

REPORT

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FAO Desert Locust Control Committee

Fortieth Session



Report of the

FAO Desert Locust Control Committee

40th Session

Rome, 19 – 22 June 2012

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AG	Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (FAO)
AGP	Plant Production and Protection Division (FAO)
AGPMM	Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests Team (FAO)
APLC	Australian Plague Locust Commission
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund (UN)
CLCPRO	Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region/ <i>Commission de Lutte Contre le Criquet Pèlerin dans la Région Occidentale</i> (FAO)
CMC-FC	Crisis Management Centre along the Food Chain (FAO)
CNLCP	National Desert Locust Control Center/ <i>Centre National de Lutte contre le</i> <i>Criquet Pèlerin</i> (Mali)
CNLA	National Locust Control Center/ <i>Centre National de Lutte Antiacridien</i> (Mauritanie)
CR	Central Region
CRC	Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (FAO)
DLCC	Desert Locust Control Committee (FAO)
DLCO-EA	Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa
DLIS	Desert Locust Information Service (FAO)
EHS	Environmental and Health Standards (EHS) for Desert Locust control
EMPRES	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (FAO)
EMPRES/CR	EMPRES Programme in the Central Region
EMPRES/WR	EMPRES Programme in the Western Region
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIS	Geographic Information System
IAA	International Institute of Agriculture
IDM	Informal Donor Meeting (FAO)
IPA	Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal
IRLCO-CSA	International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NLCUs	National Locust Control Units
PC	Programme Committee (FAO)
PRG	Pesticide Referee Group (FAO)
PSMS	Pesticide Stock Management System (FAO)
RAMSES	Reconnaissance and Management System of the Environment of <i>Schistocerca</i>
SFERA	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (FAO)
SWAC	Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (FAO)
TC	Technical Cooperation Department (FAO)
TF	Trust Fund
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

USD	United States Dollars
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WR	Western Region

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The DLCC **recommended** that all possibilities be explored in order to ensure appropriate and smooth continuity of all Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) activities in the future, including succession planning for the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) post.
2. After having expressed its satisfaction on results obtained by locust preventive strategy, in particular the control of six outbreaks between 2009 and 2011, the DLCC **recommended** to countries, FAO, Regional Commissions, technical and financial partners that implementation of preventive strategy be pursued, with sufficient support from all, in order to consolidate achievements and ensure its sustainability as well as its further developments.
3. The DLCC **recommended** that more research studies be done on sampling methods in order to better estimate the spatial extent and scale of Desert Locust infestations.
4. The DLCC **endorsed** the workplan prepared by the Working Group of Experts on the plan of action for Mali, Niger and Chad during July and August 2012.
5. In addition, the DLCC **recommended** to the countries directly under threat, Mali, Niger and Chad, to implement the workplan as defined by the Working Group of Experts and to mobilize all possible resources in order to prevent any further deterioration of the Desert Locust situation.
6. The DLCC also **recommended** to the neighbouring countries, to mobilize all possible resources along the common borders to detect and treat any incoming Desert Locust populations.
7. The DLCC **encouraged** the countries in the region to continue to assist each other whenever possible, with the coordination and support of CLCPRO.
8. The DLCC **recommended** to FAO and to other technical and financial partners to explore all means for obtaining an amount of USD 10 million to cover the totality of the locust situation up to about October 2012, of which USD 2.5 million was required to cover the immediate needs in Mali, Niger and Chad.
9. The DLCC **recommended** that a working group be created in order to discuss and submit to the next session updated Terms of Reference for the DLCC, together with proposals on future Technical Groups, their composition, functioning and any other relevant questions.
10. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO explore ways and means for supporting Phase II of the EMPRES/WR Programme and make further efforts to approach donors.
11. The DLCC **recommended** that the financial support of Phase II of EMPRES/WR by the African Development Bank (AdDB) be finalized on the basis of the preparatory work made by CLCPRO and the Bank.
12. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO and CLCPRO approach the Global Environment Funds (GEF) for a possible contribution to the environmental aspects of Phase II of EMPRES/WR.
13. The DLCC also **recommended** that all efforts be made in order to maintain human capacities within the CLCPRO Secretariat.
14. The DLCC **invited** the CLCPRO Member Countries to ensure that, at the end of Phase II of EMPRES/WR, they would be ready to take on the totality of the recurrent costs of their respective National Locust Control Unit.

15. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO explores opportunities with donors to provide assistance for CRC countries in abating locust risks.
16. The DLCC **urged** all concerned countries to settle their arrears to the Trust Fund of their respective Commissions.
17. Following the recent political disturbances in Mali and Yemen and the resulting damage caused to locust management infrastructure, the DLCC **encouraged** the Governments of Yemen and Mali to rehabilitate their Desert Locust management capacities and **invited** the development partners to provide related support.
18. The DLCC **endorsed** the proposed “Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations”.
19. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO organize a meeting in 2013 with some countries from the three Desert Locust affected regions, together with donors, in order to define more precisely and more practically the financial tools proposed.
20. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO report on progress made with regard to the “Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations” to the next DLCC meeting.
21. The DLCC **recommended** that further studies be carried out on locust related terminology by an ad hoc E-Committee.
22. The DLCC **recommended** that the necessary levels of autonomy of national service in charge of locust management be established and advocated by countries.
23. The DLCC **recommended** that the Working Group in charge of updating the Terms of Reference of the DLCC, also carry out, in close cooperation with the Secretariat, an assessment of countries’ contributions and explore ways and possibilities of reducing the arrears of the membership.
24. The DLCC **invited** Oman to become again a Member of the Committee.
25. The DLCC **recommended** that the interest generated by the Committee Trust Fund be used for implementing activities.
26. The DLCC **endorsed** budget n. 2 (based on the payment of annual contributions only) with due prioritization of activities by the Secretariat, taking into account countries’ comments and considering that all parts would strongly advocate in order that annual contributions be paid by countries.
27. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO, SWAC and the concerned countries explore the possibility of extending the EMPRES Programme (Desert Locust Component) to the Eastern Region.
28. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO provide the necessary means, especially in terms of human resources, to the Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests Team (AGPMM) and the Desert Locust regional commissions so that they could fulfill their mandates.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-ninth Session, held in Rome from 10 to 13 March 2009, the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) agreed that the fortieth Session should be held on a date to be determined by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The dates eventually chosen were 19 to 22 June 2012 and the Director-General accordingly issued invitations to all Member Countries and relevant organizations likely to be interested in locust management.
2. The List of Participants is given in Annex I.
3. The official opening of the Session was performed by the Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG), Mr M. Traoré, who welcomed all participants to FAO and to Rome. He said that as someone from the Sahel, a region regularly affected by the Desert Locust, he felt a particular empathy for the activities of those who contributed directly or indirectly to the prevention or mitigation of locust outbreaks, upsurges, and plagues.
4. The Assistant Director-General reminded participants of the mandate of the DLCC, which was to provide FAO's Director-General with technical and scientific advice on how to address Desert Locust issues in order to fulfill FAO's role as the global coordinator of this transboundary plant pest. Part of FAO's responsibility is to provide the Secretariat of the DLCC and to support the three regional Desert Locust Commissions. Another important function is coordinating the information flow, analysing it, and issuing a monthly bulletin on the Desert Locust situation and a six-week forecast.
5. The Assistant Director-General recalled that the last DLCC meeting in 2009 had involved much discussion on the challenge of establishing preventive control, environmental management and future orientation. An enormous effort has been made by countless people in the affected countries, supported by donors, various organizations, and FAO, to set up a preventive control strategy and improve preparedness. Since the last DLCC, nearly all of the seven Desert Locust outbreaks were successfully controlled in the three regions, thanks to the efforts of the affected countries coordinated by the FAO regional Commissions. He noted that this DLCC, in addition to reviewing the Desert Locust situation during the past three years and the likely developments in the next few months, would focus on how to improve the work of the DLCC and the regional Commissions, and how to ensure the sustainability of the preventive control strategy, in particular through appropriate financing mechanisms and the regular contributions of Member Countries to the DLCC Trust Fund. He further mentioned the successful Phase I of the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases –EMPRES– (Desert Locust Component) in the Western Region (WR), funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), France and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented in close collaboration with the World Bank (WB), which had come to an end; he urged donors to support a Phase II to ensure the consolidation of the achievements made so far.
6. The Assistant Director-General said that the present Desert Locust situation was considered potentially dangerous for the front-line countries in West Africa. Locust numbers could increase dramatically this summer if good rains occur and if insecurity continues to hamper survey and control operations.
7. The Assistant Director-General indicated that affected countries continued to rely mainly on chemical pesticides for Desert Locust control. FAO had developed the Pesticide Stock Management System (PSMS) to manage stocks safely and effectively. The system was now used by all Western Region countries and was being established in the Central Region. FAO encourages a further expansion of the system and the use of pesticide triangulation among DLCC Member Countries.

8. Having noted that the DLCC's programme looked tightly packed with important topics over the next four days, the Assistant Director-General wished fruitful discussions for the meeting and a successful conclusion, and, on behalf of the Director-General, he declared the fortieth Session of the DLCC open.

OFFICERS OF THE SESSION

9. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Mr Mehdi Ghaemian (I.R. Iran)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Fuad Mohamed Bahakim (Yemen)

Drafting Committee:

Mr M.A. Ebbe (known as Ould Babah) (Mauritania)

Mr C. Adriaansen (Australian Plague Locust Commission - APLC)

Ms Marion Chiris and Mr Clive Elliott (Secretariat)

Mr Dominique Menon and Mr Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmedou (Secretariat, checking the French and Arabic translations, respectively)

AGENDA

10. The Agenda, as amended and adopted, is given as Annex II.

PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SESSION 1: DESERT LOCUST DEVELOPMENTS

Overview of the Desert Locust situation from March 2009 to May 2012

11. The FAO Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting), Mr K. Cressman, started by thanking all countries, which regularly provided data of good quality and thus contributed to ensure global monitoring and early warning together with FAO. He said that seven Desert Locust outbreaks developed between March 2009 and May 2012. Three of the outbreaks occurred in the Western Region in Mauritania (October-December 2009, October-May 2010-2011) and along the Libyan-Algerian border (February-May 2012), three in the Central Region in Yemen and northern Somalia (March-June 2009) and in Sudan (October-May 2010- 2011), and one in South-West Asia along the Indo-Pakistan border (October-November 2010). Small swarms formed in all the outbreak areas, except in Mauritania in 2009. Although the outbreaks did not develop further due to control operations and poor rains, a few swarms did escape from northern Sudan to Saudi Arabia (November 2010) and Egypt (January 2011), and adult groups and small swarms moved from Algeria and Libya to Mali and Niger (June 2012). Insecurity hampered survey and control operations in Algeria and Libya in 2012. A total of 350,000 ha was treated during the period under review, mainly in Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Algeria, Sudan, Pakistan and Libya. In general, locust activity was greatest between autumn 2010 and spring 2011, and during spring 2012. No significant breeding occurred during the winter of 2009 and summer of 2011. A paper covering in full detail the Desert Locust situation, March 2009 to May 2012 is given as Annex III.

12. At the end of his presentation, the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) indicated that the seven Desert Locust outbreaks had been kept under control by the National Locust Control Units (NLCUs)

with support from their respective Regional Commission, thanks to the successful implementation of the preventive control strategy. In order to underline the benefits of such a strategy, he pointed out that, as a rough estimate, about USD 20 million had been spent on preventive control in the past three years, against USD 570 million during the 2003-2005 plague in the Western Region.

13. The delegates thanked the presenter and FAO for the role played in terms of global Desert Locust monitoring and early warning. The delegate of Mauritania said that the improvement in information gathering was a win-win situation for locust-affected countries. Each country tried to convey good quality information and, in return, received good information back from FAO's Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) on the situation and expected developments in neighbouring countries. Such information was considered as crucial. The high level of expertise within the DLIS was mentioned and, in a medium/long-term perspective, the question of the continuity of the service after the retirement of the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) in DLIS was raised. The DLCC **recommended** that all possibilities be explored in order to ensure appropriate and smooth continuity of all DLIS activities in the future, including succession planning for the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) post. It was also indicated that over the past 12 years, the DLIS has welcomed every year a trainee from a Desert Locust country, which had had a favourable impact both for countries and FAO.

14. The delegate from Pakistan mentioned that surveys and control had been carried out during the spring of 2011 in his country but this had not been mentioned in the presentation. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) said that the information had been mentioned in the working paper.

15. Discussions concerned in large part the current situation in Algeria and Libya. The delegate from Algeria indicated that only concentrated groups of adults were seen in June. The Senior Officer noted that the survey/control teams had only had access to about 15% of the potentially infested area in Algeria but that the control operations that had been carried out had made a difference in reducing the number of swarms that were able to move south towards the Sahel. He noted that preventive control was now seriously implemented but insecurity was presenting a new set of problems. Regarding security aspects, the former Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), Mr M. Butrous, informed that the problem of inaccessibility had affected Sudan in the recent past in respect of Darfur and that Kordofan was now also affected. Sudan used non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to collect information inside Darfur and then had a second line of defense outside the area. It was generally agreed that alternative solutions had to be found to ensure information collection and transmission. In reply to a question from the delegate from Morocco, the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) indicated, on the basis of 80 years of data available in the DLIS, that breeding had occurred along the Algeria/Libya border at this time of the year in the past. It appeared always to be related to unusual patterns of rainfall and warmer than usual temperatures during the winter.

