The Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) are periodically plagued by the Moroccan Locust, the Italian Locust and the Migratory Locust. During outbreaks and upsurges, rangelands and crops suffer extensive damage, compromising the food security and livelihoods of rural populations. Notably, areas that are located close to national borders and across neighbouring countries are major hot spots for locust outbreaks and upsurges. Leading up to the project, locust infestations had been a growing concern in CCA, with an 87 percent increase in infested areas in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan between 2006 and 2010. Similarly, there was a growing concern over locust infestations in nearby countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation. The project was implemented as a component of the broader multi funded and interregional “Programme to Improve National and Regional Locust Management in CCA,” addressing both the immediate and long-term requirements for national capacity development and responding to the changing needs of countries for the development of an effective regional locust management strategy.

**STRENGTHENING LOCUST SURVEY AND CONTROL OPERATIONS IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?**

The project sought to develop the long-term locust management capacities of participating countries through the provision of funding for postgraduate studies. Nematjon Abdaliazov completed his two-year MS degree on Locust Biological Control at Tashkent State Agrarian University (TSAU), exploring locust bioecology and population dynamics. Almaz Alakunov was in the final stages of the educational and research facets of his PhD studies on Application of Satellite Images and Geographic Information Systems to Locust Monitoring, Risk Assessment and Forecasting at Kyrgyz National Agrarian University (KNAU) and the Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences (CAIAG). National capacities in locust survey and control operations that are sensitive to human health and environmental issues were addressed through the provision of technical assistance and appropriate equipment. The project supported various national training sessions covering contemporary methods in locust monitoring to better anticipate and mitigate locust disasters, as well as impact monitoring of locust control operations on human health and the environment. The coordinated implementation of the regional locust management Programme was ensured thanks to the appointment of a Locust Programme Officer and the mission carried out by an FAO Locust Management Officer in Turkmenistan to support the country’s participation.

**KEY FACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>USD 600 000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>March 2014–February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Partner</td>
<td>Government of Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Rural populations and government personnel concerned with locust management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPACT
The project made a substantial contribution to the safeguarding of food security and livelihoods of rural populations in CCA. This was achieved by improving national capacities to prevent, control and limit the threats posed by locusts to crops and rangelands, as well as the regional coordination of these locust management efforts.

ACTIVITIES

- Two postgraduate fellowships were awarded following the assessment of candidates by an e-committee comprised of locust experts from CCA and FAO specialists.
- Six technical training sessions were conducted and appropriate equipment was distributed to support locust monitoring, assessment missions and data management in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.
- Technical assistance and suitable equipment were provided to Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for impact monitoring of locust control operations on human health and the environment, involving studies, pilot activities and the establishment of monitoring systems and teams.
- Administrative support was provided to FAO Headquarters for the coordination and implementation of the broader regional locust management plan through the recruitment of a Locust Programme Officer.

Project Code
FAO: GCP/SEC/004/TUR

Project Title
Towards Better National and Regional Locust Management in Caucasus and Central Asia

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