contribution was settled regularly as agreed by the Commission. He mentioned that he will forward copies of the receipts to the Commission to follow up the issue with the accounting Division of FAO. He requested a further cancellation of 50% of the arrears ensuring the payment of the remaining 50% in full and at once. The meeting discussed the request but rejected the issue; hence the arrears remain the same.
- Based on the query made by the representative of Egypt, the Secretary of the Commission stated that the accumulated fund of the Commission Trust Fund is in a savings account and the annual interest is automatically added to the accumulated fund.
- With regard to Syria's arrears, the Secretary of the Commission mentioned that their arrears go back to years 2000 and 2001, details will be forwarded.
- The representative of Lebanon informed that his government paid the balance of its arrears after the agreed cancellation of 50%. Since then, his government settled the annual contribution regularly, but due to the unfortunate war and security situation during the last two years, the annual contribution was not settled, but he assured the meeting that he will follow up the matter with the concerned departments.
- The representative of Ethiopia mentioned that his country settled all the arrears and that he will follow up the matter with his government.

The meeting agreed on the following recommendations:

Recommendation: Since it was difficult for FAO to issue the call letters for contribution and arrears to the member countries at the beginning of the year, it was recommended that a reminder should be issued by the Secretary of the Commission by early January to all member countries, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, after coordination with the Accounting Division at FAO.

Recommendation: Member countries should provide the Secretariat of the Commission with copies of the bank transfer regarding payments of their contribution and arrear settlement to follow this up with the Accounting Division at FAO.

14) **Workplan for 2008 and 2009:**

The workplan for 2008 and 2009 was reviewed by the Commission (see appendix 10). Following the discussion, the Secretary explained that, although the Commission is covering the cost of the participation of the same members, the cost of organizing the Commission Session is higher than the cost of organizing the Executive Committee, because there is no simultaneous interpretation in the Executive Committee meeting, in addition to the higher cost of reception in the Commission's Session. With regard to budgets allocated to joint border surveys and non-expendable equipment, these are allocated to the member countries when needed. Concerning the budget allocated for expendable equipment, the meeting recommended the following:

Recommendation: The budget line regarding emergency pesticide fund in the workplan should be cancelled. In case of emergencies and based on the previous recommendation, the Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities when these activities are not reflected in the Commission workplan.

Recommendation: The workplan for 2008 – 2009 was endorsed by the member countries after the cancellation of the emergency pesticide fund.

15) **Other business:**

Several items were included by the member countries under other business:

1. **What is the mechanism to support of the EMPRES Programme in the Central Region and what role can the member countries play in this issue:**

The subject was discussed intensively by the meeting and it was then agreed that the Commission should submit funding proposals to the funding organizations e.g. the Islamic Development Bank and the African development Bank in addition to the countries whose resources are sufficient.

With regard to the role of the countries in this aspect, the Secretary of the Commission explained that the striving workplans cost more than the full annual contributions of the member countries. The meeting discussed comprehensively two suggestions, whether to increase the contributions of the member countries to the Trust Fund or to decrease the activities of the Commission. No consensus was reached therefore the two suggestions were rejected by the member countries.

2. **Desert Locust management in Ethiopia and Somalia:**

The Secretariat of the Commission provided the meeting with background information on Desert Locust habitat in Ethiopia and Somalia; additionally he mentioned that both

countries perform as a corridor or a transit for locust invading other neighbouring countries. The resources available in both countries to intervene against Desert Locust during outbreak or invasion are far below the requirements. Therefore, it was agreed by the meeting that Ethiopia being a member in the Commission should benefit from the Commission's support and recommended the following:

Recommendation: Although Somalia is not a member country of the Commission, the meeting recommended to fund Desert Locust operations from the Commission's fund, after obtaining the necessary request and to support this activity from FAO.

Recommendation: Ethiopia should prepare and submit a project proposal to the Commission to support Desert Locust operations in Ethiopia and northern Somalia for further submission to FAO.

3. **Pesticides policy in emergencies**

The FAO representative in the meeting explained the difficulties of making pesticides available to the countries in a short period in case of emergencies. He further mentioned that at least three months is needed to make pesticides available in the country, by that time the locusts migrate to another country. He informed the meeting of the experience of obtaining pesticides from Mauritania to Yemen and from Senegal to Eritrea.

In this respect the meeting discussed the issue of how to make use of pesticides provided in emergencies by FAO through re-exporting it to other countries, in a short time and reduced schedule and procedures. The meeting recommended the following:

Recommendation: In case of emergencies in which FAO provided pesticides to countries, the ownership of these pesticides should remain with FAO in order that the remaining pesticides are re-exported to other countries in case needed. In order to avoid legal implications, countries should investigate this issue and should send the results to the Commission

Recommendation: In case of emergencies and that FAO provided registered pesticides to one country, other countries should not object importing these pesticides even if not registered in their countries. In order to avoid legal implications, countries should investigate this issue and should send the results to the Commission

On the other hand the representative of Saudi Arabia pointed out that there is a problem of obsolete and unwanted pesticides stocks and asked for the Commission's support in this aspect, the meeting discussed the matter and recommended that:

Recommendation: Inventories of obsolete and unwanted pesticides should be prepared in details and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice.

4. Workshop on testing spray equipment, protective clothing and camping equipment

In view of the benefit of previous workshops on testing of spray equipment and in order to provide the member countries with recommendation on sprayers for pesticides application and to minimize FAO procurement procedures, and since recommendations are needed also for protective clothing and camping equipment the following recommendation was made:

Recommendation: Organize two consecutive workshops in Arbeel or Sulimania in Iraq, (alternatively in Egypt) to test spray equipment, protective clothing and camping equipment. Member countries should inform the Commission of local suppliers who wish to participate in the workshop, and the Commission should recruit the necessary consultant.

5. Vulnerability assessment studies of Desert Locust in breeding areas

The FAO representative in the meeting explained the difficulties of getting support from the donor communities if the request is not supported with vulnerability assessment studies of Desert Locust in breeding areas. He further added that some information regarding vulnerability assessment studies is available with World Food Programme for some countries, but these studies should be obtained by the front-line countries during recession as well as outbreaks. He also mentioned FAO difficulties in preparing project proposals for funding these studies because requests are supposed to be submitted by the countries, therefore the following recommendation was forwarded:

Recommendation: The Chairman of the Commission was delegated on behalf of the member countries to address a request to FAO to undertake vulnerability studies.

6. Sub-committee report on the Emergency Fund

The sub-committee presented a report regarding the establishment of an emergency fund mentioning that since it was recommended to authorize the Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission to take the necessary financial action from the Commission Trust Fund in emergencies, and that the emergency pesticides budget is cancelled from the workplan, the following is recommended:

Recommendation: A ceiling of US\$100,000 is being allocated to be used in case of emergencies in full consultation with Chairman of the Commission, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Secretary of the Commission.

7. New technologies in Desert Locust operations

Referring to the above subject, which was presented in the report of the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, specifically regarding the use of DINGO1 equipment in locust aerial operations, the meeting recommended that:

Recommendation: A small workshop should be organized after consultation with DLIS, representative of Saudi Arabia and Secretary of the Commission to study a new navigation technology.

16) Date and place of the next Session of the Commission and its Executive Committee

The delegate from Syria offered to host the 31st Executive Committee Meeting in 2009 and the delegate from Egypt offered to be the alternate.

The delegate of Lebanon offered to host the 27th Session of the Commission to be held in the year 2010 and the delegate of Sudan offered to be the alternate.

The offers were appreciated and unanimously accepted by the participants. The Secretary was given the responsibility to negotiate the dates for the above meetings.

17) Adoption of the report of the 26th Session of the Commission

The participants have unanimously endorsed and approved the report of the 26th Session and the 30th Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission, held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 26 – 30 July 2008.

18) Closure of the Session

The Chairman of the Commission thanked all the participants for their fruitful discussions and hard work and wished everyone a safe journey back. Mr. Pantenius extended his thanks and gratitude to the member countries, observers, drafting committee, translator and the secretariat of the Commission.

Acknowledgements

The Commission's members expressed their gratitude and thanks to the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture for their warm welcome, generosity and excellent arrangements which resulted in the success of the meeting. The participants appreciated the attendance of Engineer Mr. Khalfan Bin Saleh Al Na'abi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture for his support and for opening the Session.

Thanks were due to the Chairman of the Commission for his good management of this Session and his patience in the discussions. Thanks were also extended to the organizing committee that followed up the events of this Session under the supervision of Locust Control Centre in Oman. Appreciations and thanks were extended to Mr. Pantenius, Senior EMPRES Officer, Locust and Migratory Pests Group, FAO, Rome for his effective and improved management of the recent Desert locust outbreaks in the Central Region, and for his productive contribution in the session.

The participants took the opportunity of the end of Mr. Fuad Bahakim assignment of as EMPRES/CR NPO to thank him and acknowledge his efforts during the past eleven years in Desert Locust operations. He was honored during the dinner offered by the Commission, with a symbolic award presented to him in the name of the Central Region Commission.

Special acknowledgement was extended to the Secretary of the Commission for his efforts and valuable documents presented in the Session.

The work of the Drafting Committee, the translator and the Secretariat of the meeting were also warmly appreciated.

Appendix No (1) List of participants
Member Countries

Egypt

Mohamed Mohamed Abd El-Rahman

Director General of Gen. Dept. for Locust Affairs and Agro-aviation
Ministry of Agriculture
Tel: (00202) 37488974 /3 7612183
Mobile: (002) 016 516 8887
Fax: (00202) 37493184
E-mail: **locust_egypt@yahoo.com**

Ethiopia

Fikre Markos

Deputy Coordinator Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
P.O. Box 62347
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: (00251)-11- 647 8596
Fax: (00251)-11-6463686
Mobile: (00251)-9-11-250651/ (00251) 913 544633
E-mail: **fikrem2001@yahoo.com**

Iraq

Hameed AlSheikh Radih

Director General of Plant Protection Commission
Ministry of Agriculture
Baghdad, Iraq
Tel: (00964) 718 8305
Mobile: (00964) 7901436702
E-mail: **Dr_alihameed@yahoo.com**

Kuwait

Adel Hamed Saleh AlWashmi

Head of Plant Protection and Quarantine Division
Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources
P.O. Box 2012, Mushrif 40171
Tel: (00965) 4723756
Mobile: (00965) 9444670
Fax: (00965) 4743619
Email: **adel-sss@hotmail.com**

Lebanon**Imad Mohamed Nahhal**

Head of Plant Protection Department
Ministry of Agriculture – Beirut, Lebanon
Phone: (00961) 1 849639
Mobile: (00961) 3 894679
E-mail: **imadn@terra.net.lb**

Oman**Mamoon Khamis Al – Alawi****Chairman**

Director of Plant Protection Department
Ministry of Agriculture,
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
P.O. Box 467 Postal code 100
Tel: (00968) 24 696287
Mobile: (00968) 99254050
Fax: (00968) 24 692069
Email: **mamoon@maf.gov.om**
mamoonsarai@yahoo.com

Mr. Abdallah Bin Salim Al-Darmaki

Head of Locust Control Centre
Ministry of Agriculture, P.O. Box 467
Postal code 100– Muscat
Sultanate of Oman
Tel.: 00968 24 540648
Fax: 00968 24 540720
Mobile: 00968 92707975
E-mail: **dlumaf@omantel.net.om**

Qatar**Abdulla Safar A. Al-Khanji**

Director for Agriculture Development Department
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture
Doha, Qatar, P.O. Box 1966
Tel: (00974) 4492601 / 4427437
Fax: (00974) 4322002
Mobile: (00974) 5501022
Email: **akhanji@mmaa.gov.qa**

Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Hassan A. Halawani

Director General of the National Centre for Locust Control and Research

Ministry of Agriculture

Jeddah, kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

P.O. Box 24423 Jeddah 21446

Tel: (009662) 6210096

Mobile: (00966) 503522273

Fax: (009662) 6204085

Email: lcctrl@agrwat.gov.sa

Halawani145@yahoo.com

Halawani145@gawab.com

Maatoug Ahmed Munshi

Head of Locust Control Department

National Center for Locust Control and Research

Ministry of Agriculture

Jeddah, kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

P.O. Box 24423 Jeddah 21446

Tel: (009662) 6203000/201

Mobile: (00966) 503713056

Fax: (009662) 6204085

Email: lcctrl@agrwat.gov.sa

Sudan

Khidir Gibril Musa

Director General of Plant Protection Department

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Khartoum Bahari, P.O. Box 14, Sudan

Tel: (00249) 185 339442

Mobile: (00249) 9 12138939

Fax: (00249) 9185 339423

Email: khidirgibrilmusa@yahoo.com

Syria

Abdulhakim Mohammad

Director of Plant Protection Directorate

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

Damascus – Syria

Tel: (00963) 11 222 0787

Mobile: (00963) 944 36 9075

Fax: (00963) 11 44 676231

Email: dpsyria@aloola.sy

wekayahom@yahoo.com

United Arab Emirates
Ali Shambia Shahdad Al Baloushi
First Agriculture Officer
Ministry of Environment and Water
United Arab Emirates
Tel: (00971) 92385332
Mobile: (00971) 501950950
Fax: (00971) 92387606

Yemen
Abdu Farea Al-Romaih
Director of the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: (00967) 1 234500
Mobile: (00967) 777305707
Fax: (00967) 1 250980
Email: dlc-al-romaih@yemen.net.ye

Other Regional Organizations

Desert Locust Control Organization-East Africa (DLCO-EA)

Peter Odiyo
Director of DLCO-EA
P.O. Box 4255
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: (00251) 11 6461477 / 6460284
Fax: (00251) 1 11 6460296
Mobile: (00251) 91 1219221
Email: dlc@ethionet.et

Guests:

Fuad Bahakim
General Department of Plant Protection
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
P.O. Box 26 Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Tel.: (00967)-1-334420/21
Fax: (00967)-1-228064
Mobile: (00967) 777334426
Email: Fuadbahakim@gmail.com

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Christian Pantenius

Senior EMPRES Officer
Locust and Other Migratory Pests
FAO HQ, Rome, Italy
Tel: (0039) 06 5705 3836
Fax: (0039) 06 5705 5271
Mobile: (0039) 3466939173
Email: **Christian.pantenius@fao.org**

Munir Butrous

Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust
in the Central Region
P.O. Box 2223, Cairo
Tel: (00202)-33316018
Fax: (00202)-3761 6804
Mobile: 002 0101 590 590
002 010 669 7824
Email: **Munir.Butrous@fao.org**

Lidia Naguib

Senior Secretary
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Tel: (0020)-2-33316000 ext 2516
Fax: (0020)-2-3761 6804
Email: **lidia.naguib@fao.org**

Mostafa Kamel Abdul Hady

Interpreter
Al Awoor Trading
P.O. Box 463 PC 100
Muscat, Oman.
Mobile: (00968) 92336365
Email: **mkamel-97@hotmail.com**

Appendix No (2) Report of the Chairman of the Commission

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to present you with a report of numerous activities accomplished by the Secretariat of the Commission, with a specific mention of the appreciated efforts fulfilled by the member countries in the Commission of Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region during the last two years especially during the Desert Locust outbreak in Eritrea, Somaliland, Yemen, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

There has also been fruitful cooperation and productive coordination amongst the member countries in exchanging of information and reports, regular visits of experts from the region to support the Desert Locust campaign in Somaliland. It is worth mentioning the great efforts of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) in the aerial control operations in Ethiopia, Kenya, inside Eritrea across the Sudanese border and inside Somaliland across the Ethiopian border. Our appreciations extend to the Government of Sudan for its donation of aircraft fuel and pesticides to Eritrea and its support to DLCO-EA aircrafts in operating inside its borders. Our thanks also extend to the Government of Saudi Arabia for its support to Eritrea by approximately US\$300,000 and to Yemen with more than US\$ 1,600,000.

Needless to mention the exceptional role that the Secretariat played, in spite of its limited number of staff, during this period in its good management, coordination, continual follow up of Desert Locust situation and field operations in the member countries that experienced outbreaks.

The most important are:

1. The participation in the 38th Desert Locust Control committee in Rome.
2. The visit of the Secretariat and the Chairman to Rome to present the report of the 25th Session of CRC to the Assistant Director General (ADG) and the Locust Group.
3. Visit to Sudan to meet the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the autonomous Desert Locust Centre.
4. Visit to Sudan to follow up the recommendation made by the consultant on the Diploma course at the University of Khartoum.
5. The participation, for the first time, in the 25th Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South East Asia (SWAC), in Tehran, Iran.
6. The organization of the 14th EMPRES Liaison Officers Meeting in Muscat, Oman.

Visits carried out during 2007 after the 25th Session of the CRC:

1. Organization of the 29th CRC Executive Committee Meeting.
2. Organization and conduction of the Regional Aerial Training Course in Ethiopia.
3. Organization and conduction of the 3rd and 4th Sub-Regional Training Courses on Desert Locust Survey and Control in Syria and United Arab Emirates respectively.
4. Participation in the Workshop on Biopesticides in Desert Locust control in Senegal.

5. Participation in the 6th EMPRES Liaison Officers Meeting of the Western Region in Morocco.
6. Participation in the field Desert Locust control operations in Hadramout campaign in Yemen.
7. Visit to North of Somaliland to meet with the responsible to encourage them to support the Desert Locust Unit and Desert Locust operations.
8. Visit to Sudan to meet the newly appointed Federal Minister, his Undersecretary and the new Director General of the Plant Protection Department to discuss various difficulties at the Locust Control Centre.

During the period 2006-2008, the Secretariat had a heavy schedule of activities, with a lot of achievements, which will be presented in its individual papers, but here is a brief overview at the accomplished recommendations:

Firstly - Capacity Building:

In this aspect, the Commission has supported various national training programmes in addition to one regional and two sub-regional training courses. A number of scholarships were granted to eleven students for post-graduate studies, for Advance Diploma on Desert Locust Management. The Commission is now opening the opportunity for Master Degree study in GIS (Global Information System) and case studies on locust and environment data.

Secondly - Research:

A number of research studies were completed and others are still under study. Some studies faced some difficulties and this will be dealt with later in its paper.

Thirdly - Joint Survey:

Joint surveys of Desert Locust breeding habitat between countries is one of the regular activity of the Commission particularly joint border surveys between Egypt and Sudan and between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. It is hoped that this activity remains a permanent and regular activity in the national workplans of member countries.

The joint survey of the Egyptian/Libyan border is expected to take place in the near future, now that the official agreement between Egypt and Libya is about to be signed.

Fourthly - various issues:

The Commission has made special achievements during the last period, in particular the issuing of the Arabic translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin, and other publications, of which the most important is the Desert Locust Glossary in three languages (Arabic, English and French) and the regular update of the CRC-EMPRES website, which will be looked at in its working paper.

Finally, I would like to thank all member countries and praise them on their non stop enthusiasm and support to the Commission which has assisted the Secretariat of the Commission achieve and implement the workplan.

I wish you all a successful session.

Appendix No (3) Report of the Secretariat of the Commission

During the period from May 2006 to July 2008, i.e. the period after the 25th CRC Session in Doha, State of Qatar, and after the 29th Executive Committee Meeting, the Commission has taken up several activities summarized as follows:

A) Training:

1. The Commission supported national training courses on Desert Locust survey and control which were conducted during 2006 in each of the following countries: Egypt, during October/November; Eritrea during July; Oman during December; Sudan during May and Yemen in July. During 2007 the following national training courses were support in Djibouti during April; Eritrea in July, October and December; Ethiopia during February/March and in Sudan during November. During 2008, the Commission supported the following national training courses in Egypt during February; in Eritrea during January; in Ethiopia during March; and in Saudi Arabia and Yemen during April.
2. In Yemen, six Desert Locust Officers were trained on blood analysis for pesticides poisoning by an Expert from Mauritania.
3. The Commission has also supported a local training course in Tesseney, Eritrea, for farmers, laborers and scouts during July 2006, July and October 2007.
4. A Regional Aerial Desert Locust training course was conducted in Ethiopia during the period 04-08 June 2007 in coordination with the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa.
5. Organization, preparation and participation in the third sub-regional training courses on the biology, survey and control aspects of Desert Locust in Damascus, Syria, during July 2007 and the fourth in Al-Fujairah, United Arab Emirates during May 2008.
6. In Agadir, Morocco, a workshop was conducted on Sprayers Maintenance during February 2008, in coordination with the Desert Locust Commission for Desert Locust in the Western Region and the Desert Locust Control Centre in Morocco.
7. The National Training course requested by Kuwait did not take place during 2007 for reasons unknown.
8. The Commission, in collaboration with the EMPRES/CR Programme, supported the academic Diploma study in Desert Locust management at the University of Khartoum and the fifth group of students graduated in September 2006. The sixth group of students from Egypt, Iraq, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen graduated in the year 2007. The seventh group from Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Egypt and Yemen were enrolled and are expected to graduate in September 2008.

9. The Secretariat of the Commission followed up the implementation of the recommendations in the consultant's report of the evaluation and assessment of the Diploma course at the University of Khartoum in 2005. As a result of the Secretariat's visit to the University of Khartoum in December 2006 and other visits during 2007 and 2008, 90% of the recommendations relating to training and organization were implemented.
10. During December 2006, the University of Sudan for Sciences and Technology has integrated Desert Locust subjects into the syllabus of final year students in the college of Agriculture. Similarly, in 2007, the Technical and Agriculture colleges in Yemen have agreed to integrate Desert Locust subjects into the final year students but nothing has been implemented to date.
11. In August 2006, the Egyptian Masters Degree student, sponsored by the Commission, has completed his studies in Desert Locust Survey at the University of Khartoum. The Commission has announced for another Master Degree sponsorship for the years 2008 – 2009 and has received sixteen proposals from the member countries from which one will be chosen during this session.
12. Certificates of Merit were issued and forwarded to Desert Locust Diploma graduated students.

B) Research:

The research status can be summarized as follows:

1. The research study under the supervision of the Research Institute in Egypt was completed at the end of 2005. The final report was received on April 13, 2007, which was endorsed by FAO and file was closed.
2. The research study from the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) was concluded in December 2006 and the final report was endorsed by FAO and file was closed.
3. The Commission in coordination with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), during the Bio-pesticides Workshop held in Sally, Senegal, during February 2007, prepared a protocol for conducting trials on *Metarhizium* (Green Muscle) and the Pheromone PhenylAcetoNitrile (PAN) against Desert Locust infestation in the field, supported by IFAD funds. An experiment took place in south Tokar in Sudan and good results were reported.
4. The ICIPE Project proposal, Phase IV, on eco-toxicological of the study Pheromone PAN revised by the Commission in March 2007, resent to ICIPE for amendment and approved in July 2007. First progress report received May 2008.
5. A research proposal on growth regulators and its mixture with biological pesticides and its effects on Desert Locust control was received from Sudan. The

proposal was approved by the Commission in January 2008 and is currently being carried out.

C) Joint survey:

- 1) The fourth joint survey of the Yemen/Saudi borders took place during the period 16 - 21 September 2006 and the fifth Yemen/Saudi borders joint survey took place during the period 10 - 23 November 2007 with the participation of two Desert Locust Offices from Oman.
- 2) In view of the escalated situation of Desert Locust in Sudan and Eritrea, the sixth Egyptian/Sudanese border was not conducted. But in 2008, the Egyptian/Sudanese border joint survey was conducted during the period 30 January - 7 February, with the participation of Mr. Mohamed Lemine, from the Western Region, during the survey on the Egyptian side.

D) Publications:

This can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The continuation of the translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin from English into Arabic in PDF format and its circulation to member countries and concerned parties.
- 2) The first phase of the Glossary (English/Arabic/French) of technical expressions and terms used in the research field and in the control of Desert Locust was concluded according to the workplan. The English version has been prepared and forwarded to the Western Region for translation into French. The Arabic version is under preparation and at its last stage at the moment.
- 3) In August 2006, the Commission supervised the translation of the English EMPRES brochure into Arabic.
- 4) The Commission supervised the translation into Arabic of the Field tests on an Integrated Differential GPS Navigation and Spray Monitoring System for Aerial Desert Locust Control Operations and distributed to all concerned authorities.
- 5) In collaboration with EMPRES the Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas was prepared, produced, printed and distributed to all concerned authorities.
- 6) In collaboration with DLIS, the Commission produced pocket size Laminated cards the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Radio Communications for Desert Locust Mobile Teams and posters for Radio Communications for Desert Locust Field Stations in English and Arabic. These were widely distributed to all concerned staff and institutions.

- 7) The Secretariat of the Commission updates the CRC-EMPRES website on a regular basis, which has been created by the Commission and EMPRES, with information on different activities of member countries, documents and upcoming events.
- 8) The Commission's new logo chosen during the 25th Session was printed in 3 different size stickers and distributed to all member countries.
- 9) The English Green Muscle Handbook produced by Biological Control Products (BCP) was translated into Arabic.

E) Budget:

- 1) The Commission has sent requests to all member countries to pay their contribution arrears and expressed its appreciation to those who pay their contribution in a regular manner.
- 2) Other issues will be dealt with during the implementation of the recommendations.

F) Secretary's participation:

The Secretary of the CRC has participated in the following events:

- 1) Organizing and participating in the 25th Session of the Commission for the Control of Desert Locust in the Central Region in Doha, Qatar, 28 May - 01 June 2006. The report of the 25th CRC Session was presented by the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretariat to the Locust Group at FAO Headquarters and to the Assistant Director General of FAO in Rome, Italy, 04-08 July 2006.
- 2) Meeting the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Sudan accompanied by the Chairman of the Commission during the period 21-25 July 2006 in support of an autonomous Locust Centre in Sudan, particularly financial autonomy, and also during the period 8-13 March 2008, accompanied by the Senior EMPRES Officer of Desert Locust in Rome, Mr. Christian Pantenius. For the same reason a meeting was organized with the Minister of Agriculture of Yemen during the period 21-27 March 2008.
- 3) Participation in the 38th Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee, in Rome, Italy during the period 10-16 September 2006. Also, participating in 25th Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia, in Tehran, Iran, during the period 18-24 November 2006.
- 4) Organization and participation in the 14th, and the last, EMPRES Liaison Officers Meeting, in Muscat, Oman, 08-15 November 2006.
- 5) Meeting the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Khartoum, to discuss the progress in the implementations of recommendations in support of the

- Desert Locust Diploma course and also meeting the Dean of College of Agriculture Studies at the University of Sudan during the period 18-22 December 2006 and 8-13 March 2008.
- 6) Participation in the Bio-pesticides Workshop in Sally, Senegal during the period 11-16 February 2007.
 - 7) In collaboration with the Desert Locust Control Organization in East Africa (DLCO-EA) and the EMPRES Survey expert, a visit was carried out to Somaliland to assess the Desert Locust situation and to train the Desert Locust Officer and DLCO-EA Care-taker on new technology in Desert Locust survey, 04-10 March 2007.
 - 8) Organization and participation in the 29th Executive Committee Meeting of the CRC in Sana'a, Yemen, 17-25 May 2007.
 - 9) Participation in the 6th Liaison Officers Meeting of the EMPRES Western Region in Agadir, Morocco, 25 November - 01 December 2007.
 - 10) In collaboration with DLCO-EA, the Regional Aerial training course was organized and conducted in Lake Zeway, Ethiopia, 30 May - 9 June 2007.
 - 11) Organization and participation in the third Sub-regional Training course on Desert Locust biology, survey and control operations, in Damascus, Syria, 4-18 July 2007.
 - 12) Participation in the Desert Locust campaign in Hadramout, Yemen, 17-30 August 2007.
 - 13) In collaboration with DLIS, a regional workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2 was organized in Cairo, Egypt, 22-24 April 2008.
 - 14) Organization and participation in the 4th Sub-regional Training Course in Al-Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, 24 May - 3 June 2008.

