

REPORT

**Jeddah,
Saudi Arabia
24–28
November
2012**

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

Twenty-Eighth Session



Report of the

Twenty-Eighth Session

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

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 24 – 28 November 2012

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Rome 2012**

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Participants of the 28th Session and the 32nd Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 24-28 November 2012.

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**Report of the Twenty-Eighth Session
COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE
DESERT LOCUST IN THE CENTRAL REGION
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 24- 28 November 2012**

Summary of recommendations

First: Recommendations related to the Commission:

1. With all respect to the restructuring process undergoing at the Regional office, and due to the nature of the Commission activities and services provided to 16 member countries in addition to north Somalia in Desert Locust management, the Admin Assistant will not be in a position to handle any additional tasks relating to the regional office. Therefore, member countries oppose the decision of the Regional Office to include the Admin Assistant in the restructuring process and hence recommended the chairman of the commission to address this issue to the Regional Representative at RNE prior to any further necessary action.
2. The member countries recommend FAO to offer the Commissions further autonomy to handle its financial and admin affairs.
3. Update the establishment agreement of the Commission and make the necessary changes, taking into consideration the report of the consultant recruited by FAO.

Second: Member countries:

4. The Director of DLCO-EA to contact the concerned authorities in Ethiopia to enquire on the project proposal and inform the Secretariat of the Commission of any development.
5. The delegate of Iraq to inform the Secretariat of the Commission on the status of the use of spray equipment in Desert Locust Control operations.
6. The Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre in Yemen is to send samples of the pesticides used for DL control to one of the specialized laboratories in Yemen for efficacy analysis, and inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the results.
7. Member countries to continue their efforts to include the Desert Locust academic course (biology, survey and control operations) in the last academic year of the faculty of Agriculture at universities.
8. Member countries are to send an update of their focal person details regularly, in order to update these details on the CRC-EMPRES and eLERT website, informing the Secretariat of any changes. Delegates representing the member countries in this session to follow up on this issue.

9. Front-line countries should only activate the minimum number of eLocust2 units, and activate more units depending on locust activities and only when needed in order to avoid unnecessary cost on the Commission Trust Fund and according to the right planning for Desert Locust survey.
10. Frontline member countries to stay vigilant, conducting regular Desert Locust surveys and send regular and timely reports to DLIS and CRC explaining the DL situation.
11. The DL unit in Eritrea is to send a sample of the pesticides used for DL control to one of the specialized laboratories outside Eritrea for efficacy analysis, cost covered by the Commission.
12. The Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre in Yemen is to inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the hierarchical structure of the centre.
13. The Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre in Yemen is to inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the number of eLocusts units available at the centre (active/non-active) used by governorates and their status.
14. Locust Control Centers / Plant Protection Departments of member countries to implement the recommendations made in the training courses and workshops organized by the Commission and inform the Secretariat of any difficulties faced in the implementation.
15. The representatives of Qatar, Kuwait and UAE are to follow up on the submitted proposal to their ministries, giving feedback to the Secretariat of the Commission.
16. UAE and Qatar are to introduce spray equipment of Ultra Low Volume (ULV) for Desert Locust control and the Commission to train the DL/PPD officers on the use and maintenance of these equipment.
17. Member countries that participated in the EHS Workshop are to apply the Environmental and Health standards in Desert Locust control operations in the Central region, as per the plan prepared by the Commission.
18. Frontline countries currently infested by Desert Locust are to assess the Environmental and Health Standards of the currently conducted Desert Locust control operations.
19. Desert Locust Units to send regular reports informing the Secretariat of the Commission of the progress made in the implementation of Environmental and Health Standards and of any difficulties facing the progress.

Third: Recommendations related to the Secretariat:

20. The Secretariat of the Commission is to correspond with the Migratory Pest unit in Ethiopia to obtain information regarding the structure and staff available at the Locust Unit.

21. The Secretariat of the Commission is to address the issue of the non-conduction of national training courses by the Desert Locust Control Centre in Sudan to the higher level of authorities at the Ministry of Agriculture through the FAO Representation in Sudan, to understand the reasons behind it.
22. Frontline member countries (Eritrea, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Sudan and Yemen) to prepare a national contingency plan using the updated version of DeLCoPA and to communicate any difficulties and obstacles to the Secretariat of the Commission.
23. The recruitment of the technical support Assistant Mr. Essam Khalifah is to be renewed as a consultant with a salary of US\$ 1,000 per month.
24. The Secretariat of the Commission is to assist the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre in Yemen to prepare a project proposal for support to present it to the donors to assist in the rehabilitation of the centre.
25. Directors of Locust Control Centers/Directors of Plant Protection Departments of member countries to allocate a specific budget to cover the extra DL activities stated in their plan.
26. The Commission should continue to conduct sub-regional training courses for non-frontline member countries, possibly, in one of the frontline countries, to reinforce the survey and control operations.
27. The Commission is to invite Desert Locust officers of non-frontline countries to participate in control operations in one of the frontline countries to gain experience and knowledge in practice.
28. Trainees attending training courses and workshops organized by the Commission are requested to submit a report to their direct supervisors upon their return, with a copy to the Secretariat of the Commission.
29. The Commission delegates Mr. Munir Butrous to follow up the issuance of the Desert Locust Diploma certificates by the University of Khartoum, including subjects studied, for those who have not received theirs after completing of the diploma course.
30. The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region is to continue its collaboration with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC) in all aspects of Desert Locust Management.
31. The Secretariat of the Commission is to provide the representative of Kuwait with an official request to follow up on the submitted proposal, giving feedback to the Secretariat.

32. Member countries to continue their communication and cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commission in all CRC activities.
33. The CRC is to benefit from the CLCPRO knowledge and experience in the implementation of the Environmental Health Standards by exchanging expertise and jointly participating in the related workshops.
34. The Secretary of the Commission to follow up with member countries the official approval for the implementation of the EHS programme.

Fourth: Training:

35. The Commission is to organize and conduct a workshop on the operation and maintenance of spray equipment used in DL control operation, in one of the frontline countries, with priority given to the participation of technicians from non-frontline countries. The training course is to be supported by the DL technicians already trained in these workshops in Morocco.
36. Eritrea to organize a national training course during 2013 funded and technically supported by the Commission according to prior recommendations in this regard.
37. The Commission should continue to conduct the inter-regional workshops for Desert Locust Information Officers in Cairo, Egypt annually to be trained on the new eLocust3 and RAMSES4 and any other new technologies.
38. The concerned authorities at the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Commission, to conduct a national training course in 2014 for Plant Protection Officers, to be supported financially and technically by the Commission.
39. The Secretariat of the Commission is to financially and technically support the conduction of a national training course on DL survey and control operations for DL/PPD officers in Qatar in 2013, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment.
40. The Secretariat of the Commission is to financially and technically support the conduction of a national training course on DL survey and control operations for DL officers in UAE in 2013, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Water.
41. The Secretary of the Commission, jointly with the countries, is to conduct a workshop on EHS in one of the frontline member countries and provide the required equipment and materials.

Fifth: Research:

42. The Secretariat of the Commission should correspond with the Directors of Locust Control Centers/ Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to continue their efforts to encourage research institutes to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics, and the Secretariat of the Commission shall provide the required forms and funds to carry out the applied research, once approved.
43. The Commission is to announce the M.Sc. scholarship in Desert Locust field in 2014, financed by the Commission.
44. The Commission is to support the implementation of specific M.Sc. studies, sponsored by CRC, in the aim to improve and develop DL survey and control operations in the member countries with a budget of US\$ 5,000.

Sixth: Publications and media:

45. The Commission to prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) booklet on the operation and maintenance of spray equipment used in DL control operations.
46. The Secretariat is to prepare a documentary film on Desert Locust survey and control, to be utilized during training courses.
47. The production of more copies of the glossary (as required) and their distribution to the remaining concerned institutions and organizations.
48. The Secretariat of the Commission is to take the necessary steps to redesign the CRC-EMPRES website to include the Arabic language for a wider benefit, in addition to the currently used English language.

Seventh: Financial support and requirement of member countries:

49. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission to visit the CRC member countries: Bahrain, Oman, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, to meet with the concerned ministers to provide an overview on the Commission's activities and its role in the Central Region regarding Desert Locust management and present proposals to support of the Commission's activities.
50. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission to visit Yemen to meet with the concerned ministers at the Ministry of Agriculture to explore ways to support the Desert Locust Centre.
51. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission to meet the concerned personnel at the Islamic Development Bank to present a proposal in support of the Commission's activities.

52. The Chairman and the Secretariat of the Commission are to visit Djibouti to refresh the communication channels and to review the difficulties faced in participating in the Commission's activities and sessions.
53. The Secretariat is to procure the necessary equipment and material needed by the EHS teams.
54. The Commission is to cover the cost of holding a national workshop in the frontline countries with not more than US\$ 2,500 per workshop to conduct the necessary training for implementing the EHS.
55. The member countries approved the provision of the requested material to the Faculty of Agriculture at the Sudan University for Science and Technology, needed for the inclusion of the Desert Locust subject in the syllabus of the final year.

Eighth: Budget:

56. The member countries approved the proposed four year workplan 2013-2016 and the costs entailed in implementing the recommendations of the workplan from the Trust Fund of the Commission.
57. The work plan for 2013-2014 was endorsed by the member countries
58. The Secretariat of the commission is to prepare a comprehensive report to include the commission plans and expenditure from the Commission's trust fund and its effects on the member countries to increase its annual contribution. The report is to be sent to the concerned authorities in all member countries and to inform the Secretariat of the Commission accordingly.
59. The Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities when these activities are not reflected in the Commission workplan.
60. The Commission reaffirmed the importance and critical role played by DLIS in early warning systems, funded by FAO Regular Programme. In case of budget constraints, the Commission would consider providing partial financial support, to ensure its sustainability, after the agreement of the three commissions.

**Report of the Twenty-Eighth Session
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust
in the Central Region
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 24-28 November 2012**

Introduction

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O) invited the member countries of the Commission, Bahrain, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, to attend the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 24 – 28 November 2012.

Invitations were also addressed to the Arab League Organization, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC). USAID declined the invitation for other commitments. Syria regretted their participation. (Appendix 1)

1) Opening Session

H.E. Eng. Mohamed Abdallah Al Shiha, Under-Secretary of the Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia welcomed all guests in Saudi Arabia and expressed his pleasure to host the 28th CRC Session. He stressed the importance of the cooperation and coordination of member countries in controlling the Desert Locust, through the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region.

The Under-Secretary also mentioned the role played by the Ministry of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia in controlling the Desert Locust in the Kingdom.

On behalf of the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ms. Annie Monard, Team Leader, Locust and Migratory Pests Group, Rome, expressed her thanks to the Under-Secretary of the Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia for hosting the 28th Session and its 32nd Executive Committee. She pointed out the current Desert Locust situation in general and that more detailed reports shall be presented, in addition to the meeting's agenda. She stressed on the importance of these meetings which contribute to the success of Desert Locust control operations on the regional level.

2) Report of the Chairman of the Commission

Mr. Imad Nahhal, the Chairman of the Commission in its 27th Session presented a brief report on the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission during the period September 2010 to November 2012. In this respect, Mr. Nahhal, commended the valuable efforts of the Commission's member countries during the locust control operations in the Central Region and also between member countries and regional organizations, in particular, the cooperation between the Commission and the Desert Locust Control Organization in East Africa (DLCO-EA) in northern Somalia. The cooperation with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC) in the workshop on operation and maintenance of spray equipment used for Desert Locust control, and in information

and experience exchange, specifically in Desert Locust Data management and Environmental and Health Standards in Desert Locust control operations in the Central Region. (Appendix 2).

3) Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

The delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Adnan Soliman Khan, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the 28th Session of the Commission and United Arab Emirates delegate, Mr. Saeed Ali Al Awash, was elected as Vice-Chairman.

4) Adoption of the Agenda

After reviewing and discussing the provisional agenda by the Session, the agenda was unanimously agreed upon, without any changes, as per the following:

1. Opening Session
2. Report of the Chairman of the Commission
3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Election of the Drafting Committee
6. Report of the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission and follow up of the recommendations of the Twenty- Seventh Session
7. Desert Locust situation from September 2010 to October 2012
 - a) Desert Locust reports and workplans of member countries (Item 7a)
8. Report on CRC activities (Items 8a, b and c)
 - a) Training
 - b) Research and Publications
 - c) Report on the implementation of the Environmental Health Standards
9. Report of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) (Item 9)
10. Report of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC) (Item 10)
11. Report of the Desert Locust Control Organization in East Africa (DLCO-EA) (Item 11)
12. Report of the visit of the Chairman and Secretary to the Gulf countries (Item 12)
13. Election of members and Chairman of the Executive Committee (Item 13)
14. Workplan of the Commission for the next four years (Item 14)
15. Accounts for 2010 and 2011 (Item 15)
16. Contributions of member countries to the Commission's Trust Fund (Item 16)
17. Work plan and budget for 2013-2014 (Item 17).
18. Report of the CRC on the results of the questionnaire on the training programme and the Commission's activities. (Item 18)
19. Other business (Item 19)
20. Date & place of the next Session of the Commission and Executive Committee (Item 20)
21. Adoption of the report of the 28th Session of the Commission (Item 21)
22. Closure of the Session (Item 22)

5) Election of the Drafting Committee

The representatives from Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates were elected as members of the Drafting Committee. The Commission took the responsibility of the secretariat.

6) Report of the Secretariat of the Commission on activities and follow up of the recommendations of the 27th Session of the Commission

The Secretary of the Central Region Commission presented a comprehensive report, indicating the activities implemented and achieved during the period September 2010 to November 2012 (Appendix 3). The participants discussed the report thoroughly with specific attention to the following subjects:

1. With regard to the recommendation for Ethiopia, with the support of DLCO-EA, to prepare a project proposal to support Desert Locust operations in northern Somalia for submission to FAO to identify a donor to fund the project which has not been implemented, and the non participation of a delegate from Ethiopia, it was agreed to represent the same recommendation as follows:

The Director of DLCO-EA is to contact the concerned authorities in Ethiopia to enquire on the project proposal and inform the Secretariat of the Commission of any development.

2. With regards to the recommendation stating that "member countries should prepare inventories of obsolete and unwanted Desert Locust pesticides in details, updated every year, and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice", the delegates informed the meeting that a number of member countries do not currently have obsolete pesticides.
3. In view of no reply received from Ethiopia when the Secretariat addressed the issue of staffing changes in the Migratory Pests Unit in Ethiopia, and there was no representation from Ethiopia in the meeting, the participants recommended the following:

The Secretariat of the Commission is to correspond with the Migratory Pest unit in Ethiopia to obtain information regarding the structure and staff at the Locust Unit.

4. With regards to the recommendation to approaching the concerned organization in Iraq to bring to an end the usage of the ENS in pest control, the delegate of Iraq informed that they no longer use them and are being stored. The meeting recommended the following:

The delegate of Iraq is to inform the Secretariat of the Commission on the status of the use of spray equipment in Desert Locust Control operations.

5. With reference to the recommendation regarding Yemen to send samples of pesticides for analysis in one of the independent laboratories, the meeting recommended:

The Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre in Yemen is to send samples of the pesticides used for DL control to one of the specialized laboratories in Yemen for efficacy analysis and inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the results.

6. With regards to the recommendation relating to Sudan not conducting national training courses during the past five years, and the fact that the Commission did not receive a reply to its enquiry, the meeting recommended that:

The Secretariat of the Commission is to address the issue of the non conduction of national training courses by the Desert Locust Control Centre in Sudan to the higher level of authorities at the Ministry of Agriculture through the FAO Representation in Sudan, to understand the reasons behind it.

7. With reference to the recommendation regarding the inclusion of the Desert Locust academic course (biology, survey and control operations) in the last academic year of the University of Agriculture as practiced at the Sudan University of Sciences and Technology, the Secretariat commended the efforts exerted in this regard and the meeting recommended that:

Member countries are to continue their efforts to include the Desert Locust academic course (biology, survey and control operations) in the last academic year of the faculty of Agriculture at universities.

8. Regarding the recommendation for Technical staff from front-line countries to participate in a Maintenance Workshop on Spray Equipment in Aghadir in Morocco in coordination with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region, technicians from the member countries have participated and the Secretariat expressed its gratitude for this fruitful cooperation. In view of the importance of training more technicians on spray equipment maintenance from non frontline countries, the meeting recommended:

The Secretariat of the Commission is to organize and conduct regional workshops on the operation and maintenance of spray equipment used in DL control operations, in one of the frontline countries, with priority given to technicians from non-frontline countries. The workshop is to be supported by the DL technicians already trained in Morocco.

9. The meeting discussed the Train of Trainers- ToT training courses that the Commission organizes. The delegate of Eritrea commended these training courses and the meeting recommended:

Eritrea is to organize a national training course during 2013 funded and technically supported by the Commission according to prior recommendations in this regard.

10. With reference to the recommendation regarding front-line countries to send the national contingency plan to the Secretariat of the Commission, similar to the one submitted by Egypt, the meeting agreed to organize a group from delegates of frontline countries present in the meeting and with the assistance of Mr. Christian Pantenius and Mr. Munir Butrous, to provide background information and to follow up the recommendation for member countries to use the CD on DeLCoPA and the following recommendation was made:

Frontline member countries, Eritrea, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Sudan and Yemen) are to prepare a national contingency plan using the updated version of DeLCoPA and to communicate any difficulties and obstacles to the Secretariat of the Commission in order to resolve it.

11. With regards to the recommendation on the Directors of Locust Control Centers and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics, the meeting recommended the resubmission of the recommendation:

The Secretariat of the Commission should correspond with the Directors of Locust Control Centers/ Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to continue their efforts to encourage research institutes to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics, and the Secretariat of the Commission shall provide the required forms and funds to carry out the applied research, once approved.

12. With reference to the recommendation to recruit a technical support staff from the Department of Desert Locust Centre of the host country to the Secretariat of the Commission with a top up to his/her monthly salary of not more than US\$ 1,000, the Secretariat informed the meeting that recommendation has been implemented, except that it needs to be rephrased to comply with the rules and regulations of FAO. The recommendation has been rephrased as follows:

The recruitment of the Technical support Assistant Mr. Essam Khalifah is to be renewed as a consultant with a salary of US\$ 1,000 per month.

13. The meeting discussed updating the details of the focal person in member countries to resolve the problem of poor response from the member countries to the Commission's requests, upon it the meeting recommended:

Member countries are to send an update of their focal person details regularly, in order to update the information on the CRC-EMPRES and eLERT websites, informing the Secretariat of any changes. Delegates representing the member countries in this session are to follow up on this issue.

7) Desert Locust Situation from November 2010 to November 2012

Mr. Keith Cressman, Senior Locust Forecasting Officer (DLIS), presented a comprehensive Desert Locust situation report in the three regions (Eastern, Central and Western) since November 2010 to November 2012, with the emphasis on the Central Region. (Appendix 4).

Mr. Cressman has presented an assessment on the use of eLocust and how member countries are benefiting from the collected data from RAMSES in the three commissions. After intensive discussions, the following recommendations were made:

Front-line countries should only activate the minimum number of eLocust2 units, and activate more units depending on locust activities and only when needed in order to avoid unnecessary cost on the Commission Trust Fund and according to the right planning for Desert Locust surveys.

The Commission should continue to organize and conduct the inter-regional workshops for Desert Locust Information Officers in Cairo, Egypt, annually to be trained on the new eLocust3 and RAMSES4 and any other new technologies.

Frontline member countries are to stay vigilant and regularly conduct Desert Locust surveys and send regular and timely reports to DLIS and CRC explaining the DL situation.

7a) Complementary reports on DL situation from member countries and observers

Eritrea

The representative of Eritrea presented a report on the general Desert Locust situation in which a control operation on localised limited infestation of about 1000 hectares, using 500 litres of pesticides in 2011. He stated that the DL situation was calm in 2012.

The delegate presented details on summer and winter breeding areas, available resources and pesticides at the DL control unit. He added that the available pesticides are old and need to be tested for efficacy. He mentioned the DL resources are lacking at the DL unit, thanking Saudi Arabia for supporting the DL operations with the provision of vehicles.

The Secretariat informed that the Commission can not cover the cost of the requested support from Eritrea but recommends the DL unit to prepare a support project and to present it to donors for their support. The Commission will cover the cost of analysis of the pesticides at one of the registered laboratories.

The DL unit in Eritrea is to send a sample of the pesticides used for DL control to one of the specialized laboratories abroad for efficacy analysis, cost covered by the Commission.