16. The Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), Mr T. Ben Halima, underlined that, never in the past, there has been such an amount of locust data available. This was due to the increased presence in the field, with more teams deployed, and to a performing information exchange system, with the possibility for habitat and locust data to be transmitted in near real time. This was key for the success of the locust preventive control strategy. Although it had been decided in 1969 by the DLCC, it was only over the past years that this strategy could be considered as effectively implemented, thanks to joint efforts from countries, regional commissions, FAO and donors. After having expressed its satisfaction on results obtained by locust preventive strategy, in particular the control of six outbreaks between 2009 and 2011, the DLCC **recommended** to countries, FAO, Regional Commissions, technical and financial partners that implementation of preventive strategy be pursued, with sufficient support from all, in order to consolidate achievements and ensure its sustainability as well as its further developments.

17. Another question, raised by the Chairman, Mr M. Ghaemian, was how accurate the results from surveys were in establishing the extent of locust outbreaks and upsurges and whether the

sequential sampling method used on Sunn Pest was applicable to Desert Locust. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) said that the DLIS was continually working with the uncertainties of survey results which were in effect only a sampling procedure. There might be a case for research on the subject. The CLCPRO Secretary informed that such research had been initiated in the Western Region. The DLCC **recommended** that more research studies be done on sampling methods in order to better estimate the spatial extent and scale of Desert Locust infestations.

Desert Locust outlook until winter 2012/13

18. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) indicated that the Desert Locust outlook for the Sahel in West Africa this summer was alarming. Early good rainfall will allow at least one and probably two generations of breeding that could cause locust numbers to increase dramatically in Niger and Mali, and perhaps Chad. Control operations are likely to be necessary against hopper bands and swarms. The situation could deteriorate further if swarms move at the end of the summer to northwest Mauritania where autumn breeding could threaten North-West Africa during the following spring. Elsewhere, small-scale breeding may occur during the summer in the interior of Sudan and western Eritrea as well as along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border but locust numbers should remain low, and no significant developments are likely.

19. Regarding the actions to be taken on the current locust situation in the Western Region, the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) indicated that Mali and Niger should do their best to mobilize survey/control teams, that it was appropriate that Chad and Mauritania started their summer survey operations earlier this year and that the four front-line countries should initiate a public awareness campaign at the national level. He said that a plan should be made for the worst-case scenario (two locust generations between June and October and a swarm invasion of North West Africa in October/November) to ensure preparedness and, as local response funds were likely to be exhausted, it would be necessary to explore the available funding mechanisms, UN emergency funds and external assistance.

20. During the discussions, it was asked whether pastures would be affected and, if the locust swarms moved further south, whether countries like Burkina Faso might be invaded. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) said that pastures were already likely to have been affected in northern Niger, but the livestock there were mainly goats and camels. At this stage there was no chance that Burkina Faso, Nigeria or other countries in the southern Sahel would be invaded because the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was such that it would create headwinds against which the locusts could not fly.

21. The delegate from Mali said that the problems in the north of his country had existed since about 2006 and partly been solved by involving the local population: 44 rural brigades had been trained and had reported the presence of locusts by telephone. Now the telephone lines were all down and contact had been lost with the brigades except for one who had a satellite phone. As of 1 June, the National Centre for Desert Locust Control (CNLCP), Bamako, had been informed that there were swarms 160 km west of Aguelhoc and that three valleys had been infested. In the last two days, it had been informed of a swarm near Aguelhoc that was large enough to darken the sky. The office in Bamako had no means of verifying these reports. The government had organized meetings and launched an SOS but relations with partners, and development assistance, had been suspended following the events. The government considered that the present situation amounted to a natural disaster and it was likely to have an impact on food security. The CNLCP equipment and pesticides, which were stored in Gao, had reportedly been all taken and some of the pesticides destroyed. Mali was appealing to neighbouring countries for help.

22. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) said that some of the information provided by the delegate was not known to DLIS and it was very important that any information, whether verified or

not, be made available to DLIS on a timely basis, especially from Mali and Niger, so that it could be evaluated and shared when appropriate with the region as a whole.

23. The delegate from Algeria said that his country viewed the situation very seriously and already had a plan of action in place in case swarms should leave the Sahel and re-invade in October 2012. In respect of Niger, he said that a clear picture should be provided on the areas where control operations could be carried out, on the means currently available and on the needs, in order to obtain intra-regional assistance. He indicated that Niger had already requested 50,000 litres to Algeria, which would be provided very soon. The delegate from Niger, from the Embassy in Rome, explained that the expert from his country had been unable to travel because of visa problems, and he would contact Niamey and relay any information. The FAO Locust Officer, Mr M. Ould Ahmedou, informed that CLCPRO had sent a questionnaire to Mali and Niger; the results showed that, out of the 30 survey/control teams needed in Niger and 22 teams needed in Mali, only 6 were available in each country. The delegate of Mauritania expressed his great concern about the situation in Mali and the likelihood of locusts impacting his country.

24. The CLCPRO Secretary said that it was important not to panic and most of all important that large quantities of pesticide not be ordered when the region already had 7 or 8 million litres available. Although there were worrying indicators, there were also many unknown factors such as, for example, the degree to which the reported swarms were fully gregarised. There was above all a need to be vigilant and prepared for the possible implementation of the contingency plans. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) agreed that panic should be avoided but action needed to be taken now to make the best out of a difficult situation. He also insisted on the importance that countries provide information on the actions taken, publicize their efforts, and keep FAO informed.

25. All delegates agreed that a small expert group should discuss the situation in Mali and Niger and report back to the DLCC with recommendations on any action to be taken. It was decided that this group would comprise the delegates from Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, and Niger as well as representatives from FAO, CLCPRO and CRC.

Desert Locust threat to West Africa: conclusions of the Working Group of Experts

26. The FAO Locust Officer, Mr Ould Ahmedou, presented the conclusions of the Working Group of Experts (delegates from Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, plus staff from FAO, CLCPRO and CRC), which had met during the session to discuss the Desert Locust threat to West Africa. A workplan for Mali and Niger and, to a lesser extent for Chad, had been prepared to deal in the best available way with the locust situation in July and August 2012, taking into account the absence of reliable information from insecure areas of northern Mali and northern Niger. Its main objectives were to gather as much locust data as possible and, based on the results, to undertake the necessary control operations to prevent or limit further expansion to an upsurge. The workplan presented the activities envisaged in order to strengthen national capacities, mainly through mobilization of survey and control teams, delivery of pesticides through “triangulation”, provision of small equipment and technical assistance. The needs for additional funding, covering two months and assistance to Niger, Mali and Chad, was USD 2.5 million. It was made on the basis of detailed figures and was intended to complement national funds. The workplan, including activities and expenditures (detailed figures are given), is provided in Annex IV. The delegate of Mauritania distributed the national Desert Locust survey and control plan (2012/2013), for information and as an example of workplan.

27. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) indicated that this amount of USD 2.5 million was part of a larger estimate of USD 10 million, for which a request had been made during an Informal Donor Meeting (IDM) organized the same day by the Technical Cooperation Department (TC) on the current food security crisis in the Sahel. The estimate of USD 10 million was intended to be used to

manage the locust situation in a broader context and for a longer period of time, in case the current outbreak extend to other countries (October 2012). At this stage, it was a provisional budget only, which included mainly general operating costs, triangulation of pesticides and technical assistance. More information would be communicated soon to donors on its planning and budget details.

28. The delegate of Mali provided further explanation of the importance of having very mobile survey teams backed up by control teams ready to operate. It was specified that, because of the short timeframe, the workplan had been designed taking into account the available operational means in the concerned countries. Pesticides would be triangulated within the Western Region. In addition to pesticides donated to Niger, Algeria was willing to donate 16,000 litres to Chad, and 50,000 litres to Mali.

29. The delegate of Algeria added that survey teams would survey in the extreme south of his country in early July, which should provide good indications on the locust situation and ecological conditions in northern Mali and Niger (same habitat). The delegate of Mauritania indicated that since the beginning of the week, he had already sent additional survey teams near the border with Mali and that they would be further increased depending on rainfall and developments of the locust situation.

30. In reply to a request for clarification from the USAID Representative, the CLCPRO and FAO staff pointed out that the National Locust Control Centres were much better trained, equipped and prepared than during the previous major upsurge (2003-2005), both in terms of management and operational capacities. They would also benefit from FAO and CLCPRO assistance to get prepared and break the population dynamics, taking into account the major constraints of insecurity and the required timeliness. In this regard, the importance of having all the required funds quickly was of crucial importance.

31. In conclusion, the DLCC **endorsed** the workplan prepared by the Working Group of Experts on the plan of action for Mali, Niger and Chad during July and August 2012.

32. In addition, the DLCC **recommended** to the countries directly under threat, Mali, Niger and Chad, to implement the workplan as defined by the Working Group of Experts and to mobilize all possible resources in order to prevent any further deterioration of the Desert Locust situation.

33. It also **recommended** to the neighbouring countries, to mobilize all possible resources along the common borders to detect and treat any incoming Desert Locust populations.

34. It **encouraged** the countries in the region to continue to assist each other whenever possible, with the coordination and support of CLCPRO.

35. Last, it **recommended** to FAO and to other technical and financial partners to explore all means for obtaining an amount of USD 10 million to cover the totality of the locust situation up to about October 2012, of which USD 2.5 million was required to cover the immediate needs in Mali, Niger and Chad.

SESSION 2: DLCC AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

History and evolution of the DLCC

36. A brief chronological overview of the DLCC within the context of FAO's Desert Locust activities, including relevant locust projects, committees, commissions and regional organizations, was presented by the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting). FAO's current role in Desert Locust monitoring and control dates back nearly a century. In 1916, the Permanent Committee of the

International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) in Rome, the precursor to FAO, agreed to host an international conference on locust control at the peak of the 1912-1919 plague. The conference adopted an international convention to control Desert Locust, share information on locust movements and submit reports to IIA. Some 40 years later, in 1955, the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) was established, when locust-affected countries were again in the midst of a plague, which turned out to be the longest plague in the 20th century. An international trust fund was established ten years later. In 1978, FAO assumed full responsibility for the centralized locust information service, from the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London (UK), which had been operating the programme since 1931.

37. The DLCC, which has met 40 times since 1955, is the primary advisory body to the Director-General of FAO on all Desert Locust issues. It remains today an important coordinating body for locust early warning and preventive control. At the end of his presentation, the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) invited the delegates to consider how the DLCC could become more effective as an advisory body to the Director-General and to ensure interregional collaboration between the regional locust commissions, harmonization of technical methodologies, administrative procedures, etc.

38. Upon request from the floor, the mandate of the DLCC (as amended in 1968) was presented to the Committee. The delegates agreed that the mandate of the DLCC needed to be updated in order to increase its effectiveness for further developing early warning and preventive control. The discussion also concerned the opportunity of having Technical Groups, which had existed in the past. It was suggested that technical inputs to the DLCC could be made on an ad hoc basis (when the need arises) by technical groups, with membership that could vary depending on the issues to tackle. Such groups could work remotely, using the available technologies. With DLCC's current budgetary constraints, organizing meetings of such groups would be too costly. The delegates of Mauritania and Pakistan supported the proposal to re-activate the Technical Groups to provide technical inputs to the DLCC, as it was evident from the current agenda that technical, research and environmental issues had not been covered.

39. In conclusion, the Committee **recommended** that a working group be created in order to discuss and submit to the next session updated Terms of Reference for the DLCC, together with proposals on future Technical Groups, their composition, functioning and any other relevant questions.

Activities of the regional commissions: 2009- 2012

- Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO)

40. The CLCPRO Secretary, Mr T. Ben Halima, who is also the Coordinator of the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region (EMPRES/WR), explained the regional approach adopted by CLCPRO and within EMPRES/WR to put in place a preventive control strategy. He outlined the progress made since the last DLCC meeting, related to strengthening national capacities in the region. They included preparation of contingency plans, implementation of the Monitoring System of National Locust Control Mechanisms, harmonization and implementation of the environmental specifications for Desert Locust control, promotion of the operational use of biopesticides, development of a regional communications strategy, operational research in the Western Region and implementation of the second Regional Training Plan (2011-2014). The CLCPRO Secretary said that following evaluation missions of EMPRES/WR and recommendations from the CLCPRO Member Countries and from the DLCC 39th Session, a Phase II had started for EMPRES/WR (2011-2014). Its objective was to consolidate the achievements made and to ensure the sustainability of the operability of National Locust Control Units. Out of the estimated cost of USD 28.8 million for Phase II, USD 21 million were ensured by countries while USD 7.8 million needed to be funded from external sources. It was indicated that France continued to support the EMPRES Programme through

the implementation of two projects (started during Phase I) and that USAID had approved a contribution of USD 470,000 in 2011. Discussions are also ongoing with the AfDB.

41. The CLCPRO Secretary explained that countries were now covering the major part of the funding of the EMPRES Programme, which was not the case a few years ago. He also recalled that following the adoption of the “Declaration of Bamako” in March 2009 by the relevant Ministers to promote the locust preventive control strategy, the annual contribution of CLCPRO Member Countries had been increased by 300% (effective from January 2011); as of March 2012, seven of the ten countries had paid their annual contributions for 2011 and Mauritania had also paid the main part of its arrears.