G) Other activities:

- 1) The Commission has recruited a driver, Mr. Osama Mohamed Hassan on 29th January 2007, in place of Mr. Abdalla Nofal, who retired in August 2006.
- 2) The Commission supported the visits of Heads of Locust Control Centres of Morocco, Algeria and Mali to the Desert Locust Control Centre of Egypt during March 2008. Also the visit of the sprayer's expert from Morocco to Egypt during March 2008. The Commission also supported the visit of the expert in blood measurement of Cholinesterase from Mauritania to Yemen during November/December 2007.

- 3) The Commission supported the visits of RAMSES and eLocust2 experts from Algeria and Oman to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the periods 12-24 January and 12 -23 February 2008 respectively.

H) Following up the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and the Executive Committee May 2006:

During the period from May 2006 to July 2008, the Secretariat of the Commission has followed up the different activities of the recommendations of the 25th Session and the 29th Executive Committee Meeting, which can be summarized in the below table. It should be noted that some recommendations have been implemented and raised in the 29th Executive Committee Meeting and hence are not mentioned here.

Recommendations related to the Secretariat of the Commission:

Recommendation		Implementation
1. The contracted aerial spraying companies should install a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) in each of their spray aircraft, as a condition to submitting tenders for Desert Locust aerial control operations.		The recommendation was addressed to the countries with air spraying companies i.e. Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman and other countries that may use air spraying companies. TGS specifications and cost have been provided to those countries. Feed back should be provided by these countries on whether or not they have procured the TGS and if it used by the contracted air spraying companies!
2. The Commission to send the DGPS test report that was conducted in Sudan in 1999, after its translation into Arabic, to Saudi Arabia and other member countries.		The document has been translated into Arabic and distributed to all member countries, also uploaded on the CRC-EMPRES Website.
3. Eritrea should submit to the Commission a detailed report on the expenditure of the Saudi bilateral assistance.		The Commission addressed a letter of this recommendation to the concerned Authorities in Eritrea. But for the Secretariat to address this issue to Eritrea, it needed a letter from the Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control of Saudi Arabia requesting the Commission to obtain this information from the Eritrea. More details from Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.
4. The DLIS Information Officer to study the information transmission system that was presented by Saudi Arabia, and to submit a		The Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control of Saudi Arabia should have completed

<p>technical report on its reliability for the use in transmitting locust information in the Central Region, in coordination with the Locust Centre of Saudi Arabia.</p>		<p>the procedures of BGAN and forwarded to the Information Officer in DLIS in Rome, and consequently he is invited to assess its reliability. More information from Saudi Arabia representative and DLIS Officer.</p>
<p>5. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission to visit Yemen and Sudan very soon to encourage both countries to agree to provide financial autonomy to their Locust Control Centres.</p>		<p>The visit took place in July 2006, The Minister of Agriculture was met, he promised to support, but the efforts were halted at a later stage. A second visit, March 2008 was paid to Sudan with the First Officer of FAO Locust Group for the same purpose, after the appointment of a new Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and a new Director for Plant Protection Department. The issue has now developed in Sudan. A visit was also paid to Yemen for the same matter. The representatives of Sudan and Yemen to shed some light on the follow up.</p>
<p>6. EMPRES/CR member countries that were not members of the Commission's Executive Committee should participate only in the Commission's Sessions. The cost of their travel should be met from EMPRES/CR fund when required.</p>		<p>The Secretariat of the Commission prepared a comprehensive study to estimate the required budget when inviting all member countries, the study was sent to the Legal Division at the FAO HQ to study the legal aspect of the issue. It was found to be difficult to be realized. The matter was raised to the Executive Committee Meeting to address the issue to the Director General of FAO to raise the issue to FAO Council of Ministers to consider the participation of all member countries during the Commission's sessions on the expense of the Commission's trust fund after the amendment of the establishment agreement of the Commission.</p>
<p>7. The Executive Committee report should be sent to all EMPRES/CR member countries and to associate members to inform them of the Executive Committee's deliberations.</p>		<p>An electronic copy of the report of the 29th Executive Committee Meeting was sent to all member countries by email.</p>

<p>8. FAO should be requested to check if it was necessary to amend the Establishment Agreement of the Commission to allow the cost of the participation of all members in Commission Sessions, to be covered by the Commission's Trust Fund, on condition that the member countries should settle their annual contributions regularly.</p>		<p>Refer to recommendation # 6.</p>
<p>9. The possibility of the Central Region member countries making use of excess stocks of pesticides in the Western Region, free of charge, on the condition that shipment cost should be covered, should be investigated. Arrangements for the pesticides and their shipment should be negotiated between the donor country, recipient country, and FAO.</p>		<p>This recommendation was not welcomed, due to many obstacles regarding the approval from the original donor who donated the pesticides, approval from the country in possession of the pesticides and the acceptance of the country that will receive the pesticides. In addition to that active ingredient should be analyzed and cost of transportation is to be solved. Later on 70 tons of pesticides were shipped from Mauritania to Yemen to be used in the Desert Locust campaign in 2007.</p>
<p>10. The donated pesticides should be analyzed for their efficacy at origin before shipping to the recipient country.</p>		<p>This was applied on the pesticides shipped from Mauritania to Yemen.</p>
<p>11. An appreciation message to be prepared by the Commission and sent to Mr. Christian Pantenius, the former EMPRES/CR Coordinator, acknowledging his efforts and excellent performance in the Central Region.</p>		<p>The letter was prepared and sent to Mr. Pantenius, who has expressed his happiness and thanked all member countries for this message.</p>
<p>12. To send a sympathy message to Mr. Ghazi Hawari, wishing him speedy recovery, signed by all members attending this session, and to be hand carried by the representative of Saudi Arabia in this meeting. The Commission Secretary, on behalf of the member countries, to purchase a gift to be sent to Mr. Hawari through the Locust Control Centre in Jeddah.</p>		<p>The letter was prepared and signed by all member countries, delivered to Mr. Hawari by Mr. Halawani. The Secretariat also prepared in Cairo a trophy and was sent in the name of the Commission's Chairman and members to Mr. Hawari who appreciated very much the good gesture.</p>
<p>13. All front line countries should have financial and administrative autonomous Desert Locust Control Centres under the direct supervision of the Minister or Deputy Minister of Agriculture, particularly in</p>		<p>Refer to recommendation # 5.</p>

Sudan and Yemen. The Secretariat should follow up this matter.		
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Recommendations related to Joint border's survey and training:

14. The importance of conducting joint border surveys between neighbouring countries, CRC to provide the needed support.		The Commission is continuously supporting joint border surveys for neighbouring countries e.g. Sudan/Egypt; Yemen/Saudi Arabia; Somaliland/Djibouti.
15. Conduct joint border survey between Egypt and Libya when the administrative procedures permit.		The Secretariat was informed during the EMPRES Western Region Liaison Officers Meeting in December that the agreement between Egypt and Libya was about to be signed and hence joint border surveys can be conducted. The Secretariat of the two Commissions will follow the matter.
16. The importance of completing all contact details for aerial spray companies in all member.		Details of aerial spray companies are being updated regularly but poor response is received from some member countries. Representative of Sudan to shed some light.
17. Specifications of aerial spraying aircraft and contract details should be prepared and sent to member countries		The document was prepared in Arabic and was distributed to all member countries.
18. Mr. Nasser Al-Harthy, Information Officer from Oman should visit Saudi Arabia to assist the Information Office in solving problems encountered in RAMSES and provide training for the duration of two weeks. The National Centre for Locust Research & Control should provide suitable dates for the visit.		Mr. Al-Harthy visited Saudi Arabia in January 2008, followed by the Algerian Expert Mr. Hisham Dridi in February 2008.
19. Emphasis was made on conducting sub-regional training courses in view of their benefit to the member countries of the Central Region		Sub-regional training course is being held annually since 2005. The third sub-regional training course was conducted in Syria in July 2007 and the fourth in United Arab Emirates in May 2008.
20. In view of the high cost of Desert Locust Diploma course, especially after the support of EMPRES programme has ceased it was recommended that the Commission supports the Diploma course for 2007/2008		This matter will be dealt with in more details in the training paper.

only. Thereafter, the Commission should seek financial support from donors. If this support is not secured, the financial support from CRC will be discontinued.		
21. The Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Saudi Arabia to continue his efforts to solve all problems that obstructs the holding of national training courses on Desert Locust survey and control operations.		Problems have been solved and as a result a national training course was conducted in March 2008.

Updated information on eLocust2 and RAMSES: problems encountered during field use in the countries and possible solutions:

22. The available expertise in the Central Region should be used to support the Information Offices and for training.		Mr. Nassor Al-Harthy, from Oman, and Mr. Hisham Dridi, visited Saudi Arabia in January and February to provide training on RAMSES and eLocust2.
23. One unit of eLocust2 in every frontline country should be, as a test, connected directly to the vehicle battery to avoid power supply interruption. In case this is successful, all eLocust2 units should be installed in the same way.		Representatives of front line countries, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen to give information regarding this matter.
24. Incomplete or incorrect data entered into RAMSES should be corrected and DLIS informed either by email or sending the export data file at a later stage.		This is being performed.
25. The necessity to increase direct contact between the Locust Control Centres and the National Meteorology Services in the Central Region.		Representatives of front line countries, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen to give information regarding this matter.
26. Exchange visits should be undertaken and locust bulletins shared between the two Commissions (Central and Western Regions).		Several visits have been exchanged between the Central and Western regions. Mr. Mohamed Lemine visited Egypt and Sudan in January and February 2008, Mr. Said Langnoui and Directors of Desert Locust Centres in Morocco, Mr. Said Ghout and Mr. Mohamed. Lazzar from Algeria and Mr. Fakaba Diakite from Mali visited Egypt in March 2008. Mr. Ahmed El-Hag from Mauritania visited Yemen in November /December 2007. Sprayers?

		<p>maintenance Workshop held in Agadir, Morocco in March 2008. The Director of the Locust Centre in Egypt visited Mauritania and Morocco in July 2007. Head of Locust campaign along the Red Sea in Sudan visited Agadir, Morocco, 16-26 February 2008; Desert Locust Officers from Egypt, Mr. Tamer Abdel Hamid and Mr. Emad Kameel visited Sudan in October/November 2007. Mr. Mohamed Riyad, Desert Locust Officers from Egypt visited Yemen in March 2008.</p>
<p>27. A workshop should be organized for Locust Control Centre Heads and Information Officers of frontline countries on using DLIS alerts and forecasts in Desert Locust management and decision-making.</p>		<p>A workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2 was held in Cairo 22-24 April 2008 with the participation of Locust Control Centre Heads and Information Officers of frontline countries</p>

Recommendations related to research:

<p>28. The Secretariat is requested to redistribute the research documents (priority lists, guidelines and formats) to the Directors and Heads of Desert Locust Centres of all member countries.</p>		<p>The research documents have been distributed but research proposals received were poor. This will be discussed during the presentation of research paper.</p>
<p>29. The Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Saudi Arabia to investigate the possibility of establishing of an International Desert Locust research centre in Saudi Arabia. In case of positive response, a consultant shall be recruited by the Commission to prepare a proposal for establishing the centre.</p>		<p>Information regarding the establishment of an international Desert Locust research centre was provided to the Director of the centre. The representative of Saudi Arabia to shed light on this issue.</p>

Recommendations related to the budget:

<p>30. FAO should address the countries that had not made an annual contribution for three years or more, requesting these countries to clarify their position as members of the Commission, and to settle their arrears.</p>		<p>Pending!!.</p>
<p>31. Establish an emergency fund of at least US\$500,000 to face a locust outbreak or</p>		<p>The study is in progress. The First Officer of Desert Locust in Rome</p>

upsurge. The Secretary of the Commission should prepare the mechanism for managing the fund for discussion at the next Executive Committee Meeting, and for subsequent approval at the next Commission's Session.		shed some light in this matter.
32. FAO to issue the contribution letters for the annual contributions and arrears of member countries in January rather than in July, so that it coincides with the fiscal year of member countries in the Central Region.		The request was presented and FAO could not issue the contribution letters before February.
33. The possibility of Egypt settling its annual contribution and arrears in local currency through the FAO representation in Cairo.		This was not possible as FAO will have to deal with other member countries' contribution in the same manner, and this also required endorsement. When Egypt settled its contribution in US\$, the inquiry was not longer pursued.
34. The Secretariat should address the increase of contributions of certain member countries of the Commission to ensure that the Commission implements its activities in the workplan and the delegation of the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission to visit these countries if the need arises.		The subject was discussed with the Chairman of the Commission and it was suggested to discuss the matter in this session so as member countries take the decision.