Iraq

The representative of Iraq gave short report mentioning that the DL situation was calm during the past few years. In his report he stressed on the importance of creating Master trainers in Iraq that would be essential during locust infestations. He requested the commission to support Iraq financially and technically to hold a national training course, and the following recommendation was made.

The concerned authorities at the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq in coordination with the Secretariat of the Commission, is to conduct a national training course in 2014 on Desert Locust biology, survey and control operations for Plant Protection officers, supported technically and financially by the Commission.

Egypt

The representative of Egypt presented a detailed report on the Desert Locust situation mentioning that at the end of 2010, there were low density of adult solitary Desert Locust along the Red Sea coast between Abou Ramad and Shalateen. Although control operations were conducted a second generation developed, which required the continuation of control operations until May 2012. The DL situation remained calm until October 2012, when a small number of solitary DL appeared in the area of Abu Simbel and west of Lake Nasser. Immature adult DL formed east and west of Lake Nasser, and groups formed in the Shalateen area along the Red Sea coast, where control operations were conducted on 2000 hectares, which were still in progress.

The delegate outlined the activities carried out by the Desert Locust Centre, being the preparation of the contingency plan for October 2012 – September 2013, sent to the Secretariat of the Commission, conduction of national training courses and participation in training courses and workshops organized by the Commission.

He also mentioned that some parts of Egypt are confronted with African Locust. Some discussion went on between the delegates of UAE and Saudi Arabia on means of controlling this pest.

Kuwait

The delegate from Kuwait mentioned that his country had no threat of Desert Locust during the period 2010-2012. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to frontline countries for their successful control operations, resulting to the DL not spreading to non frontline countries. He added that CRC mission, consisting of the Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission visited Kuwait in September 2012, meeting heads of departments and presented a project proposal to support the Commission's training programme. The mission also reviewed the available resources at the plant protection and the quarantine department for controlling the Desert Locust, if the need arises.

Lebanon

The delegate from Lebanon informed that the Desert Locust situation had been calm during the reporting period. He indicated that two trainees from the Ministry of Agriculture participated in the 7th sub-regional training course, held in Amman, Jordan, in May 2012.

Oman

The representative from Oman gave a presentation on the Desert Locust situation during the reported period from 2010 to 2012, mentioning that the locust situation was calm in the governorates, but Desert Locust surveys were conducted in 41,000 hectares while control operations carried out on only 10 hectares in 2012.

The delegate of Oman outlined the different activities carried out by the DL centre in participating in sub-regional training courses and inter-regional workshops organized by the Commission and also the joint border survey with Iran. The DL Centre also organized a national training course for 13 trainees, funded by the Commission in Ibri, in 2012.

Qatar

The delegate from Qatar stated that the Desert Locust situation had been calm during the reporting period, except that Qatar was invaded by African Locust in some newly cultivated road-grass farms in September 2012. The delegate informed the meeting of the CRC mission, consisting of the Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission which visited Qatar in September 2012. The Secretary of the Commission explained the type of locust present and recommended the use of Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprayers. The delegate of Qatar stressed the need to conduct training courses in non-frontline countries, with the support of the CRC, to train staff on DL control operations, should the need arise to conduct them. The meeting recommended the following:

The Secretariat of the Commission is organize and conduct a national training course on DL survey and control operations for DL/PPD officers in Qatar in 2013, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, supported financially and technically by the Commission.

Saudi Arabia

The representative of Saudi Arabia presented a comprehensive report on the Desert Locust situation in the Kingdom during the reporting period, indicating that it was calm during September to December 2010 but in January 2011 DL swarms of adult, sexually mature, invaded Mecca area and other adjacent areas, where ground and aerial control operations were conducted until May 2011. The DL situation then became calm up until October 2012. Lately, small swarms of immature DL were discovered north of the Red Sea near Yanbu, where control operations are currently in progress.

The delegate of Saudi Arabia mentioned the different activities carried out at the centre, among which are the National training courses, in addition to participation in regional workshops and training courses organized by the Commission. Saudi Arabia also took part in the recent surveys conducted by the Secretariat of the Commission.

United Arab Emirates

The representative of UAE gave a brief report on the DL situation, mentioning that it was calm during the period 2010 – 2012 except that recently UAE has been infested by African Locust in Sih El Sadira area in Abu Dhabi during July and August 2012. The CRC mission, the Chairman and the Secretary, visited UAE in September 2012 and clarified the type of locust present in newly cultivated road-grass farms causing great damage and also advised on the recommended control operations.

The delegate of UAE stressed on the importance of organizing training courses for DL officers. He added that DL has been placed among the national contingency plan in UAE which entailed additional resources and facilities made available to the Ministry of Environment. The meeting recommended the following:

The Secretariat of the Commission is to organize and conduct a national training course on DL survey and control operations for DL/PPD officers in UAE in 2013, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and water, supported financially and technically by the Commission.

Yemen

The representative of Yemen gave a comprehensive report on the Desert Locust situation in his country, mentioning that the situation was calm during the past two years, except for breeding at the end of 2010. He also informed that the centre has conducted a national training course for 12 trainees in October 2012 in Hodadya, financed by the Commission.

In his report, the delegate revealed the extensive damage that the Desert Locust centre has encountered during the recent unrest in Yemen. Consequently, most of the resources of the centre were lost, requesting the CRC member countries to support Yemen to re-establish the centre, to be able to carry out its duties. The meeting recommended the following:

The Secretariat of the Commission is to assist the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre in Yemen in preparing a proposal for support to present it to the donors for the rehabilitation of the centre.

The Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre is to inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the hierarchical structure of the centre.

The Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Centre to inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the number of eLocust2 units available at the centre (active or non-active) used by governorates and their status.

8) Activities of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

(a) Training

The Secretary of the Commission presented a comprehensive report on training activities including short, medium and long term trainings, either organized or supported or conducted by the Commission or the member countries (Appendix 5a).

He mentioned that training is considered to be continual and a priority activity of the Commission and should be continued, in order to have qualified Desert Locust officers able to deal new development and technologies used in DL survey and control operations. After extensive discussions, the following recommendations were made:

Directors of Locust Control Centers/Directors of Plant Protection Departments of member countries are to allocate a specific budget to cover the extra DL activities stated in their plans.

The Commission should continue to organize Sub-regional training courses for non-frontline member countries, possibly, in one of the frontline countries, to reinforce the survey and control operations.

The Commission is to invite the Desert Locust officers of non-frontline countries to participate in control operations in one of the frontline countries to gain experience and knowledge in practice.

Locust Control Centers and Plant Protection Departments of member countries are to implement the recommendations made in the training courses and workshops organized by the Commission and inform the Secretariat of any difficulties faced in the implementation.

The Commission to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) booklet on the operation and maintenance of spray equipment used in DL control operations.

Trainees participating in training courses and workshops organized by the Commission are requested to submit a report to their direct supervisors upon their return with a copy to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat is to prepare a documentary film on Desert Locust survey and control, to be utilized during training courses.

The Commission is to announce the M.Sc. scholarship in Desert Locust field in 2014, financed by the Commission, with studies in the following:
- GIS application related to Desert Locust operations.

- Application of Environmental and Health standards in Desert Locust control operations in the Central regions.
- Any other related subjects to DL operations approved by the Secretariat of the Commission.
Priorities are to be given to local universities and universities in member countries to carry out the approved studies, otherwise at foreign universities.

The Commission delegates Mr. Munir Butrous to follow up the issuance of the Desert Locust Diploma certificates by the University of Khartoum, including subjects studied, for those who have not received theirs after completing the diploma course.

(b) Research and publications:

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a detailed report on the research activities and publications in the previous period (Appendix 5b), and after long discussions, it was recommended:

The Commission is to support the implementation of specific M.Sc. studies, sponsored by CRC, in the aim to improve and develop DL survey and control operations in the member countries with a budget of US\$ 5,000.

The Secretariat of the Commission is to reproduce more copies of the glossary (as required) and distribute them on the remaining concerned institutions and organizations.

The Secretariat of the Commission is to take the necessary steps to redesign the CRC-EMPRES website to include the Arabic language, for a wider benefit, and to regularly update the information available.

9) Complementary activities from the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO)

On behalf of the Secretariat of CLCPRO, Mr. Mohamed Lemine, Desert Locust Officer at FAO HQ, presented a report explaining the agreement of the establishment of the CLCPRO and the role it plays in implementing the preventive control strategy in its member countries. He also gave a brief summary on the EMPRES programme currently being implemented in the Western Region with the end of Phase I and its accomplishments. He informed that CLCPRO is seeking support from donors to support Phase II for the period 2011-2014 to sustain the achieved results in Phase I. Phase II of the EMPRES programme aims to establish the sustainability of the preventive control strategy in the Western Region.

Mr. Lemine confirmed the collaboration between CLCPRO and CRC in the exchange of information and experiences, thus benefiting member countries of both commissions.

The presenter gave a report on the current DL situation in the Western Region and its development since February 2012 along the border of Libya and Algiers and its spread to Sahel countries. The Commission supported the control operations in Libya with US\$ 300,000.00 and facilitated the provision of pesticides from Mauritania through the triangulation process.

CLCPRO has supported the regional contingency plan in Sahel countries for July – August 2012, prepared by DLCC in June 2012. With the participation of the World Bank, CLCPRO organized a meeting for experts from the member countries in September 2012 in Mauritania, where an evaluation of the potential DL situation in the following three months (September-October 2012) was made.

With reference to the cooperation between CLCPRO and CRC during the period 2013-2014, it will include the following:

- 1-Desert Locust management
- 2- Follow up on the available national resources in member countries.
- 3- Implementation of Environmental and Health Standards in the Central Region.
- 4- Regional training courses.

The continuation of collaboration between CRC, CLCPRO and SWAC in different subjects of Desert Locust.

10) Complementary activities from the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC)

The Secretary of SWAC, Mr. Keith Cressman, presented a report stating that SWAC is the smallest and oldest of the three FAO regional locust commissions with four member countries, Iran, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Although it has a small budget, a number of important activities have been undertaken to support early warning and national capacities. A 30-day joint survey is undertaken every year during April in the spring breeding areas between Iran and Pakistan. A joint border meeting occurs every month during the summer (June to November) between India and Pakistan to enhance collaboration and exchange of information between the two countries. The trust fund also supports national training, use of eLocust2, translation of Desert Locust references into local languages, the development of new technologies (including RAMESv4), the procurement of equipment, regional and inter-regional workshops, and the participation in intra-regional and other inter-regional workshops organized by CRC. The Commission encourages frontline countries to designate two locust information officers, increase the number of master trainers, improve the border meetings, contingency planning, and survey effectiveness. SWAC is interested in continuing its collaboration with CRC in workshops and training and to extend it to contingency planning and environmental monitoring.

11) Report of the Desert Locust Control Organization in East Africa (DLCO-EA):

The Director of DLCO-EA presented a report on the Desert Locust situation in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan during the period 2010-2012 and pointed out the different DL activities, in terms of training and survey operations organized by the organization in cooperation with the CRC.

In addition to training the DLCO-EA caretaker in Somalia on DL management, DLCO-EA has benefited from the training courses organized by CRC, e.g. Regional Aerial Training Course on Survey and Control of DL and the Inter-Regional Workshops on the use of RAMSES Database and eLocust2 in DL management.

12) Report of the visit of the Chairman and Secretary to the gulf countries

The Secretary of the Commission presented a detailed report on the visit to the Gulf countries, accompanied by the Chairman of the Commission in its 27th Session, during the period 22 September – 1 October 2012, upon the recommendation of the 27th CRC Session held in Lebanon in 2010 (Appendix 6). The mission provided an overview on the Commission's activities and its role in the Central Region regarding Desert Locust management and discussed the financial status of the Commission and raising the countries' contribution to the Trust Funds.

The mission presented a project proposal for support in the Desert Locust Preventive Control Strategy in the central region and the importance of its sustained execution, to Kuwait, a project proposal on the implementation of Environmental and Health standards Programme in Central region Countries to UAE and a project proposal to fund the implementation of Sustainable Capacity Building Programme in the Central Region to Qatar.

The Secretariat pointed out that an initial acceptance of these proposals was provided, except that it will take time in its review before a response is given to the Commission. After extensive discussions the meeting recommended:

The Secretariat of the Commission is to provide the representative of Kuwait with an official request to follow up on the submitted proposal, giving feedback to the Secretariat.

The representatives of Qatar, Kuwait and UAE are to follow up on the submitted proposal to their ministries, giving feedback to the Secretariat.

Member countries are to continue in their communication and cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commission in all CRC activities.

UAE and Qatar are to introduce spray equipment of Ultra Low Volume (ULV) for DL control and the Commission to train the DL/PPD officers on the use and maintenance of this equipment.

The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission are to visit the CRC member countries: Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Iraq to meet with the concerned ministers to provide an overview on the Commission's activities and its role in the Central Region regarding Desert Locust management and present proposals in support of the Commission's activities.

The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission are to visit Yemen to meet with the concerned ministers at the Ministry of Agriculture to explore ways to support the Desert Locust Centre.

The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission are to meet the concerned personnel at the Islamic Development Bank to present a proposal in support of the Commission's activities

The Chairman and the Secretariat of the Commission are to visit Djibouti to revive the communication channels and to review the difficulties faced in participating in the Commission's activities and sessions.

13) Report on the implementation of the Environmental and Health Standards

The Technical Assistant, Mr. Essam Khalifah, presented a detailed report on the implementation of the Environmental and Health Standards in the Central Region, to define the requirements that a Desert Locust control campaign should meet with the aim to minimize environmental and human health effects of insecticide use. The EHS provides explicit benchmarks which Desert Locust control operations should comply with to ensure that environmental and human health effects are avoided or kept to an acceptable minimum. (Appendix 7).

The meeting was informed of the contents of the programme, its implementation requirements and the following recommendation was made:

The CRC is to benefit from the CLCPRO knowledge and experience in the implementation of the Environmental Health Standards by exchanging expertise and jointly participating in the related workshops.

The Secretariat is to procure the necessary equipment and material needed by the EHS teams.

Member countries that participated in the EHS Workshop are to apply the Environmental and Health standards in Desert Locust control operations in the Central region, as per the plan prepared by the Commission.

The Secretary of the Commission is to follow up with member countries the official approval for the implementation of the EHS programme.

The Secretary of the Commission, jointly with the countries, is to conduct a workshop on EHS in one of the frontline member countries and provide the required equipment and materials.

The Commission is to cover the cost of conducting national workshops in the frontline countries with not more than US\$ 2,500 per workshop to conduct the necessary training on the implementation of EHS.

Frontline countries infested by Desert Locust are to assess the Environmental and Health Standards of the currently conducted Desert Locust control operations.

Desert Locust Units are to send regular reports informing the Secretariat of the Commission of the progress made in the implementation of Environmental and Health Standards and of any difficulties facing them.

14) Election of members and Chairman of the Executive Committee

The Commission's delegates agreed to choose the seven members of the Executive Committee to be Egypt, Eritrea, Oman, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. The representative of Egypt was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

15) Workplan of the Commission for the next four years

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a detailed report on the proposed workplan for the next four years, prepared by Mr. Christian Pantenius and Mr. Munir Butrous, in February 2012, (Appendix 8). The report outlined the difficulties facing the Secretariat of the Commission in performing its workplan in professional manner and recommended solutions to them, (Appendix 13). The implementation of the four year work plan depends on advocacy of the activities of the Commission. The following recommendation was made:

The member countries approved the proposed four year workplan 2013-2016 and the costs entailed in implementing the recommendations of the workplan from the Trust Fund of the Commission.

16) Accounts for 2010 to 2012

The Secretary of the Commission presented a summary report on the financial status and the expenditure for the years 2010 to 2011 for the Commission's Trust Fund. The Secretariat of the Commission indicated that details of the expenditures can be reviewed in appendix (9)

After a long discussion, the member countries endorsed the expenditures reports for 2010, 2011 and 2012.

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

The Secretary presented a comprehensive report on the annual contributions to the Trust Fund for the year 2010, 2011 and 2012, and the accumulated arrears of certain member countries (Appendix 10). The Secretariat thanked all member countries for paying their contributions on time, especially Iraq for paying all of its remaining arrears. He also encouraged other member countries to follow suit in settling their arrears. **The representatives of member countries endorsed the report presented on the contributions and thanked member countries for their commitment in contribution payment which reached 93% in year 2012.**

The meeting agreed on the following recommendation:

The Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities that are not reflected in the Commission workplan.

18) Workplan for 2013 and 2014

The workplan for 2013 and 2014 was reviewed by the meeting (Appendix 11), with long a comprehensive discussion, up on which the following recommendation was made:

The work plan for 2013-2014 was endorsed by the member countries.

19) Report of the CRC on the results of the questionnaire on the training programme and the Commission's activities.

Mr. Essam Khalifah, Technical Assistant, presented a detailed report on the results compiled from the surveys prepared by the commission, mentioning the extent of member countries participation and their suggestions for developing the training programme. The Secretariat has noted these suggestions and will take them into consideration when implementing the training programme and contingency plans.

20) Other business:

a) Strengthening of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region:

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a detailed report on the autonomy of the Commission, administrative and financial, under the umbrella of FAO. He also outlined the restructuring programme currently being implemented at the FAO Near East Regional office in Cairo and its effects on the administrative and financial implementation of the Commission's activities. The Administrative Executive Assistant of the Commission was allocated extra tasks, not relating to the Commission. (Appendix 12a).

In spite of the all the evidence and proofs presented by the Secretariat of the Commission to the FAO Regional office, explaining the autonomous nature of the Commission referring to the agreement of the establishment of the commission under Article XIV, and upon the recommendations issued during the commission's sessions, the Secretariat did receive acceptance of the Regional office.

After extensive discussion and consideration of the negative impact of the Regional office decision on the implementation of the approved workplan of the Commission in this session, the meeting recommended that the following

With all respect to the restructuring process undergoing at the Regional office, and due to the nature of the Commission activities and services provided to 16 member countries in addition to north Somalia in Desert Locust management, the Admin Assistant will not be in a position to handle any additional tasks relating to the Regional Office. Therefore, member countries oppose the decision of the Regional office to include the Admin Assistant in the restructuring process and hence recommended the Chairman of the Commission to address this issue to the Regional Representative at RNE prior to any further necessary action.

The member countries supports the recommendation made in the 40th DLCC Session held in Rome in June 2012, to provide the Commissions further autonomy to handle its financial and admin affairs.

In view of the unchanged contribution rates of member countries for more than 30 years and with regards to the global financial changes in the last decade which had an effect on the Commission's performance and the implementation of its future workplans to sustain DL preventative strategy, the meeting recommended that:

The Secretariat of the commission is to prepare a comprehensive report to include the Commission plans and expenditure from the Commission's trust fund and its effects on the member countries to increase its annual contribution. The report is to be sent to the concerned authorities in all member countries for consideration and to inform the Secretariat of the Commission accordingly.

Update the establishment agreement of the Commission and make the necessary changes, taking into consideration the report of the consultant recruited by FAO.

The member countries approved the provision of the requested materials to the Faculty of Agriculture at the Sudan University for Science and Technology, needed for the inclusion of the Desert Locust subject in the syllabus of the final year.

b) Sustainability of the DLIS office at FAO HQ:

The Locust and forecasting officer at DLIS presented a report, in which he indicated the obstacles that the DLIS is facing, which will have a negative impact on the services provided to the three commissions and the member countries. (Appendix 12b).

The meeting considered the seriousness of the problem and agreed upon the following:

The Commission reaffirmed the importance and critical role played by DLIS in early warning systems, funded by FAO Regular Programme. In case of budget constraints, the Commission would consider providing partial financial support, to ensure its sustainability, after the agreement of the three commissions.

21) Date and place of the next Session of the Commission

The delegate of United Arab Emirates offered to host the 29th Session of the Commission to be held in 2014. The Secretary was given the responsibility to negotiate the dates for the above meetings with the concerned authorities in UAE.

22) Adoption of the report of the 28th Session of the Commission

The report of the 28th Session and the 32nd Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 24 -28 November 2012, was unanimously endorsed and approved by the participants.

23) Closure of the Session

The Chairman of the Commission thanked all the participants for their fruitful discussions and hard work which resulted in 60 recommendations and wished everyone a safe journey back home. He extended his thanks and gratitude to the member countries, drafting committee, translator and the Secretariat of the Commission.