42. The discussions mainly focused on the additional funding needed for Phase II. The CLCPRO Secretary specified that fund raising had started in 2010 and numerous contacts with potential donors had been made already. The delegate of France said that any decision for additional funding could not be taken before that the result of the ongoing evaluation of the two existing French-funded projects was known. In conclusion, the following five recommendations were made:

- The DLCC **recommended** that FAO explore ways and means for supporting Phase II of the EMPRES/WR Programme and make further efforts to approach donors.
 - The DLCC **recommended** that the financial support of Phase II of EMPRES/WR by the African Development Bank (AdDB) be finalized on the basis of the preparatory work made by CLCPRO and the Bank.
 - The DLCC **recommended** that FAO and CLCPRO approach the Global Environment Funds (GEF) for a possible contribution to the environmental aspects of Phase II of EMPRES/WR.
 - The DLCC also **recommended** that all efforts be made in order to maintain human capacities within the CLCPRO Secretariat.
 - The DLCC **invited** the CLCPRO Member Countries to ensure that, at the end of Phase II of EMPRES/WR, they would be ready to take on the totality of the recurrent costs of their respective National Locust Control Unit.
- Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)

43. The CRC Secretary, Mr M. Al-Alawi, explained that since the completion of the EMPRES in the Central Region (CR) Programme in 2006, the Commission had taken over many EMPRES activities and expanded its own scope. The CRC conducts a variety of national and regional training courses for Member Countries; organizes joint locust surveys along both sides of common borders (Egypt/Sudan, Yemen/Saudi Arabia); produces publications and ensures the Arabic translation of the monthly FAO Desert Locust Bulletin; and provides information on Desert Locust, including a website. The CRC has been working on national contingency plans and has recently discussed and approved Environmental and Health Standards (EHS) for Desert Locust control in the Central Region. The CRC also works closely with the two other FAO Desert Locust Commissions, CLCPRO and SWAC, as well as with other regional bodies such as the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) through inter-regional workshops, exchange of expertise, etc. The main constraints for the CRC include: limited funding (arrears from Member Countries, no external assistance); limited human resources and weak inputs from some Member Countries. For the future, the CRC Secretary envisaged the following actions: promoting and strengthening technical activities, including the use of biopesticides environmental monitoring and mapping of vulnerable areas; encouraging payment of contributions and settlement of arrears; maintaining an emergency fund of USD 300,000 within the Commission; increasing the inter-regional exchanges with CLCPRO and

SWAC; and increasing the interaction between CRC and its Member Countries as well as backstopping to maintain the effectiveness of early warning and preventive control.

44. The delegate of Eritrea asked if CRC funds could be made available to improve the survey and control equipment in his country. The response was that in principle there was no problem with such support but the decision needed to be taken at the appropriate CRC forum.

45. In response to a question from the Director of the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) on mapping sensitive areas, the FAO Locust Officer, said that a methodology had been developed in the Western Region to that end and that guidelines were also under preparation on mitigation measures for the risks associated with locust control. FAO would be pleased to share them with IRLCO-CSA.

46. On the use of biopesticides in the Central Region, it was explained that an unused stock in Yemen had been ‘triangulated’ for Red Locust control operations in Tanzania and for Desert Locust control in Somalia. Mentioning the importance of having a regional stock in the Central Region, it was indicated that the CRC had also established a cold room in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to hold about 300 kg of spores under the stewardship of the DLCO-EA. The Director of the DLCO-EA specified that the cold room had been funded by USAID and that large-scale operations were planned.

47. In conclusion, the DLCC **recommended** that FAO explores opportunities with donors to provide assistance for CRC countries in abating locust risks.

- Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC)

48. The SWAC Secretary, Mr K. Cressman, said that this Commission, the oldest and smallest of the three regional Desert Locust commissions, had been established by FAO under Article XIV in 1964. The Commission has four Member Countries: Afghanistan, India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan. Annual contributions amount to USD 71,450. The Secretariat was based in Teheran from 1965-1979 and, thereafter in Rome where a Senior Officer in the Locust and Transboundary Plant Pests Team (AGPMM) acts as Secretary. Regular Sessions of SWAC are held every two years. Although the EMPRES programme has not reached the Eastern Region, SWAC has benefitted indirectly from the strengthened national locust programmes in the Central Region. SWAC’s primary activity is the annual Desert Locust joint survey in the spring breeding areas of the I.R. Iran and Pakistan, which was conducted in the 1960s and 1970s and re-established in 1995. Results are used to plan the summer campaign along the Indo-Pakistan border. Monthly joint Indo-Pakistan border meetings are held on the common border from June to November every year to exchange information on the locust situation. SWAC supports training activities, capacity building and new technologies. The primary constraint faced by SWAC is the large arrears to its Trust Fund (more than USD 400,000). Unstable political circumstances and security conditions can also affect activities. The Commission would like to increase collaboration with the two other FAO Commissions, especially the CRC, on the introduction of biopesticides, development of national contingency plans, establishment of inventory systems, and environmental monitoring.

49. During the discussions, one delegate pointed out the discrepancies that appeared to exist between the Commissions in how much countries contributed. The SWAC Secretary said that it was up to the Member Countries to decide to increase contributions to their respective Commission. He noted that a large increase in country contributions had been agreed in CLCPRO but in SWAC there was not yet any interest in increases, and indeed the scale of contributions had not changed since the establishment of the Commission. The delegate of India said that his country had only one trained Locust Information Officer and they needed two. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) replied that DLIS has had a programme for training Desert Locust Information Officers in place for 12 years, whereby one officer is trained for 11 months at FAO Headquarters. The officers are selected by rotation from each of the three regions; there is now a trainee from the Western Region, then it will be

the Central Region and the year after, it will be SWAC's turn. India's request would then be considered.

50. The delegate from USAID made a general comment to the three Commissions indicating that, before asking for any external assistance, a strong effort had to be made to settle all arrears in the Trust Funds of the three Commissions. On this basis, the DLCC **urged** all concerned countries to settle their arrears to the Trust Fund of their respective Commissions.

Impact of the Commissions and EMPRES on the development of national capacities and the improvement of Desert Locust management

- Questionnaire results

51. The Secretariat of the DLCC had prepared and distributed an online questionnaire to national locust centre directors in Member Countries of the three regional Desert Locust Commissions. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather information on how each country perceived the benefits it had gained from its Commission and what could be improved. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) presented the results received from 27 respondents (16 English, 11 French), which represented a high participation. All countries were either very satisfied or satisfied with their Commission. They felt that their Commission played an important and useful role but this role could be strengthened in relation to research. It was also felt that: Commission staffing may be insufficient; not enough country visits were made by the Secretary; Executive Committee meetings could be better; and there was room for improvement in some activities (joint surveys, emergency financial assistance, translations and publications). The majority of respondents felt that the current level of contributions to the respective Commission Trust Fund was adequate. It was felt that the EMPRES Programme has had a significant impact on the majority of Commission activities, with the possible exception of research. Overall, insufficient staffing and contribution arrears were indicated as primary constraints.

52. During the discussions and upon request from the delegates, it was confirmed that results would be made available by region so that each of the three Commissions could further discuss the results with its Member Countries and identify where there was room for improvement. Other points raised concerned the financial contribution from SWAC to allow the participation of its Members in the DLCC, and from CRC for some of its Members. Last, the delegate from Pakistan underlined that there was no EMPRES Programme for SWAC countries but that assistance was required, especially for equipment.

- Western Region (Mauritania)

53. During the presentation on the impact of the CLCPRO and EMPRES to the national locust capacities, the Director of the National Locust Control Center (CNLA) of Mauritania, Mr M.A. Ebbe (Ould Babah), highlighted: due importance given to locust management, which had translated into the creation in 2006 of the CNLA, an administratively and financially autonomous body with an annual budget up to USD 1 million; the improvements of working conditions thanks to the construction of the Center and other infrastructures in the country (regional bases, pesticides warehouses, etc.); the increased survey and control capacities which allowed successfully control of four outbreaks since 2006; the overall increase in technical capacities thanks to numerous training courses organized at national and regional levels; the newly-created monitoring system; the adoption of a national contingency plan; research, in particular on biopesticides and improved knowledge on locust habitats and populations dynamics; regional exchanges; and international partnerships. The CNLA Director also explained how the Center managed to obtain information from the nomads. He underlined how solidarity, at regional and international levels, had proved of crucial importance. The expectations for

the future, in addition to the implementation of Phase II of EMPRES/WR, concerned the need to continue improving national capacities, further develop applied research, increase the use of new technologies, expand the use of biopesticides, and create a national emergency fund.

54. The FAO Senior Officer, Team Leader -Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests (AGPMM), Ms A. Monard, thanked the delegate for the efforts made to improve locust management in Mauritania, to the benefit of the country itself but also of the whole region. She extended her thanks to the CLCPRO, in particular to the Secretary, who had accompanied and encouraged the progress made by all countries in the Western Region. The delegate of Mali indicated that similar trends existed in Mali, in terms of progress made over the past years.

55. Upon requests made by the delegates of Iran and Pakistan, discussions largely focused on the Desert Locust occurrence map in Mauritania, which had been shown during the presentation (an extract from the geographical information system used in Mauritania). It was explained that such information could be given on the basis of the collection and analysis of more than 30 years of locust data in Mauritania and that it had helped improve annual survey plans, which were now more focused, thus more rapid, more efficient and less expensive.

56. In reply to a question on the relationship of the Center with nomads/pastoralists, the CNLA Director indicated that there had been long-term efforts made to improve collaboration and build a trusting relationship, allowing locust and ecological data to be collected but also to explain the purpose of treatments and the need for withholding periods during and after spraying, to the benefit of all.

- Central Region (Yemen)

57. The Director of the Desert Locust Centre of Yemen Mr F. M. Bahakim, described the impact of the EMPRES Programme in the Central Region and of the CRC on locust management in his country during the period 1995-2012. Yemen is considered a Desert Locust front-line country, having two seasonal habitats in which outbreaks can occur, in the interior during the summer and on the Red Sea coast in winter. It was indicated that EMPRES and the CRC have had a major impact on the institutional aspects of Desert Locust management in Yemen. Locusts were previously relegated to being one of a number of National Campaigns of the Plant Protection Service. There was now an autonomous Desert Locust Centre, under the umbrella of the Plant Protection Department, with its own Director, its own budget (annual average of USD 35,000 with the possibility to call for additional funds in case of emergencies), and four sections: information, control, survey/monitoring, and evaluation/accounting/store management. Thanks to the tripling of survey/control teams since 1995, it was possible to undertake surveys and control operations as required and provide good-quality locust information to FAO/DLIS and to the CRC. In addition, EMPRES/CR and the CRC have had a significant impact on training (at least one per year), Yemen now having six Master Trainers. Yemen had also tested biopesticides for controlling locusts especially in beekeeping areas.

58. In terms of future perspectives, the Director of the Desert Locust Centre mentioned, at the national level: importance of keeping the authorities in Yemen aware of the necessity of full structural and financial autonomy for the Locust Centre, to ensure regular surveys and timely control operations; need for more training; replacement of retiring staff; control equipment needed; development of the use of biopesticides in beekeeping areas; and preparation of an implementation plan for Environmental and Health Standards. At the regional level, the CRC should encourage countries to: implement further preventive control; establish a monitoring system of the locust management performance; prepare an action plan for the disposal of crushed pesticide drums; provide assistance in the case of emergencies; and encourage bilateral assistance between CRC Member Countries.

59. In reply to a question from the CLCPRO Secretary, the Director of the Desert Locust Centre explained that the budget decrease in 2012 was a result of the last 12-month political upheaval,

whereby all national budgets had been reduced. To the question from the former CRC Secretary on other impacts caused by the upheavals, it was replied that the Desert Locust Centre had managed to move its vehicles and some of the equipment away from its office before the trouble began, but some equipment was still lost. They had also been obliged to move out of the office and some damage was done but hoped to move back in soon. The CRC Secretary said that assistance should be provided to Yemen to help repair the damaged building at the Locust Centre and replace the lost equipment. The delegate from Mali mentioned that a building had also been damaged at Gao and would need to be repaired. It was noted that since both countries were in the front-line, it was essential to rehabilitate buildings and replace lost equipment so that they will be fully functional again in the efforts to achieve Desert Locust preventive control.

60. Therefore, following the recent political disturbances in Mali and Yemen and the resulting damage caused to locust management infrastructure, the DLCC **encouraged** the Governments of Yemen and Mali to rehabilitate their Desert Locust management capacities and **invited** the development partners to provide related support.

61. In response to a question about how the Yemenite Desert Locust Centre dealt with the problem of beekeepers who sometimes refused to allow locust control with biopesticides in their areas, it was indicated that the Centre held field days at which up to 120 beekeepers might be present. The need for spraying was explained and sometimes trucks were provided to help move the hives to a safe area until it was possible for them to return. Also, a sample hive would be taken, sprayed with biopesticides, and left with the beekeepers for a week to show that the product had no effect on bees.

- South-West Asia Region (Pakistan)

62. The Head of the Locust Division and Deputy Director of the Plant Protection Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Research of Pakistan, Mr Azam Khan, made a presentation on the impact of SWAC on the development of national capacities and improvement of Desert Locust management in his country. He indicated first that the Locust Division had the mandate to undertake locust survey and control in the deserts of Pakistan, which extended over 300,000 km². There are two Desert Locust breeding areas in the country: a winter/spring breeding area (February-June) along the western border with I.R. Iran, and a summer-monsoon breeding area (June-November) along the eastern border with India. Since its independence in 1947, Pakistan has faced, as a front line country, attacks from both eastern and western sides. A proper Locust Division was established at the Federal level in the early 1960s, which had successfully faced more than one dozen medium to heavy locust crises since then. The aerial service of the Plant Protection Department has played a prominent role in such emergency situations. The annual budget has continuously increased from 1996, the routine survey operations being considered as crucial for early warning. Pakistan became a Member of the DLCC and SWAC in 1955 and 1964, respectively. The delegate said that SWAC had played a very positive role as a forum to meet with neighbouring countries, for capacity building (human and operational, especially with regard to new technologies) and for joint surveys both with I.R. Iran and Pakistan. He mentioned the need for additional master training. The DLCC was also requested to provide assistance for the repair of six spray aircraft in Pakistan (for an estimated amount of USD 600,000), so that they could be utilized for anti-locust operations within and outside Pakistan during upsurges.