Other subjects:

35. An ad hoc meeting to be organized in Khartoum, Sudan in September to prepare the national and regional workplan for front line countries: Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and Yemen.		The meeting was organized in Cairo, 9-11 September 2007 in the presence of all front line countries, DLIS Information Officer and the first officer of Desert Locust in Rome.
36. The meeting recommended the provision of a uniform for the CRC driver similar to the Regional office drivers and at an annual cost of US dollars 200.		Executed.
37. Due to the importance and benefit of the CRC-EMPRES website, it was recommended to keep the website and to update it regularly. The website should be supplemented with a counter to give an idea of the number of website's visitors.		The website is updated regularly and was complemented with a counter.

Appendix No (4) Desert Locust situation from June 2006 to June 2008

Desert Locust situation from June 2006 to June 2008 with particular emphasis on the Central Region.

K. Cressman, FAO/DLIS

Overview

Desert Locusts were more active in the Central Region from 2006 to 2008 than in any other region¹. In late 2006, an outbreak developed in Eritrea, which spread to Sudan in early 2007. Breeding in northern Somalia and in Saudi Arabia, followed by good rains, led to an outbreak in Yemen during the summer of 2007. Despite control efforts, some swarms moved to Oman, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya after the summer and eventually bred in early 2008. A few swarms formed in Oman that moved to Saudi Arabia and UAE in February while other swarms persisted in southern Ethiopia until May. The situation remained generally calm in Egypt. During the reporting period, control operations were carried out by Saudi Arabia (97,556 ha), Sudan (64,444 ha), Eritrea (55,298 ha), Yemen (39,000 ha), Ethiopia (9,432), Oman (9,337 ha), Kenya (1,254 ha), Egypt (258 ha) and Somalia (176 ha).

Central Region

(a) Summer 2006. Although good rains fell in the summer breeding areas in Sudan and western Eritrea, no significant infestations were reported. Small-scale breeding probably occurred in a few places but locust numbers remained low and insignificant. Light to moderate rains fell from July onwards in some of the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea.

(b) Winter 2006 / spring 2007 breeding. Good rains continued to fall in the winter breeding areas during the autumn of 2006. Consequently, ecological conditions were unusually favourable for breeding much earlier than in most years and an outbreak developed on the Eritrean coast by the end of the year. First generation breeding took place between Massawa and the Sudanese border from early November to about mid-February 2007² and caused hoppers and adults to form groups and small bands. Ground control operations commenced in December but were hampered by mined areas and communication difficulties. The outbreak spread to the adjacent coastal areas in Sudan during January where local breeding was in progress, and a few swarms formed in February and laid eggs. A second generation occurred from January to April³ that gave rise to immature swarms in late March. Aerial operations were undertaken from February to April in Sudan by PPD and along both sides of the Sudanese-Eritrean border against late instar bands and immature swarms in April by DLCO-EA. Groups of adults moved

¹ This paper includes data, information and reports received by DLIS up to 24 June 2008.

² First generation – laying: early November to late December, hatching: mid-November to mid-January, fledging: mid-December to early February

³ Second generation – laying: mid-January to early March, hatching: late January to mid-March, fledging: early-March to late April

from the coast to the Nile Valley in northern Sudan and perhaps across the Red Sea to Saudi Arabia. By June, the situation was calm along both sides of the Red Sea.

Elsewhere during the winter, small-scale breeding occurred on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and in northwest Somalia. By the end of March, small swarms were reported on the coast of Saudi Arabia that moved into the spring breeding areas in the interior where they laid eggs that hatched in May and formed hopper bands which were treated by air and ground until June.

A few swarms also formed in northwest Somalia in March and moved to adjacent areas in Djibouti and northeast Ethiopia, and across the Gulf of Aden to the southern coast in Yemen. In April, a few more swarms moved from northwestern Somalia to Djibouti and Ethiopia. Breeding occurred during May on the plateau in northern Somalia and northeastern Ethiopia where hopper bands formed. Several swarms formed in June and move east to northeast Somalia.

(c) Summer 2007. Unusually heavy and widespread rains occurred in the interior of Yemen⁴ where several swarms arrived in March and April and laid eggs. By late May, numerous hopper bands had formed north of Wadi Hadhramaut on the southern edge of the Empty Quarter and an outbreak had developed in this area, which was previously considered as a transit zone rather than as an important breeding area when rains fall. Infestations extended into southern Oman in July where heavy rains (300+ mm) from tropical cyclone Gonu had fallen the previous month (5-9 June) in the north. FAO assisted Yemen in organizing and implementing an emergency aerial survey and control campaign, supplemented by ground teams, in August and September. Control operations were hampered by remote and inaccessible areas as well as by beekeepers. A few swarms invaded southern Oman in mid-August. As vegetation dried out, immature swarms formed in September and moved to the southern coast, where they continued to northern Somalia (8-16 September), Djibouti (16 September), eastern Ethiopia (21-25 September), and northeast Kenya (18 November).

Early summer breeding occurred in northern Sudan and southern Egypt during June that caused small hopper bands to form in the Nile River Valley, and control operations were carried out. Another generation of breeding occurred that gave rise to small hopper bands and swarms in northern Sudan from October to early December. Small-scale breeding continued during the summer in the interior of Sudan and in western Eritrea.

(b) Winter 2007 / spring 2008 breeding. Groups of adults appeared in winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan near Tokar and in Wadi Diib in September, which is earlier than normal. Adults and a few swarms continued to move from the interior to the coast until mid-December. Two generations of breeding (September-November, December-February) occurred but, due to poor rainfall, infestations were confined mainly to the Tokar Delta and, to a lesser extent, in Wadi Diib near the Egyptian border. Small hopper bands formed in the Tokar Delta in November and aerial control operations were undertaken in December and January. By March, no further locusts were seen on the coast.

⁴ mainly on the plateau north of Wadi Hadhramaut but also in adjacent areas of Shabwah, Hadhramaut and Al-Mahra on 19-23 March, 14-15 April, and 25-30 May)

Elsewhere, small-scale breeding occurred in a few places along the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia (from adults that may have originated in the interior of Sudan), Eritrea and Yemen. Local breeding also occurred in the interior of Oman where hopper bands (January) and a few swarms (February) formed. Some of the swarms moved to eastern Yemen and continued to farms on the northern edge of the Empty Quarter in Saudi Arabia, while other swarms moved to northern Oman, UAE and to southeastern Iran. Although ground and aerial control were immediately undertaken in Saudi Arabia, some laying and hatching occurred in irrigated areas that gave rise to small hopper bands which were treated.

Several waves of swarms that originated from summer breeding in northern Somalia and Yemen moved south and laid eggs in the Ogaden in northeastern Ethiopia and central Somalia (October) and in southeastern Ethiopia and northeast Kenya (November). Hatching occurred until mid-December and hopper bands formed until about mid-January 2008. Ground control operations were quickly mounted in Kenya but were hindered in Ethiopia by insecurity. DLCO-EA conducted aerial control in Ethiopia (November-January) and Kenya (December). Immature swarms formed in eastern Ethiopia in early January and moved west and southwest to the highlands and Rift Valley of Oromiya region in southern Ethiopia where they concentrated and persisted during the spring.

Other Regions

The locust situation remained generally calm in the other regions because of poor rainfall and unfavourable breeding conditions in West Africa and in Southwest Asia.

In West Africa, small-scale breeding occurred during the summer of 2006 and 2007 in the Sahel of West Africa and during the autumn in northwest Mauritania. Only limited control operations were required.

In Southwest Asia, several swarms from the Arabian Peninsula invaded southern Iran in late February 2008 and laid eggs. Ground control operations were carried out against hopper bands that formed in March and April.

Forecast until the end of 2008

The forecast for the remainder of this year depends entirely on the distribution of rainfall during the summer in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea. This will affect the scale of the summer breeding and the number of locusts that will be present at the beginning of the winter breeding period. According to seasonal predications, average rains are expected to fall this summer in Sudan and Eritrea, which should allow at least one full generation of breeding. If rains continue beyond September or October, there is a chance that a second generation of breeding, albeit smaller than the first, could occur. In this case, locust numbers would be a bit higher than if there is only one generation of breeding.

Although small-scale breeding probably occurred during June in a few places along the Nile Valley in northern Sudan, the main portion of the breeding is likely to take place during July and August in the interior between Darfur, Sudan and the western lowlands in Eritrea where small populations of hoppers will develop during August and September.

Small-scale fledging will occur from September onwards. A similar situation is expected in the interior of Yemen.

Consequently, low numbers of adults or, at most, moderate numbers are likely to be present at the end of the summer in the interior of Sudan that would move towards the Red Sea coast from October onwards. If early rains fall on the Red Sea coast, then breeding will occur. Similarly, any locusts that are present at the end of the summer in the interior of Yemen will move to the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea coast. At present, this movement is expected to be limited to solitary adults.

The situation is less clear in eastern Ethiopia but if good rains fell in the autumn, then there is a chance of small to moderate scale breeding, depending on the level of resident populations that may already be there from spring breeding. Regular surveys are required to clarify and monitor the situation.

No invasions are expected from the Western or Eastern regions into the Central Region.

Desert Locust monitoring and reporting

The timeliness, quality and frequency of reporting continued to improve in the frontline countries of the Central Region Commission from 2006 to 2008. Several important suggestions for further improvements were discussed at the 25th session of the Commission (June 2006) and at the 29th meeting of the Executive Committee (May 2007). These are summarized below:

	Recommendation	Status
Eritrea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not stop reporting during outbreaks • greater use of phones & eLocust2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awaiting next outbreak! • more eLocust2 are used
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve reporting quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more improvement needed
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write shorter bulletins • use all of the eLocust2 units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bulletins improved • eLocust2 use remains limited
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make surveys during outbreaks • use eLocust2 & forms correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awaiting next outbreak! • reporting has improved
Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make surveys after heavy rains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some improvement but interior remains problematic

There has been a significant increase in the use of eLocust2 in all CRC countries in the past year. It was agreed that the Commission would cover the costs of eLocust2 data transmission, which it is now doing. These are summarized below:

Country	2007	2008
Egypt	1,521	1,817
Eritrea	1,914	2,540
Ethiopia	302	667
Oman	1,355	1,738
Saudi Arabia	773	1,990
Somalia	501	375
Sudan	3,370	3,495
Yemen	5,514	1,819
	15,250	14,441

N.B. costs are in Euros; 2008 is up to 31 May.

eLocust2 costs for all CRC countries during a year of normal locust infestations varies from about US\$20,000 to US\$40,000 (15,000-30,000 Euro), depending on survey and control operations. The overall goal is to equip every survey and control team with eLocust2 and have them use it on a regular basis by 2009. The increased use of eLocust2 has contributed to improving the timeliness and quality of reporting survey and control results.

FAO DLIS continued to provide substantial technical support and training to RAMSES users in CRC countries during the past two years. A regional eLocust2/RAMSES workshop for Locust Unit Heads and Information Officers was organized in Cairo (April 2008) and individual training was conducted in Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. The Egyptian Information Officer is currently being trained at FAO DLIS for 11 months. There will continue to be a need for supporting RAMSES in the future. It has been suggested that a follow-up regional RAMSES workshop be organized in 2009-10.

Area treated during the period June 2006 to June 2008

Ground	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Total
Egypt							45				8	195	10							258
Eritrea	11,418	16,250	16,258	36,420	2,050				2,000											84,396
Ethiopia					296	889	116				75	307	869	1,105	47	355				4,059
Kenya													54							54
Oman								1,500	947	260			350	5,880	400					9,337
Saudi Arabia			9,185	600	13,381	17,222	1,709				15		27		242	2,016	49			44,446
Somalia						176														176
Sudan			80	2,505	1,771	70	157				11,212	17,235	633	290	2,514			44		36,511
Yemen						3,265		18,591	10,237	240	384									32,717
ground total	11,418		25,523	39,525	17,498	21,622	2,027	20,091	13,184	500	11,694	17,737	1,943	7,275	3,203	2,371	93			195,704
Air	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Total
Egypt																				0
Eritrea				1,740	1,670															3,410
Ethiopia						572					1,400	160	3,241							5,373
Kenya												1,200								1,200
Oman																				0
Saudi Arabia			3,900		24,660	17,550	2,000									5,000				53,110
Somalia																				0
Sudan			2,790	9,203	6,240								9,200	500						27,933
Yemen									3,080											3,080
air total			6,690	10,943	32,570	18,122	2,000		3,080			1,400	10,560	3,741		5,000				94,106

Total	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Total
Egypt							45				8	195	10							258
Eritrea	11,418			38,160	3,720				2,000											55,298
Ethiopia					296	1,461	116				75	1,707	1,029	4,346	47	355				9,432
Kenya													1,254							1,254
Oman								1,500	947	260			350	5,880	400					9,337
Saudi Arabia			13,085	600	38,041	34,772	3,709				15		27		242	7,016		49		97,556
Somalia							176													176
Sudan			2,870	11,708	8,011	70	157				11,212	17,235	9,833	790	2,514			44		64,444
Yemen						3,265		18,591	13,317	240	384									35,797
G+A total	11,418		15,955	50,468	50,068	39,744	4,027	20,091	16,264	500	11,694	19,137	12,503	11,016	3,203	7,371	93			273,552
countries in bold: checked and confirmed by country no data from June 06 to November 06																				

Appendix No (5) Training

Training is considered to be the continuing activity, which should follow the technological development in all fields, and in turn it raises the capability of the locust staff, not to mention the difficulty to keep the trained staff for a long time, as they either transfer to other departments, or retire or other similar reasons.

In order to guarantee effective Desert Locust survey, it is important to increase national capacity and raise the capability of the Desert Locust staff by conducting training courses. In this respect the Commission conducted/organized/supported several training courses and workshops during the period after the 25th CRC Session to date, which is summarized as follows:

1. Short term national training:

National, Regional or Sub-regional Trainings: covering subjects directly or indirectly relating to biology, survey and control of Desert Locust.

