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منظمة  
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للزراعة والأغذية

## Agenda item 13. Implementation of the 40th Session recommendations

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### Overview and background

The 40th Session of the DLCC in June 2012 made 25 recommendations related to the agenda items discussed at the Session. Most of the recommendations were to be implemented by FAO, but some depended on actions to be taken by locust-affected countries or the Desert Locust regional commissions. Most of the recommendations were addressed, while a few could not be addressed due to policy and resources constraints. Some recommendations required a long-term approach or more elaborations and directions from the DLCC at its 41<sup>st</sup> Session. The complete list of the status of the recommendations made at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session is presented in Annex 1.

### Points for discussion and decisions

- What constraints were faced in those recommendations that were not implemented?
- What follow up actions are needed to complete any pending recommendations?
- Which recommendations should be carried forward to 2020–2021?

## Annex 1.

### List of DLCC 40<sup>th</sup> Session recommendations and their status

1. *The DLCC **recommended** that all possibilities be explored in order to ensure appropriate and smooth continuity of all Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) activities in the future, including succession planning for the Senior Officer (Locust Forecasting) post.*

The recommendation was not implemented due to FAO financial constraints and HR policies restrictions. AGPMM is putting this issue forward among the priorities for the next biennium.

2. *After having expressed its satisfaction on results obtained by locust preventive strategy, in particular the control of six outbreaks between 2009 and 2011, the DLCC **recommended** to countries, FAO, Regional Commissions, technical and financial partners that implementation of preventive strategy be pursued, with sufficient support from all, in order to consolidate achievements and ensure its sustainability as well as its further developments.*

At the global level, implementation of preventive control strategy was pursued with the organization of the Meeting on the Desert Locust Control Financing System at FAO Headquarters (March 2014). Financial mechanisms and regional emergency funds in CLCPRO and CRC have been established. The surveillance and early warning system was improved with the release of eLocust3 and RAMSEsv4 in 2015. Mechanisms were implemented to help countries with financial difficulties to conduct regular surveys, joint surveys, build capacities building, and undertake contingency plan simulation exercises. Master trainers and national training programmes were established.

3. *The DLCC **recommended** that more research studies be done on sampling methods in order to better estimate the spatial extent and scale of Desert Locust infestations.*

One research study was conducted under a PhD degree funded by CLCPRO on Desert Locust density thresholds. If resources become available, additional studies could be considered by universities or research institutes in the future.

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

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

The Desert Locust threat in the Sahel was managed in 2012/13 and a workplan implemented and updated according to the evolution of the situation (Joint FAO/CLCPRO-World Bank meeting, September 2012, Nouakchott, Mauritania; CLCPRO expert meeting, June 2013, Agadir, Morocco).

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

Neighboring countries mobilized all possible resources.

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

A regional workplan was developed that is regularly updated. Pesticide triangulation between the CLCPRO member countries was enacted during several outbreaks and, subsequently, by voluntary contributions based on need.

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

By December 2012, USD 7.2 million had been received from various donors (Belgium, CERF, France, UK and USA).

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

The process was launched in early 2018, requesting member countries of the Desert Locust regional commissions to designate representatives for the working group; however, due to a lack of responses and following suggestions by two member countries, Sudan and Saudi Arabia, it was decided that both Recommendations 9 and 23 would be addressed during the 41<sup>st</sup> Session, either directly in plenary or by a working group to make proposals in plenary session.

10. *The DLCC **recommended** that FAO explore ways and means for supporting Phase II of the EMPRES/WR Programme and make further efforts to approach donors.*

EMPRES/WR Phase II was supported indirectly through grants in response to the Desert Locust threat in the Sahel (2012/13) and directly through CLCPRO and donors such as AFD, France and USAID. A total of USD 4.7 million was received out of an estimated requirement of USD 7.8 million. In addition, member countries of the Programme provided about USD 21 million during the 4-year duration of Phase II (initially 2011–2014 but postponed to 2014–2017).