Future directions and improvements for sustainability

63. The FAO Officer (Agronomist), Mr D. Menon, said that a study had started in 2010 and aimed at: (i) improving the roles and responsibilities of the Desert Locust Commissions established under Article XIV of FAO's constitution; and (ii) preparing a comprehensive framework of governance and sustainable finance for Desert Locust control (study funded by the FAO Legal Office and EMPRES/WR). As far as legal aspects were concerned, the FAO Officer (Agronomist)

underlined that it was premature to present the preliminary results of the study carried out by the International Consultant, Legal Expert, Mr Denis Fadda, as the FAO Legal Office had not completed yet the review of the status of the FAO Statutory bodies established under Article XIV.

64. Thus, on the legal aspects related to the review of the status of all statutory bodies created under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the Senior Legal Officer, Ms A. Van Houtte, presented the steps taken so far in response to the recommendation (2.69) in the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal (2009-2011), approved by the Conference at its 35th (special) Session in 2008: “*The statutory bodies and conventions will be strengthened, enjoying more financial and administrative authority within the framework of FAO and a greater degree of self-funding by their Members....*” Such steps includes the review by the FAO Governing Bodies as well as a consultation process with the Secretaries of the Commissions, whose conclusions had underlined the need to ensure more flexible procedures and working arrangements. A questionnaire had also been addressed to all Member Countries to seek their views; its results should be ready for the next FAO Programme Committee (PC) in October 2012.

65. In reply to a question, the Senior Legal Officer indicated that the participation rate to the questionnaire was of approximately 75%. Although the initial deadline was April 2012, it was still possible to send replies until mid-July 2012. Last, several delegates stressed the importance of increasing the autonomy of the Desert Locust Commissions, and of updating their status to make them more operational.

66. On the financial aspects of the above study, the FAO International Consultant and specialist in governance and rural development, Ms A. Deshormes, presented the results of the work carried out in 2011. She proposed a financial system linked to the status of the Desert Locust situation and triggered by warnings as the locust situation worsened. As an example, she provided details of one of the eight financial instruments proposed in this system: the multi-donor fund for preventive control, to be used under recession and outbreaks conditions. More details are provided in the two working papers she has prepared for the DLCC.

67. During the discussions, the delegate from Mauritania said that this study had been long awaited and that the locust-affected countries had now a clear idea of what should and could be done to access funding at different levels of a locust crisis. He also mentioned that it was necessary to present carefully this study in order to avoid reduction of national contributions to preventive control. The consultant had highlighted very well the risk that Ministries of Finance would rely on external funding if regional or international funds were created. Consequently a way to avoid that had to been identified. The delegate from Algeria underlined that for preventive control activities, countries should use their own resources: this would show their good will to donors, and that they were not waiting for a crisis before acting. He added that mechanisms needed to be found to ensure rapid responses from donors when requests for funds were formulated.

68. The CLCPRO Secretary reiterated that such a proposal on a financing system had been expected for a long time and mentioned that it would be interesting to hear the reaction of the donors to the presentation (especially to the multi-donor fund for preventive control). The delegates of France and of USAID said that a direct response could not be given immediately. However, the delegate of France indicated that the idea of a multi-donor fund was very interesting and mentioned that her country normally provided funds on a project basis. She emphasized that the proposed mechanism provided a long-term solution and, expressed her congratulations on the work done and the proposed system. The Director of the APLC said that he was not present as a representative of a donor nation but believed that potential donors would seek a partnership approach to provide evidence that fund recipient countries were not reducing their own basic investment, and would look for project proposals towards capacity building and maintenance, so that the objectives and outcomes resulting from the use of such a fund were clear to all parties.

69. The Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), said that FAO had supported this study through CLCPRO. It was important to clarify that the creation of a multi-donor fund was not meant to reduce the responsibilities of the locust-affected countries. She suggested that a meeting between FAO and donors should take place on the proposed new funding mechanisms and their implementation, before the next DLCC session.

70. In reply to a request on the existence of similar funding mechanisms in other field of activities, the FAO Consultant and specialist in governance and rural development said that the Desert Locust was a particular case and she was not aware of other examples of funds being needed for a sequential problem like locusts.

71. The DLCC expressed its satisfaction for the study carried out and made the following points:

- The DLCC **endorsed** the proposed “Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations” (as per Annex V);
- The DLCC **recommended** that FAO organize a meeting in 2013 with some countries from the three Desert Locust affected regions, together with donors, in order to define more precisely and more practically the financial tools proposed;
- The DLCC **recommended** that FAO report on progress made with regard to the “Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations” to the next DLCC meeting.

SESSION 3: DLCC ACTIVITIES

Implementation of the 39th Session recommendations

72. The Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), Ms A. Monard, reviewed the 17 recommendations made by the 39th Session of the DLCC. It was found that the recommendations had been satisfactorily implemented in the case of: One locust-affected country from each region reporting on the status and capacities of its National Locust Control Unit (R1); Establishment of a representative committee on terminology (R2), albeit that it was not possible yet to change existing terminology; Preventive control by autonomous NLCUs, with strong support from the Regional Commissions (R3); Investigation of establishing contingency equipment stocks at World Food Programme (WFP) depots (R6), although the investigation was negative; Developing open-source software for RAMSES (R7) with completion expected by end 2012; Installation of the Pesticide Stock Management System in the Western Region and its extension to the Central and Eastern Regions, and a list of pesticides registered for locust control in each country, on the FAO eLERT website (R11); The FAO Director-General to send a letter reminding countries to settle their arrears to the DLCC Trust Fund (R12); FAO to send letters to the recently-joined Burkina Faso and Eritrea as well as to Kuwait to pay their contributions (R13); FAO once more to invite Nigeria to settle its arrears (R14); FAO to explore ways to reduce the cost of holding the DLCC (R16), which led to the proposal to hold the meeting in Cairo which later had to be abandoned; and the adoption of the 2009-2011 budget, including the publishing of Mr M.A. Ebbe (Ould Babah)’s thesis on Desert Locust (R17).

73. The creation of an Emergency International Fund for Desert Locust was investigated (R4). The positive experience with the United Nations (UN) Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), at national and regional levels, made the need for a special international locust fund less relevant. Regional funds were strengthened in the Central Region and some progress had been made in creating National Emergency Funds (R5), for example in Niger; in the Central Region none of the countries had such a fund but in case of emergencies, funds could be obtained from the overall resources from

the countries. In South-West Asia, such funds exist in I.R. Iran, in Pakistan and India, each is able to access resources when needed from general emergency funds. The results of an ‘institutional’ study, commissioned by FAO and the CLCPRO and aiming at preparing a comprehensive framework of governance and sustainable financing of locust control, include a proposal to create emergency funds specific to the Desert Locust at national and regional levels, to supplement the instruments already existing at international level.

74. With FAO support, biopesticides were successfully used at an operational scale against other locust species; barrier treatments were also used experimentally in 2011 in Mauritania against Desert Locust. Based on these promising experiences, FAO continues to promote the registration and use of biopesticides in Desert Locust-affected countries (R8).

75. Progress has been made on establishing autonomous National Locust Control Units (R9) in all front-line countries in the Western Region (Mauritania and Mali in 2006, Niger and Chad in 2008) through parliamentary legislation. This was considered as an essential element for sustainably maintaining an effective preventive control strategy and underpinning better preparedness for crisis situations. In the Central Region, full autonomy exists in Egypt and Saudi Arabia but is still sought in Sudan and Yemen.

76. Phase II for EMPRES/WR (2011-2014) was prepared and started in order to ensure sustainability of the preventive Desert Locust control strategy in the Western Region (R10); Its overall cost is estimated at USD 28.8 million including USD 21 million covered by the Member Countries and USD 7.8 million to come from external support ; so far the efforts made by FAO/CLCPRO have led to commitments from USAID through an existing cooperative agreement for locusts and the likelihood that AfDB will provide most of the external resources needed. FAO has also formally requested France to pursue its technical assistance.

77. The request by DLCC for the Secretariat to assess annual contributions (R15) has not been conducted so far because of the complexity of the issue and the need at the same time to update the DLCC’s mandate.

78. During the discussions, the Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), agreed with comments from the floor that an e-committee on terminology needed to continue its work (R2). Many discussions were held on the meaning of “autonomy” regarding national services in charge of locust management. Since the perception seemed to vary from one country to another, she said that it was also evident that the committee needed to define what was meant by the autonomy of National Locust Control Units, at institutional, administrative and financial levels and regarding information transmission, equipment property and human resources management. As one of the objectives towards improved preventive control, the CLCPRO Secretary said that the important issue was that the national services in charge of locust management could manage their budget and take the necessary decisions to carry out survey and control operations; it was crucial to continue advocating for sufficient autonomy.

79. On reply to a question from the delegate of Pakistan, the delegate of Mauritania informed that biopesticides had become fully part of the Action Plan in Mauritania and that it could also be procured in Australia for use in research. The delegate of Algeria said that biopesticides had also been used successfully in his country against the Moroccan Locust in 2011.

80. On recommendation 16, the delegate from Egypt said that the DLCC would be welcome to hold its next Session in his country. In the event that arrangements for Egypt should fall through, the delegate from Mauritania said that his country would be pleased to be an alternate venue for hosting the next Session.

81. In conclusion, the DLCC **recommended** that further studies be carried out on locust related terminology by an ad hoc E-Committee.

82. The DLCC **recommended** that the necessary levels of autonomy of the national services in charge of locust management be established and advocated by countries.

International Trust Fund 9161: contributions/expenditures 2008-2011

83. The report on the Trust Fund was presented by the FAO Officer (Agronomist), Mr D. Menon, for Contributions/Expenditures. A detailed description of contributions and arrears was provided (Annex VI). As of 31 December 2011, arrears amounted to USD 1,742,586, the highest level ever, despite many recommendations made at previous DLCC Sessions. Since 1991, only about one-third of the membership had paid its annual contribution. The DLCC should therefore examine all means to improve the situation of arrears. Otherwise activities currently supported by the DLCC Trust Fund would be compromised. As of June 2012, cash flow on the DLCC Trust Funds was only USD 27,000. Participants were reminded that payments could be made at any time of year and could be received in US dollars, Euro, or local currency. He said that two countries, Uganda and Mali, had settled their arrears over the past two years. The FAO Officer (Agronomist) insisted on the fact that the arrears situation for the DLCC's Trust Fund was unsustainable and required urgent action.

84. The FAO Officer (Agronomist) also gave details of the funds received in 2008-2011 and expenditures. Total expenditure in 2008-2011 was USD 629,304. It was noted that the Trust Fund supported a number of activities that were of crucial importance to improved Desert Locust management and benefitted locust-affected countries. They included training at the MSc level (one year) and of Locust Information Officers. The Trust Fund had also been used to ensure distribution of technical papers especially Desert Locust bulletins, to cover the costs of the 39th DLCC Session in 2009 and of a General Service Staff in the DLIS who provided documentary information to countries and supported DLIS activities.

85. The delegate from Mauritania said that at every DLCC meeting, countries were urged to pay their contributions and their arrears. He suggested that an incentive needed to be identified, i.e. that 50% of the arrears would be waived if the remainder was paid. A new approach was needed to change this long-standing situation.

86. The delegate from Iraq made a formal and official request to have 50% of its arrears waived for the period 1983-2004. Iraq would pay the remainder, plus the arrears from 2004 to 2007. It had been regularly paying its annual contribution since 2008. He explained that a similar approach had been applied to Iraq's membership of the CRC and it had worked very well: Iraq had settled half of its arrears and now paid its contribution to the CRC routinely. The former CRC Secretary clarified that when the arrangement had been agreed, 50% of Iraq's arrears had been frozen pending it being paid; after a few years Iraq had paid it. DLCC delegates were in favour to delete half of the arrears of Iraq. However the point engendered discussion by delegates as to why such an arrangement should apply only to Iraq and not to other countries with arrears. There was also the question of whether such an action could be taken by the DLCC and was compatible with the rules and regulations applying to the DLCC as a statutory body of FAO established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution.

87. A further discussion ensued on what constituted membership of the DLCC as the Chairman himself came from a country with the largest arrears of all. The Chairman said that I.R. Iran's position was complicated and he needed documentation on I.R. Iran's membership in order to attempt to sort it out. The delegate from Kenya said that the situation needed to be clarified as to which countries were Members and which not. The Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) indicated that there was list of Members, which clearly showed all the countries present to be Members, but its precise legal status

needed to be established. The delegate of Ethiopia also requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on how the amount of its annual contribution had been decided.

88. The Committee **recommended** that the Working Group in charge of updating the Terms of Reference of the DLCC, also carry out, in close cooperation with the Secretariat, an assessment of countries' contributions and explore ways and possibilities of reducing the arrears of the membership.

89. The DLCC **invited** Oman to become again a Member of the Committee.

90. The DLCC **recommended** that the interest generated by the Committee Trust Fund be used for implementing activities.