Djibouti

- a) A national training course was supported in **Djibouti** during the period 29 April to 4 May 2007 on Desert Locust survey and control, attended by 16 trainees, 10 from Djibouti and 6 from Somaliland. The training was conducted by national trainers from Djibouti and Somaliland supported by the EMPRES Survey Expert.

Egypt

- a) A national training courses were organized and conducted in **Ismailia**, Egypt, during the period of 30 October – 6 November 2006, and during the period 16 - 24 February 2008. Trainers were from the Desert Locust Control Centre at the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt. Sixteen Desert Locust Officers from different governorates participated in the training.
- b) The Commission supported the visit of the Information Officer from Oman to conduct a training course on RAMSES to five Desert Locust Officers from the Desert Locust Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt, with the participation of the Desert Locust Information Officer from Ethiopia, during the period 10-14 June 2007.
- c) The Desert Locust Information Officer, Ms. Samira Mohamed Nabil has been attached to the DLIS office in Rome for eleven months to be trained on new technology programs, expected to return in September 2008.

Eritrea

- a) The Food and Agriculture Organization, the Commission and the EMPRES programme supported the National training courses on Desert Locust biology and survey and control operations in Eritrea in each of the following regions: **Barnito**, 03-10 July 2006 for 20 trainees, 16-21 July 2007 for 20 trainees,

Genda, 15-20 October 2007 for 20 trainees and 07 -15 December 2007 for 35 trainees. The training courses were conducted by national trainers.

- b) So as to spread the benefit of the training on Desert Locust survey and control operations, local training courses were conducted for farmers, laborers and drivers in **Tesseney**, during the period 12 -13 July 2006 for 20 trainees, during the period 23-24 July 2007 for other 20 trainees, and in **Sheib** during the period 22-23 October 2007, during 21-22 January and during 24 -25 January 2008 for 20 trainees in each training.

Ethiopia

- a) The Commission supported the two national training courses in **Lake Zeway** during the period 28 February-5 March 2007 and 3-8 March 2008 on Desert Locust survey and control operations. The training was conducted by national trainers for 16 and 17 trainees respectively.
- b) After the appointment of a new Information Officer in Ethiopia, Mr. Nasser Al-Harthy, Information Expert, provided her with training on RAMSES and eLocust2, with the participation of DLCO-EA Care taker and EMPRES Link Person from Somaliland during the period 25-31 May 2008.

Oman

- a) With the support of the Secretariat of the Commission, a national training course was organized in Oman during the period of 16- 23 December 2006 in **Alnagd**, to train Desert Locust Officers on Desert Locust survey and control operations. Twelve Desert Locust Officers from other governorates joined the training, which was conducted by national trainers.

Saudi Arabia

- a) The Commission supported only one national training course on Desert Locust biology and survey and control operations in 2008, in **Jeddah**, Saudi Arabia during the period of 29 March-09 April. The training was conducted by two national officers with the participation of Co-trainer from Egypt for 16 trainees.
- b) Mr. Nassor Al-Harthy, the expert from Oman, was supported to train five Desert Locust Information Officers in Saudi Arabia on RAMSES and eLocust2, during 12-24 January 2008. Also the expert from Algeria, Mr. Hisham Dridi, has followed up with training on RAMSES in Arabic during the period 12-23 February 2008.

Sudan

- a) Two training courses on Desert Locust biology, survey and control operations were conducted in 2006 and 2007 carried out by national trainers in **Wad Madani** during 20-26 May 2006 for 17 trainees and in **Al Damar** during the period 20 -30 November 2007 for 14 trainees.

- b) In the framework of collaboration of the two Commissions, the Commission supported the participation of a Sudanese Desert Locust Officer in the Regional Training course on Desert Locust operations in **Ghadames**, Libya in July 2007, similarly in July 2007a Libyan Locust Officer participated in the sub-regional training course in **Damascus**, Syria.
- c) Mr. Nassor Al-Harthy, the expert from Oman, was supported to train three Desert Locust Information Officers in Sudan on RAMSES, during 16-21 June 2007.

Yemen

- a) In Yemen two national training courses were held in 2006 during the period 15-18 July for twenty trainers and the second in 2008 during 5-12 April for sixteen trainers. Both training courses were conducted by national trainers in addition to the support of the EMPRES/CR NPO as an observer and a Co-trainer from Egypt.
- b) Six Desert Locust Officers were trained in Yemen on the technique of blood measurement of Cholinesterase during the period 28 November - 13 December by the expert from Mauritania Mr. Ahmed Al-Hag.
- c) As a follow up to the Cholinesterase training in Yemen, two of the six trained Yemeni staff recruited to organize a regional training programme on the technique of blood measurement of Cholinesterase in Sana'a, Yemen during the period 14-18 June 2008. The trainees were two Locust Officers from each of Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen were invited.

Kuwait

- a) A national training course was requested by Kuwait during 2007, but due to lack of follow up from the concerned department in Kuwait the training course was not carried out.

Syria and United Arab Emirates

- a) The Commission organized two Sub-regional training courses DL biology, survey and control operations; the third one was conducted in **Damascus**, Syria, 07 -17 July 2007 for 23 trainers from Jordan (4), Syria (10), Iraq (4), Lebanon (4) and Libya (1). The fourth one was held in **Al-Fujairah**, in UAE, during the period 24/05-03/06/2008 for 21 trainers, four from each of Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar and two from Kuwait and seven from UAE. The two training course were conducted by the Secretariat of the Commission with the support of two Egyptian Co-trainers.

Ethiopia

- a) The Commission organized and conducted a Regional Aerial Desert Locust training course in **Lake Zeway**, Ethiopia during the period 04-08 June 2007 in coordination with the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO-EA). Two Desert Locust Officers from each of Egypt, Oman, Sudan,

Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and one from Syria participated in the training in addition to representatives from aerial spray companies from Sudan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Syria. The training was conducted by trainers from DLCO-EA with the support of the Secretary of the Commission as a lecturer and an information resource.

Morocco

- a) CRC, in coordination with the Desert Locust Commission for Desert Locust in the Western Region and the Desert Locust Control Centre in Morocco; conducted a workshop in Agadir, Morocco on Sprayers Maintenance during the period 03-16 February 2008. Two participants from each of Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and one participant from Saudi Arabia were invited. Trainers were national from Morocco.

Egypt

- a) CRC, in coordination with the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) and the Locust Control Centre in Egypt held a workshop on RAMSES and eLocust2 in Cairo during the period 22-24 April 2008 with the participation of Locust Control Centre Heads and Information Officers of frontline countries i.e. Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Also the Information Officer in DLCO-EA and Information Expert in the Western Region participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop is to conduct informal discussions on the use and improvement of the RAMSES, eLocust2 and forecasts and to improve the relationship between the Info Officers and the Head of the Locust Centres.

2. Mid term training:

- a) Six students (1 from each of Sudan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and 3 from Egypt) have obtained their Diploma degree from the University of Khartoum in September 2006 and six others (1 from each of Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq and two from Sudan) in September 2007. Only five students (one from each of Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Sudan) are currently studying their Diploma degree for the academic year 2007/2008, as the Ethiopian student could not take part. These five students are expected to graduate in September 2008.
- b) The Secretariat of the Commission followed up the implementation of the recommendations in the consultant from the United Kingdom report of the evaluation and assessment of the Diploma degree at the University of Khartoum in 2005. As an outcome of the Secretary of the Commission visits to the University of Khartoum, in December 2006, 2007 and in March 2008, 90% of the recommendations relating to training and organization were implemented. A small lecture hall was allocated to the Diploma degree students, with a place for computers and a library for Desert Locust reference books. All the equipment used in the Diploma study is now being stored in the coordinator's room. The University of Khartoum has also approved the recruitment of four new lecturers for different subjects of the diploma course, after re-arranging the Diploma course subjects as per the report of the consultant.

Ten Diploma certificates have been issued and more are in the process of being produced. It is expected that before this session takes place, a booklet on the

Diploma course would have been produced by the University of Khartoum, containing the accomplishments, difficulties and the university's view of the future of the diploma course, especially when the 29th Executive Committee Meeting, held in Sana'a, Yemen in 2007, has recommended that the Commission should discontinue its financial support to the Diploma degree in the absence of other financial support.

- c) It is to be noted that since 2001, 38 Diploma course students have graduated and acquired their Diploma Degree, with five more students to graduate in September 2008, distributed as the follows:

Egypt (7), Ethiopia (5), Eritrea (1), Jordan (1), Iraq (1), Oman (1), Sudan (11), Saudi Arabia (2), Syria (1), India (1), Libya (1) and Yemen (6).

- d) In view of the presentation given by the Secretary of the Commission to the final year students at the University of Sudan for Sciences and Technology in December 2006, the University has integrated Desert Locust subjects into the syllabus of final year students in the College of Agriculture. The Commission has also supported the university with Desert Locust publications and equipment.

3. Long term training:

1. The student, Mr. Essam Ibrahim Mahmoud, from Egypt has obtained his Master Degree in Desert Locust Survey from the University of Khartoum in Sudan in August 2006, sponsored by the Commission, under the title:

A method for detection of Desert Locust, Schistocerca gregaria (Forsk.) and estimation of infested areas

The study report is available on the *crc-empres* webpage.

2. The Commission has announced for the new Master Degree for 2008-2009 to all member countries, such that the study can be accomplished in any university in the region or beyond, so as to benefit from the expertise of other universities in the region or worldwide. Sixteen proposals were received (4 from Yemen, 4 from Sudan, 2 from Ethiopia, 3 from Egypt, 2 from Syria and 1 from Oman).

The information contained in the proposals about the competitors can be summarized as follows:

- Mohamed Kayed Hareth Nasser from **Yemen** and Abdallah Salem Al-Darmaki from **Oman**:
 - Missing required information, in spite of repeated requests,
 - Neither studied the Desert Locust Diploma, hence could not be considered as per the recommendation of the 24th CRC Session, in which priority is given to those who have acquired the Diploma degree.

- Fawaz Ghaleb Hussein Al Salhi from Yemen, Ibrahim Gomaa Mohamed from Sudan and Nedal Assad (incomplete information) and Fadi Abdel Hamid from Syria:
 - None studied the Desert Locust Diploma, hence could not be considered as per the recommendation of the 24th CRC Session, in which priority is given to those who have acquired the Diploma degree.
- Mahgoub Moussa Beshara from **Sudan**:
 - Sponsored by the Commission to undertake a research study since January 2008 for two years, at the end of which he will obtain his Masters degree.

The age of the competitors was a condition for the Masters Degree study so as it does not exceed 35 years old and in this case the age of six competitors out of nine were exceeding 35 years:

The Egyptian competitors aged are below 35. The two Yemeni competitors (**Ahmed Osman Abou Bakr** and **Said Al-Maamary**) and one Ethiopian (**Dregi Mokenen**) aged are more than 40 years. One Ethiopian and two Sudanese aged are below 40 but above 35.

As considered by the Commission the subject of the study is focusing on the following:

- Use of Geographical Information System (GIS) to analyze ecological and locust;
- Case study on locust outbreak.

As the study will be concentrated on Desert Locust information and its relationship to environmental and climatic conditions, therefore the researcher needs to have enough background knowledge on Desert Locust Information and forecast. Out of the selected competitors, the following can be concluded:

From **Sudan**:

- a. **Montaser Al Hady Abdelsalam Hassan** works in the Desert Locust survey and control operations and collects Desert Locust information from the Information Office.
- b. **Hussein Osman Abou Bakr** works as an Information Officer in the Desert Locust Information Centre since 2003.

From **Ethiopia**:

1. **Belayna Nigousi** currently works in the Agriculture Department for the Development of Villages, which is considered to be slightly far from the Department of Plant Protection Department and to certainly do not relate to Desert Locust.

From **Egypt**:

1. **Mohamed Mostafa Mohamed** works in the Desert Locust survey and control operations.
2. **Mohamed Abdel Fatah Ali** works in the Desert Locust survey and control operations.
3. **Osama Rabie Mahmoud** works in the Desert Locust survey and control operations in addition to his high knowledge of Desert Locust. He was the first of his group in the Desert Locust Diploma course.

The Secretariat of the Commission considers the exclusion of those competitors who do not work in the Desert Locust management and in the GIS, used for information analysis.

In view of the above, a committee made up of the Secretariat of the Commission, EMPRES/CR and DLIS have selected **Hussein Osman Abou Bakr** from Sudan and **Osama Rabie Mahmoud** from Egypt, to benefit from the Commission's M. Sc. sponsorship, since they both fulfilled the Commission's criteria. It is to be noted that the study will be carried at a university in the United Kingdom for one year only. The matter is open for discussion in this session for a final decision.

Points of discussion:

1. Is it of benefit for the national trainers to participate in training courses in other member countries?
2. How can the member countries support the Desert Locust Diploma degree at the University of Khartoum? And to ensure its continuity in the absence of financial support from the EMPRES/CR programme or otherwise?