Acknowledgements

The participants expressed their gratitude and thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture for their warm welcome, generosity and excellent arrangements which resulted in the success of this session. The participants appreciated the attendance of H.E. Eng. Mohamed Abdallah Al Shiha, Under-Secretary of the Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, for his support and for opening the Session.

Thanks were due to the Chairman of the Commission for his good management and patience during the intense discussions of the Session on various subjects which produced positive recommendations supporting the Commissions goal for the benefit of its member countries in different Desert Locust issues.

Appreciations and thanks were extended to the Secretary of the Commission and the Assistants for their efforts and valuable documents presented in the Session and to all that have contributed to the success of this session, specially the Drafting Committee, the translator, and to Holiday Inn hotel management.

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Appendix No. 2 Report of the Chairman of the Commission

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you all in the 28th Session of the Commission, in Jeddah, upon the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Here below is a brief report of numerous activities accomplished by the Secretariat of the Commission during the period from September 2010 to November 2012; with a specific mention of the appreciated efforts exerted by the member countries in supporting the Desert Locust control operations in the Central Region during the last two years. Even though Locust activity was relatively calmer, it is important to mention the fruitful cooperation and productive coordination amongst the member countries in exchanging of information and reports with regards to RAMSES and eLocust2.

It is also worth mentioning the strong cooperation between the Commission of Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC) and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), in information exchange and training.

In this regard, it is important to point out the outstanding role played by the Secretariat during the mentioned period in terms of its management, coordination and continuous follow up of the Desert Locust situation, in conjunction with implementing several training courses and workshops on different fields.

I would like also to express my gratitude to the outstanding efforts that Dr. Munir Butrous has contributed during the 10 years of his employment as the Secretary of the Commission, ending with his retirement in April 2011, wishing him happy retirement. I also welcome the new Secretary Mr. Mamoon Al Alawi, who officially started his work in November 2011, wishing him every success in implementing the activities of the Commission.

A summary of the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission during 2011-2012:

Several visits have been taken during the period 2011 -2012 following the 27th CRC Session.

A. Visits undertaken during 2011:

1. The visit of the Chairman and the Secretariat of the Commission to Rome to present the report of the 27th Session of CRC to the Assistant Director General (ADG) and the Locust Group.
2. The Secretary of the Commission participated in the 7th EMPRES Liaison Officers meeting held in Ndjamen, Chad, in December 2011.

B. Visits undertaken during 2012:

1. The CRC Secretary visited the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to follow up on Desert Locust activities of the center, discuss improvements of the survey operations and reporting and also to discuss the project proposal to be presented to the Islamic Development Bank to support the Commission's activities in implementing the preventive control strategy in member countries.

2. In Egypt, the Secretariat participated in the National training course on Desert Locust biology and survey operations.
3. The Secretary also carried out a field visit to several DL bases in Egypt, to determine the results of the recent survey operations and evaluate the preparedness of the Desert Locust Bases.
4. The Secretary, accompanied by a Saudi Mission, on a visit to Sudan to assess the current resources available for Desert Locust control operations at the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Sudan, for which support has been requested from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
5. The Secretariat organized and participation in the 7th Sub-regional training course on DL biology, survey and control of DL in Amman, Jordan.
6. The Secretary participated in the 6th Session of the CLCPRO in Tunis.
7. The Secretary represented the commission in the 40th Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) at FAO HQ in Rome, Italy.
8. The Secretary represented FAO in DLCO-EA Council of Ministers 57th Session in Ethiopia.
9. The Chairman and the Secretary visited Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, to discuss the issue of raising the member countries contributions to the Commission and to present a number of proposals to support the Commission's activities in terms of the training programme on Desert Locust control, the implementation of the Environmental Health Standards and in Desert Locust preventive strategies.
10. The Chairman visited the seat of the CRC at the Regional office in Cairo, to brief the newly assigned Regional Representative on the role of the CRC and its activities in implementing the Desert Locust preventive control strategy in member countries. In addition to seek his support for the Commission during the period of restructuring that is taking place in FAO, which had great effect on the Commission's work progress.

Other activities:

During the relatively calm period 2011-2012, the Secretariat achieved many activities which will be presented in its individual papers. The following is a brief overview on the accomplished recommendations:

Firstly - Capacity Building:

In this aspect, the Commission supported various national training programmes in addition to regional and sub-regional training courses. M.Sc. scholarship was granted to Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Guma to study "Improve Sampling for Monitoring Desert Locust Populations", at the University of Khartoum in Sudan in 2011.

Secondly - Joint Survey:

Joint surveys of Desert Locust breeding habitat between countries is one of the regular activity of the Commission, particularly joint border surveys between Egypt and Sudan and between

Saudi Arabia and Yemen. It was hoped that this activity remains permanent and regular in the national workplans of member countries, but during the last two years, the activity faced a few difficulties, in view of the circumstances that the countries of the region has faced. This will be discussed in the session to find ways of elevating them.

Thirdly - various issues:

The exceptional achievements of the Secretary of the Commission made during the last period can be summarized in: issuing the Arabic translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin, and most importantly the publication is the Desert Locust Glossary in Arabic and English, distributed in large numbers to member countries and other concerned organizations. The glossary is also available online on the CRC-EMPRES website.

This is a brief outline of the activities which will be looked at in more details in its working paper.

Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Commission for his good achievements and all the member countries for their non-stop enthusiasm and support to the Commission which has assisted the Secretariat of the Commission to implement the workplan.

I wish you all a successful session.

Appendix No. 3 Report of the Activities of the Secretariat of the Commission and follow up of the 27th CRC Session recommendations

After the 27th CRC Session in Beirut, Lebanon, in September 2012, the Secretariat of the Commission has taken up several activities summarized as follows:

A) Training:

1. The Commission supported national training courses on Desert Locust survey and control which were conducted after September 2012 in each of the following countries:
 - i. Egypt, a National training course in Qena, 5-11 February 2012 for 16 trainees.
 - ii. Oman: in Ibri during the period 25-29 February 2012 for 12 trainees.
 - iii. Saudi Arabia: in Jeddah during the period 10-21 March 2012 for 25 trainees.
 - iv. And lastly in Yemen during the period 17-23 October 2012.
2. In collaboration with the National Centre for Desert Locust Control in Morocco and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), the CRC supported the conduction of a spray equipment maintenance workshop for 7 Desert Locust technicians from front line countries, in Aghadir, during the period 19-23 March 2012.
3. In collaboration with FAO Desert Locust Information Services (DLIS) in Rome and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC), the Commission supported and organized 2 Inter-regional workshops on RAMSES and eLocust2 in Egypt during May 17-19, 2011 and during 18-19 April 2012. Participants were from SWAC and the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO-EA) in addition to participants from CRC member countries.
4. The Commission organized and conducted the 7th Sub-regional training course on DL biology, survey and control of DL in Amman, Jordan, during the period 6-15 May 2012 for 19 trainees.
5. The Commission organized and conducted the 1st Environmental Health Standards of Desert Locust control in the Central Region during the period 21-24 May 2012 for 9 participants from front line CRC countries in Cairo, Egypt.
6. The fellow from Sudan, Mr. Ibrahim Gomaa, is continuing his M.Sc. studies at the University of Khartoum, sponsored by the Commission.
7. The Secretariat of the Commission continued its follow up of the issuance of the diploma certificates, which have not yet been issued by the University of Khartoum, with the collaboration of the Central Institution for Desert Locust Research and Control (CIDLRC),

B) Research:

The Commission has corresponded with the member countries several times inviting them to present research proposals, to be sponsored by the CRC. Despite the fact that, according to recommendation of the last session, the research sponsorship has been increased from US\$ 15,000 to US\$ 20,000, the Secretariat did not receive any proposals.

C) Publications:

This can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The continuation of the translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin from English into Arabic in PDF format and its circulation to member countries and concerned parties.
- 2) The Commission has produced and distributed a large number of the Glossary of technical expressions and terms to all member countries, the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and to DLIS.
- 3) The Secretariat of the Commission regularly updates the CRC-EMPRES website with information on different activities of member countries, documents and up-coming events.
- 4) The Commission is currently preparing a brochure on the activities carried out by CRC and the EMPRES programme during the period 2000-2012, in Arabic and English, to document these activities which will be widely distributed.

E) Budget:

- 1) The Commission has sent requests to all member countries to pay their contribution arrears and expressed its appreciation to those who paid their contribution in a regular manner.
- 2) The CRC Chairman and Secretary have visited Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar in September 2012, as per the recommendation of the 27th CRC Session, to discuss the issue of raising the member countries contributions and to present a number of proposals to support the Commission's activities in terms of the training programme on Desert Locust control, the implementation of the Environmental Health Standards and in Desert Locust preventive strategies.

F) Secretary's participation:

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

- 1) Organizing and participating in the 27th Session of the Commission for the Control of Desert Locust in the Central Region in Beirut, Lebanon, September 2012. The report of the 26th CRC Session was presented by the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretariat to the Locust Group at FAO Headquarters and to the Assistant Director General of FAO in Rome, Italy, in January 2011.
- 2) In line with the collaboration with CLCPRO, the Secretariat has participated in the 7th EMPRES Liaison Officers meeting held in Ndjamena, Chad, in December 2011.
- 3) The CRC Secretary visited the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, accompanied by the Senior Locust Forecasting Officer of FAO during the period 13-19 January 2012, to Follow up on Desert Locust activities of the center, discuss improvements to survey operation and reporting and review the workplan for the winter breeding season. The opportunity was also taken to discuss the

proposal to be presented to the Islamic Development Bank to support the Commission's activities in implementing the preventive control strategy in member countries.

- 4) In January 2012, the CRC Secretary participated in the FAO Employee Orientation Programme proposed to new FAO staff in Rome, Italy.
- 5) The CRC Secretary also participated in a workshop on Statutory Bodies established under article XIV of FAO constitution at FAO HQ in Rome in January 2012, to study the possible provision of these bodies with financial and administration autonomy.
- 6) In Egypt, the Secretariat participated in the National training course on Desert Locust biology and survey operations in February 2012. The Secretary also accompanied the Director General of the General Department for Locusts & Agro-aviation Affairs on a field visit to several DL bases, to determine the results of the recent survey operations and evaluate the preparedness of the Desert Locust Bases.
- 7) With respect to the Commission's 4 year workplan, the Secretariat conducted a consultation workshop with FAO consultants, to prepare the strategic workplan for the next five years, during the period 18 February – 1 March 2012.
- 8) In March, the Secretary accompanied the Saudi Mission to Sudan, to assess the current resources available for Desert Locust control operations at the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Sudan, for which support has been requested from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 9) The Secretary participated in the 6th Session of the CLCPRO in Tunis in March 2012.
- 10) In coordination with FAO DLIS, the inter-regional workshop on the use and improvement of RAMSES and eLocust2 was conducted in Cairo, Egypt in April 2012, with participants from SWAC.
- 11) The Secretariat organized and participation in the Environmental Health Standards Workshop held in Cairo, Egypt in May 2012, in coordination with an experienced consultant.
- 12) The Secretariat organized and participation the 7th Sub-regional training course on DL biology, survey and control of DL in Amman, Jordan, during the period 6-15 May 2012.
- 13) At FAO HQ, the Secretary participated in the 40th Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC), in June 2012.
- 14) The Secretary represented FAO in DLCO-EA Council of Ministers 57th Session and in the 50th Anniversary of DLCO-EA in September 2012 in Ethiopia. The progress of the FAO/USAID project, implemented by DLCO-EA was reviewed during the visit.
- 15) The CRC Chairman and Secretary have visited Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar in September 2012, to discuss the issue of raising the member countries contributions and to present a number of proposals to support the Commission's activities in terms of the training programme on Desert Locust control, the

implementation of the Environmental Health Standards and in Desert Locust preventive strategies.

G) Other activities:

- 1) The Secretary participated in several activities organized by FAO Regional Office for the Near East in Cairo, in which the role of the Commission in supporting the collaboration between countries and the implementation of the preventive control strategy, for experts and visitors.

H) Following up the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and the Executive Committee July 2008:

During the period from September 2010, the Secretariat of the Commission has followed up the different activities of the recommendations of the 27th Session, which can be summarized in the below table.

Recommendations related to the Secretariat of the Commission:

Recommendations related to the Secretariat:	Implementation
<p>1. Ethiopia with the support of DLCO-EA should prepare a project proposal to support Desert Locust operations in northern Somalia for submission to FAO to identify a donor to fund the project.</p>	<p>During the two visits of the Secretary to Ethiopia, the issue was discussed. The Delegate of Ethiopia can shed some light on new development.</p>
<p>2. In case of emergencies in which FAO provides pesticides to countries for locust control, the ownership of these pesticides should remain with FAO in order that the remaining pesticides can be re-exported to other countries when needed, provided that these pesticides are either registered or allowed to be used in the countries.</p>	<p>Egypt, Ethiopia and Yemen have no legal restriction in re-exporting the pesticides to any country if the need arise, except that Ethiopia has set a condition where the pesticides would in the possession and under the responsibility of FAO. Other member countries did not respond. These members can clarify their position.</p>
<p>3. Inventories of obsolete and unwanted Desert Locust pesticides should be prepared in detail, updated every year, and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice.</p>	<p>Member countries have been requested to send inventories of obsolete and unwanted Desert Locust pesticides but received no replies. More details from the delegates. Ethiopia has 374 tons of obsolete pesticides and has a project dealing with this issue. Yemen has no obsolete pesticides; Jordan has less than 4 tons. Other member countries did not send the information. More details from the delegates.</p>

<p>4. Front-line countries should only activate the minimum number of eLocust2 units, and more units be activated based on locust activities and only when needed in order to avoid unnecessary cost on the Commission Trust Fund.</p> <p>5. The Secretariat of the Commission should address the staffing problem in the Locust Unit to the concerned authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture in Eritrea persuading them to spend the necessary efforts to sustain the qualified staff at the Locust Unit to support survey and control operations in the country.</p> <p>6. In view of staffing changes in the Locust Unit in Ethiopia, the meeting recommended that the Ethiopian representative to send a report indicating the staffing and organizational situation at the Locust Unit.</p> <p>7. The concerned organization in Iraq should be approached to bring to an end the usage of the ENS in pest control.</p> <p>8. Addresses of independent laboratories should be circulated to all member countries.</p> <p>9. Yemen to send sample of pesticides for analysis in one of the independent laboratories, in order to cross check the analysis results obtained locally.</p> <p>10. The Secretariat of the Commission should cover the cost of travel of the Sudanese survey team from Khartoum to Cairo and vice versa and the Department of Desert Locust of Egypt to transport the Sudanese team to the borders to conduct the joint survey. Another survey team from Sudan should be ready to conduct a joint survey with an Egyptian team inside the Sudanese</p>		<p>All front-line countries that use eLocust2 units have activated them, and more units are activated only when needed.</p> <p>The secretary has corresponded with the concerned authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture in Eritrea regarding this issue but no reply was received. The delegate of Eritrea to provide some light.</p> <p>The secretary has corresponded with the Locust Unit in Ethiopia regarding this issue but no reply was received. The delegate of Ethiopia to provide some light.</p> <p>The secretary has corresponded with the concerned organization in Iraq regarding this issue but no reply was received. The delegate of Iraq can provide some information.</p> <p>Addresses of independent laboratories have been sent to all member countries.</p> <p>The delegate of Yemen is kindly requested to provide the requested information.</p> <p>The joint border survey between Egypt and Sudan was not conducted due to the circumstances that the region went through.</p>
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<p>border.</p> <p>11. The Secretariat of the Commission to correspond with the concerned department in FAO HQ Rome, to raise the grade of the Administrative Assistant in Cairo, giving justifications.</p> <p>12. One locust officer from Oman should participate in the Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey during the portion of the survey that is carried out along the Iranian coast facing Oman. The Commission will cover the costs of the participant for the first year and, thereafter, the Government of Oman should assume this responsibility.</p> <p>13. The current Secretariat of the Commission to continue working in the Commission after April 2011 and to correspond with the FAO Director General with this request through the concerned channels.</p> <p>14. The Executive Committee meeting is to be conducted between the two sessions only if the need arises and with consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat of the Commission, and to continue to hold the Executive Committee Meeting with the Session.</p> <p>15. The Secretariat of the Commission to convey the commendation and appreciation of the member countries for the valuable information provided in the “Locust Emergency Response Toolkit eLERT” website, expressing their gratitude to the Locust group at FAO Headquarters.</p> <p>Training:</p> <p>16. The Commission should continue to support short-term training courses at the national level with the support of qualified national co-trainers with experience from member countries in the Central Region.</p> <p>17. In view of the fact that Sudan did not conduct national training courses during the previous three years, the Commission should address this issue to the concerned</p>		<p>The Secretariat corresponded with the concerned department in FAO HQ Rome and the grade of the Administrative Assistant in Cairo, was upgraded to G6.</p> <p>The Commission covered the cost of the DL Information Officer from Oman along the borders of Iran close to Oman in 2011.</p> <p>The Administrative rules and regulations of FAO did not permit Dr. Munir Butrous to continue working after retirement on 30 April 2011.</p> <p>This recommendation was implemented as there was neither the DL situation nor other imminent issues necessitated this.</p> <p>The Secretariat has sent an appreciation letter to the Locust group at FAO Headquarters for the “Locust Emergency Response Toolkit eLERT”.</p> <p>The Commission continued to support short-term training courses with the support of qualified national co-trainers with experience from the Central Region.</p> <p>The Secretariat addressed this issue to the concerned authorities but received no answer. The delegate of Sudan to</p>
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<p>authorities to review the reasons and to resolve them.</p> <p>18. In view of the benefits acquired from the National Train of the Trainers (TOT) training courses in Eritrea and Saudi Arabia, for example, it is recommended to continue such training courses as per member countries request.</p> <p>19. Regional (TOT) training courses should be conducted every three years, selecting participants as per their capacities and member countries requirement.</p> <p>20. In view of the suspension of the Desert Locust Diploma at the University of Khartoum for the front-line countries (Egypt, Eritrea, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) efforts should be made to include the Desert Locust academic course (biology, survey and control operations) in the last academic year of the University of Agriculture as practiced at the Sudan University of Sciences and Technology.</p> <p>21. The Committee agreed on selecting the candidate from Sudan, Ibrahim Goma Mohamed Adam, to benefit from the M.Sc. sponsorship, according to the criteria. In case the Sudanese candidate is unable to benefit, the Egyptian candidate, Osama Taha, would benefit.</p> <p>22. Technical staff from front-line countries to participate in a Maintenance Workshop on Spray Equipment in Aghadir in Morocco in coordination with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region.</p> <p>23. Member countries, especially front-line countries, should send feedback on the benefit of the CD on contingency planning and to send the national contingency plan, similar to the one presented by Egypt, by October 2010.</p>	<p>shed some light.</p> <p>As requested by Saudi Arabia, a national training course was conducted in February 2012.</p> <p>Regional (TOT) was conducted in Iran in 2010 in which there was participation from the Central Region and from SWAC.</p> <p>The concerned countries have been addressed and more details can be provided by the delegates of these member countries.</p> <p>Mr. Ibrahim Goma Mohamed Adam started his M.Sc. studies at the University of Khartoum in October 2011 and the first progress report has been received by the Commission.</p> <p>The Secretariat in coordination with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region and the Desert Locust Control Centre in Morocco has supported 7 participants from front-line countries in 2012.</p> <p>The Secretariat has corresponded with the member countries regarding the CD but received no information regarding problems in using the programme. No information can be provided by the delegates of member countries.</p>
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<p>Research:</p> <p>24. The increase of the ceiling of the Commission's financial support to research to US\$ 20,000 instead of US\$ 15,000.</p> <p>25. The Secretariat of the Commission should correspond with the Directors of Locust Control Centers and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics, and the Secretariat of the Commission will follow up this recommendation.</p> <p>Publications:</p> <p>26. The Glossary in Arabic and English should be produced and distributed to all member countries and concerned authorities.</p> <p>27. In view of its importance, the Glossary should be produced in French language, and it is important to expedite this translation.</p> <p>28. In view of the problems encountered with the CRC-EMPRES website server, it is recommended that the CRC-EMPRES is to be moved to RNE server.</p> <p>29. The Secretariat of the Commission should make copies of the DVD on the documentary film on Control Operations in Ethiopia during 2007/2008 and send it to member countries that did not participate in the 27th Session.</p> <p>Recommendations related to the budget:</p> <p>30. Member countries that do not pay their contributions and settle their arrears should not be chosen in the Executive Committee.</p> <p>31. The Secretariat of the Commission should</p>	<p>The Secretariat has sent a message to all member countries informing them of the increase in the research ceiling to US\$20,000.</p> <p>The Secretariat corresponded with the Directors of Locust Control Centers and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics. Delegates of member countries can shed some light on this.</p> <p>The Glossary has been produced in Arabic and English and distributed to all member countries and concerned authorities. More requests are now been reviewed.</p> <p>The CLCPRO has translated the Glossary into French. More details can be given by the Secretary of CLCPRO.</p> <p>The FAO Regional office (RNE) has agreed on hosting the CRC-EMPRES website on its server and increased its capacity.</p> <p>The Secretariat made more copies of the DVD on the documentary film on Control Operations in Ethiopia during 2007/2008 and sent it to member countries.</p> <p>This recommendation will be implemented as of this Session.</p> <p>The Secretariat has sent the CRC</p>
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<p>send the CRC Trust Fund account details to member countries so as to avoid confusion with the account of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) Trust Fund.</p> <p>32. A technical support staff should be seconded from the Department of Desert Locust Centre of the host country to the Secretariat of the Commission. The Commission should top up his/her monthly salary to the ceiling of not more than US\$ 1,000.</p> <p>33. The Chairman of the Commission and the Chairman of the Executive Committee with the Secretariat of the Commission should visit the following member countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, to meet with the concerned ministers and discuss the financial status of the Commission and raising the countries' contribution.</p> <p>34. The Secretariat of the Commission should renew the Commission's request for support from the Islamic bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>35. Regarding Egypt's request for support to contingency planning, all items should be purchased except for the drum crusher due to its high cost of US\$ 100,000.</p> <p>36. Regarding Lebanon's request for support to training, a laptop, digital projector and a digital camera should be purchased.</p> <p>37. To raise the budget for the Emergency Fund from US\$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollars) as recommended in the 26th Session of the Commission to US\$ 300,000 (three hundred thousand US dollars) in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Committee.</p>	<p>Trust Fund account details to member countries and was also pointed out again in the messages sent for contribution reminders.</p> <p>Mr. Essam Khalifah has been recruited since April 2012 as a Technical Assistant to the Secretary and the Secretariat recommends the renewal of his contract on annual basis.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Commission and the Secretariat of the Commission visited Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates and met with the concerned ministers and were prepared to consider raising the countries' contribution with the concerned authority. These delegates to shed more light on this issue.</p> <p>In coordination with the Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control, a proposal has been prepared for the Islamic Development Bank, but was not submitted due to inconvenient circumstances. The Secretary suggests communicating with the IDB in order to submit the proposal.</p> <p>Equipment requested by Egypt as per the 27th CRC Session, has been procured and handed over to it.</p> <p>Equipment requested by Lebanon in support of training, has been procured and handed over to it.</p> <p>The budget for the Emergency Fund has been raised but was not used in view of the calm Desert Locust situation during the past two years.</p>
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38. The Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities when these activities are not reflected in the Commission workplan.		Has been implemented.

Appendix No. 4 Desert Locust situation from September 2010 to October 2012

Global overview

Four Desert Locust outbreaks developed between October 2010 and October 2012 in the Desert Locust recession area. Two of the outbreaks occurred in the Western Region in Mauritania (October-May 2010/11) and along the Libyan-Algerian border (February-May 2012), one in the Central Region in Sudan (October-May 2010/11), and one in South-West Asia along the Indo-Pakistan border (October-November 2010). Small swarms formed in the entire outbreak areas. 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 the northern Sahel (June 2012). Insecurity hampered field operations in Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger, and in Darfur, Sudan. In the Central Region, locust activity was greatest between autumn 2010 and spring 2011. A total of 137,200 ha were treated during the period under report in the Region, mainly in Saudi Arabia and Sudan, and, to a lesser extent, in Egypt, Yemen, Eritrea and Oman.

Central Region situation

Winter 2010 / Spring 2011. As a result of good rains in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan, an outbreak developed in northern Sudan in late October. Small hopper bands and adult groups formed, including a mature swarm, which continued until mid-December. Control operations treated 10,378 ha. From mid-November to mid-December, groups and small swarms of immature and mature adults moved from the outbreak areas 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.

Summer 2012. Good rains in the summer breeding areas of the interior of Sudan allowed one generation of breeding to occur during August and September. Hoppers and mature adults formed small groups in late September northwest of Khartoum and one small mature swarm was reported. During October, a few hopper bands also formed northwest of Khartoum while adult groups were detected further north in the Baiyuda Desert. Control teams treated 2,024 ha. Low numbers of adults appeared along the western side of the Red Sea Hills and in winter breeding areas on the Red Sea coast in the Tokar Delta and in subcoastal areas in Wadi Oko.

Western Region update

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. Locusts declined in both countries during the second half of May as groups of immature adults and small swarms migrated to the northern Sahel. During the first half of June, they dispersed over a large area, extending from the Adrar des Iforas in northern Mali, throughout northern and central Niger, to northeastern Chad.

Summer 2012. Control operations were immediately launched in Niger against the incoming adult groups and swarms from 5 June to 5 July (1,197 ha) but could not prevent egg-laying. Due to the early rains followed by good rains throughout the summer, two generations of breeding occurred in northern Mali, Niger and Chad from June to November, giving rise to an increasing number of locusts in the three countries. As vegetation dried out in October and November, hoppers and adults formed groups, hopper bands and adult swarms. From late September onwards, control operations were undertaken in Niger (7,574 ha) and Chad (2,403 ha). The situation in northern Mali remains uncertain as national survey and control teams cannot carry out operations due to insecurity. Nevertheless, a few local surveys have confirmed the presence of infestations similar to those in Niger.

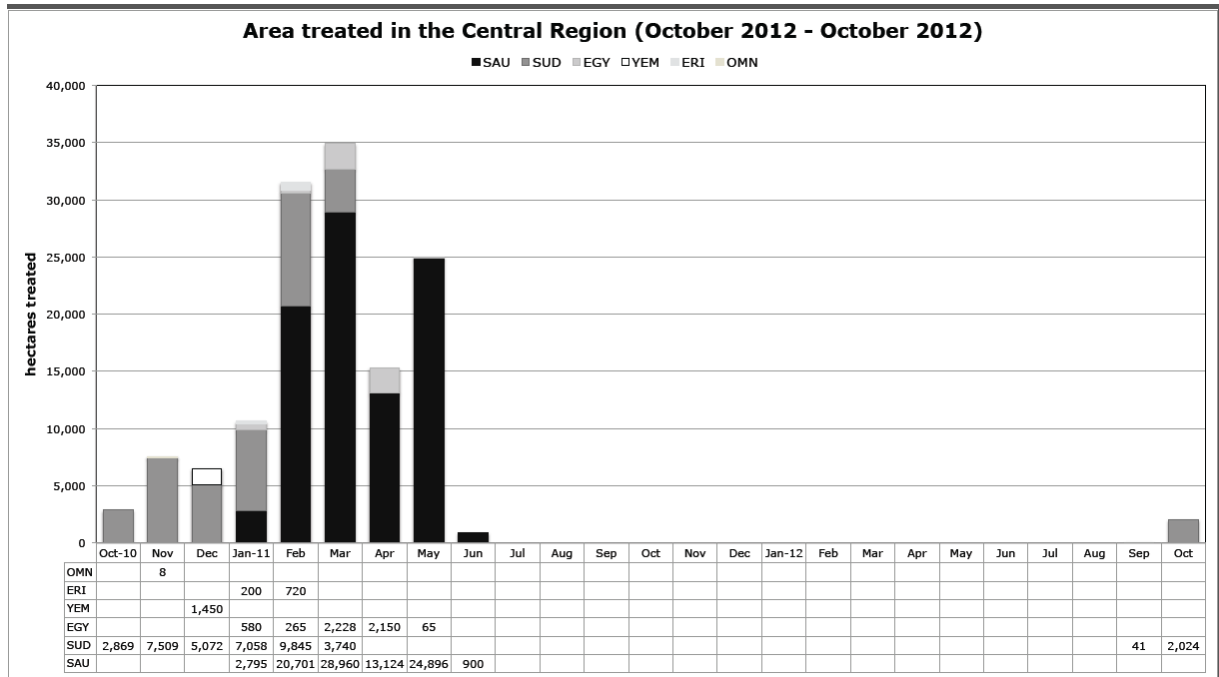
Forecast for the Central Region until spring 2013

During November and December, scattered solitary adults, perhaps supplemented by a few small adult groups, will continue to appear on the Red Sea coastal and subcoastal areas in Sudan. Low numbers of adults are also likely to appear in a few places along the Red Sea coastal plains in southeast Egypt, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase from December 2012 to about April 2013 in those places that receive rain in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coastal plains between Shalaty, Egypt and Massawa, Eritrea, and between Yenbo, Saudi Arabia and Mocha, Yemen. Small-scale breeding is also likely to take place on the coastal plains of northwest Somalia from about December to February if rainfall occurs. In both cases, the exact scale and timing of the breeding will depend on the amount, distribution and

timing of the winter rains. The latest six-month rainfall predictions suggest that rainfall will be average to below-average in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden from December to March.

The current locust situation in the Western Region does not threaten the Central Region.



Appendix No. 5a Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region Activities -Training

a. Training

Training is considered to be the continuing activity, which should follow the technological development in all fields, and in turn it raises the capability of the locust staff, and to replace staff that has either transferred to other departments, retired or other similar reasons.

In this respect, the Commission conducted/organized/supported several training courses and workshops relating to Desert Locust different activities in order to ensure effective Desert Locust survey and control operations in an efficient and professional manner, according to the recommendations of the 27th Session of the Commission. This can be summarized as follows:

1. Short term training:

National, Regional or Sub-regional Trainings: covering subjects directly or indirectly relating to biology, survey and control of Desert Locust. This can be summarized as follows according to member countries:

Egypt

1. In coordination with FAO Desert Locust Information Services (DLIS) in Rome, the Commission supported and organized 2 Inter-regional workshops on RAMSES and eLocust2 in Egypt. The fourth workshop was held during May 17-19, 2011. Participants were Desert Locust officers from member countries from Egypt(2), Ethiopia (2), Eritrea (1), Oman (1), Saudi Arabia (2), Yemen (2), from SWAC from India (1), Iran (1), Pakistan (2), from DLCO-EA (2) and from the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central & Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) (2).
The fifth workshop was held during 18-19 April 2012 and participants were Desert Locust officers from member countries from Egypt(3), Ethiopia (1), Oman (1), Saudi Arabia (2), Sudan (2), Yemen (2), from SWAC from India (2), Pakistan (2), from DLCO-EA (1). The discussion subjects were presented by Mr. Keith Cressman, Senior Locust Forecasting Officer of FAO, and Hisham Dridi, from CLCPRO at the FAO Regional office in Cairo.
2. In Egypt, the CRC, in coordination with the General Department for Locusts & Agro-aviation Affairs, technically and financially supported the National training course on Desert Locust biology and survey operations in Qena, 5-11 February 2012. The training was conducted by national master trainers for 16 participants from different governorates.
3. The Commission organized and conducted the 1st workshop on the Environmental Health Standards of Desert Locust control in the Central Region, budgeted from USAID, in Cairo, Egypt, during the period 21-24 May 2012 for 9 participants from front line CRC countries, Egypt(2), Ethiopia (1), Eritrea (1) Oman (1), Saudi Arabia (2), Sudan (1), Yemen (1). Mr. Harold VanDervalk, was recruited as an expert on

Environmental Health Standards, to conduct the workshop assisted by Mr. Mohamed Lemine, Desert Locust Officer at FAO HQ.

Oman

4. A national training course on Desert Locust survey and control operations was organized and conducted in Ibri, Oman, during the period of 25–29 February 2012, budgeted by CRC, for 12 trainees and conducted by National Trainers.

Saudi Arabia

5. The Commission financially supported a national training course on Desert Locust survey and control operations in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, at the National Centre for Locust Research & Control, during the period of 10–21 March 2012. The training was conducted by national trainers assisted by one master trainer from Egypt for 20 trainees.

Jordan

6. In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan, the Commission organized and conducted the 7th Sub-regional training course on DL biology, survey and control of DL in Amman, Jordan, during the period 6-15 May 2012 for 19 trainees: Bahrain (2), Iraq (2), Kuwait (1), Lebanon (2), Qatar (2), Syria (2), and Jordan (8). The CRC Secretary conducted the training assisted by 2 Master trainers from Egypt and Lebanon.

Yemen

7. The Commission supported the Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Centre (DLMCC) in Yemen to conduct a national training course on Desert Locust survey and control operations in Houdaida, during the period 13-18 October 2012, for 19 trainees, and conducted by national trainers.

Morocco

8. In collaboration with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and in coordination with the National Centre for Desert Locust Control in Morocco, the CRC supported the training of 7 Desert Locust technicians from front line countries in the 2nd spray equipment maintenance workshop, in Aghadir, during the period 19-23 March 2012. The training was conducted by Mr. Saeed Lagnaoui (Head of Locust operations) and a team of technicians from the centre.

2. Mid-term training:

1. There were no mid-term training conducted during 2011 and 2012. Since the suspension of the Diploma studies in 2008, due to lack of funding after the termination of the EMPRES programme.

3. Long term training:

1. Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Goma, from Sudan, continues his M.Sc. studies at the University of Khartoum in Sudan, studying:

Title: “Improve Sampling for Monitoring Desert Locust Populations”

which started in December 2011 and expected to finish in December 2013. Mr. Goma submitted his first progress report to the Secretariat of the Commission.

Points of discussion:

In the light of the achievements in training and to ensure the continuity of the training programme, which benefits the Desert Locust staff working in Locust control centers in member countries, the Secretariat would like to suggest the following points for discussion:

A. Short term training:

1. It is vital to continue provide this training programme, funded by the Commission, to all member countries, in terms of one national training course per year per country.
2. Desert Locust units is to allocate budget within the budget for the survey and control operations, to conduct more training courses per year, in order to present specific training courses or to compensate for staff leaving the department, in addition to, giving more time for field applications.
3. For the fifth consecutive year, there was not a national training course conducted in Sudan. What are the reasons that lead to this? And how to solve any obstacles? And how to support them?
4. National training courses are not held in Ethiopia or Eritrea.
5. Some sub-regional training courses to be held in front line countries, in order for participants from non-frontline countries to have the opportunity of field training for the real Desert Locust environment.
6. Invitation to be addressed to Desert Locust officers from the non-frontline countries to participate in control operations in frontline countries, be it CRC frontline countries, or from other commissions.
7. It is important the member countries who participated in specific training/workshops (e.g. EHS) to implement the recommendations and programs concluded from these training/workshops and to conduct these training courses/workshops at national level, while informing the commission of any positive or negative feedbacks, if any.
8. As the commission has supported the training of a number of technicians from the central region in the spray equipment maintenance in two workshops in 2008 and 2012, and in view of the need for this training for other member countries, it is proposed to conduct training courses for frontline countries at the seat of the CRC in Cairo or at one of the member countries where technical capacity is available.
9. The Secretariat recommends the preparation and production of a spray equipment maintenance manual and the recruitment of an expert in this field to perform this task.
10. According to the questionnaire distributed by the secretariat regarding the improvement in the training programme, the secretariat suggests the making of a documentary film on Desert Locust survey and control, to be utilized during training courses and also a refresher.

B. Mid-term training:

11. To find financial or technical alternatives to support the Desert Locust Diploma, which was suspended due to lack of funds.

C. Long-term training:

12. Announcement of the M.Sc. fellowship for 2014, for studies to be in one of the following subjects or other related subjects:
 - Geographical information systems (GIS): the continuation of this study will provide the commission with a team, of whose expertise can be used in all issues relating to digital maps and geographical information, which plays an important role in extracting information and data, results and analysis.
 - The implication of DL control operations on non targeted organisms in the environment.

Appendix No. 5b Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region Activities – Research and publications

A. Research:

Background on the research program in the Central Region:

Based on several and constant recommendations, the Commission continues to encourage member countries in the Central Region to submit research proposals in the field of Desert Locust according to priority list, guidelines and formats which can be obtained from the Commission's website (www.crc-empres.com). As it is known, the Commission solely covers the funds of the research study with an amount of US\$ 20,000 from its trust fund.

Status of research studies in the period July 2008 to August 2010:

Research studies during the mentioned period could be summarized in the following:

1. The Secretariat of the Commission has sent messages to all member countries to sensitize the Directors of Desert Locust Centres in the Central Region to encourage researcher at universities and research centers to present research proposals in different Desert Locust fields according to the priority list, guidelines and formats prepared by the Commission and the EMPRES programme.
In spite of the availability of the required documents on the CRC website, which would help the researchers to submit proposals, the Secretariat circulated them to all member countries. After the increase of the budget allocated to research (from 15,000 to US\$ 20,000) during the 27th CRC session in 2010, the Secretariat did not receive any proposals during the period September 2010 to October 2012. Lately, the secretariat received a proposal from Yemen, except that it was not accepted as it was not upto standard and did not comply with the guidelines.
2. The CRC award of US\$ 5,000 for the outstanding research in the field of Desert Locust is still valid and available for competition, except that the Commission did not receive any requests for this award.
3. During the past years the Commission supported several researches, funded by the Trust Fund, for which their thesis have been reviewed and the Secretariat suggests to make use of them by implementation in the field, to better serve the member countries in the DL management.

Points for discussion:

1. The Secretariat suggests the implementation of M.Sc. study, funded by the CRC, and the allocation of a budget of US\$ 5,000 to cover it. The selection of the appropriate M.Sc. study is to be assessed by the CRC Secretary and the researcher.
2. Are there any other suggestions regarding the research programme the member countries would like to discuss?

B. Publication:

Background on the research program in the Central Region:

The secretariat of the Commission is dedicated to the continuous availability of DL publications to all DL centers in frontline member countries, to all ministries and concerned

institutions in non-frontline countries, to other commissions and DL organizations, either by sending them these publications by courier or by uploading them onto the CRC website in the electronic format.

The Commission's publications since the 27th Session of the Commission, the 31st Executive Committee Meeting in 2010 and until the 28th Session can be summarized in the following:

1. Translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin:

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

2. Publication of a Glossary of Technical Expressions and Terms used in the Research Field and in the Control of Desert Locust in English/ Arabic:

After the recommendation of the 27th CRC session in Lebanon in 2010, the Glossary of technical expressions and terms used in the research field and in the control of Desert Locust has been produced in Arabic and English in April 2011 and distributed to all member countries and some institutions, in addition to its placement on the CRC website www.crc-empres.org on this link: <http://termportal.fao.org/faodl/main/start.do>

3. Other publications of the Commissions:

In line with documenting the Commission's activities and services, the Secretariat has prepared (in November 2012) a brochure in Arabic and English, to outline the achievements of the Commission during the period 2000 and 2010. The brochure will be distributed to all member countries and DL units, institutions and concerned organizations, during the meetings, training courses and workshops.

4. The CRC-EMPRES Website

The Secretariat of the Commission regularly updates the documentations and the upcoming events on the CRC-EMPRES website, which was created by the EMPRES Programme and the Commission since July 2006. The website has been upgraded with visitors counter.

In view of defining the role and the activities of the Commission, the Secretariat has opened an account on Facebook and Twitter for communication and their links have been placed on the CRC website. Currently, a page for the secretariat of the commission is being prepared on SlideShare.

Points for discussion:

In view of the publications produced and to ensure the continuation of new publications in the DL references, the Secretariat suggests the following subjects for discussion:

1. The preparation of a DL index for breeding areas in the central region.
2. The development of the DL index for vegetation to include the types of the vegetation in the frontline countries, in addition to updating the photos.
3. The development of the DL index for to include real photos of grasshopper and locusts rather than diagrams.
4. The production of more copies of the glossary(as required) and their distribution to the remaining concerned institutions and organizations as the number present in stock is about to be depleted.
5. The drawing/defining maps of environmentally sensitive areas in frontline and non-frontline countries.
6. The redesigning of the CRC-EMPRES website to include the Arabic language in it to be of more and wider benefit, in addition to the currently used English language.
7. The production of brochures that presents the past and present activities of the Commission and the most important achievements during the past few years.
8. Are there specific publications that the member countries would the Secretariat to make available.
9. Any suggestions from the member countries regarding publications?

Appendix No. 6 Report on the Commission's visit to the Gulf countries (Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar)

Introductions:

According to the recommendation of the 27th CRC Session in Lebanon in 2010, the Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission that stated:

"The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission to visit the CRC member countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, to meet with the concerned ministers to provide an overview on the Commission's activities and its role in the Central Region regarding Desert Locust management and discuss the financial status of the Commission and raising the countries' contribution to the Trust Funds."