International Trust Fund 9161: workplan 2012-2014

91. After having recalled the very critical financial situation of the DLCC Trust Fund, the Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), Ms A. Monard, indicated that the expenditures would be defined by the level of contributions/arrears received and the cash available. It was stressed out that if contributions were not received as expected, DLCC core activities would be endangered. In that context, two budgets were presented to the delegates for the period 2012-2014: one based on annual contributions due (about USD 208,000/year) and part of the arrears settled (USD 110,000/year); and the other one based on annual contributions due only. The first proposed budget (n.1) included eight activities: fellowships, reproduction and distribution of technical papers, the organization of the 40th (ongoing) and 41st DLCC Sessions, 11-month training courses for National Locust Information Officers in DLIS, a Pesticide Referee Group (PRG) meeting, technical consultancies in support to geographical information systems (GIS) and new technologies, support to DLIS activities, and a Contingency/Emergency Fund. In budget n.2 (based solely on contributions due), the five following activities would not be completed: fellowships, reproduction and distribution of technical papers, 41st DLCC Session, the PRG meeting and a Contingency/Emergency Fund. The two proposed budgets are provided in Annex VII.

92. During the discussions, it was underlined that if countries would not pay their annual contributions, it may not be possible to hold future DLCC sessions; and yet, next session should be held in a Desert Locust affected country with a view of reducing the costs (Egypt, with Mauritania as an alternate venue). Several delegates said that the DLCC served a vital role in bringing all parties together and should be given priority on other activities. It was also stressed out again that delegates (primarily) but also the regional commissions and FAO should mobilize so that at least the annual contributions be paid by countries.

93. In conclusion, the DLCC **endorsed** budget n. 2 (based on the payment of annual contributions only) with due prioritization of activities by the Secretariat, taking into account countries' comments and considering that all parts would strongly advocate in order that annual contributions be paid by countries.

94. The delegate of Pakistan, supported by the delegate of India, also requested the extension of the EMPRES Programme (Desert Locust Component) to the SWAC countries, pointing out that this Programme had had a very positive impact in the Central and Western Regions. On this issue, it was recalled that the concerned countries, with the support of SWAC, should build a specific proposal for their region and send an official request to the Director-General of FAO, for subsequent submission to the Governing Bodies of the Organization; donor support should also be sought. The delegates of France and USAID clarified that no recommendation should be made directly to the donors. Eventually, the DLCC **recommended** that FAO, SWAC and the concerned countries explore the possibility of extending the EMPRES Programme (Desert Locust Component) to the Eastern Region.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

95. The Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), presented a short movie on the three components of EMPRES - Plants (so far mainly the Desert Locust), Animal Health and Food Safety, which were all parts of the FAO Crisis Management Centre along the Food Chain (CMC-FC) and based on prevention principles.

Intervention of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

96. The Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), announced that the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council had arrived in the room and thanked him for his presence. She also expressed gratitude, in the name of all delegates, that AGPMM was given the possibility to report on the current situation in Libya and Algeria during the last Council session (June 2012) and mentioned how important it was that the Council had added a paragraph on this issue in its Report.

97. The Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr L. Guyau, said that the Desert Locust issue had been inserted in the Council Report in order to express solidarity with the countries threatened by Desert Locust as well as readiness for possible mobilization. He also indicated that the FAO Director-General had supported that position by mentioning the current locust threat in the press-release issued immediately after the Council session. The Independent Chairperson reiterated the importance of prevention, pointing out that USD 1 spent on preventive locust control would often save far more if a Desert Locust upsurge was stopped from developing. He advised the DLCC Members to take advantage of the Council support for advocacy at national and regional levels.

98. The CLCPRO Secretary welcomed warmly the support of the Council but also asked the Independent Chairman to bring to the attention of the Director-General, the need to ensure that enough attention and funding be given so that FAO could fulfill its role with regard to locust management. This concerned sufficient human and other resources for the Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests Team (AGPMM) and for the Desert Locust regional commissions.

99. In conclusion, the DLCC **recommended** that FAO provide the necessary means, especially in terms of human resources, to the Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests Team (AGPMM) and the Desert Locust regional commissions so that they could fulfill their mandates.

Special acknowledgments

100. The Senior Officer, Team Leader (AGPMM), on behalf of FAO, thanked the former Secretary of the CRC, Mr M. Butrous, for the work carried out during many years to the benefit of the Central Region countries, as well as the CRC and his current Secretary for having invited him to participate in the 40th DLCC session. She also expressed her gratitude to the Secretary of the CLCPRO, Mr T. Ben Halima, who was retiring at the end of June, for his strong contribution to the achievements made in the Western Region concerning the Desert Locust preventive control strategy. The delegate of Mali, on behalf of all CLCPRO Member Countries, supported the thanks to Mr Ben Halima with warm acclaim, stressing out his professional and human qualities as well as his role in developing preventive control; he also asking him to record his experience in a book to the benefit of future generations.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

101. This report with agreed amendments was adopted unanimously.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

102. The Chairman thanked all participants for their contributions to the discussion, as well as the staff of the Secretariat who had contributed to organize the Session and the drafting committee. He declared the session closed.

Annex I: List of participants**COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS****Australia****Mr Chris Adriaansen**

Director

Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC)

Australian Government Department

of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858

Canberra, ACT 2601

Tel: +61 2 62725727

Cell: +61 428264083

Fax: + 61 2 6272 5074

E-mail: Chris.Adriaansen@daff.gov.au**Algérie****M. Khaled Moumene**

Directeur général

Institut national de la protection des végétaux

(INPV)

B.P. 80 Avenue Hassen Badi

El Harrach, Alger

Tél: + 213 550846383

Fax: + 213 21 52 58 63

E-mail: khal63@yahoo.com**Mme Karima Boubekeur**

Secrétaire des Affaires étrangères

Ambassade d'Algérie

Via Bortolomeo Eustachio, 12

00161 Rome

Tél: +39 06 44 20 25 33/25 46

E-mail: bob.karima@hotmail.fr**Burkina Faso****M. Laurent Couliadiati**

Conseiller en agriculture

Représentant Permanent Adjoint

Ambassade du Burkina Faso en Italie

Tel: +39 3667045058

E-mail: Couliadiati_Laurent@yahoo.fr**Cap-Vert****S.E. Mr. José Eduardo Dantas Ferreira Barbosa**

Ambassadeur

Ambassade de la République du Cap-Vert

Via Giosué Carducci 4 - Int. 3

00187 Rome

E-mail: jeduardo.barbosa@fastwebnet.itjeduardo.barbosa@gmail.com**Ms Sonia Martins**

Ambassade de la République du Cap-Vert

Via Giosué Carducci 4 - Int. 3

00187 Rome

Cell: +39 333 1210450

E-mail: sonia.martins@mirex.gov.cv**DLCO-EA****Mr Gaspar Mallya**

Director

Desert Locust Control Organization for

Eastern Africa

PO 4255

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11646 1477

+251 116460284

E-mail: gasparmallya@hotmail.com**Egypt****Mr Ragab Mahmoud Bakri**

Director-General of the General Department

for Locusts & Agro-Aviation Affairs

Ministry of Agriculture

Dokki

Tel: + 20-2-37612183 (direct)

+ 20-2-37488974

Fax: + 20-2-374-93184

E-mail: Locust_egypt@yahoo.com**Eritrea****Mr Heruy Asghedom Weldemariam**

Director General of the Agricultural Extension

Department

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

P.O. Box 1048 – Asmara

Tel: (+291)-1-181480

Fax: (+291)-1-181274

E-mail: asgedomheruy@gmail.com**Ethiopia****Mr Fikre Markos Tesfay**

Director, Animal and Plant Health Regulatory

Directorate

Ministry of Agriculture

P.O. Box 62347 Addis Ababa

Tel: (+251)-11- 6462417

Fax: (+251)-11-6462311

E-mail: fikrem2001@yahoo.com

France**Mme Agnès Poirier**

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
 Rédactrice Elevage, risques sanitaires et
 phytosanitaires de la DGM/BPM/ALIM
 27 rue de la Convention CS 91533
 75732 PARIS Cedex 15
 Tél: + 33 (0)1 43 17 60 73
 Fax: +33 143177394
 E-mail : agnes.poirier@diplomatie.gouv.fr

M. Jean-Michel Vassal

Entomologiste
 Responsable Equipe Acridologie
 Dep. Systèmes biologiques
 CIRAD
 Agropolis Avenue, TA-A106/D
 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5
 Tel: + 33 4 67 59 48 61
 Fax: +33 4 67 59 38 73
 E-mail: Jean-Michel.Vassal@cirad.fr

M. Claude Peloquin

Étudiant en Doctorat d'Etat
 Dép. Systèmes biologiques
 Unité de recherche Bioagresseurs
 Équipe acridologie, TA-A106/D
 CIRAD
 Campus international de Baillarguet
 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5
 Tel: + 1 520 642 6337
 E-mail: cpeloq@email.arizona.edu

Ghana**Mr Nii Quaye-Kumah**

Minister Counsellor
 Embassy of the Republic of Ghana
 Via Ostriana, 4
 00199 Rome
 Tel: +39 3890165333
 E-mail: nii.quaye.kumah@gmail.com
fao@ghanaembassy.it

India**Mr Jagar Nath Thakur**

Joint Director
 Locust Control
 Ministry for Agriculture India
 Faridabad - 121001
 Tel: + 91129411112
 Mob: +919891904453
 Fax: +911292412125
 E-mail: jn.thakur@nic.in

Iran**Mr Mehdi Ghaemian**

Head of Public and Common Pest
 Management
 Plant Protection Organization
 Ministry of Jihad Agriculture
 No. 2, Tabnak Ave.
 Evin, Tehran, I.R.Iran
 Postal Code: 19395
 P.O.Box: 4548 Pol-e-Rumi
 Phone: +98-(0)21-23091-400
 +98-(0)21-22403-198
 Fax: +98-(0)21-22403-197
 Cell: +98-(0)912-1028-930
 E-mail: ghaemian@ppo.ir
Mehdi.ghaemian@gmail.com

Iraq**Ms Manar Harfoush**

Office Manager of Iraq's Permanent
 Representative to FAO
 Via della Fonte di fauna 5
 Roma
 Tel: +39 0688920492
 E-mail: Iraq.fao@gmail.com

IRLCO-CSA**Mr Moses Mulomi Okhoba**

Director
 International Red Locust Control Organisation
 for central and Southern Africa
 Box 240252, Ndola, Zambia
 Tel: +260919584141
 +260212651251
 Fax: +260212650117
 E-mail: Locust@zamnet.zm
okhoba@yahoo.com

Kenya**Ms Jacinta Muthoni Ngwiri**

Alternate Permanent Representative of Kenya
 to FAO
 Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
 Viale Luca Gaurico, 205
 00143 Rome
 Tel: +39 06 8082714
 E-mail: jacintamngwiri@yahoo.com
mjngwiri@hotmail.com

Mr Joseph Ngetich

Deputy Director of Agriculture
 Plant Protection Services Division
 PO Box 30028-00100 Nairobi
 Tel : +0203505481; 0721221586
 E-mail: ngetichj@ymail.com

Kuwait**Ms Stella Pamela**

Officer of the Representation of Kuwait
to FAO

Via della fonte di fauna, 26

Tel: +39 065754598

Fax: +39 065754590

E-mail: mc8975@mclink.it

Libya**Mr Yousif Aboulahbas**

Head of Administrative Committee of the
National Center for Desert Locust control
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock &
Marine wealth

P.O.Box: 4724, Sidi_Elmasri,

Tripoli

Tel: +218-91-3831885

Fax: +218-21-3619010

Email: blapc218@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Khaled El Gadgoud

Director

Department of Desert Locust Control
Locust and Agricultural Pest Control Centre
Ministry of Agriculture

B.O.Box: 78056

Western Street

Tripoli

Tel: +218 91 3786232

Tel: +218 92 7334876

E-mail: el_gadgoud@yahoo.co.uk

Mali**M. Sidibé Toumani**

Directeur Adjoint

Gestionnaire de l'environnement

Centre national de lutte contre le Criquet
pèlerin (CNLA)

Bamako

BP E: 4281

Tel: + 223 66716868

Fax: + 223 20 22 01 84

E-mail: toumsidibe@yahoo.fr

Mr. Bah Konipo

Deuxième Conseiller

Ambassade de la République du Mali

Via Antonio Bosio, 2

00161 Rome

Phone: +39 06 44254068

Fax: +39 06 44254029

E-mail: konipobah@yahoo.fr

Maroc**M. Saïd Ghaout**

Directeur

Centre national de lutte antiacridienne
(CNLAA)

Ministère de l'intérieur

BP 125

36850 Inezgane, Maroc

Tel: +212 528242330

Fax: +212 528241496

E-mail: s.ghaout@gmail.com

Mauritania**M. Mohamed Abdallahi Ebbe (Ould Babah)**

Directeur Général

Centre national de lutte antiacridienne
(CNLA)

Ministère du développement rural

BP 665, Nouakchott

Tel: +222 45292891

Fax: +222 45259815

E-mail: maouldbabah@yahoo.fr

M. Koutaro Ould Maeno

Chercheur acridologue Post-Doctorat

Centre national de lutte antiacridienne
(CNLA)

Nouakchott, BP: 665

Tel: +222 46187292

Fax: +222 45259815

Email: otokomaeno@yahoo.co.jp

Niger**M. Aboubacar Mohamadou**

Premier Conseiller Représentant Permanent

Adjoint auprès de la FAO

Via Antonio Baiamonti, 10

00195 Rome

Tel: +39 06 3720164

Fax: +39 06 3729013

E-Mail: gnamji@yahoo.fr

Pakistan**Mr Azam Khan**

Deputy Director

Department of Plant Protection

Head of Locust Division

Government of Pakistan

Karachi, Pakistan

Tel: +9221 99248668

Fax: +9221 99248673

E-mail: Plantprotection.gov@gmail.com

Mr Ahmed Allauddin

Section Officer
National Food Security and Research
Room #220, Block B
Pak Secretariat,
Islamabak
Tel: +92 51 9206009
E-mail: +7822854@gmail.com

Saudi Arabia**Mr Fahad bin Abdelaziz al Mari**

Deputy Director-General
Plant Protection Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Riyadh
Tel/Fax: +966 1 4035899
E-mail: lcscrtl@moa.gov.sa
locust_jeddah@hotmail.com
locust_jeddah@yahoo.com
Fahm98@hotmail.com

Mr Adnan bin Solaiman Khan

Director-General
National Center for Research and Desert
Locust Control
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 4174
21491 Jeddah
Tel: +966-2-6210096 (direct)
Tel: +966-2-6206262 ext 111
Fax: +966-2-6204085
E-mail: lcscrtl@moa.gov.sa
locust_jeddah@yahoo.com
abuwadaa474@hotmail.com

Senegal**Mme Mariétou Diawara**

Directrice de la protection des végétaux
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'équipement
rural
Tel: +221 338340397
+221 775296337
Fax: +221 338342854
E-mail: dpv1@orange.sn

Sudan**Mr Mohamed Elfaky Elnor**

Alternate Permanent Representative
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan
Via Panama,48
00198 Rome
Tel: +39 06 33222138 / 33221965
Fax: +39 06 3340841
E-mail:
permreoffice_sudanembassyrome@yahoo.it

Yemen**Mr Abdullah Na'ami Al-Na'ami**

Third Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Yemen
Via Antonio Bosio, 10
00161 Rome
Tel: +39 06 44231679 / 44233695
Fax: +39 06 44234763
E-Mail: info@yemenembassy.it
alnaami2050@yahoo.com

Mr Fuad Mohamed Bahakim

Director of Desert Locust Centre
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Sanaà, Shaoub, Zaid Street
Tel: +9671228064 - +967777334426
Fax: +9671250956
E-mail: fuadbahakim@hotmail.com

Uganda**Mr Mr Robert Sabiiti**

First Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of Uganda
Viale Giulio Cesare 71 (Scala B int 9A, 9B)
00192 Rome
Tel: +39 06 3225220/ 3207232
Fax: +39 06 3213688
E-Mail: rsabiiti@yahoo.com

USAID**Mr Yeneneh Belayneh**

Senior Technical Advisor and Program
Manager
USAID/DCHA/OFDA
717 H.ST.NW, suite # 801
Washington, D.C. 20006, USA
Tel: +1 202 254-0226
E-mail: ybelayneh@usaid.gov

FAO COMMISSIONS:**CLCPRO****M. Thami Benhalima**

Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission de lutte
contre le Criquet pèlerin en Région
occidentale - Coordonnateur du Programme
EMPRES en Région occidentale
30, Rue Asselah Hocine
B.P. 270 Alger
16000 Alger Gare, Algérie
Tel: +212 661754767
E-mail: Thami.Benhalima@fao.org
thami.benhalima1@gmail.com

M. Dominique Menon

Agronome
 Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests
 Team (AGPMM)
 Plant Production and Protection Division
 (AGP)
 Room B796
 Tel: +39 06 570 55289
 E-mail: Dominique.Menon@fao.org

CRC**Mr Mamoon Al Alawi**

Secretary of the Commission for Controlling
 the Desert Locust in the Central Region
 Near East Regional Office
 11, El Eslah El Zerai St.
 P.O. Box: 2223 Dokki
 Cairo, Egypt
 Tel: +20-233316018 (direct)
 Cell: +20-1006697824
 Fax: +20-237616804 or 749581
 E-mail: mamoon.alalawi@fao.org

Mr Munir Butrous

Former Secretary of CRC
 Tel: +249 92 23 34 444
 E-mail: munir.butrous@gmail.com

FAO- HEADQUARTERS:**AG****Mr Modibo Traoré**

Assistant Director-General
 Agriculture and Consumer Protection
 Department (AG)
 Room B632
 Tel: +39 06 57054523
 E-mail: Modibo.Traore@fao.org

AGPM**Ms Annie Monard**

Senior Officer, Team Leader
 Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests
 Team (AGPMM)
 Plant Production and Protection Division
 (AGP)
 Room B-747
 Tel: +39 06 57053311
 E-mail: Annie.Monard@fao.org

Mr Keith Cressman

Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting)
 Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS)
 Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests
 Team (AGPMM)
 Plant Production and Protection Division
 (AGP)
 Room C-796
 Tel: +39 06 57052404
 Fax: +39 06 57055271
 E-mail: Keith.Cressman@fao.org

M. Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmedou

Fonctionnaire Acridologue
 Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests
 Team Plant Production and Protection
 Division
 Room B746
 Tel: +39 06 57053789
 E-mail: Lemine.OuldAhmedou@fao.org

Ms Marion Chiris

Locust Programme Officer
 Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests
 Team
 Plant Production and Protection Division
 Room B-749bis
 Tel: +39 06 57054525
 E-mail: Marion.Chiris@fao.org

Mr Winfred Hammond

Senior Entomologist,
 Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests
 Team (AGPMM)
 Plant Production and Protection Division
 (AGP)
 Room B751
 Tel: +39 06 57054588
 E-mail: Winfred.Hammond@fao.org

Mr Mohamed Ammati

Environmental/Pesticide Management Officer
 Pesticides Team (AGPMC)
 Plant Production and Protection Division
 (AGP)
 Room B752
 Tel: +39 06 57053985
 E-mail: Mohamed.Ammati@fao.org

Ms Agnès Deshormes

International Consultant, specialist in
 governance and rural development
 Tel: +33 687273019
 E-mail : agnesdeshormes@yahoo.com

Mr Clive Elliott

Consultant

Blue Barn House

South Leigh OX29 6XH

Oxford OX2 7NB, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1865514852

E-mail: Clive@elliottmail.com

M. Denis Fadda

International Consultant, Legal Expert

Professeur des universités

Administrateur de l'Université Senghor

Président de l'Académie des Sciences d'Outre-
Mer

7, rue Malcousinat - 82000 - Montauban -

France

Tel : + 33 6 21 3710 78/

+ 39 334 90 76 538

E-mail : denis.fadda@yahoo.fr

Annex II: Approved Agenda**Opening**

1. Opening address
2. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Drafting Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda

Session 1: Desert Locust developments

4. Overview of the Desert Locust situation from March 2009 to May 2012
5. Outlook until winter 2012/13

Session 2: DLCC and Regional Commissions

6. History and evolution
7. Activities of the Regional Commissions: 2009-2012
8. The impact of Commissions and EMPRES on the development of national capacities and improvement of Desert Locust management
9. Future directions and improvements for sustainability

Session 3: DLCC activities

10. Implementation of the 39th Session recommendations
11. International Trust Fund 9161: Contributions/Expenditures 2008-2011 and Workplan 2012-2014

Closing

12. Any other business
13. Adoption of draft report
14. Next session

Annex III: Overview of the Desert Locust situation from March 2009 to May 2012

I. Summary

Seven Desert Locust outbreaks developed between March 2009 and May 2012. Three of the outbreaks occurred in the Western Region in Mauritania (October-December 2009, October-May 2010/11) and along the Libyan-Algerian border (February-May 2012), three in the Central Region in Yemen and northern Somalia (March-June 2009) and in Sudan (October-May 2010/11), and one in South-West Asia along the Indo-Pakistan border (October-November 2010). Small swarms formed in all of the outbreak areas except in Mauritania in 2009. Although the outbreaks did not develop further due to control operations and poor rains, a few swarms did escape from northern Sudan to Saudi Arabia (November 2010) and Egypt (January 2011), and adult groups moved from Algeria and Libya to Niger (June 2012). Insecurity hampered survey and control operations in Algeria and Libya in 2012. A total of 350,000 ha were treated during the period under report, mainly in Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Algeria, Sudan, Pakistan and Libya. In general, locust activity was greatest between autumn 2010 and spring 2011, and during spring 2012. No significant breeding occurred during the winter of 2010 and summer of 2011.

II. Western Region

Spring 2009. Scattered solitarious adults were present in parts of northwest Mauritania (March), in the northern part of the Western Sahara (March-July), south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco (March-July) and in the central Sahara in Algeria (March-July). Small-scale breeding occurred in northwest Mauritania (March), northern Western Sahara (July), the Draa Valley in Morocco (May-June) and central Algeria (April-May). A few small groups of solitarious and transiens adults formed in Morocco during March and June. Ground control operations were undertaken in Morocco (1,858 ha March-July) and Algeria (2,640 ha April-May).

Summer-Autumn 2009. In Mauritania, small-scale breeding commenced in the northwest in June and in the south during July, and continued until October. Locust numbers increased in September and control operations were initiated. By the end of the month, an outbreak developed in western Mauritania where adults arrived from the summer breeding areas and a second generation of breeding led to the formation of hopper groups and bands during October. A few adults moved into adjacent areas in Western Sahara. Control operations (13,907 ha), poor rains and a northerly movement of scattered adults to the Western Sahara and Morocco brought the outbreak to an end by December. Surveys could not be carried out during the summer in Mali and Niger due to insecurity but scattered adults were seen in the extreme south of Algeria during July and August, and on the Tamesna Plains in Niger, in central Mali and in Chad during October. In Algeria, small-scale breeding occurred in the central Sahara in November and December, giving rise to transiens hoppers and solitarious adults (240 ha treated). In Niger, small groups of hoppers and immature adults were present in Tamesna during December (1,605 ha treated).

Winter 2009 to Spring 2010. Small-scale breeding occurred in northwest Mauritania from December to February but locust numbers remained low and control operations were not required. In North-West Africa, small-scale breeding occurred during March and April in the Draa Valley in Morocco, in central and southern Algeria, and in western Libya, giving rise to solitarious and transiens populations, some of which formed small groups. Control operations were carried out in Morocco (1,798 ha May-June), Algeria (878 ha May-July), and Libya (40 ha May).

Summer 2010. Good rains fell throughout the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel from July to mid-September. Small-scale breeding occurred during August in southeast Mauritania and northern Mali, and during September and October in west and northwest Mauritania, on the Tamesna Plains in Niger, and northeast Chad. In Niger, locusts concentrated and formed a few small groups as

vegetation dried out in Tamesna during October. In Mali, immature adults formed groups in the north during November.

Autumn 2010 to Spring 2011. Breeding continued in northwest Mauritania for eight months, leading to the development of an outbreak in which hoppers and adults concentrated and formed groups until the end of May. Some adults moved to northern Mauritania in late November where they persisted until May. Adults also moved to the southern part of the Western Sahara in Morocco in early December and laid eggs. Further laying occurred from January to March by adult groups and two small swarms (in March), giving rise to hopper groups in April. Groups of immature and mature adults appeared in northeast Western Sahara in late May. Control operations (64,454 ha) carried out in Mauritania during the eight months prevented large-scale swarm formation and migration. In Algeria, low numbers of adults were present in parts of the central and southern Sahara from October to April. Control operations (410 ha) were carried out in December against scattered adults in the south. In February, mature adults concentrated and formed groups in parts of the central Sahara where small-scale breeding gave rise to hopper groups in April and a few bands in May. In Morocco, scattered adults were present along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains from January to May. As a result of control operations in Morocco (7,039 ha January-August) and Algeria (1,224 ha February-August), locust numbers had declined by early September. In northern Mali, small-scale breeding occurred in December and control operations (850 ha) treated transiens hoppers and groups of mature adults. In Niger, isolated adults were present in the Air Mountains in February and May, and on the Tamesna Plains in March.

Summer-Autumn 2011. Although good rains fell in the northern Sahel from June to September, only limited breeding occurred in Mali (September), Mauritania (September-October), Niger (September and November), and perhaps in Chad (October). In northern Mali, nomads first reported scattered solitary adults in June, isolated immature and mature adults were present during August, and small-scale breeding occurred in September, causing small groups of immature solitary and transiens adults to form in October (1,200 ha treated). In Niger, scattered immature and mature adults were seen on the Tamesna Plains during June, a few adults were copulating in July, isolated hoppers and adults were present in August, small-scale breeding occurred during September in Tamesna and in the southeast, and scattered adults were present in southern Tamesna in October. Small-scale breeding occurred in November in parts of Tamesna (95 ha treated), the Air Mountains, and the western Tenere Desert, and isolated hoppers were present in December and January. In Mauritania, isolated mature adults were present from July to September. Small-scale breeding occurred in September and October (60 ha treated) but locust numbers remained low. Locusts moved from the south towards the northwest in October and November. Locust numbers declined in December. In Chad, isolated immature and mature adults were present in October and local breeding may have occurred; isolated adults persisted during November.

Winter/Spring 2012. In early January, small patches of mid-instar transiens and gregarious hoppers were reported in southwest Libya near Ghat. The infestations originated from local breeding that occurred after unusually good rains in early October. As locust hoppers and adults concentrated in early February, the number and density of infestations increased, adults moved into southeast Algeria, and an outbreak developed. Egg laying occurred in March, followed by hatching and hopper band formation in April, and swarm formation in mid-May. The Libyan national locust program's capacity to carry out routine monitoring and respond to outbreaks was badly weakened by events in 2011. Access to potentially infested areas along both sides of the border by national survey and control teams was severely restricted due to insecurity. Algeria treated 41,664 ha and Libya treated 21,400 ha from January to May. During the second half of May, groups of immature adults moved from the outbreak area to southern Algeria, reaching Arlit in northern Niger on 30 May. Locusts declined in Algeria and Libya as by additional groups appeared in northern Niger (Tamesna, Air Mountains, Djado Plateau) in early June.

III. Central Region

Spring 2009. Two outbreaks developed in March, one on the southern coast of Yemen within an area of about 1,000 km² and one on the northwest coast of Somalia within an area of about 2,000 km². Numerous small hopper bands and a few small swarms formed in both countries from March to May and swarms moved into the interior of both countries in April, and crossed into Djibouti and eastern Ethiopia. In May, small hopper bands formed on the edge of the Empty Quarter in Yemen. In June, swarms moved east across northern Somalia and west into eastern and northern Ethiopia where they persisted until August. In Yemen, adult infestations declined during June. Control operations were carried out in Somalia (1,874 ha) and Ethiopia (3,064 ha), including aerial operations and the use of Green Muscle™, and in Yemen (6,015). In Saudi Arabia, small hopper bands were treated (269 ha) on the Red Sea coast from April and May.

Summer 2009. Small-scale breeding commenced in June in the interior of Sudan where good rains fell throughout the summer but locust numbers remained low.

Winter 2009/10. Low numbers of adults appeared on the Red Sea coast of Sudan in November and on the northwest coast of Somalia in December. Small-scale breeding occurred in Saudi Arabia and, to a lesser extent, in Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea. In Saudi Arabia, control operations (3,526 ha) were carried out against small groups of hoppers and bands that formed in one area on the Red Sea coast from March to June and against hopper bands that formed in the interior in June.

Spring 2010. During April, small-scale breeding occurred in a few places on the southern coast in Yemen and in northeastern Oman where hoppers concentrated and formed small groups in May. Control operations were not required. Isolated adults were seen in eastern Ethiopia during May. Heavy rains associated with Cyclone Phet fell in northern Oman on 3-4 June.

Summer 2010. Scattered mature adults appeared in June along the Nile River in northern Sudan, in southern Egypt, in the interior of Yemen and in northern Oman. Good rains fell in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan and Yemen, and in western Eritrea during July and August. Local breeding occurred during July in eastern Ethiopia and during September in the Baiyuda Desert in northern Sudan and on the plateau in northern Somalia. An outbreak developed in northern Sudan in late October as small hopper bands and adult groups formed, including a mature swarm, which continued until mid-December. Control operations treated 10,378 ha.

Winter 2010 / Spring 2011. From mid-November to mid-December, groups and small swarms of immature and mature adults moved from the outbreak areas in the interior of Sudan to the Red Sea coastal plains as well as subcoastal areas in the northeast and laid eggs. Hatching and band formation occurred from mid-December to February. Adult groups and small swarms laid eggs in the northeast and on the central coast during February, giving rise to hopper bands in March and April. In Saudi Arabia, at least one group of immature adults crossed the Red Sea from Sudan to the northern coastal plains at the end of November and probably dispersed to the central coast where groups of adults laid eggs. Two generations of breeding occurred until early June and caused an increasing number of hopper bands to form as well as groups of adults and a few swarms. Ground and aerial control operations were undertaken from December to March (25,715 ha). Groups of adults and a few small swarms laid eggs on the Red Sea coast in southeast Egypt from mid-January to mid-February, hatching occurred from the last week of January to early March, and hoppers formed bands and immature adults formed groups until mid-April (5,288 ha treated). Thereafter, infestations declined on the Red Sea coast as adults moved inland towards Lake Nasser where they dispersed. In Eritrea, small-scale breeding occurred on the Red Sea coast in January and February and a few small hopper groups formed as vegetation dried out (920 ha treated). In Yemen, small-scale breeding occurred on the Red Sea coast during October and November, causing a few small hopper groups and bands to form in December (1,450 ha treated). Small-scale breeding occurred again in January. In northern Oman, teams treated (8 ha) transiens adults in November and scattered adults were present on the northern coast in March.

Summer 2011. Although good rains fell in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan in July and August, only low numbers of immature and mature adults were present from June to October and breeding was not detected.

Autumn 2011 to Spring 2012. A few isolated adults from summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan appeared on the Red Sea coast in Tokar Delta from November to March and on the central coastal plains in Eritrea during December. Scattered adults were present in subcoastal areas in the northeast during January. In Saudi Arabia, small-scale breeding occurred on the central Red Sea coast in November and low numbers of adults were present in December and January. In Yemen, scattered adults were seen on the northern Red Sea coastal plains during December. Generally dry conditions prevailed during the winter. In northern Oman, local breeding occurred during February and immature adults were present in March. Small-scale breeding took place in central Oman during March and April, causing small hopper groups to form in May.

IV. South-West Asia Region

Spring 2009. Small-scale breeding occurred in western Pakistan (10 ha treated) and southeast Iran during April, and groups of hopper were treated (5,500 ha) in Iran during May and June.

Summer 2009. Only low numbers of locusts were present along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border due to poor monsoon rains.

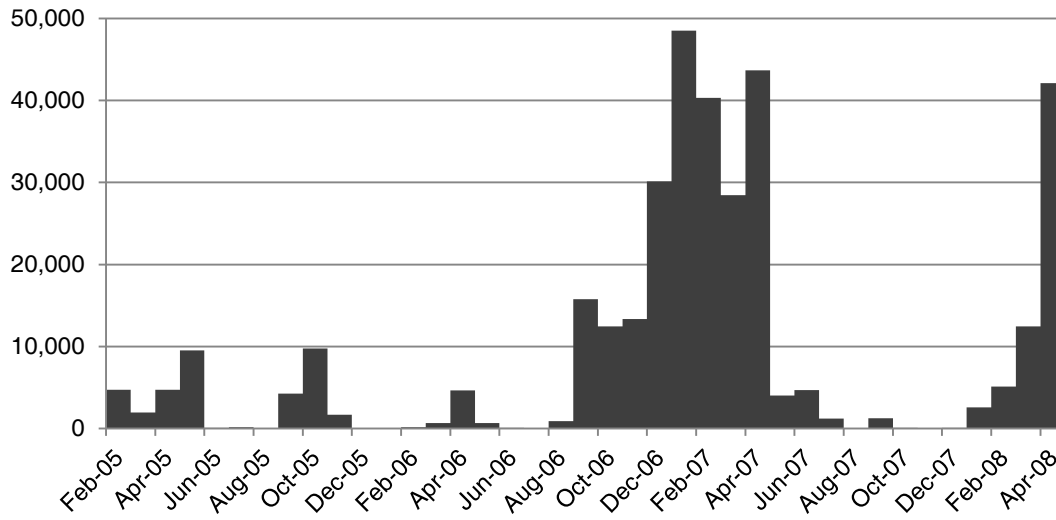
Spring 2010. Isolated adults were present in western Pakistan from February to April but breeding did not occur due to drought conditions. Heavy rains associated with Cyclone Phet fell in coastal areas of southeastern Iran and western Pakistan on 4-5 June, extending to the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border on 6-7 June.

Summer 2010. Scattered mature adults appeared in late June in the Cholistan Desert of Pakistan. Breeding occurred from July to September as a result of good monsoon rains that fell along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. An outbreak developed in early October when locust numbers suddenly increased as a result of a second generation of hatching that gave rise to hopper groups and bands in both countries. Several immature swarms were also seen along the border. Control operations were carried out in Pakistan (14,204 ha) and India (4,700 ha) from September to November, and no locusts were seen after December.

Spring 2011. Low numbers of immature and mature adults were present in a few coastal and interior areas of Baluchistan in western Pakistan. During April, small-scale breeding occurred in the interior of southeast Iran and in Baluchistan, Pakistan. Groups of solitarious and transiens hoppers and adults as well as a few hopper bands formed in May in northern Baluchistan. During June, a small swarm appeared in southeast Iran while hoppers and adults continued to form groups in northern Baluchistan. Locust numbers had declined by early July as a result of control operations in Iran (6,703 ha) and Pakistan (8,771 ha) and due to limited movements to the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border.

Summer 2011. Mature solitarious adults appeared in late June near the Indian border in Cholistan, Pakistan, probably arriving from spring breeding areas in Baluchistan. Low numbers of adults were present along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan from June to October and one generation of limited breeding occurred.

Spring 2012. Isolated mature solitary adults were present at a few places on the Baluchistan coast from late January to March, and scattered adults were present in the northern interior in April.



Number of hectares treated from March 2009 to May 2012 by national control teams in locust-affected countries.

Annex IV: Major Desert Locust outbreak in the Western Region: workplan for Mali Niger and Chad in July and August 2012

Introduction

In June 2012, the Desert Locust prevailing situation, characterized by the arrival of groups and small swarms in northern Niger and Mali from the outbreak which developed in Libya and Algeria, represents a potential threat for the Western Region and an immediate risk for the pastures and cropping areas of these two countries as well as for Chad.

It is the reason why, during the 40th session of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) held in Rome on 19-22 June 2012, a group of experts was created to discuss and propose an Action Plan for three countries (Niger, Mali, and Chad) and the two forthcoming months of July and August 2012. Its objectives are to provide an overview of the situation and allow timely control operations to stop the Desert Locust populations' dynamics and avoid a large scale second generation of breeding.

Thanks to this Action Plan, whose budget is of USD 2,515,300, it is expected that survey and control teams will be quickly mobilized in the three above-mentioned countries.

1. Niger

1.1. Survey and control plan

- 14 survey teams, each made of two vehicles, one for survey and one for transport of logistics (in the North, Air and Tamesna)
- 14 control teams, each made of two control vehicles
- 2 teams for environmental monitoring (in the North, Air and Tamesna)
- 2 coordination teams
- 2 supplying teams
- 2 logistics teams
- 2 maintenance teams
- Aerial means for survey and control.

1.2. Pesticides

Pesticide needs (Ultra-low volume formulation) are estimated at 50,000 litres. Algeria is willing to provide this quantity to Niger. An official request will also be sent to Morocco. A lump sum of USD 320,000 is foreseen for the related airlifting.

1.3. Equipment

- Personal Protective Equipment: 100 kits
- Scientific equipment: 20 kits
- Communication equipment: 11 HF radios and 5 satellite phones (Thuraya)
- Renting of 10 vehicles

1.4. Technical assistance

Two International Consultants (2 months/person)

2. Mali

2.1. Survey and control plan

- 10 survey teams, each made of one vehicle and located between Douentza (Mopti area) and Nara (Koulikoro area)
- 4 control teams, each made of two vehicles equipped with vehicle-mounted sprayers. They will be located in the cities close to the surveyed areas to allow rapid interventions as needed
- 2 monitoring teams to monitor health of the workers exposed to pesticides, assess the quality of the control operations as well as evaluate their impact on the environment
- 2 coordination teams to ensure the connection between the field teams and the headquarters of the National Locust Control Center
- 2 logistics and maintenance teams to deal with all logistical aspects

2.2. Pesticides

Pesticide needs (Ultra-low volume formulation) are estimated at 25,000 litres. Algeria and Morocco are willing to provide this quantity to Mali. A lump sum of USD 175,000 is foreseen for the related airlifting.

2.3. Equipment

- Personal Protective Equipment: 100 kits
- Scientific equipment (anemometer, psychometer, tally counter): 20 kits
- Camping equipment: 50 kits
- Information and communication equipment: 12 eLocust2 (provided by FAO), 5 satellite phones (Thuraya), 10 HF radios
- Renting of 5 vehicles

2.4. Technical assistance

One International Consultant (2 months/person)

3. Chad

3.1. Survey and control plan

- 7 survey teams, each made of two vehicles (3 in Kanem and 4 in Batha - Fada, Salal, Kalait)
- 3 control teams, each made of two vehicles equipped with vehicle-mounted sprayers and located in the support bases to ensure rapid interventions when need arises
- 1 human health/environment team
- 1 coordination team
- 1 logistics and maintenance teams

3.2. Pesticides

Pesticide needs (Ultra-low volume formulation) are estimated at 16,000 litres. Algeria is willing to provide this quantity to Chad. A lump sum of USD 175,000 is foreseen for the related airlifting.

3.3. Assistance technique

One International Consultant (2 months/person)

Table 1 - Niger: Estimated needs for July and August 2012

Inputs	Cost for 2 months by team or unit (USD)	Needs (No teams or units)	Cost (USD)
<u>Ground survey/control Teams</u>			
survey	27 300	14	382 200
control	27 300	14	382 200
environmental monitoring	7 000	2	14 000
coordination	5 675	2	11 350
logistics	5 675	2	11 350
maintenance	5 675	2	11 350
supplying	5 675	2	11 350
Sub-total Ground Teams			823 800
<u>Aerial Support</u>			
survey/control (lump sum)	200 000	1	200 000
Avgas			22 000
Sub-total Aerial Support			222 000
<u>Pesticides</u>			
Quantity (50,000 L)			Grant Algeria or Morocco
Airlifting (lump sum)	320 000		320 000
Sub-total Pesticides			320 000
<u>Equipment</u>			
protection	150	100	15 000
scientific	250	20	5 000
communication (Radio)	5 500	11	60 500
communication (Sat phones)	1 000	5	5 000
vehicles (lump sum for rent)	12 000	10	120 000
Sub-total Equipment			205 500
<u>Technical Assistance</u>			
International Consultant	30 000	2	60 000
Sub-total Technical Assistance			60 000
TOTAL			1 631 300

Tableau 2 - Mali: Estimated needs for July and August 2012

Inputs	Cost for 2 months by team or unit (USD)	Needs (No teams or units)	Cost (USD)
<u>Ground survey/control Teams</u>			
survey	8 000	10	80 000
control	8 000	4	32 000
environmental monitoring	13 000	2	26 000
coordination	6 000	2	12 000
logistics	8 000	2	16 000
Sub-total Ground Teams			166 000
<u>Pesticides</u>			
Quantity (25,000 L)			Grant Algeria or Morocco
Airlifting (lump sum)			175 000
Sub-total Pesticides			175 000
<u>Equipment</u>			
protection	150	100	15 000
scientific	250	20	5 000
camping equipment	600	50	30 000
communication (Radio)	5 500	10	55 000
communication (Sat. phones)	1 000	5	5 000
vehicles (lump sum for rent)	12 000	5	60 000
Sub-total Equipment			170 000
<u>Technical Assistance</u>			
International Consultant	30 000	1	30 000
Sub-total Technical Assistance			30 000
TOTAL			541 000

Tableau 3 - Chad: Estimated needs for July and August 2012

Inputs	Cost for 2 months by team or unit (USD)	Needs (No teams or units)	Cost (USD)
<u>Ground Teams</u>			
survey	12 000	7	84 000
control	12 000	3	36 000
environmental monitoring	6 000	1	6 000
coordination	6 000	1	6 000
logistics	6 000	1	6 000
Sub-total Ground Teams			138 000
<u>Pesticides</u>			
Quantity (16,000 L)			Grant Algeria or Morocco
Airlifting (lump sum)			175 000
Sub-total Pesticides			175 000
<u>Technical Assistance</u>			
International Consultant	15 000	2	30 000
Sub-total Technical Assistance			30 000
TOTAL			343 000

Annex V: Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations

1. **Objectives of the study.** The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) commissioned a study with the aim of improving the roles and responsibilities of the desert locust control commissions created under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and preparing a global framework for the governance and sustainable financing of desert locust control. The study was divided between two consultants, one dealing with institutional issues and the other with financing issues. This report relates to the latter.