Candidates nominated for the Commission Master of Science study, 2008-2009

no.	Nationality	Name.	Age in 2008	University	Certificate Grade	English language	Experience	Service Agreement	Remarks
1	Yemeni	Mohamed Kaied Hareth Nasr	40 yrs	Cairo	1992 Good Entomology				
2	Yemeni	Ahmed Othman Ahmed Abubaker	42 yrs	Sana'a	1990 Good Agric. Production	Very good	15 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2004, several DL courses
3	Yemeni	Saeed Abdo Mohammed Al Ma'amary	41 yrs	Russia	1992 Agronomy on Plant Protection	Very good English certificate from British council	16 yrs PPD 4 yrs Locust Centre (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2004, several DL courses
4	Yemeni	Fawaz Ghaleb Hussain Al Salehi	31 yrs	Sana'a	1999 Good General Plant Protection	Good	6 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	
5	Sudanese	Ibrahim Guma Mohammed Adam	32 yrs	Sinnar	2002 Excellent honors 1 st Crop Protection	Very Good English Diploma 2003	3 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL S&C training course 2006
6	Sudanese	Mahgoub Mousa Mohamed Boshara	36 yrs	Sudan	1998 1 st class Plant Protection	English certificate from British council	4 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2006,
7	Sudanese	Montasir Elhady Abdel Salam Hassan	36 yrs	Sudan	1999 2nd class div. 1 Plant Protection	Very Good English Diploma	5 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2004, several DL courses
8	Sudanese	Hussein Osman Abaker Osman	37 yrs	Sudan	1997 Honour 2nd class Plant Protection	Very Good U. of K	8 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2007, several DL courses

no.	Nationality	Name.	Age in 2008	University	Certificate Grade	English language	Experience	Service Agreement	Remarks
9	Ethiopian	Dereje Mokonnen	43 yrs	Alemaya	2000 Good Extension	Excellent	Since 1990 in plant protection (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2004, Diploma in plant science & technology
10	Ethiopian	Belayneh Nigussie	37 yrs	Alemaya	1989 Good Plant Science	Very Good	Since 1990 in plant protection (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2002,
11	Egyptian	Mohamed Moustafa Mohamed	25 yrs	Assiut	2003 Very Good Plant Disease	Very Good	4 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2006, DL S&C training course
12	Egyptian	Mohamed Abdel Fatah Eid Ali	24 yrs	Assiut	2002 Very Good Plant Protection	Very Good	4 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2006, L S&C training course
13	Egyptian	Osama Rabie Mahmoud	25 yrs	Sohag	2003 Very good	Very Good with honour	4 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2006, DL S&C training course
14	Syrian	Nidal Assaed	31 yrs	Damascus	Damascus	No English Language Certificate	5 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	Certificates in SQL, programming and data base designing
15	Syrian	Fadi Abd Alhamid	31 yrs	Damascus	2003 Good Plant Protection	Very good	IPM	5 yrs (attached)	2 DL training courses 2005,2007
16	Omani	Abdullah Salim Khalfan Al Darmaki	35 yrs	Sultan Qaboos	1994 Good Soils & Water		Last 8 years		Training in several subjects related to DL i.e. Risk Assessment, Aerial Survey & Control, Aerial & Ground application, ToT 2000, DGPS Demo & few other agricultural training.

Appendix No (6) Research

Background on the research program in the Central Region:

The Commission continues to encourage member countries in the Central Region to submit research proposals in the field of Desert Locust according to priority list, guidelines and formats. These documents are available on the Commission's website (www.crc-empres.org). As it is known, the Commission solely covers the funds of the research study with an amount of US\$ 15,000 from its trust fund after the termination of the EMPRES programme in December 2006.

Status of research studies up to May 2006:

As mention in the 29th Executive Committee Meeting held in Sana'a, Yemen, in 2007, the status of the research proposal as follows:

1. At the end of 2005 the research study under the supervision of the Research Institute in Egypt was completed, under the title

Effect of Green Muscle on Locust and Grasshoppers.

The final report was received and endorsed by FAO. The Commission followed up the refund of the funding which was not spent and the file was closed. This research study will be of the benefit to the registration of the bio-pesticide Green Muscle in Egypt.

2. In December 2006, the research study from the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) under the title:

Filed Evaluation of Green Muscle (*Metarhizium anisopliae*) against Grasshoppers in Ethiopia

was concluded and the final report was endorsed by FAO and file was closed. The final financial settlement was completed. Similar to Egypt, this research study will facilitate the registration of the bio-pesticide Green Muscle in Ethiopia.

3. The Commission, in coordination with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, ICIPE, during the Bio-pesticides Workshop held in Sally, Senegal, during February 2007, prepared a protocol for conducting trials on *Metharhizium* (Green Muscle) and the Pheromone PhenylAcetoNitrile (PAN) against Desert Locust infestation in the field, supported by IFAD funds. An experiment took place in south Tokar Delta along the Red Sea coast of Sudan in an area of 600 ha infested with second generation hopper bands during March 2007, in the presence of observers from Niger, Mauritania, Egypt and Sudan. A comprehensive report with recommendations was received by the Commission and endorsed by FAO. The report is available upon request.

4. In January FAO has approved the research proposal presented from Sudan, under the supervision of the University of Khartoum, in coordination with ICIPE field station at Port Sudan under the title:

The use of the IGR Teflubbensuron (Nomolt), as a control agent against the Desert Locust, Schistocerca gregaria (Forsk.) alone and combined with Metarhizium anisopliae (Metsch.) and pheromones; Phenyl Aceto Nitrile (PAN) and Nymph Pheromone Blend (NPB).

The field testing has been carried out in January and the first progress report is received in June 2008. The researcher is expected to acquire his Masters Degree (M. Sc.) from this research.

5. The ICIPE Project proposal for Phase IV to study the eco-toxicological of the Pheromone PAN was approved by the Commission and the Letter of Agreement with FAO was signed by both parties and hence the study commenced in July 2007. It is worth mentioning here that this project was part of the EMPRES Programme and that the cost of this Phase, which is the last one, is US\$50,000. The first progress report received in May 2008. The study is still in progress.
6. The Commission with full coordination with AGP and IFAD project supported the consultancy mission of the DLCO-EA Expert Mr. Osman Abdallah to organize a training programme in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen on the new formulation of Green Muscle. The objective of the consultancy was to train locust officers on how to prepare a spray formulation of Green Muscle, based on a TC (powder) formulation; how to handle both formulations (TC and the liquid formulation), with respect to human safety, storage, disposal and to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the activity mentioned in English and Arabic
7. Although great efforts were made by the Secretary of the Commission to sensitize the Directors of Desert Locust Centres in the Central Region to encourage researcher at universities and research centres to present research proposals as per the research priority list, guidelines and formats, the Commission received only one research proposal, submitted from Sudan. This research proposal was approved as mentioned in no. 4 above.
8. As per the recommendation of the 29th Executive Committee Meeting in Yemen in 2007, the Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Saudi Arabia to investigate the possibility of establishing of an International Desert Locust research centre in Saudi Arabia. In case of positive response, a consultant was to be recruited by the Commission to prepare a proposal for establishing the centre. Information regarding the establishment of an International Desert Locust research centre and the subjects and research proposals that need to be considered, was provided to the Director of the centre.

9. With regard to the CRC award of US\$ 5,000 for the outstanding research in the field of Desert Locust, the Commission is still making it available for competition.

Conclusion

1. In spite of sending the research priority list, guidelines and formats to member countries and the continued encouragement by the Secretariat of the Commission, only one research proposal was submitted. How can we encourage universities and research institutes to submit to the Commission research proposals that fulfill the required criteria for scientific research? What would be the recommendation to ensure this?
2. With regards to the establishment of an International Desert Locust research centre in the region, and the recommendation stating that the Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Saudi Arabia to investigate the possibility of establishing an International Desert Locust research centre in Saudi Arabia. No positive outcome received to this matter, the subject is open for discussion and a recommendation to be made.

Appendix No (7) Publications

The Commission activities on publications since the last 25th Session of the Commission, the 28th Executive Committee Meeting in 2006 and until the 26th Session can be summarized in the following:

1. Translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin:

As it has been the practice for several years, the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome issues a monthly bulletin on the Desert Locust situation in English. In view of the vital information in the bulletin on Desert Locust situation, the countries planned activities, forecast and warnings; the Commission translates the bulletin into Arabic, transforms it into PDF format and circulates it to all concerned authorities worldwide in order to benefit from the information contained. For that reason, the Commission has continued its contract with the same specialized translator in Desert Locust to perform this task.

2. Publication of a Glossary of Technical Expressions and Terms used in the Research

Field and in the Control of Desert Locust in English / Arabic/French

The first phase of preparing and compiling a Glossary of more than 3,000 technical expressions and terms used in the research field and in the control of Desert Locust in (English Arabic/French) was concluded as per the workplan. The compiled English version was sent to the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region in order to prepare the French version of the glossary and to add any Arabic terms used in the Western Region. The Commission has contracted an expert to prepare the glossary in Arabic who has so far prepared part 1 and 2 which is from letters A to O which leaves part 3 and the last, letters from P to Z. Discussions are going with FAO HQ in order to finalize the final version of the glossary in the three languages and to make it available electronically.

3. Production of A Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas:

In collaboration with EMPRES A Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas was prepared and put into its final version after the Sudanese vegetation expert has revised it in October 2006. The final version was approved and produced in January 2008, which was distributed on all concerned authorities for the benefit of Desert Locust field staff.

4. Other publications of the Commissions:

The Commission supervised, in August 2006, the translation into Arabic the EMPRES brochure that was produced in English by FAO. The Commission also supervised the translation into Arabic of the SOP of Green Muscle in November 2007.

Upon the request of member countries, the Secretariat of the Commission has translated the Desert Locust Technical Series, the Field Tests on an Integrated Differential GPS Navigation and Spray Monitoring System for Aerial Desert Locust Control Operations No. 29, produced by FAO in 1999 from English into Arabic. The report was distributed to all concerned authorities and was put on the CRC-EMPRES website.

The Secretariat of the Commission has produced different size stickers of the new Commission's logo, which was distributed to all member countries. This was according to the recommendation made in the Commission's 25th Session in Doha, Qatar in 2006.

The Commission has also produced the Desert Locust warning flyer in Arabic and was distributed to all member countries, with the addition of the name, address and contact numbers of the concerned department of Desert Locust in every country. It is good to note that DLIS has produced this flyer in English. This flyer has also been produced in Amharic and Somali.

5. The production of SOP:

In collaboration with EMPRES/CR and DLIS, the Commission produced pocket size Laminated cards the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Radio Communications for Desert Locust Mobile Teams and Posters for Radio Communications for Desert Locust Field Stations in English and Arabic, in order to improve the communication method for transferring data using high frequency radios. These were widely distributed to all concerned staff and institutions.

Upon the recommendation of the 29th Executive Committee Meeting in Yemen in 2007, the Secretariat of the Commission has identified the member countries need of the different publications and reproduced extra numbers of SOPs in English and Arabic, as per the request of the member countries and delivered to them. SOP Survey version2 is prepared in English by DLIS and in Arabic by the Commission.

6. The CRC-EMPRES Website

The EMPRES Programme and the Commission created and placed the CRC/EMPRES website on the world wild web in July 2006, which contains all information on Desert Locust, Central region member countries and other related Desert Locust organizations. The address of the website is www.crc-empres.org.

The website is updated regularly with the new information, documentations and the upcoming events and has been upgraded with visitors counter included.

Points for discussion:

1. The Secretariat of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region to brief the meeting on the progress of the translation of the Glossary into French.
2. How to preserve all publications in a form so that all concerned parties can benefit from it without its loss?
3. Is there a need for an Arabic version of the Desert Locust Index Cards and the A Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas for the use by Desert Locust staff?
4. Are there any suggestions regarding the publications and documents produced by the Commission?

Appendix No (8) Accounts for 2006 and 2007

Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2006 (final) in US\$

Budget line	Activities	Budget Year 2006	Final Expenditure 2006
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff, to December 2008	38,233	39,131
5013	Consultants	25,000	1,000
5014	Contracts	56,000	7,544
5020	Locally contracted Labour	1,000	
5021	Travel	43,000	72,370
5023	Training	170,000	85,075
5024	Expendable Procurement	113,000	14,867
5025	Non-expendable Procurement	19,000	4,656
5027	Technical Support Services		3,008
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	11,790
5040	General Overhead Expenses		410
5050	Chargeback		3,056
5029	Support Cost	52,520	30,016
Total		537,753	272,923

Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2007 (final) in US\$

Budget line	Activities	Budget Year 2007	Final Expenditure 2007
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	68,233	48,088
5013	Consultants	25,000	3,000
5014	Contracts	56,000	19,237
5020	Over Time	1,000	
5021	Travel	30,000	50,929
5023	Training	170,000	151,713
5024	Expendable Procurement	113,000	41,621
5025	Non-expendable Procurement	7,000	21,463
5027	Technical Support Services		3,008
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	4,612
5040	General Overhead Expenses		622
5050	Chargeback		873
5029	Support Cost	54,130	41,302
Total		544,363	386,468

Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2008 in US\$

Budget line	Activities	Budget Year 2008	Expenditure up to 30 June 2008
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	73,827	53,928
5013	Consultants	5,000	18,090
5014	Contracts	56,000	18,078
5020	Over Time	1,000	
5021	Travel	48,000	88,297
5023	Training	215,000	90,630
5024	Expendable Procurement	103,000	
5025	Non-expendable Procurement	20,000	1.178
5027	Technical Support Services		
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	785
5040	General Overhead Expenses		1,733
5050	Chargeback		659
5029	Support Cost	60,597	35,445
Total		602,424	308,823

Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

FINAL EXPENDITURE of THE COMMISSION			
ACCOUNT MTF/INT/007/MUL FOR THE YEAR 2006 (Final)			
Account	Description	Cost US \$	Total Cost US \$
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		39,131
	Lidia Naguib, G-5, administrative assistant	28,445	
	Driver G-2 Nofal Abdalla Ahmed Abdal	10,686	
5013	Consultants		1,000
	National cons. Prof. Asim Abdel Rahman to work with Dobson from NRI to revise diploma course Univ.Khartoum in DL-07.2005-reflected in exp. 2006	1,000	
5014	Contracts		7,544
	Clearance POs previous years	-3,027	
	PO 177559- In sight graphics-difference on printing SOPs	5	
	Printing of booklet Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Radio Communication for mobile Teams (Arabic/English)-PO 185950	313	
	Printing of Poster Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Radio Communication for mobile Teams (Arabic/English)-PO 185953	1,041	
	Printing sticker new CRC logo-PO 189050	332	
	LoA Ministry of Agric.& Land Reclamation Egypt- for organization National training course on DL Survey/control, Ismailia, Egypt, 28/10-2/11/06-PO 191327	4,980	
	Final payment-unmatched-LoA Univ. Khartoum ref PR 26076/PO 141443-approval Nelson 7/3/06	3,900	
5021	Travel		72,370
	RAMSES NDVI Workshop, Cairo,19-23.3.06: co-financed CRC+SWI/817+967/USA		
	Fahed Bin Mohamed Bin Abdin (EGY)	796	
	Al-Zidjali Khalid Mansour (EGY)	796	
	Sharaf ElDin Hassan Dawoud (EGY)	796	
	Mamoon Al-Alawi (Oman)	1,575	
	Al Harrasi Khalid (Oman)	1,575	
	Khan Adnan (SAU)	1,714	
	Gholam Abdullatif (SAU)	1,714	
	Cressman	411	

Sub-Regional Training Course, Doha, Qatar, 9-19.4.06:	
Abd-Alhliah Mohammed (Iraq)	1,400
Essam Qasim Fadhil (Iraq)	3,841
Hatam Mohammad or Abdullah waheed Hassan(Iraq)	3,841
Zaid Khalil Mohammed (Iraq)	3,841
Abdul Nabi Ahmed (Bahrain)	2,062
Mohammed Jaffer Alaaraj (Bahrain)	2,062
Ahmed Youssef Boushahri (Kuwait)-Cancelled	-
Abdallah Abdel Salam (Kuwait)	2,219
Abdel Hamid Ali Hussein Heider (Kuwait)	2,219
Fahd Rashed Al Azmi (Kuwait)	2,219
Saiid Mesbah Maged (UAE)	2,398
Eissa Bou Samra (UAE)	2,398
Mamoon Al-Alawi (Oman)	2,440
Abdel Moneim Khidir (Sudan)	2,367
Harith Abdullah Ahmed (EAU)	2,412
Rabie Khalil (Sudan)	461
FAO/WMO (World Meteorological Organization) Meeting, Muscat, Oman, 8-12.4.06 (co-financed 007/001/006/MUL)	
Mohamed Mohamed Abdel Rahman (EGY)	1,781
Abdu Farea Al-Romaih (Yemen)	1,326
Ato Lema Gebeyehu (Ethiopia)	605
Rabie Abdel Hamid Khalil (Sudan)	1,787
Matoug Ahmad S.Munshi (SAU)	2,577
Yohannes Beyene Kidane (ERI)-Cancelled	-
C.Rosi,G-5 (paid 007/Mul-001/RAS/2CP04)	2,497
Maehdi Ghaemian (Iran)-cancelled	-
25th Session CRC, Doha, Qatar, 28.5-1.6.06:	
Halawani Mohamed (SAU)	1,115
Al Romaih Abdu Farea (YEM)	990
Sharaf Eldin Daoud (SUD)	1,227
Rahman Mohamed Abdel (EGY)	949
Al Hossani Khaled (EAU)	1,091
Kidane Ghebre Kidan (ERI)	1,127
Mamoon Al-Alawi (Oman)	1,330
Abdalla Safar Khanji-Chaiman CRC visit Sudan to meet Minister Agric./Finance to discuss financial autonomy of the Locust control centre-ref recom.25th CRC Session, Doha, 28.5-1.6.06	2,977
Abdallah Safar Khanji-Chairman CRC visit Hqs for discussions/submission 25th CRC report to ADG	1,045
Mohamed Omer (Sudan)	236
Rahman F.(Sudan)	356
Fellow in Sudan Ibrahim Essam(EGY)-Back home-AHQ119218	285
Fellow in Sudan-Al Sayeh Abdul (SAU)-return home 16/9/07-AHQ119671	601
Fellow in Sudan Megally Mohamed (YEM)-back home 16/9/07-AHQ119668	500
14th ELO Meeting, Muscat, Oman, 11-14.11.06:	
Adnan Khan (SAU)	2,045

5023	Training		85,075
	Sub-Regional training course, Qatar, 8-18.4.06 (hand carried by M. Butrous)-FDA-RNE	5,000	
	Fellow for 12 months study DL Control, Univ. Khartoum, Year 2005-2006:		
	Mohamed Ali Elhadi (SUD)-fees-PO 180426	5,000	
	Megally Mohamed (Yemen)-fees-PO 180426	5,000	
	Al Sayeh Abdul (SAU)-fees-PO180426	5,000	
	Mohamed Ali Elhadi (SUD)- PO 180455	12,632	
	Megally Mohamed (Yemen)- Po 180456	12,632	
	Al Sayeh Abdul (SAU)-PO 180454	12,632	
	Fellow for 24 months study DL Control, Univ. Khartoum, Year 2004-2006:		
	Ibrahim Essam (EGY) - PO 180877	11,278	
	Ibrahim Essam (EGY)- PO 155741-closure	-1,712	
	Megally Mohamed-PO 184720-185360	162	
	Mohamed Ali Elhadi (SUD)- PO 186313	132	
	Univ Khartoum -fees -PO 188824	5,000	
	SYR: Mohamed Hajjar-National training course DL, 2005-Claim	882	
	Yemen: Saeed Abdullah Baangood	5,116	
	In-service training for RAMSES NDVI Workshop, Cairo, Egypt, 19-23.3.06 -FDA-RNE	2,491	
	National training course on Desert Locust survey/control operations for 12 Desert Locust officers ,16-23.12.06, in Oman-FBA-RNE hand carried by M. Butrous	3,830	
5024	Expendable Procurement		14,867
	SAU: 5 SONY Laptops	14,867	
5025	Nonexpendable Procurement		4,656
	PC Fly book for DL Centre Muscat (Oman)-Mamoon Al-Alawi -EVERCOM SPA-Win XP Home ed. En., Arabic keyboard,WAN,80GB Hard Disk, Extra battery, mouse, DVD Burner,512MB RAM, Display 8.9"Wide view 16.9,carrying case-PO 182069-financed by CRC and RP RA2CP04	1,170	
	PC Fly book for M. Butrous-FB Computers-Win XP Home ed. in En., Arabic keyboard,WLAN,80GB HD, Extra battery, Mouse DVD burner-PO 183528	2,155	
	Syria: HP Compaq business Notebook	1,331	
5027	Technical Support Services		3,008
	Secondment report Butrous 10.4-14.4.06	3,008	
5028	General Operating Expenses		11,790

	Settlement advance done by Butrous in Doha, Qatar, for participants 25th CRC Session, May-June 06, for organization	11,000	
	JOR-SARF: In-service training/material map production/training staff	452	
	Cairo: Vodaphone M. Butrous	267	
	AFSI Franking	21	
	Insurance POs	51	
5040	General Overhead Expenses		410
	Pouch services	410	
5050	Chargeback		3,056
	GIC translation in Arabic letter invitation 25th CRC Session and the Ex Com., Doha, Qatar, 28.5-1.6.06	750	
	Translation letter congratulation Minister Qatar for meeting-06.2006	200	
	Printing/distribution to countries 90 Arabic and 200 En. Copies report AGP-704 CRC Com. 25th session and 28th Session Ex. Com. CRC	1,100	
	Printing/distribution to countries 50 Arabic Copies report AGP-704 CRC Com. 25th session and 28th Session Ex. Com. CRC	306	
	Arabic translation project proposal for assistance to CR by the Government of Qatar-translation 286 words for letter and revision 1,922 words of project proposal-DPR-213546	700	
5029	Support Costs		30,016
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	976	
	(13% on all other accounts)	29,040	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2006			272,923

EXPENDITURE of THE COMMISSION			
ACCOUNT MTF/INT/007/MUL FOR THE YEAR 2007 (Final)			
Account	Description	Cost US \$	Total Cost US \$
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		48,088
	Lidia Naguib, G-5, administrative assistant	30,846	
	Driver G-2 Hassan Osama Mohamed,	17,242	
5013	Consultants		3,000
	Harb Mahmoud-Translation DGPS Test Report and EMPRES Brochure, English/Arabic-PO 188586	1,000	
	Nat cons. Nagat El Tayeb (SUD) to revise vegetation index card-1/10/06-21/10/06-charged as expenditure 2007	2,000	
5014	Contracts		19,237
	Ministry of Agric.& Land Reclamation,Egypt-PPRI,Dokki- Post-factum and final payment LoA 2003-	3,000	
	Novacom contract for transmission data with eLocust 2 Central Region - PO 202788	14,409	
	Satellite transmission Phone Thuraya contract with Vizada 2007-2008-PO 207406	7,200	
	RNEXD refund April 07	-5,372	
5020	Locally Contracted labour	-	
5021	Travel		50,929
	To assess in Eritrea the DL development/requirements for further control/contingency planning, 12/3-20/3/07:		
	Cressman	3,848	
	Pantenius	3,591	
	Regional Training course Lake Zeway,ETH,4-8/6/07-FBA-RNE		
	Mehari Testayohannes (KEN)-ANE134507	598	
	James Gatimu (KEN)-ANE134508	598	
	Matemy (KEN)-ANE134730	598	
	Abderahim Khidir Abdurrahman (SUD)-ANE134413	1,071	
	Babiker (SUD)-ANE134412	1,071	
	Al-Katabri Majed (YEM)-ANE134416	945	
	Al-Houri Mohammed (YEM)-ANE134417	674	
	29Th Executive Committee Meeting, Yemen, 19-25/5/07:		
	Halawani Mohammed(SAU) -ANE133961	1,401	

	Al Qallaf Abdulmir Yousef (Kuweit)ANE133958 Al-Khanji Abdulla Safar(Qatar)-ANE133968 Daher Saad Karim (Iraq)-ANE133970 Abdel Rhaman Mohamed (EGY)-ANE133536 Al-Harthy(Oman): 9.6-21.6.08 for training session at the DL Center of the Ministry, on eLocust2 and RAMSES-ANE135604 Nahhal Imad(LEB)-ANE133964 Rabie Khalil (SUD)_ANE133963 ToT Ghadames, Lybia, 6-23/7/07: Mahgoub Mousa Mohamed (SUD)-AHQ137356 4Th Emergency Meeting, Cairo, 8.9-12.9.07 Adnan Khan (SAU)-ANE139366 Rabie Khalil (SUD)-ANE139320 Pantenius-AHQ139409 Fellows University Khartoum, September 07/Aug.08: Fellow Fikry Hamdy (EGY) in Sudan: 14/9/08-AHQ140057 Kareem Yousif Abbas (Iraq)-AHQ140054 Jijan Waleed (Syria)-AHQ140063 Shaer Nabil Murshed (YEM)-AHQ140036 Fellows University Khartoum, September 06/Aug.07-return: Girmay Shinun Hailu (ETH)-AHQ139070 Taha Mahmoud Osama (EGY)-AHQ139030 Al Zubiri Ashoor Muftah (YEM)-AHQ139022 Fadhl Hikmat (Iraq)-AHQ139075 DL campaign Sudan, 25/10-9/11/07: Emad Kammel (EGY)-AHQ143103 Tamer Abdel Hameed(EGY)-AHQ143104 Al-Mamari A.Mohammed (Oman): joint border survey Yem/SAU, 9/11-23/11/07-AHQ143354 Al Harrasi Khalid Said Adi (Oman):joint border survey YEM/SAU, 11/2007-AHQ143353 Al-Harthy (Oman)-training RAMSES eLocust2 SAU, Jan.08-Ticket-AHQ146412	1,605 1,989 2,471 1,654 3,517 1,618 1,524 3,663 1,347 1,364 1,473 419 56 295 233 373 245 290 947 2,498 2,498 2,683 762 3,010	
5023	Training Fellow for 12 months study DL Control, Univ. Khartoum, Year 2006-2007: Al-Zubiri Ashoor Muftah(YEM)-PO 195765 Taha Mahmoud Osama(EGY)-PO 195768 Girmay Shinun Hailu(ETH)- PO 195773 Fadhl Hikmat(Iraq) -PO 195774-PO 196977 Salih Mohammed Mohammed(SUD)-PO 195775 Abakker Hussein(SUD)-PO 195776	11,174 11,283 11,168 11,984 8,113 8,061	151,713

	Univ. of Khartoum-Fees 6 fellows-PO 195937-PO 195939	30,000	
	Fellow for 12 months study DL Control Univ. Khartoum, Year 2007-2008:		
	Shaer nabil Mushed(YEM) -PO 205577	10,787	
	Kareem Yousif Abbas (Iraq)-PO 205579	10,787	
	Fikry Hamdi (EGY)-PO 205580	10,787	
	Beshah Tesfaye-PO 205581	10,787	
	Jijan Waleed(SYR) -PO 205584	10,787	
	Ahmed Talal-PO 205585	5,995	
5024	Expendable Procurement		41,621
	Ordering for DLCO-EA (ETH) 5,000 L pesticides Malathion 96% for spraying in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Djibouti and Northern Somalia)-PR 37030	40,191	
	Inspection delivery pesticides- PO 201101	1,430	
5025	Nonexpendable Procurement		21,463
	Novacom-12 elLocust2 for SAU-PO 201442-207764	18,468	
	For diploma course University of Khartoum- 1 scanner- 1 digital camera Sony and one multimedia projector Sony	2,995	
5027	Technical support services		3,008
	secondment report Butrous for technical assistance 31/5-4/6/07	3,008	
5028	General Operating Expenses		4,612
	GOE for mission Cressman/Pantenius to assess in Eritrea the DL development/requirements for further control/contingency planning, 12/3-20/3/07	762	
	Organization of the 29th Ex. Com. CRC in Yemen, 20-24.5.07	3,400	
	Cairo: Vodaphone Secretary	275	
	Insurance Pos	175	
5040	General Overhead Expenses		622
	Pouch services	622	
5050	Chargeback		873
	Printing	873	
5029	Support costs		41,302
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	3,154	
	(13% on all other accounts)	38,148	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2007			386,468

EXPENDITURE of THE COMMISSION			
ACCOUNT MTF/INT/007/MUL FOR THE YEAR 2008 (up to June)			
Account	Description	Cost US \$	Total Cost US \$
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		53,928
	Abdel-Shahid Lidia Naguib, G-5-exp +commitments up to Dec 08	32,172	
	Hassan Osama Mohamed, G-2-Exp + commitments up to Dec 08	21,757	
5013	Consultants		18,090
	Nugent-PSA-EDI-documentation of the social circumstance of the people in locust affected areas-PO 212559	18,090	
5014	Contracts		18,078
	difference on Vizada contract year 2007-2008-PO 207406	-469	
	Minist of Agric.&Land reclamation,EGY- LoA in support National training course on Desert Locust survey and Control, Ismailia, 16-24/2/08- PO 213564	4,987	
	LoA with Central Inst.for Desert Locust research and control (CIDLRC) in support investigations into promotion of biopesticides in Sudan, using IGR (Nomolt)-PO 213820	13,560	
5020	Locally Contracted labour	-	
5021	Travel		88,297
	Al Harthy- 11/1-25/1/08- SAU-training session eLocust2 and RAMSES in SAU	715	
	Mahgoub Moussa - ref recom.29th Ex com May 07, to visit DL Center Agadir, 18-24/2/08	2,374	
	Sprayers Maintenance Workshop, Agadir, Morocco, 3-16/2/08:		
	Abdul Momen Hasan Ali Al-Sela'a (YEM)	2,296	
	Zeyad Abdu Allah Al-Babeli (YEM)	5,537	
	Khaled Mohamed El Hussein Hasan Khalil (EGY)	2,963	
	Samir Mahmoud Mohamed Hemida (EGY)	2,963	
	Nassir El-Naeem Mohamed Ali (sprayer's technician), SUD	2,162	
	Ahmed Gad Allah Ibrahim (sprayer's technician)-SUD	4,468	
	Mohamed Ahmad Al Mahdawy (SAU)	3,192	
	Dridri(ALG)-EGY/SAU: 12/2-23/2/08-installation and training KSA	3,532	

	Boushara Mahgoub(SUD)-to visit the WR center Agadir- 16/2/08-25/2/08	1,090	
	Pantenius-SUD: 7/3-13/3/08-briefing Minister	3,311	
	Training course Master Trainer SAU, 29/3-9/4/08		
	Tamer Abdel Hamid (EGY)	3,496	
	Interregional workshop RAMSES, Cairo, 22.4-25.4.08:		
	Al Darmaki Abdallah/Al Harthy Nasser (Oman)	3,112	
	Halawani Mohammed/Abdul Salam Abdullatif (SAU)	3,119	
	Rabie Khalil/Othman Hussein (Sudan)	3,828	
	Workshop RAMSES-eLocust 2, Ethiopia, 26-30/5/08:		
	Al-Harthy (moderator)- Oman	962	
	Al-Harthy Nasser(Oman)	795	
	4th Sub-Regional Training course Fujairah, UAE, 24/5-3/6/08:		
	Jaffar Mohamed Al-Aaraj Bahrain	3,462	
	Jaffar Hussain Ali Bahrain	3,462	
	Ebrahim Hassan Mohamed Bahrain	3,462	
	Abdul Nabi Al-barri, Bahrain	3,462	
	Fahad Othman Mohammad Al Hamad kuwait	3,357	
	Ali Mohammad Najem Al Azmi kuwait	3,357	
	Abdulla Saad Abdulla Bushaaye (Qatar)	3,844	
	Mohamed Salem Hussain Abdulla (Qatar)	3,844	
	Ibrahim Issa Thani AlHaddad(Qatar)	3,844	
	Mohamed Ahmed Salem AlKhalaqi (Qatar)	3,844	
	Fellow for 12 months study DL Control,Univ.Khartoum, Year 2007-2008:		
	Kareem Yousif Abbas (Iraq)	2,104	
	DL survey Somalia	340	
5023	Training		90,630
	Organization training course by National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Jeddah,SAU,29/3-9/4/08	4,500	
	Organization RAMSES and eLocust2 workshop, 22-24/4/08 in Cairo	2,040	

	Fellow for 12 months study DL Control, Univ. of Khartoum, Year 2006-2007:		
	Megally Mohamed-PO 184720	78	
	Fellow for 12 months study DL Control Univ Khartoum, Year 2007-2008:		
	Shaer nabil Mushed(YEM) -PO 213419	12,478	
	Kareem Yousif Abbas (Iraq)-PO 213422	12,525	
	Fikry Hamdi (EGY)-PO 213425	12,516	
	Beshah Tesfaye-PO 205581		
	Jijan Waleed(SYR) -PO 213418	12,501	
	Ahmed Talal-PO 212686	8,992	
	Fees Univ. Khartoum, 2007-08-PO 213364	25,000	
5024	Expendable Procurement		
5025	Nonexpendable Procurement		1,178
	Equipment for LCC Sudan in complement LoA- 1 stabilizer-electric material	1,178	
5027	Technical support services		
5028	General Operating Expenses		785
	Vodaphone Cairo	190	
	DL survey Somalia	595	
5040	General Overhead Expenses		1,733
	Pouch services	1,733	
5050	Chargeback		659
	Printing	659	
5029	Support costs		35,445
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	59	
	(13% on all other accounts)	35,386	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2008 till June	308,823
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Appendix No (9) Contribution and Arrears of Member Countries

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at 31 December 2006 (Expressed in US\$)

<i>Member Governments</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2005</i>	<i>Contribution due for 2006/07 *</i>	<i>Received up to 31/12/2006</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2006</i>
BAHRAIN	0.00	8,750.00	8,736.00	14.50
DJIBOUTI	4,400.00	1,100.00	0.00	5,500.00
EGYPT	97,620.00	32,540.00	0.00	130,160.00
ERITREA¹	4,000.00	4,000.00	7,992.89	7.11
ETHIOPIA	16,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	24,000.00
IRAQ	0.00	28,750.00	0.00	28,750.00
JORDAN	78,029.41	14,357.50	14,344.29	78,042.62
KUWAIT	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
LEBANON	0.00	11,212.50	11,155.58	56.92
OMAN	28,005.00	10,000.00	20,486.87	17,518.13 ^a
QATAR	56.04	12,500.00	0.00	12,556.04
SAUDI ARABIA	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
SUDAN	188,247.01	18,667.50	0.00	206,914.51
SYRIA	33,230.13	16,687.50	0.00	49,917.63
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00
YEMEN	4,779.31	5,000.00	2,354.65	7,424.66
TOTAL	480,616.90	266,850.00	135,355.28	612,111.62

* Fiscal Year begins in July

^a Transferred from MTF/INT/008/MUL

¹ ERITREA - is a new member since 2005

Iraq: Reference recommendation 25th Session Doha, May 2006: 50% arrears cancelled and remaining 50% is frozen. As at 31/12/2005, arrears were \$ 632,602.25 (50%= \$ 316,301.13

**TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as
at 31 December 2007 (Expressed in US\$)**

<i>Member Governments</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2006</i>	<i>Contribution due for 2007/08 *</i>	<i>Received up to 31/12/2007</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2007</i>
<i>BAHRAIN</i>	14.00	8,750.00	8,764.00	0.00
<i>DJIBOUTI</i>	5,500.00	1,100.00	0.00	6,600.00
<i>EGYPT</i>	130,160.00	32,540.00	130,160.00	32,540.00
<i>ERITREA</i>	7.11	4,000.00	0.00	4,007.11
<i>ETHIOPIA</i>	24,000.00	8,000.00	15,986.91	16,013.09
<i>IRAQ</i>	28,750.00	28,750.00	0,00	57,500.00
<i>JORDAN</i>	78,042.50	14,357.50	0.00	92,400.12
<i>KUWAIT</i>	25,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
<i>LEBANON</i>	56.92	11,212.50	0.00	11,269.42
<i>OMAN</i>	17,518.13	10,000.00	7,486.36	20,031.77
<i>QATAR</i>	12,556.04	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,556.04
<i>SAUDI ARABIA</i>	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
<i>SUDAN</i>	206,914.51	18,667.50	27,843.22	197,738.79
<i>SYRIA</i>	49,917.63	16,687.50	33,376.00	33,229.13
<i>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</i>	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,230.00	26,270.00
<i>YEMEN</i>	7,424.66	5,000.00	8,775.25	3,649.41
<i>T O T A L</i>	612,111.62	266,850.00	365,156.74	513,804.88

* Fiscal year begins in July

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at June 2008 (Expressed in US\$)

<i>Member Governments</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2007</i>	<i>Contribution due for 2008/09*</i>	<i>Received up to June 2008</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2008</i>
<i>BAHRAIN</i>	0.00	8,750.00	8,750.00	0.00
<i>DJIBOUTI</i>	6,600.00	1,100.00	0.00	7,700.00
<i>EGYPT</i>	32,540.00	32,540.00	0.00	65,080.00
<i>ERITREA</i>	4,007.11	4,000.00	8,007.11	0.00
<i>ETHIOPIA</i>	16,013.09	8,000.00	0.00	24,013.09
<i>IRAQ</i>	57,500.00	28,750.00	0.00	86,250.00
<i>JORDAN</i>	92,400.12	14,357.50	0.00	106,757.62
<i>KUWAIT</i>	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
<i>LEBANON</i>	11,269.42	11,212.50	0.00	22,481.92
<i>OMAN</i>	20,031.77	10,000.00	20,000.00	10,031.77
<i>QATAR</i>	12,556.04	12,500.00	25,000.00	56.04
<i>SAUDI ARABIA</i>	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
<i>SUDAN</i>	197,229.1	18,667.50	0.00	216,406.29
	3			
<i>SYRIA</i>	33,917.63	16,687.50	16,688.00	33,228.63
<i>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</i>	26,270.00	26,250.00	0.00	52,520.00
<i>YEMEN</i>	3,649.41	5,000.00	0.00	8,649.41

<i>T O T A L</i>	513,804.88	266,850.00	147,480.11	633,174.77
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Balance available as at 30 June 2008 is: US\$ 2,111,445.00

Conclusion & points for discussion:

It is clear from the above tables of the status of the member countries contributions and their arrears that:

1. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are paying regularly and every year their contributions.
2. Eritrea is paying its contribution since joining the Commission.
3. Ethiopia paid only two years of contribution remaining with 3 years of arrears since they joined.
4. Lebanon and Sudan are paying their annual contribution after the cancellation of their 50% arrears in 2004.
5. Iraq settled only a contribution of one year after cancellation of 50% of the arrears and freezing of the second 50%.
6. The settlement of contributions/arrears of the countries, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Yemen are not regular.
7. Djibouti has not paid its contribution since adhesion to the Commission in 2002.

How member countries can be encouraged to pay the annual contribution and to settle their arrears?

Appendix No (10) Workplan and budget for 2008-2009

Proposal for Biennial Budget of CRC MTF/INT/007/MULfor the years 2008 & 2009			
Budget Line	Activities	2008	2009
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		
	Secretary	26,036	26,036
	NPO Yemen salary for 6 months 1 st of January 2008-30 June 2008	30,000	
	Driver	17,791	17,791
	Total	73,827	43,827
5013	Consultants	10,000	10,000
	Total	10,000	10,000
5014	Contracts		
	Research	15,000	15,000
	Publication	15,000	15,000
	Translation	3,000	3,000
	Copying	1,000	1,000
	Annual fees for eLocust2 transmission	19,000	19,000
	Annual contribution for Remote sensing	3,000	3,000
	Cost of placing the CRC-EMPRES website on the world wide web and renewal	2,500	500
	Total	58,500	56,500
5020	Over Time	1,000	1,000
	Total	1,000	1,000
5021	Duty Travel		
	26 th CRC Session and 30 th Executive Committee Meeting	30,000	
	31 st Ex Committee		15,000
	Five scientific exchange visits	10,000	10,000
	Chairman travel to Rome to present the 26 th CRC Session report.	3,000	

	Chairman travel, various	5,000	5,000
	Total	48,000	30,000
5023	Training & joint survey		
	National and sub-regional	35,000	35,000
	Regional Aerial Training course		20,000
	Diploma Scholarship (six)	150,000	
	M. Sc. Scholarship	25,000	25,000
	Joint Survey	10,000	10,000
	Total	220,000	90,000
5024	Expendable Procurement		
	Spare parts	3,000	3,000
	Support to member countries	10,000	10,000
	Total	13,000	13,000
5025	Non-expendable Procurement		
	Double cabin 4X4 vehicle for Desert Locust operations in Ethiopia	25,000	
	Books, publications and survey equipment	5,000	5,000
	Unforeseen	5,000	5,000
	Total	35,000	10,000
5028	General Operating Expenses		
	Meetings, reception, equipment, communications, stationary	20,000	20,000
	Total	20,000	20,000
5040	General Overhead Expenses		
	Total		
5029	Support Cost (13%)		
	5% on accounts 5024 & 5025	63,472.51	38,822.51
	13% on all other accounts		
	Total	63,472.51	38,822.51
Grand Total		542,799.51	313,149.51