Activities and meetings held during the visit:

The Chairman and Secretariat met with directors from the above mentioned three countries and the mission outlined the main objectives of the visit, of which the most important one is briefing on the activities of the Commission, which are:

1. Reinforcing the collaboration and the coordination between member countries in Desert Locust control.
2. Support national capacity building by conducting specialized training courses and workshops.
3. Encouraging member countries to apply Desert Locust preventive control strategies in Desert Locust management to reduce potential crop losses.
4. Encouraging and support the application of new technology in Desert Locust survey by using GIS and remote sensing technology in Desert Locust breeding areas.

The mission presented the Commission's achievements during the past several years and outlined the workplan and programmes to be executed in the next coming years, inviting these countries to provide their support to the Commission to implement these programmes which will benefit all member countries. The mission also requested these countries to make use of the training courses and capacity building workshops that the Commission conducts in Desert Locust survey and control.

The mission discussed the contribution of member countries to the Trust Fund, which has remained the same since 31 years, 1981, with no increase, and the need to be raised in order to meet with the challenges that occurred during the past several years.

The mission also briefed the directors on the workplan that will be discussed during the Commission 28th Session which will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during the period 24-28 November 2012, to which Kuwait, UAE and Qatar are invited to participate. The following is a summary of the projects proposed and presented by the mission:

1. Kuwait

The mission presented the Deputy Director of the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resource a project proposal for support in the Desert Locust Preventive Control Strategy in the central region and the importance of its sustained execution, especially in the breeding

countries which are frontline. The proposal included details of this strategy, its outcomes and expected benefits to be gained from its application.

2. UAE:

In a meeting the mission submitted a project proposal to the H.E Mr. Saif Mohamad Al Shar, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) on the implementation of Environmental and Health standards Programme in Central region Countries, which included details of programme, the outcomes and the benefits gained from it. The mission requested the support of UAE to the Commission to implement this programme which will contribute to a clean environment and the safety and health of Desert Locust officers.

3. Qatar :

The mission also presented H.E. Sheikh Dr. Faleh bin Nasser Al Thani, Director General of General Department for Agriculture Research and Development, a project proposal to fund the implantation of Sustainable Capacity Building Programme in the Central Region, which the Commission is planning to conduct during the coming few years. The project included all details regarding its implementation, outcomes and benefits.

Other activities:

The Chairman of the Commission and RO also carried out a one day field surveys on the border of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the Al- Wafrah district about 150 km north of Kuwait city in the locations where an important agricultural areas in Kuwait. The current ecological conditions were extremely dry and unfavourable for locust breeding due to no rains during the past few years. No locusts were seen during the surveys. The field visits were an opportunity to understand how Plant Protection and the Agricultural Officers interact during the surveys and how information is recorded and transmitted, and provided on-the-job training in the field for PPD officers on survey.

The resources available for locusts control

The Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission noticed and observed the available resources to control Desert Locust in case present.

The Commission's visit coincided with the appearance of African locusts, *locusts migratoria*, during August 2012 in some newly cultivated road-grass farms in the UAE and Qatar, some control operations took place before the mission's arrival.

The mission accompanied the Under Secretary and specialist at the ministries of UAE and Qatar to assess the damage on the locations where the locusts mixed with local hoppers, for which this environment provides, mild temperature and humidity. This will in turn spread and feed on crops causing damage. Control Methods and pesticides formulation used by control operations teams were discussed.

In this regard, the mission prepared a technical report on the locust present at these locations, its economic importance and the control operations to be undertaken to limit the spread, and discussed it with the directors.

Points for discussion:

As a result of the mission's visit to these member countries and the discussions that followed, the Secretariat suggests the following issue for discussion:

1. Delegates of Kuwaiti, UAE and Qatar to follow up the outcome of the proposed projects and to send a feedback to the Secretariat.
2. The important of continued communication between the Secretariat and the member countries.
3. Since the spray equipment currently used in some non frontline countries depends mainly on power spray and water based pesticides, the secretariat suggests that these member countries substitute them with Ultra Low Volume (ULV) and use oil based pesticides.
In general, the Desert Locust control operations are considered to be the best in efficacy, the secretariat suggests the organization of a training course for locust officers on the use and maintenance of spray equipment.
4. Along the same line of consolidating the collaboration between the Commission and the member countries and the presentation of project proposal for support to the activities and programmes of the commission in the coming years, the Secretariat suggests to visit Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain, with the Chairman of the Commission.
5. The Secretariat suggests to re-submit to the Islamic Development Bank the proposal to support the Commission's activities and programmes for capacity building, survey and control DL operations.
6. In view of the initial positive response received by the mission from the gulf visit and also as the issue was raised during the 27th CRC Session, the Secretariat proposes an increase of 30-50% in the member countries contributions to the Trust fund of the Commission.

Appendix No. 7 Report of the Secretariat of the Commission on the Environmental and Health Standards for Desert Locust in the Central Region

Introduction

Desert Locust upsurges and plagues can cause significant and widespread crop losses, which may affect national food security and export of agricultural commodities. Consequently, extensive control operations are mounted whenever a local outbreak occurs, or if an upsurge develops. Applying chemical insecticides is still the principal approach used in Desert Locust control.

As with all use of insecticides, Desert Locust control may cause adverse effects on human health or the environment. However, such adverse effects can be minimized or avoided altogether through the proper use and management of insecticides before, during and after a control campaign.

FAO, the Commission for Control of the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), and their member countries, have all been active over the last decade in implementing or strengthening such measures at the national and regional level.

The *Environmental and Health Standards for Desert Locust Control in the Central Region* (EHS) defines the requirements that a Desert Locust control campaign should meet with the aim to minimize environmental and human health effects of insecticide use. The EHS provides explicit benchmarks which Desert Locust control operations should comply with to ensure that environmental and human health effects are avoided or kept to an acceptable minimum.

Many of the standards defined in the EHS are already fully or partly met by countries; some may not yet have been implemented. But the EHS provides a yardstick for countries to assess how well environmental and human health precautions are being put into practice, and to identify what measures still need to be strengthened or initiated.

The EHS were originally elaborated at the initiative of the Commission de lutte contre le Criquet pèlerin dans la Région occidentale (CLCPRO), with the objective to set common health and environmental standards for all CLCPRO member countries. The EHS were also intended to replace the national environmental management plan or pesticide management plan that countries had been required to elaborate, sometimes repeatedly, for their governments or for specific development partners. The EHS were adopted by the national locust control units (NCLUs) of all CLCPRO members, and are presently being implemented.

The EHS are accompanied by an *Implementation Manual* to assist countries in putting into practice and monitor the various standards

Principles underlying the EHS

Various principles underpin the elaboration of the EHS:

Standards at three levels

The contents of the EHS are based on three levels of standards:

- General or “universal” standards that are in principle applicable to all countries. These are environmental or health requirements often based on provisions of international conventions, codes, standards or guidelines (e.g. the FAO *Desert Locust Guidelines*, or the guidelines published by FAO and WHO in support of the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides*).

The definition of these universal requirements is built on the principle that there should be no double standards as far as protection of human health and the environment is concerned.

- National standards, which should be defined by each country. These are often specific requirements following from national environmental or health legislation, or national policies and strategies regarding plant protection, environment, worker protection, etc.
- External standards that may be identified on the basis of demands from donors or other external development partners.

Definitive EHS is national

The EHS presented here are the universal set of standards applicable to all CRC member countries. However, the definitive EHS should always be elaborated at the national level, taking into account the specific national and external requirements.

Concise standards – details in guidelines

The EHS is a concise document, which only lists the environmental and health requirements, clearly defined. Details about these requirements, as well as the measures that can be put in place to meet the requirements, are described in technical guidelines.

Realistic and achievable standards

The requirements listed in the EHS should be technically, scientifically and politically realistic, and they should be achievable from a logistical and operational point of view, in the countries concerned.

All requirements in the EHS were identified based on the expectation that they can be realised in 2-3 years of time, assuming that the necessary financial resources are available.

Recession is no upsurge/plague

A distinction was made between environmental and health standards that should be met during period of recession or outbreaks on the one hand, and those that should be met during upsurges or plagues on the other. This was done because certain standards which should be met during the latter period may not be relevant or appropriate during the former.

Verifiable requirements

It is important that the requirements defined in the EHS are objectively verifiable. Such verification should be done by the person responsible for implementation of the EHS at the NCLU (internal monitoring), but may also be done externally, by a third party (external audit). With this in mind, certain performance indicators have been proposed in the *Implementation Manual* of the EHS.

EHS as basis for environmental and health management

The EHS can be considered as the basis for management of the environmental and health aspects of Desert Locust control operations. However, the adoption of the EHS alone will not lead to a reduction of environmental and health risks of locust control. This will only occur when the EHS are effectively implemented. The overall framework for environmental management of a locust control campaign is schematically shown in the figure below.

- The EHS contain the environmental and health standards which define what requirements should be met by a Desert Locust control campaign.
- The technical guidelines provide more detail about these requirements as well as options and approaches for the implementation of the standards. The guidelines are integral part of the EHS.
- Implementation of the EHS is outlined in a plan which will need to be updated regular basis. Implementation will depend on available resources; it will generally also imply training to facilitate this process, an *Implementation Manual* has been elaborated.
- Internal monitoring and (optionally) external audit are used to verify how well the EHS have been implemented, and what still needs to be done.

All elements together comprise the environmental management plan for Desert Locust control in a given country.

Useful document

And finally, it is crucial that the EHS is a useful document. The principal objective of the standards is to contribute in a practical manner to effective strengthening and improvement of locust control operations. The EHS will have missed its target if they only result in a greater administrative and operational burden for the NCLU.

Implementation of the EHS

The process for implementation of the EHS will be different from one country to another. The exact procedures to be followed will depend on various factors, such as the national regulatory and administrative situation, the organization of the NLCU, the degree to which the EHS has already been fulfilled at the start of the process, and the available human and financial resources.

The following steps will generally be part of the national implementation process of the EHS, but the order and exact contents of each step may differ from one country to the other.

1. Finalization of the EHS at the national level.
2. National validation of the EHS.
3. Appointment of a person responsible for implementation.
4. Finalization of the implementation manual.
5. Establishment of the initial implementation status.
6. Identification of priorities.
7. Programming.

8. Training.
9. Monitoring implementation.

The EHS are accompanied with an *Implementation Manual* to assist countries in putting into practice and monitor the various standards. The steps to implement the above mentioned are described in more details in this manual.

What has been achieved from the program

1 – In order to advertise, publicize the EHS program and to identify its various stages of implementations, the Secretariat of the Commission held the first regional workshop, in the period 21-24 May 2012 at FAO Regional Office in Cairo. 9 participants attended from 7 seven frontline countries in the Central Region.

2 - The Secretariat of the Commission distributed all documents related to the program in both Arabic and English languages to all the participants who attended the first EHS workshop, in addition to the final report containing the recommendations and the subsequent actions to be taken by the participating frontline countries in implementing this program.

3 - After a series of correspondences between the Secretariat and the Locust Control Units involved in the implementation of the program, the concerned countries nominated the EHS officers who will monitor the health standards and environmental safety in the frontline countries, they are:

Osama Rabie from Egypt, Tedros Sium from Eritrea, Mahgoub Musa from Sudan, Khalid al Harrasi from Oman, Yahya Ali Khawagi from Saudi Arabia, Hiwot Lemma from Ethiopia and Adel Al-Shaibani from Yemen.

Action Plan during the next phase (2013 - 2014):

I: by the member countries

During 2013

1. Develop the environmental and health standards in its final form at the national level, taking into account the relevant and local requirements.
2. Conduct a workshop for EHS officers on the local implementation of environmental and health standards in the Desert Locust control operations.
3. Official validation of the health and environmental standards (by the competent authority / ministry concerned)
4. Inform the Secretariat of the Commission of such approval.

During 2014

1. Participation in the regional workshop organized by the Commission for the implementation of environmental and health standards.

2. Assessment of the progress of implementation of the environmental and health standards in the country.
3. Inform the Secretariat of the Commission of the progress in the implementation of environmental and health standards.

II: by the Commission
During 2013 - 2014

1. Follow official validation of the national environmental and health standards.
2. Assist member countries to hold the local workshops and to train national officers on the implementation of the program,
3. Conduct the practical workshop in one of the frontline countries and provide the requirements and training mechanisms,
4. Finalizing of the Implementation Guideline of EHS-CR standards in its final form in 2014.

Points of discussion:

The Secretariat would like to suggest the following points for discussion:

13. To benefit from the CLCPRO knowledge in the implementation of the Environmental Health Standards, exchange experiences and jointly participate in the workshop.
14. The Secretariat to procure the necessary equipment and material needed by the EHS teams.
15. Member countries to place a timely plan to implement the EHS programme and to comply with it.
16. The Secretary of the Commission to follow up with member countries the official approval for the implementation of the EHS programme.
17. The conduction of a workshop in one of the frontline member countries, and the provision of the required equipment and materials.
18. The Commission is to cover the cost of holding the national workshops in the frontline countries with not more than US\$ 2,500 per country to conduct the necessary training for the application on the EHS.
19. Frontline countries with Desert Locust infestation are to assess the environmental and health standards of the currently conducted Desert Locust control operations.
20. Desert Locust Units to send regular reports informing the Secretariat of the Commission of the progress made in the implementation of environmental and health standards and of any difficulties facing the progress.

Appendix No. 8 The Secretariat report on a Four-Year Concept for Strengthening the Role of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

Introduction:

In the process of developing the Commission in line with the current changes and challenges experienced by the Desert Locust Control Centers and Plant Production Departments, and in order for the Commission to have clear vision on implementing its programme in the member countries in the next coming years, the CRC Secretariat, in agreement with the Chairman of the Commission, initiated a consultancy mission of two experts in February 2012, with the task to review the status of current locust management within the Commission's region as well the CRC strategy of emergency prevention and advise the Secretariat on ways for improvement.

Mr. Christian Pantenius and Mr. Munir Butrous, FAO Experts, with the participation of a Locust Officer from FAO HQ, and the Secretary of the Commission, reviewed the current strategy of Desert Locust Control in the member countries and produced a 4 A Four-Year Concept for Strengthening the Role of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) to Preserve and Support the Preventive Desert Locust Control Capacity of the CRC Member States, with recommendations to the Secretariat of the Commission with regards to quick response in emergency situations, (detailed report attached as appendix 2).

The aims of the consultation were to:

1. Analyze the strategy currently applied by CRC to advocate locust preventive control, risk reduction and management, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of CRC to cope with the challenges;
2. Explore areas for enhanced collaboration among member countries such as joint field missions, building regional expertise, triangulation of material and equipment in emergencies, regional contingency fund, etc.;
3. Review the various communication tools (CRC-EMPRES website, eLERT, DeLCoPA, locust bulletins, etc.) and recommend ways for improvement, harmonization and regular update;
4. Provide guidelines for spread of good practices targeting environmentally safe locust control and pesticide management procedures within the Region;
5. Explore areas for inter-regional collaboration in specific subject matters with the two other Desert Locust Commissions (CLCPRO and SAWC) and the regional locust control Organizations (DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA);
6. Explore and map linkages and opportunities of collaboration with other relevant entities within FAO such as FAO RAF, FAO SNO, FAO SFE, FCC, EMPRES/AH, IPPC, AGPMC, TCE etc.;
7. Prepare a four-year action plan to be later presented to CRC member countries for endorsement during 28th Session of CRC;
8. Assist the Secretariat in preparing for resource mobilization in the framework of the a four-year action plan and in particular to support specific activities such as early warning system, human capacity building, contingency planning and biological control programmes; map potential external funding opportunities.

Recommendation:

1. The mission recommended for the CRC Secretariat to:
 - a. Address the Desert Locust matter and the importance of prevention at RNE and RAF regional conferences and to explore jointly with CLCPRO all opportunities to advocate the cause of preventive Desert Locust management with regard to food security and climate change adaptation in the framework of regional conferences, FAO's Impact Focus Areas, and regional trust fund initiatives of transboundary concern etc.
 - b. Undertake all efforts to encourage member states to increase their contributions to the CRC Trust Fund, and to encourage the non-front-line member countries to support capacity development programmes in the front-line countries.
 - c. Promote synergies with the decentralized FAO Emergency Response Coordination Units and the regional and relevant sub-regional Crop Protection offices in the RNE and RAF regions.
 - d. Promote in close collaboration with CLCPRO, DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA the introduction of environmentally safer control technologies.
 - e. Organize in collaboration with CLCPRO visits with one of the national counterparts in the Western Region to Eritrea, North Sudan and Yemen to motivate countries to promote autonomous Desert Locust Control Centers.
2. The mission also recommended for the RNE to:
 - a. Undertake all efforts to reinforce the capacities of the Secretariats through temporary technical assistant staff seconded to the two locust Commissions in their Region and to encourage enhanced collaboration and exchange between the Commissions.

Points for discussion:

1. The adoption of the consultants and the four-year workplan for Strengthening the Role of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region.
2. The financial funding for the implementation of the recommendations in the report to be covered by the Commission's Trust Fund or other funds made available to the Commission.

Appendix No. 9 Accounts for 2011 and 2012

Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2011 in US\$

Account	Activities	Allocated budget for Year 2011	Final expenditure 2011
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	63,996.00	67,538.47
5013	Consultants	10,000.00	4800
5014	Contracts	81,000.00	8,367.88
5020	Locally Contracted Labour - Over Time	1,000.00	2,131.47
5021	Travel	48,000.00	31,329.28
5023	Training	95,000.00	27,204.36
5025	Expendable Procurement	13,000.00	0,0
5024	Non Expendable Procurement	35,000.00	5,542.00
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000.00	17,146.23
5029	Support Costs	43,869.48	22,372.03
5040	General Operating Expenses - external common services	0,00	8,032.89
Total		410,865.48	194,464.61

Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007MUL for the year 2012 in US\$.

Account	Activities	Budget Year 2012	Final Expenditure 2012
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	63,996.00	63,194.02
5013	Consultants	10,000.00	20610.95
5014	Contracts	81,000.00	-6,198.66
5020	Locally Contracted Labour - Over Time	1,000.00	1,648.73
5021	Travel	15,000.00	108,045.55
5023	Training	70,000.00	19,498.57
5024	Expendable Procurement	13,000.00	11,720.64
5025	Non Expendable Procurement	35,000.00	30,405.05
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000.00	3,269.39
5029	Support Costs	36,329.48	32,599.20
5040	General Operating Expenses - external common services	0,00	688.80
Total		345,325.48	285,482.24

Important point:

3. For a more details on the Commission's statement of expenditure for 2011 and 2012, please refer to appendix 2.

Appendix No. 10 Contribution and arrears of member countries 2011 and 2012

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at 31 December 2010 (Expressed in US\$)

Member Governments	Outstanding 12/31/2009	Contribution due for 2010/2011*	Received up to 12/31/2010	Outstanding 12/31/2010
BAHRAIN	8,750.00	8,750.00		17,500.00
DJIBUTI	8,800.00	1,100.00		9,900.00
EGYPT	0.00	32,540.00		32,540.00
ETHIOPIA	16,000.00	8,000.00	16,000.00	8,000.00
ERITREA	0.00	4,000.00		4,000.00
IRAQ	0.00	28,750.00		28,750.00
JORDAN	49,327.62	14,357.50		63,685.12
KUWAIT	0.00	25,000.00		25,000.00
LEBANON	11,269.42	11,212.50	11,212.50	11,269.42
OMAN	10,031.77	10,000.00		20,031.77
QATAR	12,556.04	12,500.00		25,056.04
SAUDI ARABIA, Kingdom of	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
SUDAN	197,569.32	18,667.50		216,236.82
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	33,228.13	16,687.50		49,915.63
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	26,270.00	26,250.00		52,520.00
YEMEN	5,164.76	5,000.00		10,164.76
Totals	378,967.06	266,850.00	71,247.50	574,569.56

Lebanon paid USD 11,212.50 in February 2010 for 2008 arrears

* Fiscal Year begins in July

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at 31 December 2011 (Expressed in US\$)

Member Governments	Outstanding 12/31/2010	Contribution due for 2011/2012*	Received up to 12/31/2011	Outstanding 12/31/2011
BAHRAIN	8,750.00	8,750.00		17,500.00
DJIBUTI	9,900.00	1,100.00		11,000.00
EGYPT	0.00	32,540.00	32,540.00	0.00
ETHIOPIA	8,000.00	8,000.00		16,000.00
ERITREA	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
IRAQ	0.00	28,750.00	28,750.00	0.00
JORDAN	49,327.62	14,357.50	14,357.50	49,327.62
KUWAIT	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
LEBANON	11,269.42	11,212.50	11,269.42	11,212.50
OMAN	20,031.77	10,000.00		30,031.77
QATAR	25,056.04	12,500.00		37,556.04
SAUDI ARABIA, Kingdom of	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
SUDAN	216,236.82	18,667.50		234,904.32
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	33,227.63	16,687.50	16,688.00	33,227.13
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	52,520.00	26,250.00		78,770.00
YEMEN	5,164.76	5,000.00		10,164.76
Totals	439,484.06	266,850.00	176,639.92	529,694.14

* Fiscal Year begins in July

14/09/11 Iraq paid USD 345,051.13 (\$28,750 being 2011 due contribution \$316,301.13 arrears frozen in 2006)

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at 31 December 2012 (Expressed in US\$)

Member Governments	Outstanding 12/31/2011	Contribution due for 2012	Received up to 12/31/2012	Outstanding 12/31/2012
BAHRAIN	17,499.34	8,750.00		26,249.34
DJIBUTI	11,000.00	1,100.00		12,100.00
EGYPT	0.00	32,540.00	32,540.00	0.00
ETHIOPIA	8,000.00	8,000.00		16,000.00
ERITREA	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
IRAQ	0.00	28,750.00	28,750.00	0.00
JORDAN	49,327.62	14,357.50	14,357.50	49,327.62
KUWAIT	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
LEBANON	11,212.50	11,212.50	11,212.50	11,212.50
OMAN	20,031.77	10,000.00		30,031.77
QATAR	12,539.04	12,500.00		25,039.04
SAUDI ARABIA, Kingdom of	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
SUDAN	234,904.32	18,667.50		253,571.82
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	33,227.13	16,687.50		49,914.63
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	78,770.00	26,250.00	78,745.00	26,275.00
YEMEN	13,914.76	5,000.00		18,914.76
Total	490,426.48	266,850.00	238,640.00	518,636.48

United Arab Emirates paid USD 78,750 in 2012, annual contribution for 2010 and 2011

* Fiscal Year begins in July

Conclusions:

From the member countries contributions for 2010, 2011 and 2012 it can be concluded that:

4. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia pay their contributions regularly and on time.
5. Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar and UAE pay their annual contributions routinely.
6. Iraq paid in full the remaining arrears in addition to its annual contribution for 2012.
7. Sudan has not paid its contributions since 2009, making a total of US\$ 235,571.82 of arrears, the highest arrears among member countries.
8. Syria and Yemen did not pay their contribution for the last two years 2011 and 2012.
9. Djibouti did not pay any contribution since becoming a member in 2002, which is 10 years!

Point for discussion:

Firstly, thanks are due to the member countries that pay their contributions on time.

Secondly, for the first time in years, the percentage of paid contribution in the Trust Fund reached 93% in year 2012. Thanks and gratitude to all member countries for this cooperation.

There are several questions regarding Djibouti's position. Since joining the CRC in 2002, Djibouti dropped its commitment to the Commission; it did not participate in meetings, does not respond to the Secretariat messages, or shows any cooperation in CRC activities.

The Secretariat therefore suggests discussing this important issue to find means of how to encourage Djibouti to participate in the Commission's activities in general and to be accountable for its contribution in specific.

Appendix No. 11 Proposals for Biennial Budget of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the years 2013 & 2014

Proposed workplan for the years 2013 & 2014			
Account	Description	2013	2014
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	67,538.47	67,538.47
	Secretary	41,902.50	41,902.50
	Driver	25,635.97	25,635.97
5013	Consultants	20,000	20,000
		20,000	20,000
5014	Contracts	73,000	73000
	Research	20,000	40000
	Publication	15,000	15000
	Translation	5,000	5000
	Copying	1,000	1000
	Annual fees for eLocust2 transmission	19,000	19000
	Annual contribution for Remote sensing	3,000	3000
	Coast of placing and renewing the CRC-EMPRES website	10,000	5000
5020	Locally Contracted Labour - Over Time	2,000	2,000
		2,000	2,000
5021	Travel	36,000	50,000
	Five exchange scientific visit	10,000	10,000
	Chairman travel to Rome to present the 28 th CRC Session report	3,000	
	Chairman travel various	8,000	10,000
	33 rd Executive Committee Meeting	15,000	
	29 th CRC Session and 33 rd Executive Committee meeting		30,000
5023	Training	95,000	70,000
	National & regional and Sub-regional	35,000	35,000
	Regional Aerial Training Course	25,000	
	Joint survey	10,000	10,000
	M.Sc. Scholarship	25,000	25,000
5024	Expendable Procurement	13,000	13,000
	Spare parts	3,000	3,000
	Support to member countries	10,000	10,000
5025	Non Expendable Procurement	30,000	30,000
	Books, publication and equipment	25,000	25,000
	Unforeseen	5,000	5,000
	Invoice Desc: AChE Erythrocyte Cholinesterase Assay Kit (Model 460)		

5027	Technical Support Services		
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	20,000
	Meeting, reception, equipments, Communication, Stationary, etc.	20,000	20,000
5029	Support Costs	37,000	37,000
	5% on account 5024 and 5025	2,000	2,000
	13% on all other accounts	35,000	35,000
5040	General Operating Expenses - external common services	1,000	2,000
	Pouch services and couriers	1,000	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		394,538.47	383,538.47

Appendix No. 12a Strengthening of Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

This paper was prepared to discuss two issues:

First: The autonomy of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)

Second: Restructuring of the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO and its impact on the commission.

Also to outline a number of factors that play an important role on the Commission's activities and performance, including the establishment of the commission, its member countries, the Secretariat and its role and responsibilities, and constraints, in addition to future workplan.

First: The autonomy of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)

As we are all aware that the CRC was established in the frame of Article XIV of the FAO constitution and that is mainly because of its specific role that it plays in the management of Desert Locust as one pest, that migrates across borders and resources of one individual country is insufficient to combat it. Therefore solidarity and cooperation between countries that are threatened by this pest and the assistance of the donor community to support these operations is essential.

Based on the recommendations of the conference, held in Beirut in 1965, the Commission was established and came into force on the 21st of February 1967. After a number of recommendations and amendments in the agreement of the establishment of the Commission, the number of member countries are now 16 being: Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations plays an effective role in supporting the Commission activities, demonstrated by the recruitment of a Secretary to the Commission (P4) to manage and execute the Commission's workplan in full coordination with the member countries. The salary and official missions of the Secretary are covered by FAO Regular Program RP. The Administrative and Finance Assistant (G6) salary and official mission (if needed) are covered by the Commission's Trust Fund. Similarly for the CRC driver (G2) whose salary is also covered by the Trust fund. On April 1st, 2012, and according to the recommendation of the 27th CRC Session, held in Lebanon 2010, a Technical Assistant was recruited to support the Secretary of the Commission in implementing the CRC workplan.

The Commission's Trust Fund is financed by the member country contributions which amount to US\$ 266,085 per year, administered by the budget holder based at FAO HQ.

As per the agreement for the establishment of the Commission, the objectives of the Commission in the Central Region are to support all plans concerning research, training at national, regional and international level, Desert Locust survey and control operations in order to ensure the implementation of preventive control strategy in member countries. This would protect crop production from severe damage and grazing land in the member countries

especially the horn of Africa and the Red Sea Coast. And hence, the Commission contributes greatly to food security and fight against hunger in Africa and Middle East.

In this respect the Commission is strengthening the coordination and cooperation between member countries, motivating joint activities at the national, regional and international level, to carry out survey and control operations in the Central Region, when necessary, and to secure the necessary resources.

The Commission also ensures that member countries receive the available information on Desert Locust infestation and collect and disseminate information on acquired experiences and researches conducted at the regional level (please refer to the CRC website for more details).

In ensuring sustainability, the Commission created DL Master Trainers qualified to conduction training course, not only in the central region but also to assist in other regions. Applied research is one of the activities that the Commission, during the EMPRES programme, motivated and supported. But the most important activity that the Commission and the EMPRES programme in the Central Region was the establishment of DL Information Offices in frontline countries, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, where they were provided with technical equipment to analyze Desert Locust and environmental data.

All these activities were undertaken during the past years, particularly after the locust plague 1986-1989, made the commission to be strong and active, contrary to what it was in the past.

Therefore, regular preparedness with human and financial resources, with the necessary equipment and materials are very important to apply Desert Locust preventive strategy in a successful manner. For that reason and for the first time, the contingency planning was introduced to member countries with training to prepare national dynamic contingency planning in order to be executed when necessary. It was planned to make simulations of scenarios in order to train Desert Locust staff on during recession periods but due to limited resources, it could not be undertaken.

In addition to contingency planning, the Commission is doing its level best to introduce technical programmes in the following:

- 1- Intensive use of bio-pesticides in locust control operations
- 2- Evaluate and monitor the environment after the control operations.
- 3- Prepare maps for restricted and sensitive environmental area in the member countries.

In view of all these activities, and with regards to all the obstacles and constraints that face the Commission in the Central Regional as well as the other two commissions, the Locust group at FAO HQ contracted a consultant in June 2011 to review these constraints and to find possible solutions so that the commissions are more autonomous, to ensure the implementation of the workplan efficiently and successfully (please refer to the detailed report presented by the consultant during the 40th DLCC Session).

Considering the great achievements of the Commission in the previous years, this could not be accomplished if the Commission does not have sufficient autonomy to manage their administrative and financial resources.

Restructuring:

Since a few years, the FAO has conducted a restructuring programme in order to improve performances and deliveries and reduce costs. In the same directions, FAO Decentralized and Regional Offices are following suit. Based on the support that FAO has provided to the Commission, the CRC shared aims with this restructuring within the limits of its resources, without negatively impacting the Commission's workplan and activities.

However the Secretariat of the Commission faced a lot of difficulties in this restructuring process at the FAO Regional Office in Cairo, where it was decided that the Admin and finance Assistant to be shared by another Professional Officer from the Regional Office. As a result of this, extra tasks, not related to the Commission, were allocated to the already overloaded Assistant during the last few months, and the Secretariat was forced to comply with this decision.

As mentioned before, this restructuring is contrary to the Commission's role as stated in the article XIV of the FAO Constitution and against the recommendations made by the consultant who evaluated the role of the commissions.

The Secretariat of the Commission explained to the Regional Representative of the FAO Regional office, presenting all evidence and proofs, that it was impossible to apply the restructuring to the Commission, in the same manner to the regional office. The question is: how would this restructuring be applied if the Commission changes its seat to another location in Cairo or to another member country?

In this respect, the Chairman of the Commission paid a visit to the Regional Office in Cairo on 22 October 2012 and met with the Regional Representative, giving a comprehensive overview on the role and activities of the Commission in contributing to food security in the region, highlighting that the all the commission's workplan is funded by the Trust fund, financed by the member countries' contributions.

Since all of these efforts did not bear any success in convincing the Regional Representative to exclude the Admin and Finance Assistant from the restructuring, the Secretary of the Commission informed that this decision lies solely with the member countries and accordingly this issue is to be discussed in this session, in order to reach a recommendation that would avoid the negative impact on the Commission's autonomy, which what has been the case during the past months.

It is now up to the member countries of the Commission to either go forward or to accept the Regional Office restructuring decision and go backwards.

Constraints:

In spite of the positive role that the commission played in the Desert Locust operations as mentioned before, there are a number of obstacles that would affect the smoothness and professional manner in which the Commission performs:

- 1- The restructuring decision of FAO regional office to share the Admin and Finance Assistant with another Professional Officer without consulting the member countries.
- 2- The insufficient administrative and financial autonomy of the Commission.
- 3- The lack of addition financial support, after the termination of the EMPRE programme as an independent financial programme in 2006, which makes it even more difficult for the commission to implement its ambitious programme.
- 4- The member countries contributions have remained the same for the last 31 years.
- 5- Irregularity in settling contributions of a number of member countries and accumulated arrears, thus affecting the execution of the activities and efficiency of the Commission in the future;
- 6- Poor responses from some member countries in sending information to the Secretariat of the Commission and not conducting training course or other activities,
- 7- Trained and skilled Desert Locust staff are transferred to other posts, promoted or retired, without replacement.
- 8- Weak national support provided to the National Desert Locust Control Units in some member countries with no financial support to their regular activities.

Recommendations for the Future Orientation of the Commission

In view of the above constraints, the Secretariat of the Commission is proposing the following points and decisions taken in their regard:

1. Discussing the new situation at the Commission office, in which the Admin Assistant has been assigned other regional office tasks in addition to her CRC work, which will have a negative impact on the future workplan of the Commission activities.
2. The FAO Regional office is to charge the Trust Fund for providing office space, administrative and financial support to the Commission.
3. Update the Agreement of the Establishment of the Commission to conform with the new developments during the last 47 years.
4. Identify a mechanism to encourage member countries to pay their contributions and settle their arrears in a more regular manner;
5. The necessity of quick response and positive interaction between member countries and the Secretariat of the Commission.
6. Reluctance of some member countries to participate in the Commission's activities with no given reasons.
7. Project proposals presented to member countries to financially support the Commission's activities, which will benefit all member countries.
8. Project proposal presented to donors to financially support the Commission, to further develop the technical activities of the Commission and approach additional field of activities to qualify and upgrade locust operations in order to facilitate introduction of new technologies to preventive control strategy of Desert Locust and secure food for all populations particularly in vulnerable areas.

Appendix No. 12b Ensuring DLIS sustainability

Executive Summary

Background

The Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) is part of the Locust Group (known as the Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Team, AGPMM) at FAO Headquarters. Since 1978, DLIS has monitored weather and ecological conditions and locust infestations in the Desert Locust recession area on a daily basis, and produced a monthly situation summary and six-week forecast. Warnings, alerts and updates are issued during periods of increased locust activity to warn locust-affected countries and the international donor community of the timing, scale and location of locust breeding and migration. DLIS also identifies, develops and adopts new technologies for improved locust monitoring and early warning, and strengthens national locust programmes in data collection, management, analysis, reporting, training, and the use and support of new technologies. These activities constitute the Desert Locust early warning system operated by FAO within the framework of the preventive control strategy and in line with one of the Organization's original core mandates.

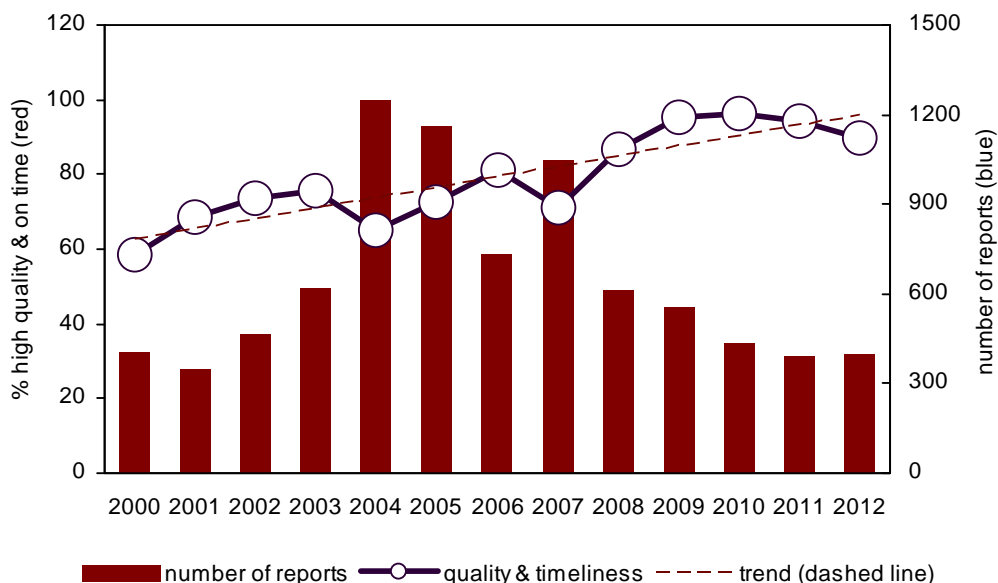
DLIS achievements

DLIS has strived to improve Desert Locust early warning at the national and regional levels through training and the development and introduction of innovative new tools and technologies. In 2000, DLIS initiated an 11-month training programme at FAO HQ for one nationally designated locust information officer on an annual basis. Since 2008, DLIS has organized regional and inter-regional workshops for national locust information officers. Custom RAMSES geographic information systems were developed and installed in every frontline country from 2000 to 2006, and updated regularly since then. The handheld data logger, eLocust2, was developed in 2005 and, thereafter, an increasing number of survey and control teams have been equipped in affected countries.

New remote sensing products have been developed and provided free of charge (MODIS in 2005, rainfall estimates in 2006, greenness maps in 2011). In 2005, DLIS began incorporating six-month temperature and rainfall predictions in its analysis and forecasts. DLIS improved its provision of technical support to countries through regular backstopping missions, and the use of Skype (2011) and remote access (2012) technologies.

Since early 2012, social media such as Facebook and Twitter have been used to enhance the dissemination of information and to keep more countries better informed. These achievements have helped to improve the quality and timeliness of field data and national reports by affected countries, which in turn has led to more precise and timely Desert Locust early warning to affected countries, donors, partners and collaborators (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Improvements in Desert Locust reporting by affected countries, 2000-2012. A higher number of reports often coincides with increase Desert Locust activity.



DLIS costs

The cost of operating DLIS consists of the procurement of six-month temperature and rainfall predictions used in forecasting, translation of the Desert Locust bulletin into French, conducting an 11-month training programme for one nationally designated locust information officer from an affected country every year, data storage, meteorological data to operate a Desert Locust Trajectory Model, GIS licenses, development, support and maintenance, and technical backstopping missions (Fig. 2). Currently, Regular Programme funds cover 60% (USD 90,000) of the operating costs of DLIS while DLCC Trust Funds cover the remaining 40% (USD 60,000). Staff salaries are not included in these costs.

	<i>DLCC funded</i>	<i>RP funded</i>
6-month seasonal rainfall and temperature predictions	\$8,000	
Desert Locust Bulletin translation	\$6,000	
11-month DLIS trainee/assistant	\$45,000	
Data storage	\$1,000	
Meteorological data for Desert Locust Trajectory Model		\$32,000
GIS license fees		\$3,000
GIS development, support and maintenance		\$40,000
Technical backstopping missions		\$15,000
Total	\$60,000	\$90,000

Figure 2. Annual operating costs of DLIS, excluding staff salaries.

DLIS continues to make every effort to keep its annual operational costs as low as possible, constantly reviewing where savings can be achieved. From 2000 to the present, DLIS has provided an increasing number of innovations, tools and activities that benefit Member Countries, yet the annual costs of this service has not increased despite raising costs associated with inflation (Fig. 3). In other words, DLIS is doing more for less every year.

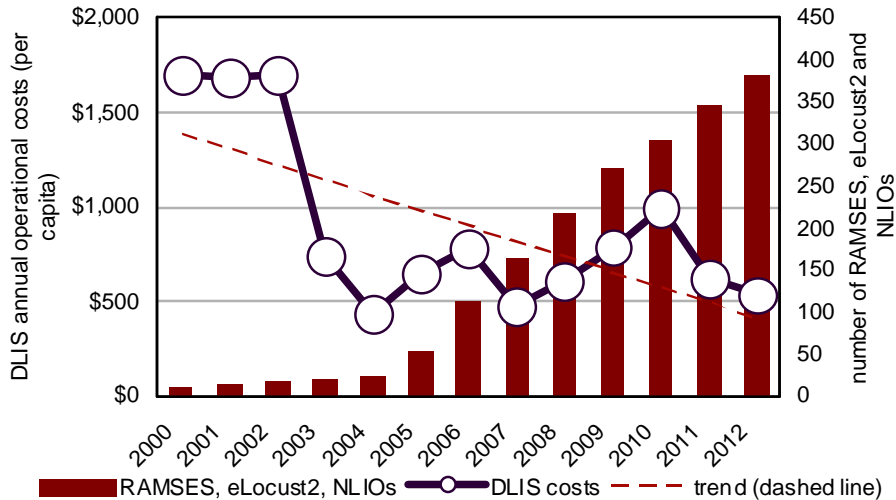


Figure 3. Even though the number of national locust information officers, innovative systems such as RAMSES and eLocust2, and data and support costs have increased, the per capita operational costs of DLIS have decreased threefold since 2000.

Due to financial constraints of the current biennium, FAO's Regular Programme budget has been cut drastically. This has had significant consequences on all departments, divisions and groups within the Organization including AGP and the Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Team (AGPMM). For example, several millions of dollars were cut from AGP's budget and tens of thousands of dollars from AGPMM. These budgetary cuts have had specific consequences on DLIS since DLIS relies primarily on Regular Programme funding to operate its services. It now appears that FAO Regular Programme funds can no longer be relied upon to sustain the full operation and services provided by DLIS.

Proposal

In order not to reduce or curtail the services and activities provided by DLIS to locust-affected countries, it is proposed to shift either the entire normative operating costs of DLIS to the regional locust commission trust funds or a portion of these costs. In this way, Member Countries would be guaranteed to continue to benefit from the services and activities of DLIS rather than to be a victim of the unpredictable nature of FAO Regular Programme funding in the future. Other extra-budgetary possibilities, such as a donor funded project, are not appropriate because the sustainability of DLIS services and activities would not be guaranteed once the project ends. Donors are also extremely reluctant to cover the costs of what is perceived as normative core FAO services.

The proposal to shift DLIS operational costs, therefore, consists of two possible options: (a) the regional locust commission trust funds absorb all of the operational costs of DLIS, apart from the salary of the Senior Locust Forecasting Officer, or (b) the operational costs of DLIS, apart from the salary of the Senior Locust Forecasting Officer, are divided between the regional locust commission trust funds and the trust fund of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC). Due to the relatively low contributions of the DLCC member countries, which is reflected in a small annual budget, it is not possible for the DLCC Trust Fund to absorb all of the operational costs of DLIS (Fig. 4).

	<i>DLCC</i>	<i>CLCPRO</i>	<i>CRC</i>	<i>SWAC</i>
Annual contributions	\$207,780	\$639,000	\$266,850	\$71,450
Frontline / Invasion countries	n/a	7 / 3	8 / 8	3 / 1

Figure 4. Annual membership contributions of the three regional locust commissions and DLCC.

The relative proportion of DLIS operational costs to be covered by regional locust commission trust funds should be based on the number of member countries in each commission. This could be further differentiated between frontline and invasion (or secondary) countries by assigning a 50% weighting to invasion countries.

Option A: full coverage

Under option A, the annual cost for absorbing all of DLIS operational costs would be USD 55,000 for CLCPRO, USD 80,000 for CRC and USD 20,000 for SWAC. This represents approximately 8% of CLCPRO's annual budget, 30% of CRC and 28% of SWAC. If a differentiation is made between frontline and invasion (secondary) countries in each commission, then the costs would be USD 53,125 for CLCPRO, USD 75,000 for CRC and USD 21,875 for SWAC, representing 8% of CLCPRO's annual budget, 28% of CRC and 31% of SWAC (Fig. 5).

	<i>Option A full all countries</i>	<i>%budget</i>	<i>Option A full front/invasio n</i>	<i>%budget</i>	<i>Option B partial all countries</i>	<i>%budget</i>	<i>Option B partial front/invasio n</i>	<i>%budget</i>
CLCPRO	\$50,000	8	\$53,125	8	\$30,000	5	\$31,875	5
CRC	\$80,000	30	\$75,000	28	\$48,000	18	\$45,000	17
SWAC	\$20,000	28	\$21,875	31	\$12,000	17	\$13,125	18
Total	\$150,000		\$150,000		\$90,000		\$90,000	

Figure 5. Annual cost estimates for absorbing all of DLIS operational costs (option A) or sharing it with DLCC (option B), giving equal weight to all member countries compared to differentiating between frontline and invasion countries.

Option B partial coverage

Under option B, the annual cost for absorbing a portion of DLIS operational costs, those that are not covered by DLCC, would be USD 30,000 for CLCPRO, USD 48,000 for CRC and USD 12,000 for SWAC, representing about 13% of CLCPRO's annual budget, 18% of CRC and 17% of SWAC. If a differentiation is made between frontline and invasion (secondary) countries in each commission, then the costs would be USD 31,875 for CLCPRO, USD 45,000 for CRC and USD 13,125 for SWAC, representing 5% of CLCPRO's annual budget, 17% of CRC and 18% of SWAC (Fig. 5).

Commencement

It will be imperative that all three regional locust commissions agree to cover part or all of the operational costs of DLIS if DLIS is to continue to provide reliable and accurate early warning to member countries of the commissions on a regular and timely basis. The agreement would only come into force after the acceptance by the last commission, that is CLCPRO in 2014.

Points for discussion:

After the presentation of the proposal for cost-sharing by the Senior Locust Forecasting Officer at FAO HQ, the issue is open for discussion by the member countries. The issue is to be fully discussed and more information requested if needed, especially since the amounts requested are large representing about 20-30% of the total annual contribution of the Commission.

Appendix No. 13 A Four-Year Concept for Strengthening the Role of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)

A Four-Year Concept

for

Strengthening the Role of the Commission for Controlling the Desert
Locust in the Central Region (CRC)

to

Preserve and Support the Preventive Desert Locust Control Capacity
of the CRC Member States

Prepared by FAO Consultants

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Acronyms

AGPM	Plant Production and Protection Management Division
CLCPRO	Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in the Western Region
CR	Central Region
CRC	Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in the Central Region
DeLCoPA	Desert Locust Contingency Planning Assistant
DL	Desert Locust
DLCO-EA	Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa
DLIS	Desert Locust Information Service
eLERT	electronic Locust Emergency Response Toolkit
EMPRES	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
HQ	Headquarters
IRLCO-CSA	International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
LCU	Locust Control Unit
M.Sc.	Master of Science
PSMS	Pesticide Stock Management System
RAF	Regional Office for Africa
RAMSES	Reconnaissance and Management System of the Environment of Schistocerca
RNE	Regional Office for the Near East
TCE	Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division

1 Introduction and background

Since prehistoric days plagues of Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) have threatened agricultural production in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Because of the speed at which outbreaks occur and the scale that infestations can reach when plagues become fully developed, the Desert Locust is raising fear and panic among the rural communities and affected countries. Locusts may spread over about 30 million square kilometers and affect as many as 60 countries.

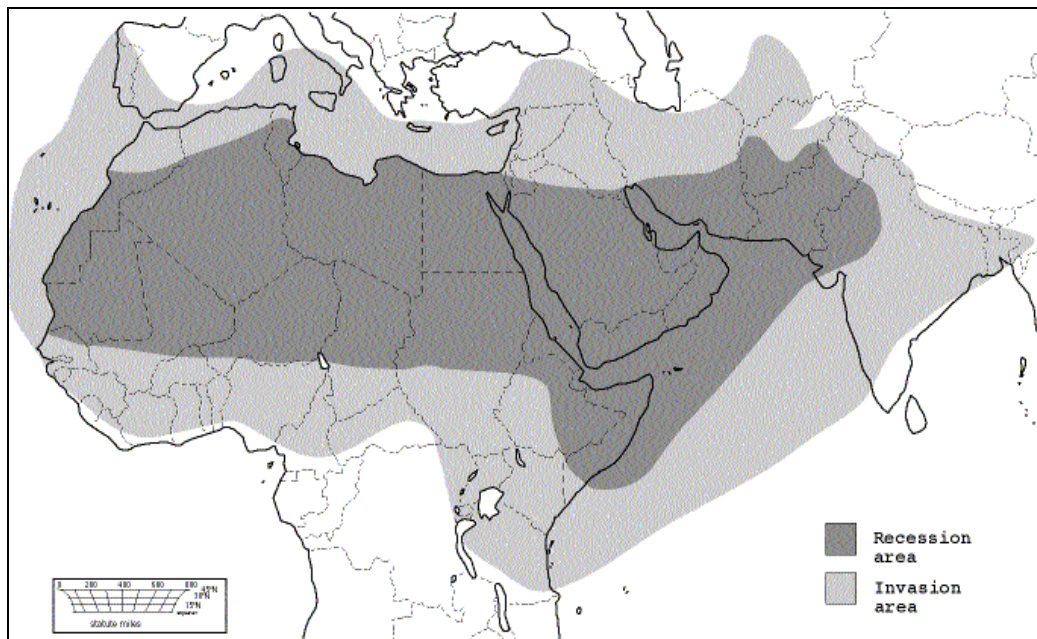


Figure 1: Recession and Invasion Areas of the Desert Locust

In the last Desert Locust plague, from 2003 to 2005, the livelihoods of about 8 million people were affected in North and Northwest Africa. To bring an end to the plague, more than 13 million hectares were sprayed with chemical pesticides.

Nonetheless, the advantages of preventive management systems, when properly implemented and maintained, have well been proven. Through development of early warning and rapid response systems, human capacity building and strengthening of national Locust Control Units (LCU) as well as promoting intra- and interregional collaboration, locust outbreaks and upsurges can be controlled in their remote habitats before they develop into a plague inflicting devastating damage to livelihoods of the communities at risk.

With the mandate to address the urgent need of preventing losses to agriculture in certain countries in the Near East caused by the Desert Locust, the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) was established within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this respect the Commission was tasked to promote national and international research and action geared to the control of Desert Locust in the Central Region of its distribution area. The agreement for the establishment of the Commission was approved by the FAO Council in its 44th Session in July 1965, and came into force in February 1967.

The current seat of the Secretariat of the Commission is hosted by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (FAORNE) in Cairo, Egypt, and consists of 16 member states divided between the *invasion countries* Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria and United Arab

Emirates and the front-line countries Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. The regular Sessions of the Commission are held every other year in pursuance of the directions given by the Session to the Secretariat of the Commission and decisions made in the previous Session.

The agreed annual contribution of member states to the overall budget of the Commission amounts to US\$ 266,850 and is earmarked to support the national Desert Locust control entities to perform preventive locust control strategies as well as issues related to improving survey and control of the Desert Locust and capacity building.

Yet, the large scale control operations against the Desert Locust during the plague years from 1986 to 1989 caused again considerable international concerns in relation to their economic costs, the environmental impact of the chemical pesticides used, and the capacity of existing organizations to deal with the problem in a more efficient and effective manner. In response to this concern the FAO Governing Bodies decided in mid 1994 to establish the *Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases* (EMPRES) with particular emphasis on the Desert Locust and Rinder Pest with the goal to enhance world food security.

The purpose of the EMPRES Desert Locust component was to strengthen the preventive Desert Locust management capacity of locust-affected countries with the aim of minimizing the risk that Desert Locust plagues will develop in order to mitigate food insecurity, economic, and environmental concerns and to join forces in the development of improved preventive locust control strategies.

The EMPRES Desert Locust programme was first launched in the Central Region (EMPRES/CR) to focus on the front-line countries, since most Desert Locust plagues in the past originated from the areas around the Red Sea.

The programme began as a fully donor-assisted programme in 1997 and ended in 2006. By then, the programme's responsibility had been transferred to the Central Region Commission and the participating countries to ensure sustainability of preventive control.

The immediate advantages of EMPRES became obvious during the Desert Locust crisis in 2003–05. Through development and investment in early warning, national locust surveillance and reporting systems, human capacity building, contingency planning and timely reaction mechanisms the locust outbreak in the Central Region was brought under control in May 2004 with only about 400,000 ha sprayed. In the following years at least three new outbreaks were effectively contained in the Central Region and prevented a major upsurge, which could have affected the entire region. In 2007 the worst Desert Locust outbreak in 15 years developed in Yemen and was brought under control within three months through unprecedented rapid response to the evolving crisis.

The costs for developing the national and regional preventive control capacities in the Central Region has been US\$ 11.5 million; the cost of the control operations during the upsurge and outbreak years since 1997 was around US\$ 7 million, with no significant crop losses signaled.

By contrast, the total costs of the campaign and rehabilitation in Northwest and West Africa, in 2003-05 without a preventive locust management system in place, amounted to at least US\$ 400 million and total crop losses due to the locust invasion were estimated at up to US\$ 2.5 billion.

However, despite all substantial international and national efforts in the past 40 years to build preventive Desert Locust management capacities, and although the pest is being considered by many governments in the Near East and African Regions as a threat of national concern and ranks high on the political agenda during upsurges and plagues, the priority given to the problem during periods of low locust activities, the so called recession period, usually diminishes. As a consequence of this decline of attention, countries are often hit by Desert Locust swarms ill prepared and quickly reach emergency level because of lack of sufficient capacities and resources to appropriately react to the rapidly expanding threat.

In addition, the Central Region witnessed in recent years significant changes in some of the CRC member countries and uncertainty in others, which drastically impacted the capacities of the national Locust Control Units (LCU) and their ability to conduct routine locust monitoring activities with potentially dangerous consequences to the regional and global early warning system and consequently to food security of the entire Region.

Under these circumstances the CRC Secretariat initiated, in agreement with the Chairman of the Commission, a consultancy mission of two experts with the task to review the status of current locust management within the Commission's region as well the CRC strategy of emergency prevention and advise the Secretariat on ways for improvement (Terms of Reference are provided in Annex 1).

2 Challenges and constraints to preventive Desert Locust management in the Central Region

The consultants organized a three-day brainstorming session with the Secretary of the Commission and the Locust Officer from the EMPRES Plant Pests Group of FAO AGPM. The session was conducted in a participatory manner to develop a joint understanding of the main challenges and constraints to the early warning and rapid intervention system in the Central Region and to define priority options for possible improvements in the context of a four-year action plan. The consultants also had the opportunity to discuss aspects of risk reduction and synergies with various other officers in RNE (Annex 2 provides a list of people met).

In the light of these discussions the consultants identified some important obstacles, which could limit the preventive locust control system in the Central Region, and realized a critically weak visibility of the Commission beyond the technical Desert Locust community to withstand and raise awareness of policy makers and the international community to the problem (see Annex 3). It was felt that a decline of political attention and support to Desert Locust control at the national, regional and international levels could reduce the focus on prevention by some of the member states and donor agencies, specifically in years when locusts are apparently not a subject of public concern. As a result, the Commission is increasingly confronted with irregular settlements and insufficient contributions by some member states and benefits only occasionally from limited donor support to specific subject matters related to desert locusts.

Insufficient contribution by member states and the lack of extra budgetary support risk to steadily erode the capacity of the Commission to effectively assist particularly the poorest member countries in the front-line, which are challenged with massive difficulties to sustain even basic field activities such as regular monitoring of important locust breeding areas. Without appropriate funding the Commission has only limited room to support activities, which go beyond the absolute minimum within the framework of its mandate and risks to lose even more of its relevance, specifically by the invasion countries.

Some of the critical and future oriented products and services the Commission should provide address, amongst others, the mapping of ecological sensitive areas within the locust habitat which should be spared from chemical control, environmental impact monitoring of control operations, promotion of bio-control technologies, introduction of a consistent pesticide stocks management systems etc. They should also include further improvements of existing technologies in the areas of early warning and control as well as joint activities with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) with the aim to share and to exchange experience among the two Regions, and to give due opportunity to national locust officers to learn from good practices in the other Region. The reduced level of resources of the Commission to support and further assure capacity development and risk reduction management will steadily lead to a long-standing decline of capacities and eventually failure of preventive locust control in the Central Region when desperately needed in outbreak or upsurge situations.

In addition, the mission revealed that because of not enough visibility within the FAO system, neither the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAORNE) in Cairo nor the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) in Accra are sufficiently familiar with the

programme and activities of the Commission in the Central Region and thus its important contribution to preserve food security in both regions. The same observation applies to the sister Commission in the Western Region, CLCPRO. This is particularly of concern, as the area of both Commissions is shared between the two Regional Offices of FAO with some of the important front-line countries falling under the geographical mandate of RAF. This has critical implications not only for defending and advocating the importance of both Desert Locust Commissions as priority items on the agenda of the regional conferences, but also on the ability to respond appropriately and on time in a locust crisis.

More recently, FAO initiated a new management system of emergency and rehabilitation activities and started to introduce the new approach in the Near East Region. The system is based on a transfer of operations management and accountability for emergency and rehabilitation activities from Director, TCE to the Decentralized Offices under the authority of the Regional Representatives. For understandable reasons, the newly established Emergency Coordination Units at the regional and sub-regional levels are not yet aware of the role the Desert Locust Commissions could play in emergencies, as their main focus is currently on animal health issues. More importantly, the process of decentralizing emergency response capacities to the field has not finished and may still take some time until 2013/14 before those Units become fully operational and effective also in other disaster risk reduction and management issues. Consequently, at the regional levels there are currently no appropriate contingency planning instruments and Desert Locust risk mitigation strategies in place, thus poor level of preparedness in the RNE and RAF regions to provide time critical support in locust emergencies and should rely for the time being on the technical and operational capacities of FAO HQ until a new emergency response set-up has been established in the field.

At the national level the decline of political attention to preventive Desert Locust control impedes governments in many of the front-line countries to provide sufficient autonomy to the national LCUs. This has serious implications on the authority of the LCUs to appropriately manage and maintain the resources dedicated to Desert Locust control. In many cases these materials are being used during recession periods for purposes other than locust control and are no longer available in case the equipment is needed for locust operations. The same applies to the transfer of experienced and skilled staff to other duties, who are thus no longer available to train new generations of national locust officers and to pass on their knowledge and their all important field experience.

All above outlined elements combined cause a considerable decline of survey operations in many of the front-line countries and reduced frequency and quality of Desert Locust reporting, which in return affect the global Desert Locust early warning system and increases the risk that serious Desert Locust outbreaks remain undetected and thus uncontrolled, potentially triggering major swarm formations with increased danger of Desert Locust plagues to food security in the Central Region and beyond.

3 Lessons learnt and the way forward

Various internal and external factors contributed to a decline of preparedness in many of the Central Region countries, with negative consequences to the success of preventive locust management in the entire Region. Many of these factors are undoubtedly beyond the control of the individual national LCUs and often affect the societies as a whole, to the extent that very specific issues, such as the Desert Locust, risks to get ignored because of the many other social and political difficulties some of the countries are confronted with.

Other questions are internal and are in many cases connected to the ambiguous status of the national LCUs during recession periods as well as the limited capacity of the Commission to serve its member states as expected. To comprehensively address these issues is a challenge, specifically as the global economic climate and the prevailing recession period do not attract high attention at national and international levels to the Desert Locust problem and its prevention.

Therefore the mission believes that in this situation it is vital that FAO and the Secretariat of the Central Region Commission should address the Desert Locust matter and the importance of prevention more vigorously at a higher level beyond the technical locust community. The mission is convinced that increased political consideration to what is at stake also in relatively calm periods could raise the commitment of all parties concerned. A better visibility of Desert Locust Commissions, CRC and CLCPRO, within RNE and RAF and their active participation in the regional conferences would increase the chances of keeping the Desert Locust topic high on the agenda as a priority issue in the context of the shared concern to preserve food security in both FAO Regions.

Smart public relation and better awareness of development partners and potentially affected countries (referred to as *invasion countries*) could encourage member states to pay their contributions to *their* Commission more regularly and to enhance the Secretariats capacity to render high quality services and assistance to maintain and further strengthen the national and regional preventive Desert Locust management capacities.

However, internal sources from regular contributions to the Commission may not be sufficient to accommodate all the necessary services, particularly as the contribution scheme remains untouched since 1981. Explicitly the introduction of new or improved technologies and equipment in context of early warning systems, less harmful control technologies to the environment, pesticide stock management systems, as well as contingency planning and rapid response mechanisms, and training of national Locust Officers on these techniques and approaches require additional funding sources and cannot be supported by the regular contributions of the member states alone. In addition, the Commission needs to care for the needs of the poorest front-line countries such as Yemen, Eritrea and North Sudan whose capacities have been severely affected by instability in recent years and need to be restored as soon as possible to fill the current gaps in the locust defense line (for more details see mid-term plan of actions, Annex 5).

With the support of RNE, the Secretary and the Chairman of the Commission should advocate and defend the prevention case and its economic advantages to various development partners in the region and countries to source additional funds. A closer collaboration and a common agenda in the fund raising efforts between the Desert Locust Commissions in the Central and Western Regions could probably give more weight and lead to a better understanding of the global implications that this particular transboundary plant pest has, which is not confined to a single region only. The combined efforts could eventually lead to a better understanding of the need to reinforce the Secretariats of the Commissions by technical assistance staff to enhance and improve their ability to deliver the services to its member states and to keep closer contacts.

A better visibility will also enhance the interaction between the Commission and the regional and sub-regional Emergency Coordination Units and the Regional Crop Protection Officers. This would allow addressing the challenges of large-scale emergencies emanating from the Desert Locust and other transboundary plant pests and diseases more comprehensively with the aim to strengthen the national and regional early warning systems and to enhance preparedness and networking among affected countries. By including Desert Locust issues in the new emergency response and rehabilitation system, it is believed that joining forces could better advocate regional and national efforts in preparedness and management of issues critical to food security. The CRC Secretary should play an active part participating in the on-going process of decentralization of FAO's emergency response capacities to the field to address the specific requirements in locust emergency operations. A close collaboration between the CRC Secretariat and the Emergency Coordination Units could eventually lead to a better understanding between the entities and improved contingency planning and tools at the national and regional levels with ultimately better preparedness and more efficient and timely responses to Desert Locust emergencies.

Within the 2012-13 RNE Organizational Output, Desert Locust issues in the CRC and CLCPRO regions are being addressed amongst other plant protection matters of regional concern in the Unit Result A02N203 – *Developed capacities for implementing of IPPC*

provisions and mitigating the risk of transboundary plant pests and diseases at the national and regional levels.

While not all tools, which have been tailored for the specific purpose of better Desert Locust management or other transboundary plant pests and diseases, are directly interchangeable, the basic principles of prevention such as early warning and timely intervention are the same. The mission therefore shares the opinion of further synergies between the CRC Secretary and the RNE Crop Protection Officer, specifically in the area of information exchange through the regional plant protection network and national IPPC focal points. Also joining forces and sharing techniques in the context of human capacity development of national Plant Protection staff can be very beneficial for both sides particularly in emergency situations when additional skilled personnel need to be rapidly drafted. Sharing experience of special locust monitoring and data management technologies such as eLocust and RAMSES could further extend synergies between crop protection and locust operations.

As mentioned above, some of the difficulties to preserve the Desert Locust control capacities at the national level are attributed to insufficient authority of the national LCUs to manage their own resources. The mission is convinced that the necessary minimum capacity can be better maintained in case the governments of the front-line countries are granting more autonomy to their LCUs. In return, by keeping the equipment and experienced staff constantly under the control of the LCU, their capacity to launch fire-brigade-like operations at any moment will increase the chances to detect and efficiently control critical outbreaks in the recession areas, and thus reduce the risk of Desert Locust swarms invading agricultural areas and affecting regional livelihoods.

Sensitization efforts undertaken in the past in the Central Region in this regard were not always successful because the poorer countries raised their concern that they could not afford leaving resources idle during recession periods while they were needed in other plant protection activities. However, the example in the Western Region shows that more autonomy of the national LCUs has proven to be particularly beneficial, both as far as national budgets allocated to locust control are concerned and the ability to safely keep and properly maintain the equipment. To benefit from the experience in the Western Region and to be more convincing, it would be advisable that CRC Secretary advocates the issue in a joint mission together with one of the national LCU Directors from the Western Region to the front-line countries in his respective Region.

4 Other matters:

The mission reviewed with the CRC Secretary various electronic information and risk management tools such as CRC-EMPRES Website, DeLCoPA and eLERT. For the CRC Website, the CRC Secretary suggested to update the CRC-EMPRES website and to include also an Arabic version. It was concluded that the CRC Secretary should carefully evaluate the objectives, costs, use-friendliness and manageability of the website and to clearly identify first those aspects of the website that should be improved. As a first step, the mission advised the CRC Secretary to update and modify out-dated information and documents of the website.

With regard DeLCoPA and eLERT, the mission demonstrated the use and explained the importance of these web-based tools in the context of prevention and risk management. The CRC Secretary was encouraged to organize a regional workshop for Heads of national LCUs to promote the use of these tools at the country level and to take the opportunity of country visits to exercise these tools together with the core team of the LCUs.

5 Recommendation

1. The mission recommended for the CRC Secretariat to:
 - a. Address the Desert Locust matter and the importance of prevention at RNE and RAF regional conferences and to explore jointly with CLCPRO all opportunities to advocate the cause of preventive Desert Locust management with regard to food security and climate change adaptation in the framework of regional conferences, FAO's Impact Focus Areas, and regional trust fund initiatives of transboundary concern etc.
 - b. Undertake all efforts to encourage member states to increase their contributions to the CRC Trust Fund, and to encourage the non-front-line member countries to support capacity development programmes in the front-line countries.
 - c. Promote synergies with the decentralized FAO Emergency Response Coordination Units and the regional and relevant sub-regional Crop Protection offices in the RNE and RAF regions.
 - d. Promote in close collaboration with CLCPRO, DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA the introduction of environmentally safer control technologies.
 - e. Organize in collaboration with CLCPRO visits with one of the national counterparts in the Western Region to Eritrea, North Sudan and Yemen to motivate countries to promote autonomous Desert Locust Control Centers.
2. The mission also recommended for the RNE to:
 - a. Undertake all efforts to reinforce the capacities of the Secretariats through temporary technical assistant staff seconded to the two locust Commissions in their Region and to encourage enhanced collaboration and exchange between the Commissions.

Annex 2: Terms of Reference

Under the overall supervision of Secretary of the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC), the Consultants will have to review the current locust management within the CRC member countries as well the CRC strategy and advise the Secretariat on ways for improvement. More specifically, the consultants will achieve the following:

1. Conduct a three-day brainstorming session to review the current locust management (incl. risk preparedness) in the CRC member countries;
2. Complete the overview for the CRC front-line member countries;
3. Analyse the strategy currently applied by CRC to advocate locust preventive control, risk reduction and management, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of CRC to cope with the challenges;
4. Explore areas for enhanced collaboration among member countries such as joint field missions, building regional expertise, triangulation of material and equipment in emergencies, regional contingency fund, etc.;
5. Review the various communication tools (CRC-EMPRES website, eLERT, DeLCoPA, locust bulletins, etc.) and recommend ways for improvement, harmonization and regular update;
6. Provide guidelines for spread of good practices targeting environmentally safe locust control and pesticide management procedures within the Region;
7. Explore areas for inter-regional collaboration in specific subject matters with the two other Desert Locust Commissions (CLCPRO and SAWC) and the regional locust control Organizations (DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA);
8. Explore and map linkages and opportunities of collaboration with other relevant entities within FAO such as FAO RAF, FAO SNO, FAO SFE, FCC, EMPRES/AH, IPPC, AGPMC, TCE etc.;
9. Prepare a four-year action plan to be later presented to CRC member countries for endorsement during 28th Session of CRC;
10. Assist the Secretariat in preparing for resource mobilization in the framework of the a four-year action plan and in particular to support specific activities such as early warning system, human capacity building, contingency planning and biological control programmes; map potential external funding opportunities.

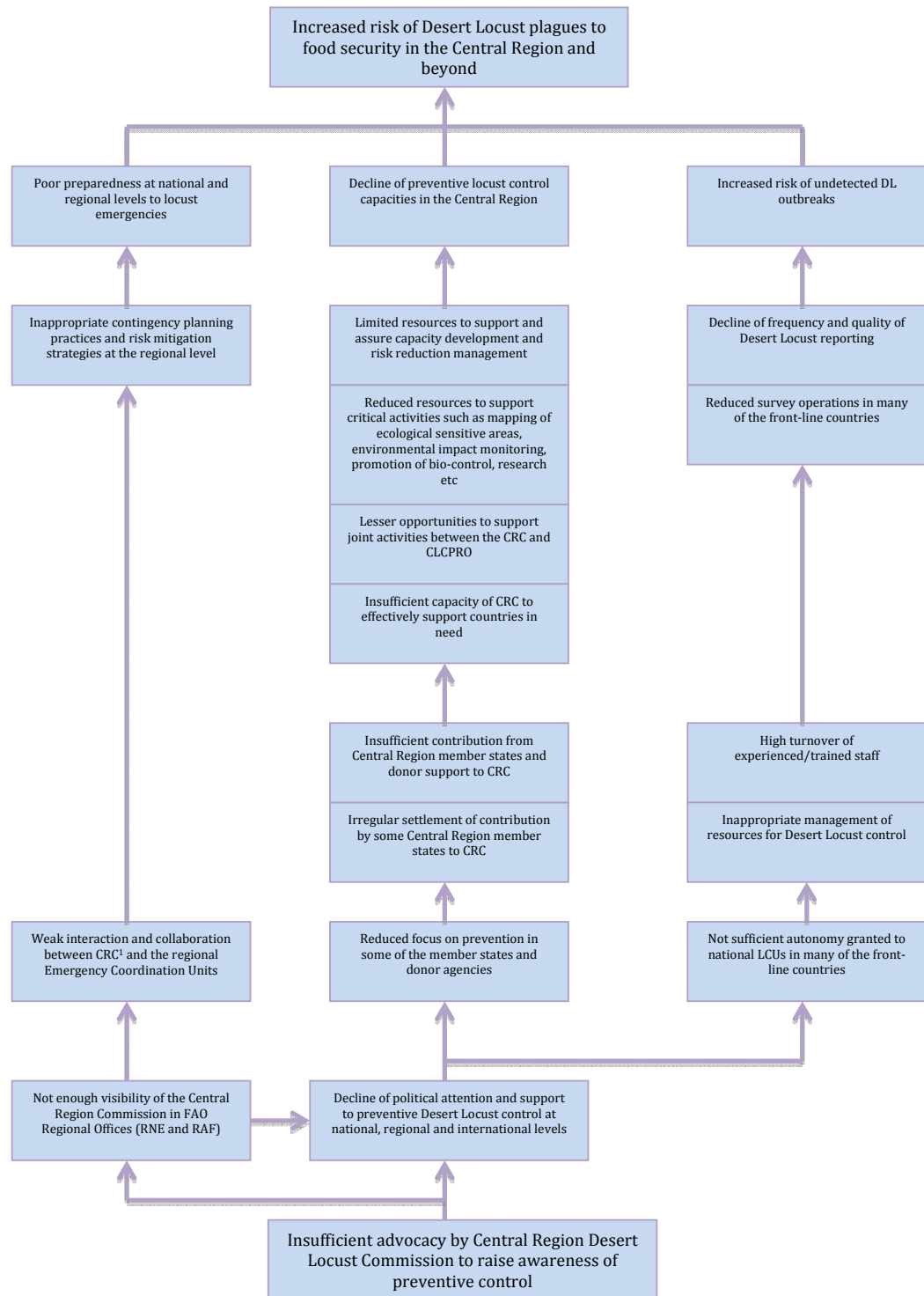
Expected Outputs:

1. Analytical summary on locust management within the CRC member countries with highlight on the front-line ones
2. Four-year action plan
3. Report presenting the main results of the consultancy as well as recommendations on the strategic matters investigated

Annex 2: People Met

Mr Saad AlOtaibi	Assistant Director General - Regional Representative for the Near East (RNE)
Mr Nasredin Hag Elamin	Senior Policy Officer (RNE)
Mr Moujahed Achouri	Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East (RNE) and FAO Representative in Egypt
Mr Yelma Jorbe	Team Leader - Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (RNE)
Mr Toni Jamil Ettl	Program Operator Officer - Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (RNE)
Mr Shoki Al Dobai	Crop Protection Officer (RNE)
Mr Mamoon Alalawi	Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC)
Mr Lemine Ould Ahmedou	Locust Officer (AGPM)
Ms Lidia Naguib	Senior Executive Assistant (CRC)

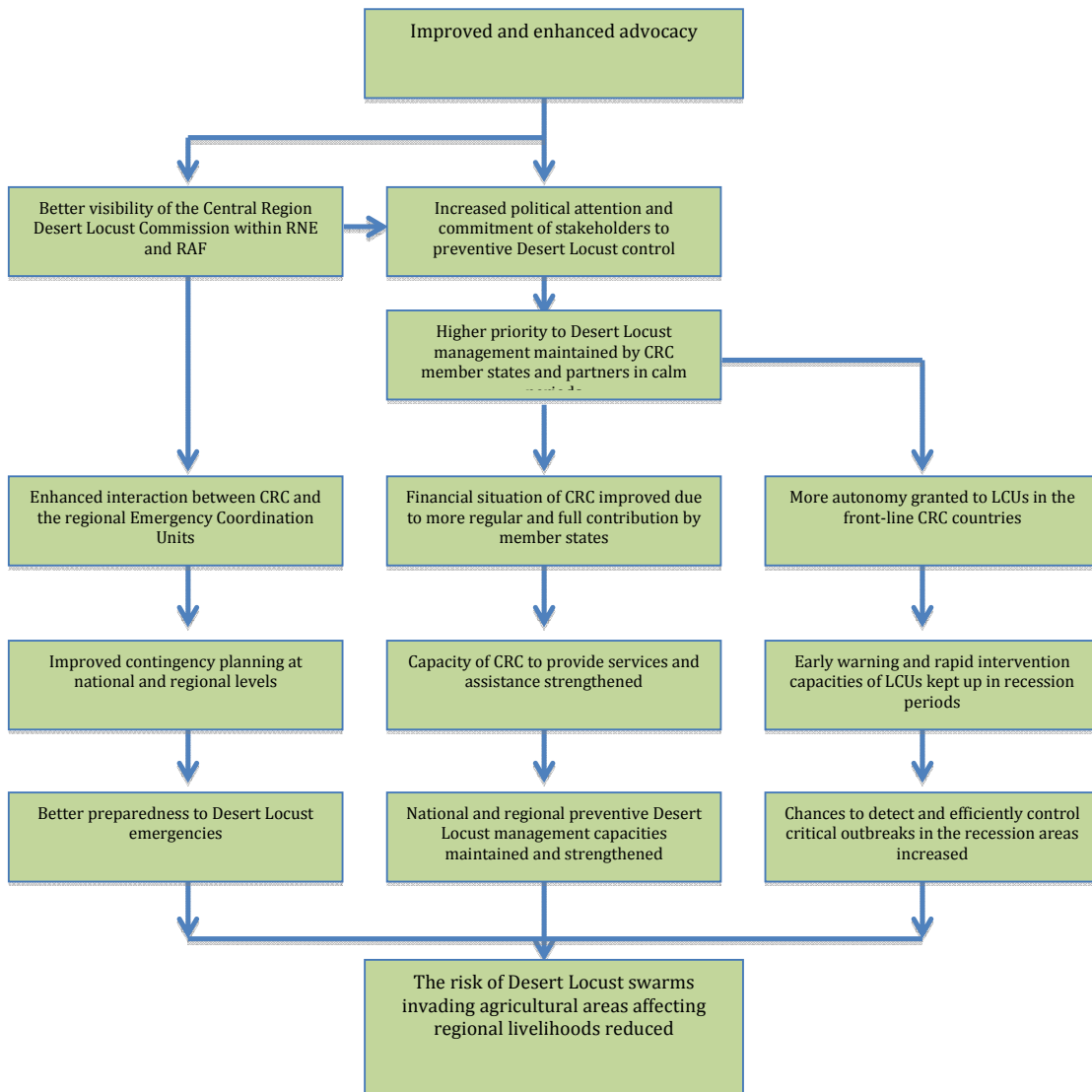
Annex 3: Problem Analysis



¹ Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the *Central* Region

² Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the *Western* Region

Annex 4: Result Analysis



Assumptions:

- Assumption 1:**
All important Desert Locust breeding areas are accessible for survey and control teams
- Assumption 2:**
Sufficient authority delegated to the Commission to effectively address interests of the member states
- Assumption 3:**
Structural changes in front-line Desert Locust countries do not affect preventive control capacities

Annex 5: Plan of Actions 2013 - 2017

1. Result	2. The risk of Desert Locust swarms invading agricultural areas and affecting regional livelihoods reduced
3. Indicator 1	4. Services and goods provided by Central Region Commission (CRC) to member states in support of national Desert Locust management capacities increased by (X)% by 2017
5. Baseline	6. CRC level of achievements in 2010
7. Sources of verification	8. CRC Session reports
9. Activities	<p>10. 1.1 Enhance the Commission's capacities to support member states</p> <p>11. 1.1.1 Advocate the economic advantages of preventive locust Control and regional collaboration to non-front-line countries</p> <p>12. 1.1.2 Encourage member states to regularly pay and increase their contributions to the Commission</p> <p>13. 1.1.3 Produce CRC fliers and other public relation materials</p> <p>14. 1.1.4 Update CRC-EMPRES website</p> <p>15. 1.1.5 Organize visits to donors and hold donor meetings in collaboration with RNE and CLCPRO in support of risk prevention</p> <p>16. 1.1.6 Reinforce capacity of CRC Secretariat by technical assistance</p> <p>17. 1.1.7 Negotiate the membership of South Sudan in CRC</p> <p>18. 1.2 Provide support to CRC member states and strengthen the preventive Desert Locust control capacities of the front-line countries</p> <p>19. 1.2.1 Organize and conduct regional Training of Trainers (ToT) training courses</p> <p>20. 1.2.2 Provide support to national Survey and Control training courses in front-line countries</p> <p>21. 1.2.3 Organize and conduct sub-regional training course on Survey and Control operations in invasion countries</p> <p>22. 1.2.4 Organize regional workshops on new technologies and approaches such as environmental impact monitoring of locust control operations, survey methods, bio-control, testing of new spray equipment, locust data management etc.</p> <p>23. 1.2.5 Encourage and support joint cross-border surveys between front-line countries</p> <p>24. 1.2.6 Encourage and support intra- and interregional technical exchange visits</p> <p>25. 1.2.7 Provide critical or new equipment to countries in need</p> <p>26. 1.2.8 Publish and distribute new or updated issues on various technical subjects</p> <p>27. 1.3 Support applied research programmes</p> <p>28. 1.3.1 Update research priorities in consultation with front-line countries</p> <p>29. 1.3.2 Identify in collaboration with member states ecological sensitive areas restricted for use of chemical pesticides</p> <p>30. 1.3.3 Support development of new survey and early warning tools</p> <p>31. 1.3.4 Support universities in Central Region to include Desert</p>

	Locust curricula in their B.Sc. programmes
	32. 1.3.5 Provide M.Sc. fellowships in one of the universities in the region or beyond (One every other year)
	33. 1.4 Promote the use of bio-pesticides in outbreak situations and in restricted areas
	34. 1.4.1 Enhance and harmonize the collaboration with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) and the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) with regard to the use and application of bio-control products in locust control
	35. 1.4.2 Support sensitization of rural population to bio-pesticides
	36. 1.4.3 Establish regional bio-pesticide reserve stock
37. Indicator 2	38. Dynamic Desert Locust regional and national Contingency Planning procedures followed by the Central Region Commission (CRC) and in up to 6 front-line countries by 2017
39. Baseline	40. 2012: Egypt, Sudan
41. Sources of verification	42. DeLCoPA, CRC Session reports, national and regional contingency plans
43. Activities	44. 2.1 Improve Desert Locust contingency planning procedures
	45. 2.1.1 Prepare and provide countries with updated Contingency Planning Guidelines
	46. 2.1.2 Assist front-line countries in the preparation of national Desert Locust contingency plans
	47. 2.1.3 Ensure regular updates of the national contingency plans by front-line countries
	48. 2.2 Contribute to harmonized Desert Locust risk reduction mechanisms
	49. 2.2.1 Prepare in collaboration with Regional Emergency Coordination Unit a regional Desert Locust contingency plan
	50. 2.2.2 Conduct in collaboration with the Desert Locust Commission in the Western Region (CLCPRO) outbreak/upsurge simulations
	51. 2.2.3 Regularly contribute to updating of the electronic Locust Emergency Response Toolkit (eLERT)
	52. 2.2.4 Encourage front-line countries to regularly use and contribute to further improvement of the Desert Locust Contingency Planning Assistant (DeLCoPA)
	53. 2.2.5 Introduce the English version of the electronic Resources Management System, developed by CLCPRO
	54. 2.2.6 Establish modalities for pesticide tri-angulation among member states and find official agreement
	55. 2.2.7 Introduce Pesticides Stock Management System (PSMS)
56. Indicator 3	57. Survey performance and capacity of national Locust Control Units (LCU) in the Desert Locust recession area improved by (X)% by 2017
58. Baseline	59. Analysis of the FAO Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) of 2012
60. Sources of verification	61. Locust data, inventory, number of teams, DLIS bulletins, countries' locust bulletins
62. Activities	63. 3.1 Encourage front-line-countries to establish autonomous LCUs
	64. 3.2 Promote regular and targeted survey operations in the Central

	Region
	65. 3.2.1 Closely liaise with DLIS in all matters of locust monitoring and reporting
	66. 3.2.2 Strengthen national Desert Locust information and early warning capacities
	67. 3.2.3 Assist the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) in maintaining regular survey operations in northern Somalia