2. **Current financing system.** The current financing system is not explicitly aligned with the dynamics of the desert locust's development, but distinguishes two basic phases: a routine situation, corresponding to the recession phase, and an emergency situation, encompassing the outbreak, resurgence and plague phases. The system builds on a wide range of financing sources involving multiple accounts, which makes it hard to obtain an overall picture of all the available resources and of expenditure within a given region. Moreover, resources tend to be unpredictable, which affects planning both by national locust control units (NLCUs) and by regional commissions.

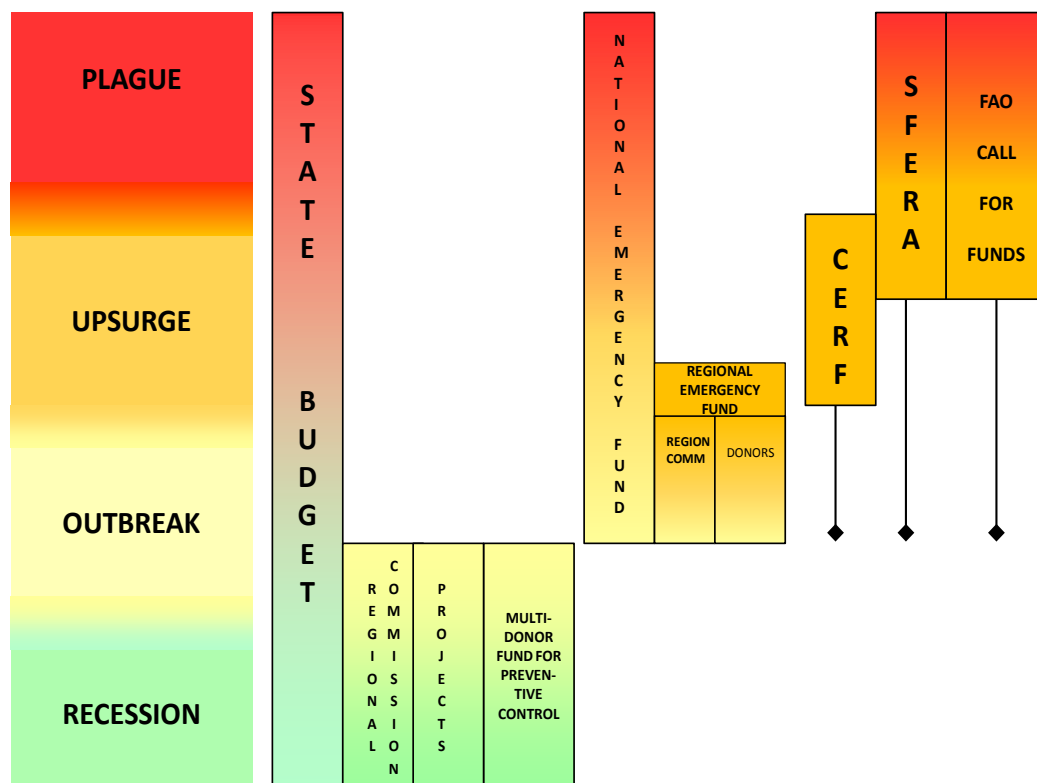
3. **Routine situation.** Projects financing FAO's EMPRES¹ Programme and other contributions from donors have helped to establish sustainable locust control systems. However, year-to-year variations in the level of financial resource allocations to NLCUs and regional commissions (through member states' contributions) hamper the development of regular prevention programmes that can cover all needs. This irregularity in finance reflects a real lack of resources in the poorest countries, and also the difficulty of making budget allocations in favour of prevention activities when the effects cannot be seen. In these countries, complementary resources are needed to ensure prevention during recession periods.

4. **Emergency situation.** In emergency situations, NLCUs can no longer meet the requirements of locust control with their usual financial instruments, and appeal to regional and international solidarity. Regional solidarity is facilitated by the regional commissions, but there is no mechanism organizing this, so that it happens in a fairly *ad hoc* fashion. Moreover, past emergencies have shown that there is a time lag of several months between the time an emergency is confirmed and the time international funds are made available. Locust contingency plans should be a key instrument in managing locust emergencies, but they are currently available in only a few countries and there is no consolidated regional plan, whereas regional management should constitute a crucial element in coping with a transboundary outbreak or plague.

5. **Towards a stronger financing system.** The proposed financing system is aligned with the dynamics of the desert locust's development, with an organized, progressive process to launch alerts and mobilize resources. It rests on a global control system based on transnational structures (regional commissions and the Desert Locust Control Committee [DLCC]), information sharing at national, regional and international levels (national networks, regional commissions and the Desert Locust Information Service [DLIS]), national and regional locust contingency plans and the sharing of financial responsibilities. It is also more transparent, spelling out the conditions for use of resources at every financing level and clarifying the levels of responsibility and their assumption by the various stakeholders. Lastly, it brings new emergency funds into play, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA), which should facilitate faster access to financial resources in emergency situations.

6. **Organization.** The proposed system anticipates financial instruments that are designed to meet the requirements of every stage in the locust development dynamics, as shown in the figure below.

¹ Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases.

Figure 1. Financing system designed to address the various phases

The ↓ symbol indicates when the activation of the financial instrument needs to be prepared so that it can rapidly be activated in case of aggravation of locust development.

7. The system is designed so that there is no break in finance, unlike what happened during the 2003–2005 emergency. When a new phase starts or when the resources of one financial instrument are no longer sufficient, a new instrument must take over. To ensure this overlapping succession of instruments, the system also anticipates that, from the recession phase onwards, the activation of a financing instrument is preceded by its being placed on the alert. The aim is to launch the preparations required to activate the instrument (the preparation of documents, contacts etc.), so that when the situation on the ground confirms that activation is required, this can be done very quickly. If the system is to function well, it is vital that all countries have harmonized contingency plans that are regularly updated, validated by the regional commission and shared at national, regional and international levels. Lastly, the system involves regular dialogue between the donors contributing to locust control and the beneficiary countries, focusing on the modalities for use of the allocated resources and, more generally, the conduct and performance of desert locust control, including preventive control.

8. **Recession.** During recession periods, the financing system must enable the financing of national control systems that have the technical capacities and the resources required to ensure monitoring and rapid intervention operations, and that can quickly adapt in case of any development towards subsequent stages of outbreak, upsurge and plague. It must also finance the regular budgets of the regional commissions. Financing must be primarily covered by the **national budgets** of the states concerned. Additional support may be required, particularly in countries with few resources, and such

support can come from the **budget of the regional commission in question** and from international aid in the context of **institution-building projects** or a **multi-donor fund for preventive control**.

9. **Outbreak.** During outbreak periods, the financing system must enable NLCUs to finance increased numbers of survey and control teams and the corresponding equipment. Such operations target locust populations that are becoming gregarious and concern limited but scattered areas totalling between 10 000 and 50 000 hectares. The anticipated expenditure covers the costs of mobilizing these additional teams and the necessary pesticide. Financing should come from the national budgets of the states concerned, preferably in the form of **national emergency funds**, together with complementary support from the **budgets of regional commissions** and international aid in the framework of **regional emergency funds**.

10. **Upsurge.** During upsurge periods, the financing system must enable NLCUs to finance broader operations, boosted by aerial operations and larger quantities of pesticide. Such operations cover three countries on average, and if environmental conditions are favourable, two regions may be affected simultaneously. The anticipated expenditure covers the costs of mobilizing additional teams, pesticide and aircraft flying time. The **national emergency funds** mobilized for the outbreak phase will continue to be used for the upsurge phase and into the plague phase. **Regional emergency funds** will continue to provide bridging finance in the earlier stages of the upsurge phase, until the **CERF** is activated. The CERF itself will in turn cover the transition until, if the situation worsens, FAO launches an **appeal for funds to the international community** and such funds become available. The **SFERA** will be mobilized to provide access to advances on amounts already pledged under a financing agreement with a donor.

11. **Plague.** During plague periods, the financing system must enable NLCUs to finance operations on an even broader scale. International aid, mobilized through **appeals for funds** launched by FAO, takes over from the CERF, and the SFERA continues to play its role of financing fund advances.

Annex VI: International Trust Fund 9161 (DLCC): contribution and arrears (as of December 2011)

Member Governments	Arrears as at 31/12/2011 (USD)	Arrears as at 31/12/2011 in equivalent-years of contribution due	Contribution due in 2012 (USD)*
AFGHANISTAN	830.00	0	3,480.00
ALGERIA	7,734.00	1	7,700.00
BAHRAIN	920.00	1	920.00
BURKINA FASO	9,000.00	3	3,000.00
CAMEROON	9,992.06	3	2,780.00
CHAD	114,680.00	32	3,520.00
DJIBOUTI	34,580.00	30	1,120.00
EGYPT	0.00	0	5,740.00
ERITREA	9,000.00	3	3,000.00
ETHIOPIA	21,648.00	5	4,320.00
GAMBIA	58,729.50	24	2,420.00
GHANA	3,280.00	1	3,280.00
INDIA	269.16	0	20,000.00
IRAN, Islamic Rep. of	461,495.24	23	20,000.00
IRAQ	178,626.00	24	7,440.00
JORDAN	0.00	0	3,420.00
KENYA	-21,919.34	0	3,580.00
KUWAIT	60,000.00	3	20,000.00
LEBANON	35,514.85	11	3,060.00
LIBYA	31,940.00	3	10,640.00
MALI	6,706.59	1	3,600.00
MAURITANIA	82,836.09	28	2,900.00
MOROCCO	40.00	0	5,360.00
NIGER	107,080.00	28	3,760.00
NIGERIA a/	67,369.61	a/	0.00
PAKISTAN	6,520.00	1	6,520.00
QATAR	2,637.84	1	1,760.00
SAUDI ARABIA, Kingdom of	0.00	0	20,000.00
SENEGAL	45,563.16	12	3,520.00
SOMALIA	100,774.77	28	3,500.00
SUDAN	83,868.20	21	3,980.00
SYRIA	-1,814.08	0	4,520.00
TUNISIA	111,056.44	24	4,460.00
UGANDA	9,425.23	2	3,380.00
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	36,843.80	8	4,600.00
YEMEN	67,359.23	10	6,500.00
TOTAL	1,742,586.35	8	207,780.00

a/ Withdrawn in 1995

* : Fiscal year begins in July

Annex VII: International Trust Fund 9161 (DLCC): workplan 2012-2014**TRUST FUND No 9161.00 - MTF/INT/008/MUL****PROPOSED BUDGET N. 1 (USD)****(based on contributions due fully received + part of the arrears paid)**

N°	Item	2012	2013	2014
1	Fellowships	45,000	45,000	45,000
2	Reproduction and distribution of technical papers	4,400	4,400	4,400
3	40 th and 41 st DLCC Sessions	100,000	0	60,000
4	Training for national locust information officer in DLIS (one /year)	45,000	45,000	45,000
5	Pesticide Referee Group	0	25,000	0
6	Technical consultancies in support of GIS and new technologies	20,000	20,000	20,000
7	Support to DLIS forecasting activities - GS staff in DLIS	85,000	85,000	85,000
8	Contingency/Emergency Funds	20,000	20,000	20,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	319,400	244,400	279,400
9	Project Servicing Costs	41,522	31,772	36,322
	GRAND TOTAL*	360,922	276,172	315,722

*: Amount of the annual budget is on average 317,605 USD

PROPOSED BUDGET N. 2 (USD)**(based on contributions due fully received only)****– APPROVED –**

No	Item	2012	2013	2014
1	Fellowships	45,000	45,000	45,000
2	Reproduction and distribution of technical papers	4,400	4,400	4,400
3	40th and 41st DLCC Sessions	100,000	0	60,000
4	Training for national locust information officer in DLIS (one /year)	45,000	45,000	45,000
5	Pesticide Referee Group	0	25,000	0
6	Technical consultancies in support of GIS and new technologies	20,000	20,000	20,000
7	Support to DLIS forecasting activities - GS staff in DLIS	85,000 25,000	85,000	85,000
8	Contingency/Emergency Funds	25,000	20,000	20,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	190,000	150,000	210,000
9	Project Servicing Costs	24,700	19,500	27,300
	GRAND TOTAL**	214,700	169,500	237,300

**: Amount of the annual budget is on average 207,167 USD; equivalent to annual contributions due