11. *The DLCC **recommended** that the financial support of Phase II of EMPRES/WR by the African Development Bank (AfDB) be finalized on the basis of the preparatory work made by CLCPRO and the Bank.*

Various contacts were made by CLCPRO, including a visit made by the Executive Secretary to AFDB HQs but without success.

12. *The DLCC **recommended** that FAO and CLCPRO approach the Global Environment Funds (GEF) for a possible contribution to the environmental aspects of Phase II of EMPRES/WR.*

No funding was obtained from GEF; however, environmental aspects have been funded by USAID and AFD projects.

13. *The DLCC **also recommended** that all efforts be made in order to maintain human capacities within the CLCPRO Secretariat.*

Human capacities of the CLCPRO have been maintained.

14. *The DLCC **invited** the CLCPRO Member Countries to ensure that, at the end of Phase II of EMPRES/WR, they would be ready to take on the totality of the recurrent costs of their respective National Locust Control Unit.*

The recurrent costs of the National Locust Control Units are covered by member countries. The status was confirmed by an independent evaluation mission of the programme.

15. *The DLCC **recommended** that FAO explores opportunities with donors to provide assistance for CRC countries in abating locust risks.*

CRC was able to obtain financial support of USD 3.6 million from its Trust Fund and from FAO and different donors, i.e. Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Development Bank and USAID. This fund had a strong impact in containing the spread of Desert Locust during 2014 in Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen.

16. *The DLCC **urged** all concerned countries to settle their arrears to the Trust Fund of their respective Commissions.*

In general, the financial situation of DLCC remains critical as arrears have increased since the 40<sup>th</sup> session even though some countries settled their payments. Further discussion and direction are required at the 41<sup>st</sup> DLCC Session.

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

Desert Locust management capacities were rehabilitated in Mali. In Yemen, the Desert Locust Centre in Sana'a was rehabilitated in 2014 with USAID funding (USD 250 000) and provided with all the required items; however, the current political and security situation in the country is hampering its proper functioning.

18. *The DLCC **endorsed** the proposed "Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations".*

19. *The DLCC **recommended** that FAO organize a meeting in 2013 with some countries from the three Desert Locust affected regions, together with donors, in order to define more precisely and more practically the financial tools proposed.*

The Meeting on the Desert Locust Control Financing System was held at FAO Headquarters on 11–13 March 2014. The full report is available on Locust Watch.

20. *The DLCC **recommended** that FAO report on progress made with regard to the "Financing system designed to address the various levels of Desert Locust infestations" to the next DLCC meeting.*

CRC and CLCPRO Member countries agreed on the finance mechanisms for Desert Locust management and they have been implemented.

21. *The DLCC **recommended** that further studies be carried out on locust related terminology by an ad hoc E-Committee.*

No progress has been made. The 41<sup>st</sup> session should determine if this is still required and if so, what benefits are expected for member countries.

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

National locust programmes are fully autonomous in seven countries (India, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) and semi-autonomous (within the Plant Protection Department of the MoA but with its own budget) in seven countries (Iran, Pakistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Sudan and Yemen).

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

As for the recommendation No 9, this issue should be discussed further at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session.

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

Oman did not agree to become a member of the DLCC.

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

All interests earned under the three Desert Locust regional commissions and the DLCC can be used to implement their respective activities and do not need to be reimbursed to the member countries.

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

27. The DLCC **recommended** that FAO, SWAC and the concerned countries explore the possibility of extending the EMPRES Programme (Desert Locust Component) to the Eastern Region.

SWAC frontline countries expressed little interest in the extension of EMPRES to the region because they felt national locust capacities were already relatively high and further strengthening can be achieved within SWAC.

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

The P4 Agricultural Officer (Locust management) post was unfrozen in 2017 and filled in July 2018 for addressing locusts in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA).